

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jesse Brown VAMC partners, hosts largest Chicago Homeless Veteran Stand Down Event

CHICAGO-The Jesse Brown VA Medical Center (JBVAMC), in collaboration and partnership with Chicago-area Vet Centers, VA Medical Centers and more than 60 public and private, federal, state and city agencies, will host a two-day stand-down event for Homeless Veterans from June 10-11, 2016. The stand-down will take place at the National Guard Armory at 5200 S. Cottage Grove Avenue. The event caters to Chicago-area homeless Veterans who represent about 30% of the homeless population in the city. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. on June 10 and closes by 12 p.m. on June 11. Hundreds of volunteers will provide Chicago area homeless Veterans a wide range of services and resources, which include, but are not limited to:

- Medical services
- Optical services
- Housing information/applications
- VA benefit information, review of possible discharge upgrades
- Department of Human Services and Social Security information/applications
- Employment opportunities
- Legal Assistance
- Haircuts, clothing, entertainment, recreational activities
- Women's services
- Friendship, bonding, and camaraderie

The concept of the stand-down comes from the military practice of removing exhausted combat units from the field of combat to a place of relative safety where they can rest and recover. Stand-down events are meant as a safe haven for homeless Veterans in which JBVAMC and partnering agencies hope to (1) provide a respite for homeless Veterans from the rigors of life on the street, (2) help Chicago homeless Veterans obtain permanent housing, (3) assist attendees in establishing a source of income either through employment or benefits, and (4) to stabilize participants' health conditions.

These stand-down events endures through the labor of hundreds of volunteers and the donations of Veteran's Service Organizations and private businesses. Those interested in participating or volunteering in this event may call 312-569-6109 or visit www.chicagostanddown.org. For general information call, 708-457-8805.

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