

## What is the CCP?

The Community Care Program (CCP) was created to refer veterans to the private sector if the VA does not provide a service or to offer a choice of VA or private sector care if wait time before an appointment or driving time for care is beyond a set standard. This does not define choice as being able to freely choose VA or private-sector care.

The VA is the only entity suited to treat medical and psychological issues specific to military service. The VA has always used referrals to the private sector to supplement but not replace care. Private-sector providers are not familiar with the special needs of veterans nor are they aware of the resources available. Education on military-related conditions like PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma and suicide screening is recommended for private-sector providers but not required and few attend it. These trainings are mandatory for VA staff, many of whom are veterans themselves.

Studies show VA care is equal to or better than private-sector care. Veterans using the VA want the choice to have VA care. The VA must be funded and staffed to allow this choice.

## What can you do?

VA services are vital not only to veterans but to all Americans. VA hospitals outrank non-VA hospitals in patient satisfaction of care and overall hospital quality.

Veterans and supporters of veterans need to speak out – to let Congress know you want VA healthcare to continue. To find out more about the VA, the roles it has in veteran and American health care and to help ensure the VA remains strong google our website at:

### [Save Our VA Veterans For Peace](#)

For information email SOVA at [sovamail@yahoo.com](mailto:sovamail@yahoo.com)

Find analysis of issues affecting VA health at

### [Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute](#)

Local contact:



Save Our VA

**Act today and sign up for SOVA Updates and let Congress know about your concerns.**



VA care is being undermined. The *Mission Act of 2018* created the Community Care Program (CCP) to supplement VA care but more and more care is referred to the private sector while support for VA care decreases.

VA health care is:

- Holistic, meeting medical, social and mental health needs.
- Understanding of and able to treat the special health care needs related to military service.
- A nation-wide healthcare system with a single health record available at all sites.
- Accountable with regular Inspector General Congressional reports available to the public.
- Valued by veterans using it with 92% trusting their VA care.



## The VA has 4 missions.

### What are these missions?

#### Provide Healthcare

The VA provides healthcare for 9 million veterans at over 1,200 facilities.

- 170 medical centers
- Rehabilitation centers
- Nursing homes
- Vet centers

The VA is the largest integrated healthcare system in the US.

#### Educate Health Staff

The VA has teaching relationships with over 1,800 educational institutions, including 97 percent of medical schools.

- Trains 70% of doctors
- Also trains nurses, PT, psychologists, social workers & other health staff

#### Research

The VA has the largest long-term patient population in the US & the world's largest genomic database.

- VA research has led to the shingles vaccine, nicotine patch, prosthetic devices and many more innovations.
- It's war-related advances, such as prosthetic devices, PTSD care, spinal cord injury care and more, help all Americans.

#### National Preparedness

The VA responds in times of national emergencies .

- During COVID provided staff to private sector facilities and cared for non-veteran patients. Now its large patient population contributes to understanding long COVID.

#### What is happening?

The VA is understaffed resulting in more and more referrals to the private sector. All 139 VA medical facilities have severe staffing shortages and still 30,000 staff were cut in 2025 and 37,000 positions eliminated.

- 2026 funding for CCP care is increasing by 50% while funding for VA care is decreasing by 14%.
- Wait times for appointments, a reason for CCP referrals, are often longer in the private sector than in the VA.
- The private sector rarely provides medical records to the VA so veterans lose their single, shared health record that is a strength of the VA's holistic care.
- Private sector care does not collect data needed to reveal problems resulting from exposure to Agent Orange, burn pits and other toxins not yet known.
- VA care is monitored and reported on by the Office of the Inspector General to ensure quality of care and meeting of standards. The same is not true of private-sector care.