

Biography

Chelsea Watson **National Director, VA Grant and Per Diem Program**



Chelsea Watson was appointed as National Director for VA's Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program on January 2, 2022. In this role, she leads VA's largest transitional housing program for homeless Veterans, which currently has a portfolio of approximately 600 grants nationwide. She began working for VHA's Homeless Programs Office more than 23 years ago and the majority of her work has been dedicated to ensuring the development and provision of housing and services to assist homeless Veterans and Veterans at risk for homelessness.

In her various roles she has had the opportunity to work collaboratively with community stakeholders and staff at all levels of VA on a variety of projects to advance the Department's mission to end homelessness among Veterans. As the national director of the GPD program she is responsible for formulating a vision and implementing plans to ensure GPD resources are effectively meeting the needs of Veterans experiencing homelessness. She is responsible for developing, managing, and executing the program office budget of \$270 million. Ms. Watson also represents VA and the GPD program at high-level meetings, both within and outside the Federal government.

Ms. Watson received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Florida. She went on to complete a Master of Public Health, Epidemiology degree at the University of South Florida while working full-time for the VA.