[NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION] is partnering with a number of other community organizations to host a Stand Down for homeless, almost homeless and unemployed veterans and their families. This presents a valuable, hands-on, service-learning opportunity for your students.

Stand Downs for homeless veterans is a concept that was created during the Vietnam Conflict. A Stand Down was a time away from the battlefield when soldiers could rest from combat and take care of personal hygiene, enjoy warm meals, receive medical and dental care, and enjoy the camaraderie of battle buddies in a safe environment. Stand Down afforded battle-weary soldiers the opportunity to renew their spirit, health and overall sense of well-being.

Today Stand Downs for homeless veterans allow veterans to rest from the combat of homelessness and receive services and resources. For some, it is a time to receive a warm meal and clothing. For others, it is a life-changing event.

The goal of this Stand Down is to help veterans and their families who are experiencing financial obstacles. This offers a service-learning opportunity for students to gain real world experience working with clients, raise awareness in the community about issues related to homelessness among veterans and their families, and solicit and deliver help from additional volunteers and organizations. We would like to invite you to partner with us as well.

* Students with clinical skills can provide services including counseling, blood pressures, hematocrit and hemoglobin, nutrition counseling, physical exams, financial counseling, vision screening, dental screening, and hearing checks.
* Students with human resources and management skills can provide resume writing assistance or services such as creating a job finder brochure that includes resumes and salary negotiations.
* Nutrition students can plan menus and serve food.
* Students in veterinary sciences can provide services for pets.
* Student organizations can sponsor sleeping bag, winter clothing, food or bottled water drives or hold fundraisers to purchase bus passes or phone cards, or hold donation drives to collect food or warm socks.
* Students can volunteer to assist disabled or elderly veterans or work at the registration table or onsite food pantry.

Ideally the services would be offered as service learning opportunities or a structured volunteer opportunity overseen by faculty. Student organizations are also encouraged to volunteer and/or provide services to the veterans and their families.

This is a time to take action to honor our veterans and give your students a learning opportunity that can mold their future as practitioners. Please let me know if you would like to discuss learning opportunities for your students to provide a Stand Down for our veterans and their families.

Thank you,  
[NAME OF CONTACT]