



The Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to preventing incarceration and reducing recidivism among Veterans through the development of the Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Program.

#### **VJO Initiative**

“The purpose of the VJO initiative is to avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans by ensuring that eligible Veterans in contact with the criminal justice system have access to Veterans Health Administration mental health and substance services.”

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs,  
April 30, 2009. Under Secretary for Health's Information Letter.



### **Helpful Websites**

**Department of Veterans Affairs:**  
<http://www.va.gov>

**Record Request (DD214):**  
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

**Enroll/Update for VA Benefits:**  
<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/Form/vha-10-10ez.pdf>

**Health Care for Homeless Veterans Homepage:**  
<http://www.va.gov/homeless/>

**Cheyenne VA Healthcare Services**  
<http://www.cheyenne.va.gov/>

### **Helpful Phone Numbers**



**Cheyenne VA Healthcare Services**

**1-888-483-9127**

**Help for Homeless Veterans**

**1-877-4AID - VET**  
**1-877-424-3838**

## **Cheyenne VA Healthcare System**

### **Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Program**



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## Eligibility

- Must be eligible for VA care:
  1. An Honorable or General Under Honorable Conditions discharge from the military, with 24 consecutive months of active duty if enlisted after September 1980.

-or-

  2. Eligibility as an OEF/OIF/OND Combat Veteran.
  3. National Guard and Reservists may also qualify for VA benefits if they were called to active duty (other than for training) by Federal Order.
- Willingness to participate in all aspects of treatment and programming by adhering to all policies, rules and regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs and treatment programs.
- Approved for release from incarceration and/or to attend treatment. The VA cannot provide custodial care.

***Eligibility determination is based on each individual's service; we encourage all Veterans to apply for VA services***

## Some things the VJO

### CAN do:

- ♦ Serve Veterans of all eras
- ♦ Assess Veteran's healthcare needs and identify appropriate VA and non-VA services
- ♦ Refer and link Veterans to appropriate healthcare and/or treatment services
- ♦ Act as liaison to communicate essentials (attendance, progress, treatment testing, discharge plan) with justice system partners
- ♦ Assist Veterans with application process to treatment programs

## Some things the VJO

### CAN'T do:

- ♦ Perform forensic psychiatric or psychological evaluations for Court
- ♦ Provide legal assistance
- ♦ Accept custody
- ♦ Pay or facilitate a bond
- ♦ Act as Co-Obligator for a bond
- ♦ Guarantee program/service acceptance
- ♦ Write lengthy Court reports, complete Diversion paperwork
- ♦ Advocate for legislation

## Program Goals:

- ♦ Prevent homelessness
- ♦ Help veterans successfully transition back to the community
- ♦ Lower rate of return to jail or prison

**The VA is committed to the principle that Veterans and their communities are better served by treatment services rather than incarceration, when the Veterans' nonviolent offenses are products of mental illness or substance abuse, a poor living environment or unemployment."**

## Veteran's Responsibility:

- ♦ Complete all enrollment forms, follow treatment plan and rules of the Department of Veterans Affairs
- ♦ Follow area agency, state, or federal Department of Correction rules

## Cheyenne VA Veterans Justice Outreach County Service Area:

### Southeast Wyoming

Carbon  
Albany  
Platte  
Laramie  
Goshen

### Southwest Nebraska

Banner  
Kimball  
Cheyenne  
Garden  
Deuel

### Northern Colorado

Jackson  
Larimer  
Weld  
Morgan  
Logan

Washington  
Sedgwick  
Phillips  
Yuma