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Objectives

- ☒ Recognize common barriers to VTC participant success
- ☒ Learn how to address barriers and increase services
- ☒ Review ways to successfully incorporate external resources
- ☒ Identify VTC resources available in the community

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Topics

- ☒ Veterans Service Officer (VSO)
- ☒ VTC Mentor Programs
- ☒ Common Issues or Barriers to Participant Success
- ☒ Military culture for Non-Veteran Team Members
- ☒ Resources and Assistance in the Community
- ☒ Local, state, and federal funding sources for VTCs

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What is your role with the VTC?

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What is a Veterans Treatment Court?

AVTC is ...

A specialized problem-solving court designed to divert justice-involved veterans away from traditional prosecution and into **structured treatment, supervision, and mentorship**. The core idea is simple but powerful: **address the underlying service-related conditions that contribute to criminal behavior—rather than just punish the offense.**



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What is a Veterans Service Officer (VSO)?

A **Veterans Service Officer (VSO)** is a trained, accredited advocate who helps veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses **navigate the VA benefits system**, including filing claims, gathering evidence, and pursuing appeals. The core function of a VSO is to make the VA process **accurate, accessible, and less overwhelming** for the people they serve.



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Why is a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) important?

AVSO acts as a **bridge between veterans and the VA**, ensuring that claims are properly prepared, documented, and submitted. Their responsibilities typically include:

Assessing eligibility for VA benefits
Preparing and filing claims for disability compensation, pension, education, survivor benefits, and more



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Why is a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) important?

Gathering evidence, including medical records, service records, and lay statements

Explaining benefit options and helping veterans understand timelines, requirements, and outcomes

Advocating



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VTC Mentors and Peer Recovery Support Specialist

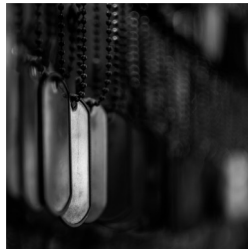
- Mentors – Veteran to Veteran
- Peer Support Groups
- Camaraderie



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Barriers to services

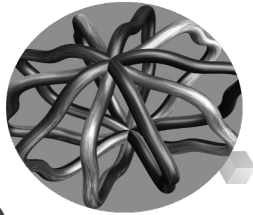
- Discharge Status
- Rural Communities
- Homelessness
- Driving
- Treatment Services



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VTC Tools

- Justice for Vets
- Operational Tune up
- Intercept Mapping
- Non-Profits



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Military Culture



- Veterans and Civilians
- Camaraderie participants
- Non-adversarial team



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Outreach



- Talk to Sheriff's Depart
- Do Roll Call Trainings
- Create VTC Brochures



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What is your 'wish list' for VTCs?

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Are you ready?

What are your goals? What are the gaps in services or identified needs?

What is your County/Court's capacity to explore funding, external resources, etc.?

Is there understanding, acceptance, and willingness from court stakeholders, county board, community, etc.?

Has your county completed the necessary registrations and credentials to apply for grant funding?



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VTC Funding

- Grants
- Other County Agencies or Departments
- Not-For-Profits
- Local Agencies



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VTC Funding through Grants

- BJA Veterans Court Grant
- SAMHSA Treatment Courts (Drug, Mental Health, Veterans Courts) Grant
- ICJIA Co-Occurring Grant
- ICJIA Public Defender Grant
- ICJIA Adult Redeploy Illinois (ARI) Grant
- IL Department of Public Health Healthy Resilient Communities Grant
- IL Department of Veterans Affairs Lottery Grant
- IL Arts Council Creative Project Grant

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Data, Resources, Articles

- All Rise Best Practice Standards
- IL PSC Standards
- AOIC Probation Data Dashboard/Legacy Stats
- ICJIA Articles and Data
- IDHS Behavioral Health and Recovery Division
- State Opioid Action Plan (SOAP)
- IDPH Opioid Overdose Dashboard

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Data, Resources, Articles

- National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Veteran Adults (SAMHSA, 2024)
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Statistics

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VTC Funding through the Community



- Local Arts Organizations
- University of Illinois Extension Office (garden supplies)
- Local Garden Clubs
- Walmart Funding Requests
- Home Depot -Veteran Housing Website

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Resources



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 - FINVET (Financial Resources)
 - Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
 - Vet Centers
 - Nutrition/Cooking Courses
 - VA Homeless Programs and Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act
 - Phones, Fitbits, iPads through VA

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Resources

- PsychArmor VA SAVE
- Illinois Governor's Challenge Courses and Resources
- NASHIA's OBISSS Assessment for TBI
- All Rise VTC Foundational and Operational Tune Ups
- All Rise VTC Mentor Courts



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- Blue Star Families
 - Anyone can join Chicagoland Chapter
 - Sober Activities
 - Spiritune- science-based app for music



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AOIC Training and Resources

- Training Checklists for new VTC team members
- PSC Courses
- Motivational Interviewing (MI) training
- Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT)
- Adult Mental Health First Aid (coming soon)



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Questions?

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Thank you

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