



Fayetteville VA Medical Center
Office of Public Affairs
2300 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, N.C. 28301
<http://www.fayettevillenc.va.gov/>

News Release

Contact: Jeffery Melvin, FNCVAMC Public Affairs Officer jeffery.melvin2@va.gov,
910-488-2120 Ext. 5991; BB: 910-224-2214

Contact: Dee Taylor, Cumberland County Community Development dtaylor@co.cumberland.nc.us
910-323-6112

Contact: Nathan Walls, City of Fayetteville Public Information Specialist nwalls@ci.fay.nc.us
910-433-1578

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fayetteville VA Medical Center and Cumberland County Continuum of Care on Homelessness Host Community Stand Down July 24 & 25

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Area homeless Veterans, and anyone facing the threat of homelessness, will have the chance to find help July 24-25 when the Fayetteville Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Cumberland County Continuum of Care on Homelessness host a Community Homeless Stand Down event.

The two-day event takes place at Festival Park near downtown Fayetteville from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is designed to give people access to agencies and services that can make a difference in their lives. The event will go on, rain or shine.

Services provided will include housing assistance, employment assistance, health services, veteran services, and more. Food will be served and free haircuts will be available. FAST (Fayetteville Area System of Transit) will offer transportation to/from the event. Veterans, remember to bring ID (VA card or DD214) if available.

Veterans interested in attending the event should bring a copy of their DD214 "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty," birth certificate, social security card and two documents that can verify their mailing address. Veterans who currently reside in a shelter are also encouraged to furnish a copy of their shelter statement.

"The brave men and women who served our country should never be without a place to call home," said Elizabeth Goolsby, Director, Fayetteville VAMC.

"Through events like homeless stand downs and other programs, we are able to partner with the community and provide invaluable resources to homeless Veterans or

those who are at risk of becoming homeless – to get them back on their feet and to provide them with the care they earned through their service," Director Goolsby added.

Fayetteville VAMC and its community-based clinics have participated in, and hosted, numerous stand down events in areas they serve and welcome partnerships with likeminded groups such as the Cumberland County Continuum of Care on Homelessness, said Ennit Bryant , program support assistant, Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program, Fayetteville VAMC.

“By partnering with our communities, stand down events have streamlined access to homeless programs and resources, and reduced barriers to these services. Services include mental health, substance abuse treatment, employment, housing, medical and dental, legal, and simple needs such as food, clothing and supplies," Bryant said.

Another benefit of the partnership, Bryant said, is greater capability to reach larger numbers of Veterans and Veterans families experiencing the challenges of homelessness. Organizers estimate nearly 600 people will attend the event.

“Stand Down” is a military term that refers to the time when troops are brought back from the battlefield for rest and recuperation.

Organizers say response from donors and volunteers has been strong. The sponsoring agencies expressed their gratitude to individuals, businesses and organizations for their support of the homeless population and the Community Homeless Stand Down.

To learn more about the upcoming event, please call Dee Taylor at (910) 323-6112. To learn more about VA’s involvement, call Ennit Bryant at (910) 488-2120, ext. 7744.

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For media inquiries related to Fayetteville VAMC’s involvement with the Community Homeless Stand Down, please call Jeff Melvin, Public Affairs Officer, at (910) 488-2120 Ext. 5991 or (910) 224-2214.