

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

VSO Communicators CALL

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(Detailed)**

November 3, 2022



ChooseVA

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

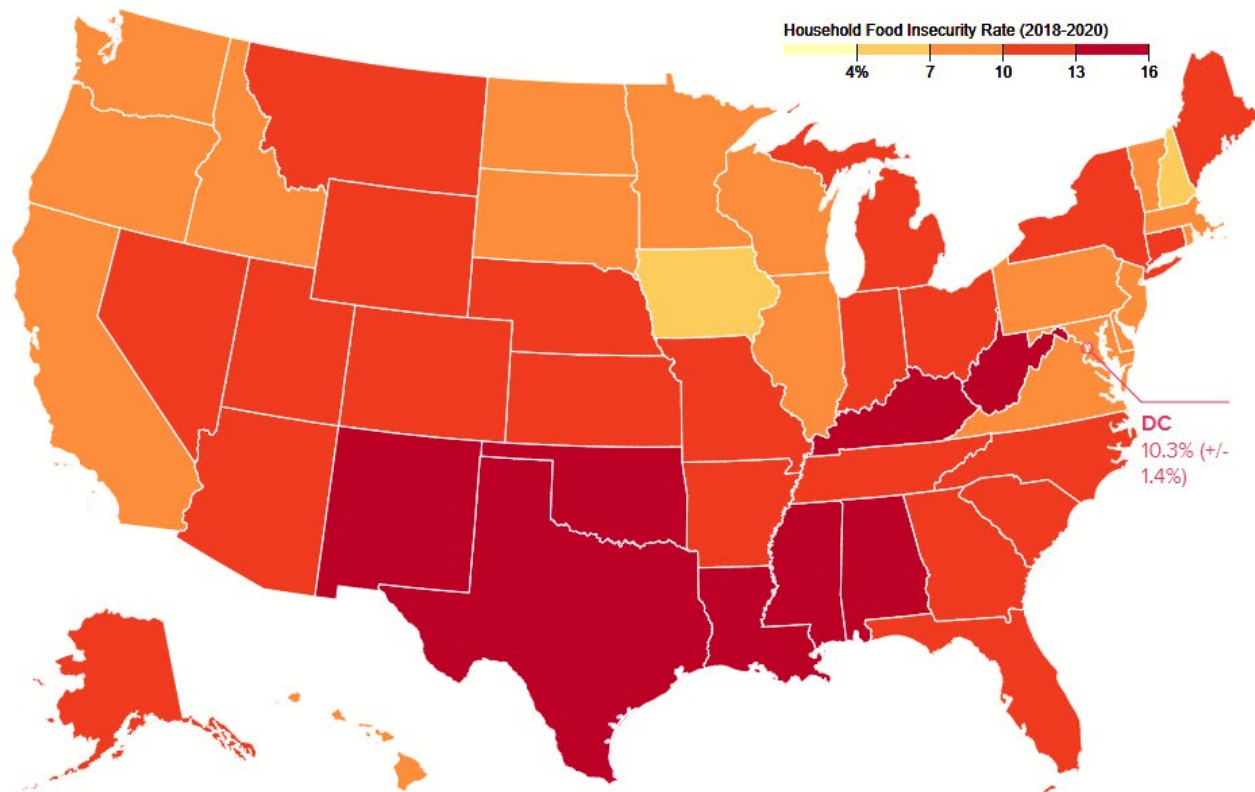
DEFINITION

- **Food Insecurity** – a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life or a household level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food
 - Different than physiological hunger
 - Sometimes confused with disordered eating behaviors



FOOD INSECURITY IN US HOUSEHOLDS

- Overall: 11.8% (over 38 million Americans) live in food insecure households
- The food insecurity rate is highest in the South (12.3%), followed by the Midwest, West, and Northeast



FOOD INSECURITY AMONG VETERANS

Rate of Food Insecurity

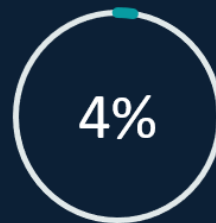
The face of today's Veteran experiencing food insecurity is complicated by varying factors---Socioeconomic status, unemployment, housing costs, and inflation. A Veteran may need to choose between eating and keeping the electricity on.



Male Veterans
(Overall)



Male Veterans
(50-64)



Male Veterans
(65+)



OEF/OIF/OND
Veterans



Female Veterans
(Overall)



GOOD NEWS STORIES



They fought for our freedom, but today many of those Veterans struggle to put food on the table.

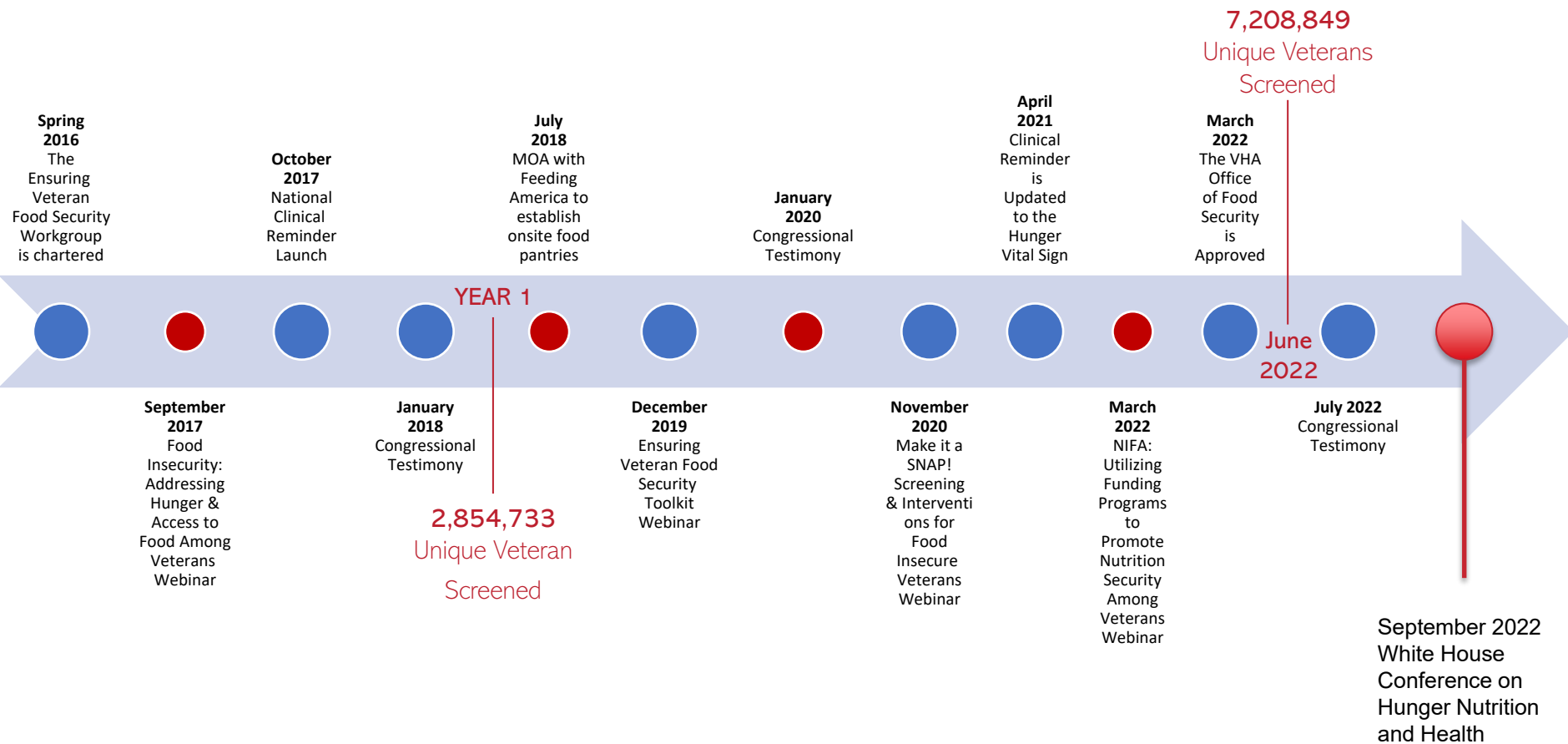
Meet Veteran Poppa Don

The Navy Veteran was living out of his truck when he discovered VA. He didn't have enough food to eat, and his health was failing. He claims VA saved his life.



Bottom Line Up Front – History of our Work

Food insecurity is the lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life, and is a social determinant of health.



Choose **VA**

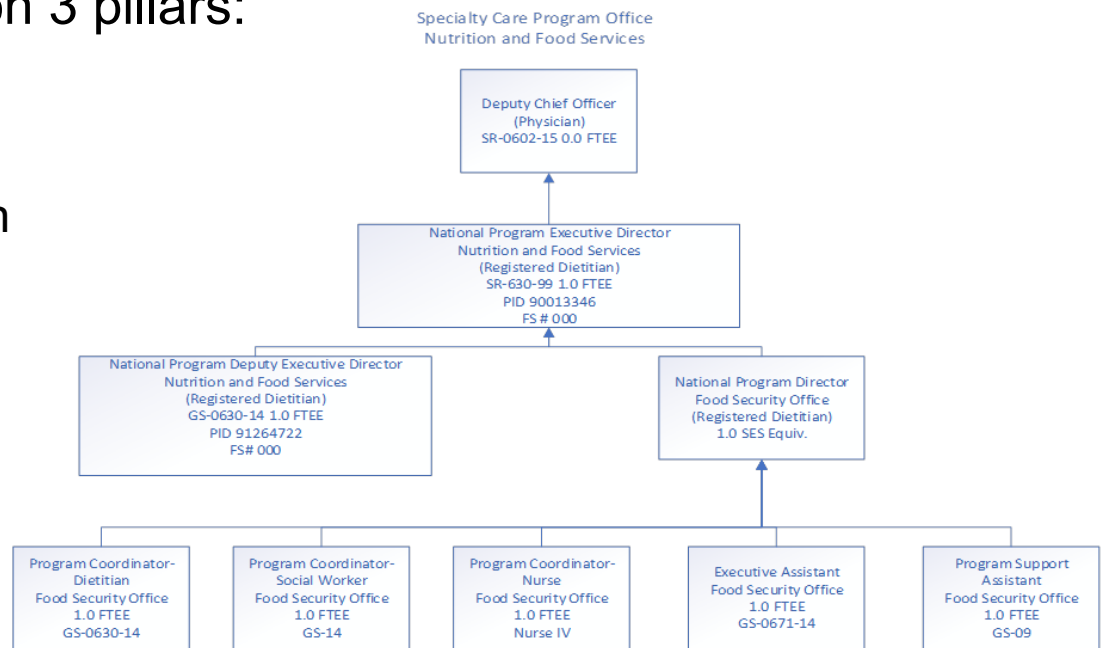
VA



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VHA FOOD SECURITY OFFICE

- Efforts to address Veteran food insecurity exist in various capacities, energies are uncoordinated, duplicative, and generally inefficient.
- The VHA Food Security Office aims to maximize and align these efforts by providing support, expertise, and advocacy to VA
- The organizational chart includes a total of six FTEE:
- The Office will be built on 3 pillars:
 - Partnerships
 - Data Management
 - Research/Education



MISSION/VISION

MISSION:

- Leading the effort to break the cycle of Veteran food insecurity by leveraging partnerships to create sustainable access to food resources using evidence-based strategies to inform healthcare delivery

VISION:

- Advancing the core tenant of food security in promoting Veteran self-reliance, dignity, health and well-being



VSO's ROLE

VSO Ask

- Be aware of and connect the office with potential internal/external partners
- Input on where best to market office and related “good news stories” and any other office information
- Collaborate on spreading the news about the office and current resources to Veterans in need
 - Visit food insecurity [website](#)
 - Produce Prescription Program (Partner with Rockefeller Foundation)
 - Salt Lake City and Houston
 - Food Share program(Food Box & Nutrition Ed) pilot sites include:
 - San Francisco, Orlando, Las Vegas, Jesse Brown (Chicago), Philadelphia, Boston, Memphis, & Atlanta



QUESTIONS



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