

§ 2022. Coordination of outreach services for veterans at risk of homelessness

(a) **OUTREACH PLAN.**—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Health, shall provide for appropriate officials of the Mental Health Service and the Readjustment Counseling Service of the Veterans Health Administration to develop a coordinated plan for joint outreach by the two Services to veterans at risk of homelessness, including particularly veterans who are being discharged or released from institutions after inpatient psychiatric care, substance abuse treatment, or imprisonment.

(b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The outreach plan under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Strategies to identify and collaborate with non-Department entities used by veterans who have not traditionally used Department services to further outreach efforts.

(2) Strategies to ensure that mentoring programs, recovery support groups, and other appropriate support networks are optimally available to veterans.

(3) Appropriate programs or referrals to family support programs.

(4) Means to increase access to case management services.

(5) Plans for making additional employment services accessible to veterans.

(6) Appropriate referral sources for mental health and substance abuse services.

(c) **COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS.**—The outreach plan under subsection (a) shall identify strategies for the Department to enter into formal cooperative relationships with entities outside the Department to facilitate making services and resources optimally available to veterans.

(d) **REVIEW OF PLAN.**—The Secretary shall submit the outreach plan under subsection (a) to the Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans for its review and consultation.

(e) **OUTREACH PROGRAM.**—(1) The Secretary shall carry out an outreach program to provide information to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness. The program shall include at a minimum—

(A) provision of information about benefits available to eligible veterans from the Department; and

(B) contact information for local Department facilities, including medical facilities, regional offices, and veterans centers.

(2) In developing and carrying out the program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, consult with appropriate public and private organizations, including the Bureau of Prisons, State social service agencies, the Department of Defense, and mental health, veterans, and homeless advocates—

(A) for assistance in identifying and contacting veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;

(B) to coordinate appropriate outreach activities with those organizations; and

(C) to coordinate services provided to veterans with services provided by those organizations.

(f) **REPORTS.**—(1) Not later than October 1, 2002, the Secretary shall submit to the Commit-

tees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives an initial report that contains an evaluation of outreach activities carried out by the Secretary with respect to homeless veterans, including outreach regarding clinical issues and other benefits administered under this title. The Secretary shall conduct the evaluation in consultation with the Under Secretary for Benefits, the Department of Veterans Affairs central office official responsible for the administration of the Readjustment Counseling Service, the Director of Homeless Veterans Programs, and the Department of Veterans Affairs central office official responsible for the administration of the Mental Health Strategic Health Care Group.

(2) Not later than December 31, 2005, the Secretary shall submit to the committees referred to in paragraph (1) an interim report on outreach activities carried out by the Secretary with respect to homeless veterans. The report shall include the following:

(A) The Secretary's outreach plan under subsection (a), including goals and time lines for implementation of the plan for particular facilities and service networks.

(B) A description of the implementation and operation of the outreach program under subsection (e).

(C) A description of the implementation and operation of the program under section 2023 of this title.

(3) Not later than July 1, 2007, the Secretary shall submit to the committees referred to in paragraph (1) a final report on outreach activities carried out by the Secretary with respect to homeless veterans. The report shall include the following:

(A) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the outreach plan under subsection (a).

(B) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the outreach program under subsection (e).

(C) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the demonstration program under section 2023 of this title.

(D) Recommendations, if any, regarding an extension or modification of such outreach plan, such outreach program, and such demonstration program.

(Added Pub. L. 107-95, § 5(a)(1), Dec. 21, 2001, 115 Stat. 910; amended Pub. L. 110-387, title VI, § 602(d)(3), Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4132.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2022 was renumbered section 4302 of this title and subsequently omitted in the general amendment of chapter 43 of this title by Pub. L. 103-353, § 2(a), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3150.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (f)(2)(C). Pub. L. 110-387 struck out “demonstration” before “program”.

§ 2023. Referral and counseling services: veterans at risk of homelessness who are transitioning from certain institutions

(a) **PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary and the Secretary of Labor (hereinafter in this section referred to as the “Secretaries”) shall carry out a program of referral and counseling serv-

ices to eligible veterans with respect to benefits and services available to such veterans under this title and under State law.

(b) LOCATION OF PROGRAM.—The program shall be carried out in at least 12 locations. One location shall be a penal institution under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Prisons.

(c) SCOPE OF PROGRAM.—(1) To the extent practicable, the program shall provide both referral and counseling services, and in the case of counseling services, shall include counseling with respect to job training and placement (including job readiness), housing, health care, and other benefits to assist the eligible veteran in the transition from institutional living.

(2)(A) To the extent that referral or counseling services are provided at a location under the program, referral services shall be provided in person during such period of time that the Secretaries may specify that precedes the date of release or discharge of the eligible veteran, and counseling services shall be furnished after such date.

(B) The Secretaries may, as part of the program, furnish to officials of penal institutions outreach information with respect to referral and counseling services for presentation to veterans in the custody of such officials during the 18-month period that precedes such date of release or discharge.

(3) The Secretaries may make grants to carry out the referral and counseling services required under the program with entities or organizations that meet such requirements as the Secretaries may establish.

(4) In developing the program, the Secretaries shall consult with officials of the Bureau of Prisons, officials of penal institutions of States and political subdivisions of States, and such other officials as the Secretaries determine appropriate.

(d) DURATION.—The authority of the Secretaries to enter into a contract to provide referral and counseling services under the demonstration program shall cease on September 30, 2020.

(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “eligible veteran” means a veteran who—

(1) is a resident of a penal institution or an institution that provides long-term care for mental illness; and

(2) is at risk for homelessness absent referral and counseling services provided under the demonstration program (as determined under guidelines established by the Secretaries).

(Added Pub. L. 107-95, §5(a)(1), Dec. 21, 2001, 115 Stat. 912; amended Pub. L. 110-28, title V, §5705, May 25, 2007, 121 Stat. 170; Pub. L. 110-387, title VI, §602(a)-(d)(2), Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4132; Pub. L. 112-239, div. A, title V, §590, Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1769; Pub. L. 113-37, §2(e)(2), Sept. 30, 2013, 127 Stat. 524; Pub. L. 113-175, title II, §203, Sept. 26, 2014, 128 Stat. 1904; Pub. L. 114-58, title III, §308, Sept. 30, 2015, 129 Stat. 534; Pub. L. 114-228, title III, §303, Sept. 29, 2016, 130 Stat. 939; Pub. L. 115-62, title III, §303, Sept. 29, 2017, 131 Stat. 1163; Pub. L. 115-251, title I, §143, Sept. 29, 2018, 132 Stat. 3170.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior sections 2023 to 2027 were renumbered sections 4303 to 4307 of this title, respectively, and subsequently

omitted in the general amendment of chapter 43 of this title by Pub. L. 103-353, §2(a), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3150.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115-251 substituted “September 30, 2020” for “September 30, 2018”.

2017—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115-62 substituted “September 30, 2018” for “September 30, 2017”.

2016—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 114-228 substituted “September 30, 2017” for “September 30, 2016”.

2015—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 114-58 substituted “September 30, 2016” for “September 30, 2015”.

2014—Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 113-175, §203(b), substituted “make grants” for “enter into contracts”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 113-175, §203(a), substituted “September 30, 2015” for “September 30, 2014”.

2013—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 113-37 inserted “to enter into a contract” before “to provide” and substituted “September 30, 2014” for “September 30, 2013”.

Pub. L. 112-239 substituted “September 30, 2013” for “September 30, 2012”.

2008—Pub. L. 110-387, §602(d)(2), amended section catchline generally. Prior to amendment, catchline read as follows: “Demonstration program of referral and counseling for veterans transitioning from certain institutions who are at risk for homelessness”.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 110-387, §602(a), substituted “a program of” for “a demonstration program for the purpose of determining the costs and benefits of providing”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 110-387, §602(b), in heading, struck out “Demonstration” before “Program” and in text, struck out “demonstration” before “program” and substituted “12 locations” for “six locations”.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 110-387, §602(d)(1), struck out “demonstration” before “program”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-387, §602(c), substituted “September 30, 2012.” for “September 30, 2007.”

2007—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-28 substituted “shall cease on September 30, 2007” for “shall cease on the date that is four years after the date of the commencement of the program”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2013 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 113-37 effective Oct. 1, 2013, see section 4(a) of Pub. L. 113-37, set out as a note under section 322 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER IV—TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS

AMENDMENTS

2001—Pub. L. 107-95, §5(b)(1), Dec. 21, 2001, 115 Stat. 918, redesignated subchapter VII of chapter 17 of this title as this subchapter.

§ 2031. General treatment

(a) In providing care and services under section 1710 of this title to veterans suffering from serious mental illness and to veterans who are homeless, the Secretary may provide (directly or in conjunction with a governmental or other entity)—

(1) outreach services;

(2) care, treatment, and rehabilitative services (directly or by contract in community-based treatment facilities, including halfway houses); and

(3) therapeutic transitional housing assistance under section 2032 of this title, in conjunction with work therapy under subsection (a) or (b) of section 1718 of this title and outpatient care.

(b) The authority of the Secretary under subsection (a) expires on September 30, 2020.