



VHA Innovation Ecosystem

Innovation at VHA

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning



Matthew Rowley

Community Builder

The Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning

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VHA Innovation Ecosystem

The Office of Healthcare Innovation and Learning

As the innovation arm of VA, OHIL is focused on driving transformational change for VA through innovation, clinical learning, and pilot initiatives to advance care for Veterans, further positioning VA as a global leader in healthcare innovation.



Purpose:

- Improve Clinical outcomes
- Improve the Veteran and caregiver experience
- Lower the cost of care

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History of Innovation at VHA

VHA stands as the largest integrated healthcare system in the nation by continuously cultivating dynamic collaborations with federal agencies, nonprofits, and private industries, as well as working with academic affiliates to test innovative solutions through research.

1967
First Successful
Liver Transplant



1984
Nicotine Patch



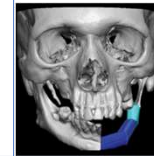
2007
Ankle-foot Prosthetic



2020
5G



2022
Mission Daybreak
OMF ASP System



1960
Cardiac Pacemaker



1970
Electronic Health
Record



1990
Diabetic Drugs



2016
ReachVET



2021
GioStent

9M
Enrolled
Veterans

33%
of staff members
are Veterans

1,298
Healthcare Facilities
171 VA Medical Centers
1,113 VHA outpatient
clinics

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VHA Innovation Ecosystem

The Future of Veteran Healthcare

Driving transformational change in healthcare by identifying innovative solutions to problems through clinical learning, pilot studies, and and collaboration with Veterans, caregivers, and community partners.



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VHA Innovation Ecosystem

Priority: Suicide Prevention

- Largest prize in Federal Gov't history
- 1,300 innovation submissions
- 10 finalists, including:

ReflexAI reflexai.com

ReflexAI is an artificial intelligence-powered tool that can help the Veterans Crisis Line train and maintain a team of responders that can meet the needs of every Veteran who reaches out.

RealizedCare realizedcare.com

gameChange is a digital therapeutic with the FDA's Breakthrough Device designation that treats severe social isolation, which is common to PTSD, psychosis, and severe depression, and can be a precursor to suicidal thoughts and behavior.

**MISSION
DAYBREAK**

**A \$20 million
grand challenge to
reduce Veteran suicides**

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MissionDaybreak.net
#MissionDaybreak

Vara Corporation varasafety.com

The Vara Smart App is a smartphone application that connects with a gun safe to provide gun owners a unique set of lethal means safety features to prevent suicide. The Vara Smart App connects to a Vara gun safe wherever it is located.

Televeda televeda.com

Hero's Story is designed to prevent suicide amongst American Indian/Alaska Native Veterans by promoting social connectedness and community healing through traditional healing practices.

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Increasing Social Connection

Compassionate Contact Corps (CCC) is a virtual social prescription program where trained volunteers are matched with Veterans that are experiencing loneliness or are socially isolated. The volunteer contacts the Veteran via phone or video calls weekly to provide socialization and companionship.



Veteran Socials is a regularly occurring community-based event designed to foster interpersonal connections and social support among community members, including Veterans of all branches of service.

*Currently offered at 4
American Legion posts!*



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Office of Advanced Manufacturing

VHA Office of Advanced Manufacturing (OAM) guides the use of advanced manufacturing technologies, like 3D printing, in healthcare applications at VHA.



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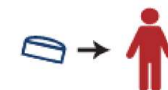
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Pharmacogenomics (PGx)

Using a simple blood test, VA can harness information in a person's genes to understand how they respond to medicines.



Patient A may see best results with **2 tablets** of a medication.



A third person, Patient C will only need **one-half of a tablet** of this same medication.



Another person, Patient B may only need **1 tablet** for their treatment.



A different person, Patient D, may need to take a **different drug** to see the same benefits as the previous 3 patients.

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The Voice of the Veteran

Utilizing the most important voices at the table to help identify the biggest problems, and best solutions



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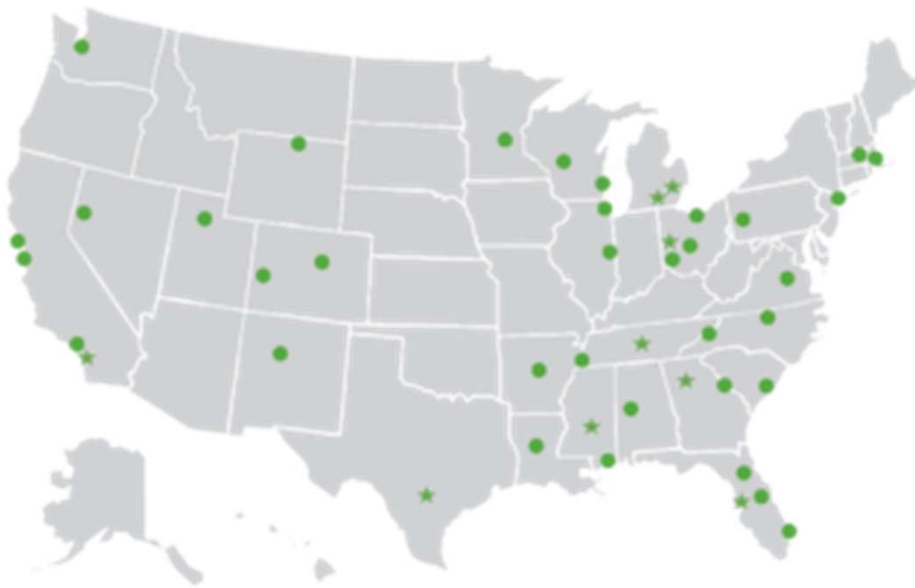
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Communities of Innovation

Building a culture of innovation by empowering frontline employees



- **44 VA Medical Centers across the VHA**
- **Each site has at least 1 Innovation Specialist**
 - Utilize diverse backgrounds + experiences to empower change
 - Lead change in thinking about how VA solves problems
 - Operate in a world outside of the day-to-day, where change, experimentation, and failure are encouraged.

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Local Level Collaboration

Drop ease

Drop Ease is a simple squirt gun that provides a stable platform for self-administering eyedrops, complete with a handle that is easy to squeeze with weak or shaky hands



Standard eye drop bottle fits into the device

The product may also be used to apply medication drops to the ear canal



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THANK YOU



Diffusion Marketplace

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