Innovation at VHA
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
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.

1960
Cardiac Pacemaker

1967
First Successful Liver Transplant

1970
Electronic Health Record

1984
Nicotine Patch

1990
Diabetic Drugs

2007
Ankle-foot Prosthetic

2016
ReachVET

2020
5G

2021
GioStent

2022
Mission Daybreak OMF ASP System

9M
Enrolled Veterans

33%
of staff members are Veterans

1,298
Healthcare Facilities

171 VA Medical Centers
1,113 VHA outpatient clinics
The Future of Veteran Healthcare

Driving transformational change in healthcare by identifying innovative solutions to problems through clinical learning, pilot studies, and collaboration with Veterans, caregivers, and community partners.
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.
  - 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.
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!
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.
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.
The Voice of the Veteran

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

VHA Innovation Ecosystem