



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Fact Sheet

Office of Public Affairs Washington, DC 20420
Media Relations (202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

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Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG)

Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups for Veterans, commonly referred to as Project CHALENG was launched in 1994 to bring together providers, advocates, Veterans and other concerned citizens to identify the needs of homeless Veterans and work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action.

Project CHALENG has two components: a CHALENG survey, in which participants rate the needs of homeless Veterans in their local communities, and CHALENG meetings, which encourage partnership development between VA and community service providers. The results of the CHALENG survey are used each year to identify unmet needs and encourage new partnership development to meet those needs.

The legislation guiding this initiative is contained in Public Laws 102-405, 103-446 and 105-114.

Over the years CHALENG has helped build thousands of relationships between VA and community agencies so they can better serve homeless Veterans locally. Data from CHALENG on Veterans' unmet needs has assisted VA in developing major new services for Veterans such as the Homeless Veteran Dental Program (HVDP), the expansion of the Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, the Veterans Justice Programs and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). In addition community organizations use CHALENG data in grant applications to support services for homeless Veterans; grant applications are for VA, other Federal, local government, and community foundation dollars, which maximizes community participation in serving homeless Veterans.

2016 CHALENG Survey Participation

- In 2016, 5,280 individuals completed a CHALENG Participant survey. This included 3,191 homeless Veterans and 2,089 non-homeless Veterans (VA staff, state and public officials, community leaders, volunteers).
- Twelve percent of the homeless Veteran survey participants were women. Fifty-four percent of all homeless Veteran participants were between the ages of 45-60 with another 26 percent 61 or older. Forty-five percent were non-White or answered "Don't know"; six percent identified their ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino.



- There were 2,089 non-homeless Veteran participants. Of these, 45 percent were VA staff, two percent were other Federal employees, 40 percent were state/local official or community providers, and 13 percent were interested members of the community.

Top Homeless Veteran Needs Identified in 2016 CHALENG Survey

- Eight of the top ten *unmet* needs were the same for male and female Veterans: housing for registered sex offenders, child care, legal assistance in three separate areas (prevent eviction/foreclosure, child support issues, restore a driver's license) family reconciliation assistance, credit counseling, and financial guardianship. Two needs in the top ten unmet for male Veterans (but not female Veterans) were legal assistance for outstanding warrants and fines, and family and marital counseling. Conversely, dental care and discharge upgrade were two needs on the female Veterans' top ten unmet list, but not on the male Veterans' needs list.
- Nine of the top ten *met* needs were also the same for male and female Veterans: medical services, testing and treatment in three separate areas (TB, Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS), case management, services for emotional or psychiatric problems, medication management, substance abuse treatment, and food. Personal hygiene and clothing were needs unique to the top 10 lists of male and female Veterans respectively.
- For male Veterans, the nine of the top ten *unmet* needs were the same in 2015 and 2016 (discharge upgrade in 2015 was replaced by family and marital counseling in 2016). Nine of the top ten *unmet* needs for female Veterans were the also the same (legal assistance for outstanding warrants and fines in 2015 was replaced by financial guardianship in 2016.)
- The top ten *met* needs were the same for male and female Veterans in 2015 and 2016.
- Consistent with 2015 data and with the previous ten years of CHALENG data, met needs primarily reflect services that Veterans Health Administration (VHA) can provide directly, and unmet needs are primarily services that require community partnership to meet. This consistency underscores the importance of collaboration between federal, state, local, and community partners to meet the needs of homeless Veterans to successfully end homelessness.



CHALENG 2016 Survey Results Summary

CHALENG Participant Survey

A. CHALENG Participant Survey: Participation

Total number of participants: 5,280

- Homeless Veteran participants: 3,191
 - Homeless Veteran male participants: 2,820
 - Homeless Veteran female participants: 371
- Non-homeless Veteran participants: 2,089
 - VA Staff: 943
 - Other Federal staff: 47
 - State/local government agency, or community based homeless provider: 830
 - Interested member of the community: 269

B. CHALENG Homeless Veteran Participant Demographics

	Male Veterans	Female Veterans
Gender	88.4%	11.6%

Age	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	All Veterans
Less than 25	0.6%	0.8%	0.7%
25-34	6.7%	15.9%	7.8%
35-44	10.4%	19.7%	11.5%
45-60	54.4%	51.2%	54.1%
61+	27.8%	12.4%	26%



Ethnicity	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	All Veterans
Non-Hispanic/ Non-Latino	80.4%	84.1%	80.9%
Hispanic/Latino	6%	7.5%	6.2%
Don't Know	13.6%	8.4%	12.9%

Race	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	All Veterans
American Indian or Alaskan	4.7%	5.3%	4.7%
Asian	0.2%	0.6%	0.3%
Black or African American	36.6%	39%	36.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.4%	0.8%	0.4%
White	55.8%	51%	55.2%
Don't know	2.4%	3.3%	2.5%

Where Veteran was living at time of Survey	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	All Veterans
Literally Homeless (on streets, in shelter, in car, etc)	25%	25.3%	25%
Emergency Housing	6.3%	5.7%	6.2%
Transitional Housing (Grant and Per Diem housing, community contract housing)	27.4%	18.9%	26.4%
Permanent subsidized housing (HUD-VASH, section 8, etc)	26.6%	32.1%	27.2%
Unsubsidized housing (private apartment/house/condominium)	14.8%	18.1%	15.1%



C. Ranking of Male Veteran Need (One to four scale, with one equals unmet and four equals met)

Top Ten Highest Unmet Needs, Male Veterans

Rank	Male Veteran Highest Unmet Needs	Mean Score
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.03
2	Child Care	2.23
3	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.37
4	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.37
5	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.38
6	Financial Guardianship	2.41
7	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.42
8	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.45
9	Credit Counseling	2.48
10	Family and Marital Counseling	2.49

Top Ten Highest Met Needs, Male Veterans

Rank	Male Veteran Highest Met Needs	Mean Score
1	Medical Services	3.52
2	TB Testing and Treatment	3.45
3	Case Management	3.37
4	Medication Management	3.30
5	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.29
6	Personal Hygiene (Shower, Haircut, etc.)	3.28
7	Food	3.28
8	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.25
9	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.25
10	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.25



D. Ranking of Female Veteran Need (One to four scale, with one equals unmet and four equals met)

Top Ten Highest Unmet Needs, Female Veterans

Rank	Female Veteran Highest Unmet Needs	Mean Score
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.07
2	Child Care	2.33
3	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.50
4	Dental Care	2.52
5	Credit Counseling	2.54
6	Financial Guardianship	2.56
7	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.56
8	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.59
9	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.60
10	Discharge Upgrade	2.60

Top Ten Highest Met Needs, Female Veterans

Rank	Female Veteran Highest Met Needs	Mean Score
1	Medical Services	3.48
2	TB Testing and Treatment	3.44
3	Case Management	3.33
4	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.31
5	Food	3.30
6	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.29
7	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.28
8	Clothing	3.19
9	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.19
10	Medication Management	3.17



E. Ranking of Male Homeless Veteran Needs: Complete List ordered by Highest Unmet to Highest Met (One to four scale, with one equals unmet and four equals met)

Rank	Male Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.03
2	Child Care	2.23
3	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.37
4	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.37
5	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.38
6	Financial Guardianship	2.41
7	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.42
8	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.45
9	Credit Counseling	2.48
10	Family and Marital Counseling	2.49
11	Discharge Upgrade	2.49
12	Dental Care	2.52
13	Emergency Housing for Families	2.56
14	Welfare Payments	2.63
15	Financial Assistance to Prevent Eviction or Foreclosure	2.64
16	Drop In Center and Day Programs	2.65
17	Parent Education	2.67
18	Social Networking	2.72
19	Money Managing	2.72
20	Re-Entry Services for Incarcerated Veterans	2.74
21	Utility Assistance	2.75
22	Prevention	2.77
23	Move-In Assistance	2.79



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Rank	Male Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
24	Goods (Furniture and Housewares) for New Apartment	2.80
25	Vocational Rehabilitation	2.83
26	Military Sexual Trauma	2.85
27	Life Skills Training	2.85
28	Affordable Housing	2.86
29	Job Training	2.87
30	Transportation	2.88
31	Help Getting Identification and Other Legal Documents	2.88
32	Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability (SSD)	2.89
33	Landlord Relations and Tenancy	2.89
34	Elder Healthcare and Resources	2.90
35	Basic Services (Phone, Voicemail, Address)	2.90
36	Finding a Job or Getting Employment	2.92
37	Long-term Permanent Housing	2.92
38	Education	2.93
39	Spiritual	2.93
40	Assisted Living for the Elderly	2.94
41	VA Disability/Pension	2.97
42	Treatment for Dual Diagnosis	3.06
43	Transitional Living Facility and Halfway House	3.08
44	Eye Care and Glasses	3.11
45	Detoxification from Substance	3.12
46	Clothing	3.14
47	Emergency/Immediate Shelter	3.16
48	Health and Wellness	3.22
49	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.25
50	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.25
51	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.25



Rank	Male Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
52	Food	3.28
53	Personal Hygiene (Shower, Haircut, etc.)	3.28
54	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.29
55	Medication Management	3.30
56	Case Management	3.37
57	TB Testing and Treatment	3.45
58	Medical Services	3.52

F. Ranking of Female Homeless Veteran Needs: Complete List ordered by Highest Unmet to Highest Met (One to four scale, with one equals unmet and four equals met)

Rank	Female Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.07
2	Child Care	2.33
3	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.50
4	Dental Care	2.52
5	Credit Counseling	2.54
6	Financial Guardianship	2.56
7	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.56
8	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.59
9	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.60
10	Discharge Upgrade	2.60
11	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.61
12	Family and Marital Counseling	2.65
13	Drop In Center and Day Programs	2.65
14	Money Managing	2.69
15	Parent Education	2.73
16	Social Networking	2.74
17	Emergency Housing for Families	2.75



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18	Financial Assistance to Prevent Eviction or Foreclosure	2.77
19	Prevention	2.80
20	Breastfeeding Information and Supplies	2.81
21	Assisted Living for the Elderly	2.82
22	Transportation	2.83
23	Basic Services (Phone, Voicemail, Address)	2.86
24	Move-In Assistance	2.88
25	Spiritual	2.89
26	Life Skills Training	2.90
27	Welfare Payments	2.90
28	Goods (Furniture and Housewares) for New Apartment	2.91
29	Re-Entry Services for Incarcerated Veterans	2.91
30	Affordable Housing	2.92
31	Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability (SSD)	2.95
32	Elder Healthcare and Resources	2.95
33	Transitional Living Facility and Halfway House	2.96
34	Vocational Rehabilitation	2.96
35	Landlord Relations and Tenancy	2.96
36	Domestic Violence Support Services	2.97
37	Education	2.99
38	Women's Specific Mental Health Providers	2.99
39	Help Getting Identification and Other Legal Documents	2.99
40	Job Training	3.00
41	Military Sexual Trauma	3.01
42	Long-term Permanent Housing	3.03



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Rank	Female Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
43	Eye Care and Glasses	3.03
44	Emergency/Immediate Shelter	3.04
45	Finding a Job or Getting Employment	3.04
46	Gender-Specific Healthcare Provider Availability	3.05
47	Utility Assistance	3.05
48	Treatment for Dual Diagnosis	3.05
49	Detoxification from Substance	3.07
50	VA Disability/Pension	3.08
51	OB/GYN Services	3.12
52	Personal Hygiene (Shower, Haircut, etc.)	3.15
53	Health and Wellness	3.16
54	Medication Management	3.17
55	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.19
56	Clothing	3.19
57	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.28
58	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.29
59	Food	3.30
60	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.31
61	Case Management	3.33
62	TB Testing and Treatment	3.44
63	Medical Services	3.48