

SUPPORTING EMPLOYMENT AND RESOURCES FOR VETERANS' ECONOMIC SECURITY

IN THIS ISSUE

- ★ Recent Updates
- ★ Call for Data
- ★ Investigator Spotlight: *Emily Edwards, PhD*
- ★ Upcoming Webinars
- ★ Call for Presenters
- ★ Funding Opportunities
- ★ Recent Economic Security Publications from Our Network
- ★ Kudos to Our Network Members
- ★ SERVES Reference Sheet

RECENT UPDATES

We are excited to share that we held our first Veterans Economic security Panel (VESP) meeting at the end of May! We have 10 veterans recruited for this panel who will utilize their unique Veteran experience to consult on economic security projects. A huge THANK YOU to all those network members who helped get the word out. We have an amazing group of talented Veterans who are extremely passionate and motivated to contribute to improving Veterans economic security! **Our panel is actively seeking researchers to present to our panel, please consider participating in this opportunity!** (see the "Call for Presenters" section on page 2).

Several "outcomes" teams of CORE investigators continue making progress on identify research gaps in economic security, compiling evidence-based employment services for Veterans, and identifying best practices in measuring employment and economic security outcomes.

Finally, we are in the early stages of developing a mentee-mentor program to help create pipelines between emerging researchers in the area of economic security to VA. This is an exciting opportunity for early career investigators and established researchers with interest in mentoring future generations. More information to come soon!

CALL FOR DATA

Do you have previous data that you would be willing to share with early career investigators? Want help conducting important secondary analyses?

In line with efforts of many federal research funders to make data widely available when possible, we are seeking to build a repository of available datasets on topics related to economic security (i.e., employment, housing, food security, income/financial health, etc.). This may include primary data collection or curated datasets from VA administrative data. As the PI of a project, you would still "own" the data and all necessary approvals will be sought to access and analyze the data. We would advertise the possibility for early career investigators to work with the appropriate entities to conduct secondary analyses that you may not have the time/resource to carry out. **It's a "win-win-win" for you** (helps with publications), **for the public** (disseminate important findings), and **for the early career investigator** (build up their research/publication track record).

Questions? Willing to talk about this more?

Email: Brian.Stevenson4@va.gov.

INVESTIGATOR SPOTLIGHT



Emily Edwards, PhD

Director of Clinical Core
VISN 2 MIRECC

Dr. Emily Edwards is a licensed clinical psychologist, the Director of Clinical Core at the VISN 2 MIRECC, and a resident in the VA/STARRS-LS Researcher-in-Residence Program. As a scientist-practitioner, Dr. Edwards embraces integration of clinical practice and research. Her work focuses on themes of suicide, criminal-legal involvement, and military-to-civilian transition among military Veterans and on transdiagnostic interventions for Veterans affected by these difficulties. Dr. Edwards is available to provide consultation on suicide risk assessment and management protocols, development or adaptation of interventions for high-risk Veterans, and clinical trial design. She's also interested in collaborating on clinical trials, predictive analytics, and analyses of large datasets.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Title	Presenters	Date
Employment among Veterans who Received VHA Vocational Rehabilitation Services: Health Care Utilization and Mortality Outcomes	Kristen M. Abraham Sandra G. Resnick	June 10, 2025 1 PM - 2PM EST

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

Are you conducting research on topics related to economic security (i.e., employment, financial wellness, housing security, food security, healthcare access)? **Consider presenting to our Veterans Economic Security Panel (VESP)!**

This panel is comprised of 10 veterans from across the country with lived experiences related to economic insecurity. The primary goal is to facilitate dialogue between veterans and researchers to continue to high-quality, Veteran-centered research. Our panel can provide consultation/Veteran perspective on all aspects of research or evaluation projects such as: identifying research questions, study methods, supporting grant applications, recruitment efforts, interpreting results, disseminating findings, etc. The VESP meets every other month for two hours. Our next meeting is scheduled for **July 31st 3pm-5pm EST**. Questions? **Interested in presenting?** Contact Taylor.Hunt@va.gov.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

VA National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans (NCHAV) is requesting proposals to conduct intramural and collaborative operations-based research projects that focus on priorities identified by the VACO Homeless Programs Office (HPO).

Two tiers of grants will be offered (up to \$100,000) depending on research priority. See the attached request for applications.

RECENT ECONOMIC SECURITY PUBLICATIONS FROM OUR NETWORK

- Beydoun, H.A., Szymkowiak, D., Kinney, R.L., Jones, A.L., & Tsai, J. (2025) Characteristics and healthcare utilization among aging veterans in supported housing: A comparison with independently housed age-matched veterans. *The Gerontologist*, 65(6), <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnaf001>
- Byrne, T. H., Hahm, C., Tamta, M., & Montgomery, A. E. (2025). Life shocks and self-perceived risk of housing loss among low-income individuals. *Housing Care and Support*, 28(1), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1108/HCS-10-2023-0021>
- Connelley, A., Young, A., Lee, J. T., Miller, M., Spring, E., Hao, W., Wolfson, J. A., Cohen, A. J., Patel, M. R., & Leung, C. W. (2025). Understanding reasons why patients with food insecurity decline social assistance at a large academic medical center. *AJPM Focus*, 4(2), 100320. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.focus.2025.100320>
- Edwards, E. R., Alter, S., Holliday, R., Fortuna, A., & Stimmel, M. (2025). Psychosocial needs of incarcerated veterans with other than honorable discharge characterizations. *Psychological Services*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/ser0000956>
- Montgomery, A. E., Jones, K., Pandit, K., deRussy, A. J., Nelson, R. E., Richman, J. S., Byrne, T.H. (2025). Change in outpatient care following migration among veterans with experience of housing instability. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-025-09494-7>
- Roncarati, J. S., Cusack, M., True, G., Browne, J., Harris, T., deRussy, A., Tsai, J., Elwy, A. R., Byrne, T. H., & Montgomery, A. E. (2025). Experiencing housing instability in rural North America and access to health care and supportive services: A scoping review. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*, 36(1), 21–55. <https://doi.org/10.1353/hpu.2025.a951583>
- Su, K., Maitra, M.R., Peebles, A.D., Goodman, O., Tsai, J., Lee, D., Lam, K., Lubens, P., Zamora, K., Shak, E., & Brown, R.T. (2025). Developing an intervention to enhance aging in place for older veterans living in permanent supportive housing. *The Gerontologist*, 65(5). <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnaf018>
- Weber J.J., Kinney, R.L., Roncarati, J.S., Bruemmer, K., Diaz, M., & Albanese, J. (2025) A national Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) program to address the healthcare needs of veterans experiencing homelessness: An evaluation protocol. *Health Services Insights*, 18. doi:10.1177/11786329251320200

KUDOS TO NETWORK MEMBERS

Brian Stevenson's Merit Award “*Evaluating the Efficacy of a Vocational Counseling Intervention to Improve Occupational Functioning and Employment Quality among Veterans with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders*” was chosen for funding by Rehabilitation Research, Development and Translation (RRDT).

This project will conduct a multi-site trial at VA Bedford, VA Hines, and VA Dallas to evaluate the efficacy of the Purposeful Pathways intervention at improving employment outcomes of Veterans participating in transitional work vocational rehabilitation services. PI Stevenson is leading a team that includes many SERVES network members (**James LePage, Matthew Sprong, Lisa Mueller, Megan Kelly, Kenneth Weber, Kimberly Dixon-Lawson, Shana Bakken, and Taylor Hunt**).

Congratulations to everyone involved!

SERVES REFERENCE SHEET

We've heard from many members of our network that it would be helpful to have a brief, one-page overview of the SERVES CORE to better understand our goals and objectives. We hope this is informative!

WHAT IS SERVES?

Supporting Employment and Economic Resources for Veterans' Economic Security (SERVES) is a Consortium of Research (CORE) designed to enhance economic stability and employment opportunities for Veterans. SERVES aims to bring together expert researchers and clinicians from diverse fields including vocational rehabilitation, health economics, and implementation science, in a collaborative effort to address Veteran employment and economic security.

SERVES Goals

SERVES has 3 primary goals:

Adoption: Increase Veterans' access to evidence-based programs and expand VA's adoption of scientifically supported employment services.

- Compile and disseminate a repository of evidence-based practices for employment and financial stability/health.
- Identify barriers and opportunities for integrating economic data into policy and decision-making.
- Facilitate strategies to increase the adoption of programs that improve employment and financial security.

Outcomes: Enhance research on employment and economic security, including the reciprocal effects of employment on medical and psychosocial conditions common to Veterans.

- Develop and curate a national research agenda on employment and economic security.
- Establish a Veteran's economic security engagement panel to provide consultation on research and evaluation projects related to economic security.
- Identify and disseminate standard process and outcome measures for employment, economic security, disability, and program evaluations.
- Develop a measurement repository to support the evaluation of employment and economic security outcomes.

Networking: Build a robust network of early and mid-career investigators focused on economic security programs aligning with VA priorities.

- Enhance the capacity of investigators to conduct research and quality improvement initiatives on employment and economic security.
- Develop an online repository of available data sets for early career investigators
- Increase research focused on identifying, developing, disseminating, and expanding programs impacting Veterans' financial health and stability.
- Support and mentor junior investigators in areas related to financial health.

New research published or presented at a conference? Kudos you'd like to promote? Please let us know so we can share it with the community in our next newsletter.

Email Taylor.Hunt@va.gov.