

## 2011-2012 PLAN OF ACTION FOR HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM

### WISCONSIN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION PROGRAM (VA & R) HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS

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**Purpose: Assist as many at-risk women Veterans as possible. Develop a “Connecting – Women to Women” Program by keeping Auxiliary Units and Members informed of the needs of all women Veterans, especially the homeless or at-risk of being homeless and their children. Empower the American Legion Auxiliary and the Legion Family as a resource for Veteran information in every community.**

- (1) Objective: to continue the “Homeless Women Veterans Fund;” for Grants to assist homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless women Veterans and their children. The HWVF is funded by donations received from Wisconsin Units, Posts, Members & other non-profit organization.
  - a. Action Step
    - i. Develop a Grant application with guidelines.
    - ii. Inform all members of the American Legion Family of the “Homeless Women Veterans Funds” and guidelines by publishing in the monthly newspaper and Monthly-Unit-Mailing.
    - iii. Inform all Veteran Benefit Representatives of the Grant Funds available.
    - iv. Post the application and guidelines on the Department website.
- (2) Objective: to have one contact person in each community, who will be the “Connection”, the local individual willing to personally connect with women Veterans, especially homeless or at-risk of being homeless women Veterans with immediate needs.
  - a. Action Step
    - i. Ask members to volunteer to be that local contact.
    - ii. Ask District Presidents, District Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairmen, County President and Units President to assist in finding a contact in each community who will connect with women Veterans, especially homeless or at-risk of being homeless women Veterans with immediate needs.
- (3) Objective: Develop “Connecting – Women to Women” program, which will assist American Legion Auxiliary and Legion Family members in becoming a resource for Veterans in their community, with special emphasis on women Veterans.
  - a. Action Step
    - i. Share the “Connecting – Women to Women” program by providing members with the resource information to assist local Veterans and especially women Veterans.
    - ii. Host a District or County Veteran Benefit Workshop; designed to provide information to the American Legion Auxiliary members of the many Veteran Benefits available for all Veterans.
    - iii. Host a women Veteran health & benefit Open-House; designed to educate women Veterans and the Community of the resources and benefits available to Veterans.
      1. Invite County Veteran Service Officers, Vet Center Managers, VA Hospital Women’s Health Coordinator, Veterans Benefit Representatives from Department of Workforce Development and Universities & Technical Schools.
      2. This would be a great event to partner with other Veteran Service Organization in your community.
- (4) Objective: to develop a resource booklet, with as many connecting resources; contact information (addresses, phone #, email & websites) for Veterans benefits as possible from the Federal, State, County and local community.
  - a. Action Step: Print and share booklet with all interested persons.