

## ADAYTA AXELSON

Goes to work every day with one mission: **Assist Veterans in need.**

Adayta Axelson is the Region 9 coordinator of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs' (WDVA) Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP). Coordinators like Axelson work throughout the state to connect Veterans to community services, and provide case management and support, with a special focus on treatment and recovery. Axelson has an office in Madison, but spends her day working directly with Veterans throughout her region, which includes Dane and Jefferson counties.



Veterans involved in VORP can receive crisis services and on-the-street case management to get treatment for mental health and/or substance use care, including assistance paying for private treatment. VORP coordinators like Axelson work closely with County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO),

Veteran Service Organizations, local government agencies, community nonprofits, and other organizations to help the Veterans in their region access individualized wrap-around services such as housing, food, clothing, furniture, education, and employment.

Recently, during the COVID-19

pandemic, Axelson received a call from a female Veteran raising four children alone and facing the possibility of homelessness. With her local professional connections, Axelson was able to link this Veteran to more than seven community partners for financial support. By serving as a point of contact for

community partners, Axelson was not only able to ensure that the Veteran was served properly, but also relieved her from additional stressors.

“This Veteran is a remarkable woman who was always willing to put in the work to support herself and her children,” said Axelson. “It was unique in that I never met her face-to-face due to pandemic precautions. Largely, it didn’t matter – we shared many calls, laughs, and emotions together as human beings. I am truly honored to continue to work with her.”

WDVA’s VORP began as a pilot program in 49 counties in 2014 and has since expanded to all 72 counties in Wisconsin. Since the program’s inception, coordinators have helped hundreds of Veterans obtain mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and other supportive services.

If you know of a Veteran in need, you can reach Adayta Axelson at 608-215-6897.

### **Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program**

The Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) connects Veterans to community services, provides case management and support, with a special focus on treatment and recovery.

#### **VORP staff work with community partners and professionals to provide assistance and connection to:**

- Mental Health Services
- Substance Use Treatment
- Financial Assistance
- Housing and Utilities
- Claims and Benefits Assistance
- Employment and Education
- And many other services

*“I’ve always had great respect for those who’ve served our county. It is an honor at this point in my life to help others after military life, with a special focus on Veterans who suffer with homelessness, mental health, or substance use disorders.”*

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