WASHINGTON, DC

SYSTEM

Since the 25 Cities effort started, Washington DC has had multiple 100+ day initiatives to develop, refine, and work to sustain their system. These initiatives started with the goal to get all the right people to the table. Existing community innovations have since been implemented. The Washington, DC Team describes some of these accomplishments below.

"Veterans NFWI strategically reached Veterans in housing resources so that we can meet as many needs as possible. For the veterans clients who are not eligible for VA services, we connect local resources, so that we do not have to turn them away due to their discharge status. As a result of our strong partnerships with a handful of landlords and the District's Housing Authority, we are now a hand of one pre- and post-rental units available for immediate lease-up. This means that, even our most vulnerable Veterans engage with us, we can share from 5 to 4 units that they can move into. This makes the offer of housing real and tangible and helps create and sustain momentum." — District of Columbia Department of Human Services and Interagency Council on Homelessness

"Due to the 25 Cities campaign, our GPIC providers have moved from solo artists to "One Band One Sound." Every Veteran is supported in choosing the housing plan they believe will make their life most successful. There has been a decrease in length of stay from over two years to an average of 120 days. More Veterans are being placed to permanent housing than ever before. We are setting our standards high with the passion to make sure each goal every Veteran receives the best service possible with housing their primary goal. By including our GPICs in the big picture, we have been able to serve more Veterans in a stable and secure environment that believes in the mission (to end veterans homelessness)." — U.S. Vets

OUTCOMES

1,777 Veterans housed from August 2013 to July 2016
1,956 Chronically homeless individuals (including 1,035 veterans) housed from August 2013 to July 2016

INFRASTRUCTURE

To accomplish these goals, Washington DC has:
- Utilized a Common Assessment across all provider (VI-EPDAT version 2)
- Trained 723 staff from 101 agencies on the process
- Accepted a HIPAA-compliant Release of Information, enabling the VA and healthcare providers to most assessment information directly into the system for three years
- Developed a Universal Registry to prioritize individuals based on vulnerability, for housing frequently and as it arises within HMIS
- Implemented a Housing Navigator and Case Conferencing Process to move people from assessment to housing and ensure no one slips through any technological or systemic cracks
- Successfully advocated for additional funding to match unmet need
- Built a website (www.CoordinatedtDc.com) to store all documents

SUCCESS STORIES

"One female Veteran, in and out of hotels, the hospital and GPIC through the years was identified as a long-term client of one of our GPIC programs. The VA SHF Case manager GPIC case manager and VIPF provided not a couple of times to support her in getting housing and moving into her own place. Each of all these programs working together to have her female Veteran achieve her goal of having her own place to call home." — U.S. Vets

"In working with a 71 year old Veteran who had experienced a decade of homelessness, we were able to give him full veteran homelessness prevention services for the first time. The Veteran was then able to succeed with a GPIC program and completed with CHS, SHF, an understood in the District, and was able to move into a permanent residence." — Housing Counseling Services

The VHIS Outreach Team was able to meet up with one of our highest scoring Veterans in CHS, DSH, with a high level of trust and a high level of success. He will get them on the streets and into a permanent residence." — U.S. Vets

"In developing and implementing the community’s creative veteran case finding program, our Eligibility Specialist, with our partners, worked with one Veteran who was in the veteran’s shelter for 3 years. Our Eligibility Specialist, with the help of our partners, worked with this Veteran and helped him get into his own permanent residence." — U.S. Vets