

# Our Veterans Deserve Better

# Homeless Hungry Unemployed Disabled

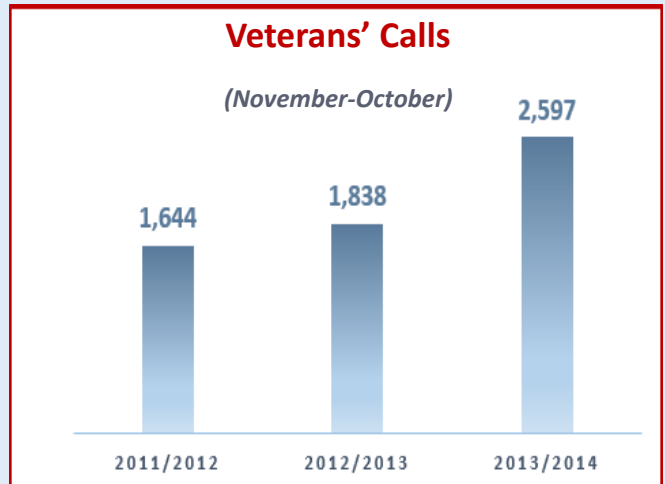
A July 7, 2014 article by Bill Quigley, "*Millions of Soldiers and Veterans in Trouble*," cites some disturbing statistics:

- ◆ More than 1.4 million veterans are living below the poverty line
- ◆ Over 57,000 veterans are homeless on any given night
- ◆ Over 900,000 veterans live in households which receive food stamps
- ◆ Unemployment is much higher among post-911 veterans than the general population
- ◆ Over 3.5 million veterans are receiving disability benefits...[and] hundreds of thousands more vets are applying for help from the VA.

Source: [www.commondreams.org/views/2014/07/07/millions-soldiers-and-veterans-trouble](http://www.commondreams.org/views/2014/07/07/millions-soldiers-and-veterans-trouble)

Connect2Help 211 has seen a **58% increase** in the number of calls from veterans in the last 3 years. Based on available data from November 2013-October 2014:

- ◆ 67% are younger than 60;
- ◆ 36% receive Social Security Disability;
- ◆ 31% receive SNAP (formerly called food stamps);
- ◆ 14% are unemployed;
- ◆ 8% have no income at all.



**Most are calling for help with basic needs,  
because they do not have enough income to provide for their families.**

#### Top 5 Veterans' Needs

- Utilities—15%
- Housing—15%
- Legal—12%
- Financial—10%
- Food—8%

In the last 12 months, nearly **2,600 veterans** reported almost **4,300 needs** and received more than **5,500 referrals** to community resources.

The **demand for help** is always greater than the supply; **8%** of veteran's needs were recorded as "unmet" by 2-1-1.

#### Top 5 Veterans' Unmet Needs

- Housing—29%
- Utilities—14%
- Household Goods—7%
- Mental Health/Addictions—6%
- Transportation—6%