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## COMMUNITY OPTIONS VETERANS

### **Veteran's Programs**

**Veterans Advocacy & Assistance:** Provides information and assistance to the state's veterans and their dependents in obtaining rights, benefits and privileges to which they may be entitled to under law.

**Veterans Homes & Hospitals:** Provide comprehensive services for veterans ranging from inpatient hospital care to residential rehabilitation services.

### **Veterans Advocacy and Assistance**

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States. In 2014, the rate of suicide for adults over the age of 65 was 16.6 per 100,000. This rate increases to 19.3 in those 85 and above. That rate is especially significant for Veterans, as 65% of Veteran deaths by suicide were in those ages 50 or older.

The CHOICES Program staff and volunteers are in a unique position to encounter older Veterans who may be unlikely to seek help through traditional channels.

SWCAA has teamed up with the VA to prevent suicide in older adults by offering training for community professionals, CHOICES staff and volunteers.



The training is provided by VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Christina Allen, LCSW, and will include, warning signs and risk factors for suicide in older adults, and how to access VA services. For training dates & times, contact [Sharon Gesek](#). The [Veterans Crisis Line](#) connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders.



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For more information select the following:

- [VA and community partners](#) collaborating to address Veteran deaths by suicide.
- The Secretary of the VA, David Shulkin's [Twitter page](#).

### **CT Department of Veteran Affairs**

752 E Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06608  
(203) 576-8348

### **U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs**

950 Campbell Avenue, West Haven CT 06516  
(203) 931-0460

### **Veteran's Aid & Attendance**

The Aid and Attendance (A&A) Pension provides benefits for veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing and undressing or taking care of the needs of nature. It also includes individuals who are blind or a patient in a nursing home because of mental or physical incapacity. Assisted care in an assisting living facility also qualifies. There is much information that needs to be gathered in order to apply for this benefit. [General information](#) on the process is available. Information on how to apply can be found at [VeteranAid](#).

### **Veteran's Caregivers Support Program**

The Dept. of Veterans' Affairs has launched a toll-free National Caregiver support line. Each V. A. Medical Center has a Caregiver Support Coordinator who is a local resource for veterans and their caregivers. The VA Caregiver Support Program can help answer questions and provide assistance regarding durable medical equipment such as prosthetics, hearing aids as well as home modifications



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COMMUNITY OPTIONS  
VETERANS

and other services. For more information or to contact the Regional VA Support Coordinator, call

- [Bonnie Cecarelli](#) at (203) 932-5711 ext. 2297.

**[Soldiers, Sailors & Marines Fund](#)**

350 Fairfield Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604  
(203) 331-8876

A state agency to assist veterans and their families in financial & medical issues

**[TRICARE for Life \(TFL\)](#)**

866-773-0404

Provides expanded medical coverage for Medicare-eligible retirees, including retired guard members and reservists; Medicare-eligible family members and widows/widowers

**Veterans Home & Hospital**

**[VA Outpatient Clinic](#)**

1275 Summer Street, Suite 102, Stamford, CT 06902  
(203) 325-0649

**[CT Department of Veterans Home/Hospital](#)**

287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
(860) 529-2571

**[U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center](#)**

555 Willard Avenue, Newington, CT 06111  
(860) 666-6951

**[U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center](#)**

950 Campbell Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516  
(203) 932-5711

[www.swcaa.org](http://www.swcaa.org)  
203-333-9288



1000 Lafayette Blvd, 9<sup>th</sup> Fl  
Bridgeport Ct 06604

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COMMUNITY OPTIONS  
VETERANS

**Valuable Websites for Veterans Benefits and Services**

**[US Department of Veterans Affairs](#)**

**[US Department of Veterans Affairs – Health Care](#)**

**[US Department of Veterans Affairs – GI Bill](#)**

**[Military.com – Benefits](#)**

**[VA Caregivers Support Program](#)**