



# Veterans Empowerment Organization

## STRONG PAST, BRIGHT FUTURE

There are 18 million veterans living in the United States. Despite agreeing to protect our nation at a cost that could include giving their lives, these individuals are not supported in kind once they separate from service.

Veterans are at higher risk of suicide, drug misuse, and homelessness. The transition from service into civilian life is uniquely challenging, and our military servicemembers deserve the best possible transition team to empower them to pursue their goals.

Today, a better plan to serve veterans exists. It is by developing an individual pathway based on each veteran's experience and needs. With Veterans Empowerment Organization, serving veterans becomes a journey to self-sufficiency by empowering veterans to independently access communities of support.

### VETERANS ARE EMPOWERED TO ACHIEVE:

- **Housing** – live in a stable, safe, affordable place to call home
- **Employment** – maintain a sustainable, consistent income
- **Reunification** – reconnect to healthy relationships
- **Health and Wellness** – maintain the best physical, mental, social-emotional, and financial well-being
- **Empowerment** – use available supports to establish roots and plan for the future
- **Self-Sufficiency** – live independently with renewed hope, dignity, and respect

### HOUSING FIRST APPROACH

Housing, employment, and health care are determinants of success, but none can be achieved without Housing First. The number one priority is housing because so many other issues and challenges are determined by having a place to call home—or a lack of it.

VEO's evidence-based Housing First model provides veterans with immediate, safe transitional housing to ensure stabilization, basic human needs are met, and wrap-around services can be implemented. At VEO, there are no barriers to getting a room or apartment, regardless of drug use, criminal history, or other typical barriers.



### SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

If they are at risk of being homeless or are homeless, veterans can find emergency and supportive housing through VEO. Once stabilized, veterans are assisted in securing long-term permanent housing.

### VETERAN ADVOCACY

In addition to providing on-site housing, VEO convenes community partners and service providers for the broader Atlanta veteran community. Events are focused on bringing access to information and care to a support hub located in the Rollins Veterans Center in the Grove Park community.

The purpose of VEO is to enhance the quality of life for each veteran along this path to self-sufficiency. VEO's mission is dedicated to helping veterans positively navigate these life-changing moments that matter.



## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

In VEO's Unsheltered to Housed Program, a veteran works one-on-one with an **assigned case manager** through exercises and classes that ask the individual to:

- Recognize and address mental health needs
- Manage chronic and primary care health issues
- Seek support for physical, mental, emotional, social, and financial well-being
- Secure job training and placement
- Create relationships and connect with the community

Through VEO, licensed mental health professionals from Frontline Response conduct onsite screenings to determine the appropriate **personalized plan and wrap-around services**, including counseling sessions and support groups.

## EMPLOY AND ENGAGE

As part of VEO's continuum of care, the process of helping each individual find the right job begins. By meeting veterans where they are on their journey to stable, sustainable employment, **VEO provides guidance and access to veteran hiring programs**. Disabled veterans often find volunteer opportunities so they can engage in the community even if they do not work.

VEO works with businesses and community partners to provide access to veterans. Veterans are an economic boon in communities where they're able to employ their training, expertise, and sense of camaraderie. Veterans support the economy with over \$1 trillion in revenue every year, and veteran-owned businesses employ more than five million people.

## COLLABORATE AND PARTNER

The path of a veteran is uniquely challenging. Today, there are more veterans service organizations, or VSOs, at work. It's vital to collaborate and share resources to serve more veterans and create a more meaningful impact for each.

VEO can support and accomplish much more today by **collaborating with partner organizations** to better serve our veteran community. That allows VEO to focus on what we do best to support veterans as they:

- Secure stable housing and employment
- Identify and treat mental health and substance misuse issues
- Engage with the VA to access benefits and services
- Regain and maintain financial independence
- Reunite families and connect with the community

VEO is dedicated to connecting veterans with supportive services to move them toward emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. With VEO's campus environment, community of support, and resources to help heal their invisible wounds, **more than 6,500 veterans have rebuilt their lives** through compassion, respect, hope, and healing in a community with fellow veterans.

### Contact

Alicia Higginbotham, Corporate & Foundation Grants Manager  
404-353-5352 | [alicia.higginbotham@veohero.org](mailto:alicia.higginbotham@veohero.org)

### Veterans Empowerment Organization

229 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 510  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
[veohero.org](http://veohero.org)

## VEO MISSION

Veterans Empowerment Organization of Georgia, Inc. works to empower veterans along their journey to self-sufficiency.