The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is partnering with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to bolster Veteran suicide prevention initiatives.

DHS is the third-largest federal employer of Veterans. The two agencies share common goals in improving Veterans’ health and increasing their access to mental health services. The joint effort will help spread awareness of mental health and VA suicide prevention resources among DHS Veteran employees, and explore ways to enroll them in VA care.

“Our two agencies are committed to ensuring that Veterans receive the care they need, and this landmark partnership will allow us to leverage the strengths of both organizations to reach more Veterans ...” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

Veterans in crisis can call the Veteran and Military Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day at 800-273-8255, and press 1; or send a text to 838255.

Whether you have just a minute or an hour, you can help a Veteran feel less alone.

To someone going through a difficult time, simply reaching out can help them feel included, valued and supported.

Small actions of support – calling an old friend or bringing over dinner – are thoughtful ways to show you care.

See how you can #BeThere, explore ways to show you care, and share these ideas at https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/BeThereSupport.aspx
A research health scientist with the VA Rehabilitation, Research and Development’s Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology, or CfNN, located at the Providence VA Medical Center, received a VA Career Development Award Jan. 1, for a new project to help identify Veterans at-risk for suicide. In this photo, Barredo is recognized by Dr. Robert Swift, chief of the Providence VA Medical Center’s Mental Health Service, left, and Mary Ford, executive director of Ocean State Research Institute Inc., right, for her presentation regarding research on the prescription of advanced upper-limb prostheses during Research Day, May 20, 2016. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)

Dr. Jennifer Barredo, a health research scientist with the VA Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology, located at the Providence VA Medical Center, received a $1 million VA Career Development Award Jan. 1, for a new project to help identify Veterans at-risk for suicide. In this photo, Barredo is recognized by Dr. Robert Swift, chief of the Providence VA Medical Center’s Mental Health Service, left, and Mary Ford, executive director of Ocean State Research Institute Inc., right, for her presentation regarding research on the prescription of advanced upper-limb prostheses during Research Day, May 20, 2016. (Providence VA Medical Center photo by Winfield Danielson)

Research that could help better identify Veterans at risk for suicide is critically important,” said Dr. Susan MacKenzie, director of the Providence VAMC. “Preventing the tragic loss of Veterans to suicide – people who have served and sacrificed so much for our country – is a top priority for VA.”

The VA Career Development Program was established to attract, develop, and retain talented scientists working to improve Veteran health, care and quality of life.

CfNN is a collaboration between the Providence VA Medical Center, Brown University, Butler Hospital, Lifespan, and Massachusetts General Hospital that seeks to develop, test and implement new therapies and technologies to restore function for Veterans with disorders affecting the nervous system.

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