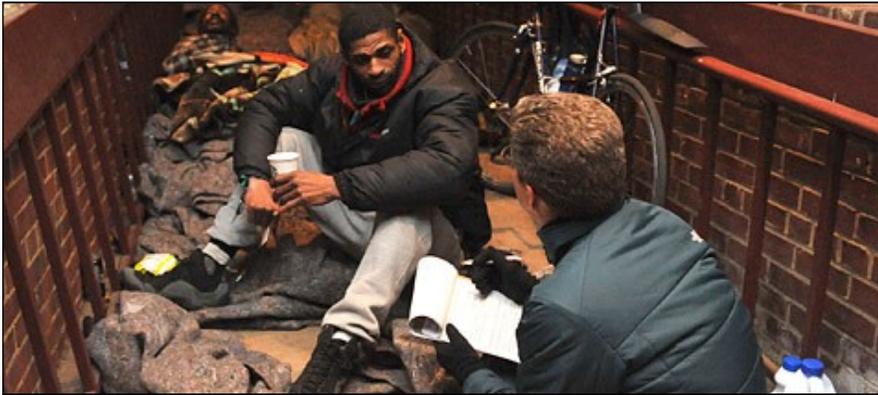


VETERANS UPDATE

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 9 SEPTEMBER, 2020

VA TO AWARD \$279 MILLION IN GRANTS



The Department of Veterans Affairs announced Aug. 19 that it will award more than 425 grants totaling approximately \$279 million under the Grant Per Diem program.

The GPD program provides funding to community organizations that provide transitional housing and supportive services for homeless Veterans, with the goal of

helping homeless Veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and income, and obtain greater self-determination.

“The GPD program is one component of VA’s multifaceted continuum of services and resources to help Veterans exit homelessness,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “No Veteran should ever have to worry whether they will have

UPCOMING EVENTS

In-person events are being re-scheduled due to COVID-19.

Wednesdays in Sept. — Women Veteran Networking Group, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., phone meeting, 800-767-1750, code 36090#

Sept. 30, #BeThere Virtual Conference, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bethere-for-service-members-veterans-families-strengthening-communities-tickets-88494693009>

stable housing...”

The GPD program has provided Veterans who are homeless with transitional housing and supportive services since 1994. The number of Veterans experiencing homelessness in the U.S. has declined by 50 percent since 2010, due in part to GPD and other VA efforts.

RESEARCH IN THE VA PROVIDENCE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

You probably know that the VA Providence Healthcare System provides exceptional health care and other services to 36,000 Veterans in Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts, but did you know we have more than 250 ongoing research projects totaling more than \$20 million in VA, National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense and commercial grants?

Our research service is affiliated with some of the top academic and medical institutions in the region. To learn more, please visit www.providence.va.gov/research.



STUDY ON sTMS FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER



Photo demonstrating the use of a Synchronized Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation device in a home setting (photo courtesy of Wave Neuroscience Inc.).

A research scientist and staff psychologist at the VA RR&D Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology at the Providence VA Medical Center, and Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University, received an award July 1 for a two-year research study from the VA Office of Rehabilitation Research and Development.

Dr. John McGeary's project, "Synchronized Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Substance Use-Disordered Veterans," will study the safety, acceptability and tolerability of synchronized TMS as a potential treatment for Veteran patients with substance use disorders.

TMS is a noninvasive procedure used to treat depression and other mental health conditions. It uses magnetic fields to stimulate nerve cells in regions of the brain with reduced activity and which are believed to be contributing to the condition being treated.

The nearly \$200,000 study will allow McGeary and his team at

the Providence VA Medical Center, which includes leaders in neurostimulation – Dr. Noah Philip, chief of Psychiatric Neuromodulation – and addiction treatment – Dr. Robert Swift, chief of Mental Health and Behavioral Science Services – to take key first steps in developing a potential new treatment for opiate use disorder, cocaine use disorder, and alcohol use disorder.

The study is scheduled to begin recruiting participants in late 2020.

Designed for eventual home-use, the synchronized TMS device being used for the study could increase accessibility and quality of life for users, as well.

"As the response to the COVID-19 pandemic created challenges for traditional forms of addiction treatment, it is more important than ever to develop new treatments, particularly ones that could be used in a home setting," said McGeary. "There are currently no FDA-approved treatments for cocaine use disorder, so this technology could be a critically important tool for treatment in these cases too, if the research supports its use."



Providence VA Medical Center

830 Chalkstone Ave
Providence, RI 02908
401-273-7100

Veteran's Crisis Line:
800-273-8255 press 1

Patient Call Center (PCC):
401-457-3336

Pharmacy Call Center:
866-400-1241

Office of Community Care
401-457-3015

Patient Advocates:
401-457-3093

VA Benefits Information
800-827-1000

Website:
www.providence.va.gov

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twitter.com/VAProvidence