

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number: 06-10-003-02-001 to the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training.

WHY READ THE REPORT

This report discusses the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) monitoring of the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP). The HVRP was first authorized under Section 738 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of July 1987, and amended by Section 5 of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001.

For program year 2008 — July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009 — \$22.0 million was appropriated to the HVRP to fund 89 competitive grants in 34 states to address the training and employment needs of homeless veterans. The grants' emphasis was on veterans finding and retaining employment as a critical factor in eliminating homelessness or the threat of homelessness among them. To this end, planned goals were to assist 14,081 homeless veterans find and retain employment for at least three quarters.

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

The Department of Veteran Affairs estimated that in 2009, 107,000 adults who served in the armed forces stayed in a shelter on one or more nights. We conducted an audit of VETS' HVRP to answer the question: Did the VETS' HVRP effectively meet the employment needs of homeless veterans?

READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to: <http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2010/06-10-003-02-001.pdf>

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THE HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAM NEEDS TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO ENSURE HOMELESS VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT NEEDS ARE MET

WHAT OIG FOUND

VETS lacked adequate controls to ensure HVRP effectively met the employment needs of homeless veterans. Our measurement of overall program results revealed that of the 13,777 program enrollments, only 4,302 (31 percent) obtained and retained employment for three quarters. Review of national, regional, and state/local grant operations revealed significant breakdowns in VETS' oversight and monitoring of grantees operations and performance.

In 49 of 60 (82 percent) underperforming grants, VETS' controls did not ensure the grantees were placed on Corrective Action Plans as required to improve their performance. In the four grants we reviewed in detail, the Grant Officer Technical Representatives' monitoring and regional offices' review controls failed to detect and/or respond to performance and financial compliance deficiencies. VETS' primary grant reporting and management system was found to be unavailable, which hampered reporting and weakened oversight functions.

As a result, performance results fell short of the planned goal of placing 9,093 veterans into employment by 2,461 veterans, or 27 percent. Had VETS provided effective oversight of underperforming grants, we estimate that \$5.9 million of program funds may have been put to better use.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

We recommended the Assistant Secretary of Veterans' Employment and Training take steps to develop and implement policies and procedures requiring greater oversight of grantees. Additionally, we recommend VETS develop a standardized methodology to review grantee operations and performance, and implement a reliable program reporting system.

The Assistant Secretary agreed and committed to developing and implementing corrective actions.