



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Fact Sheet

Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420  
(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.

#### **2018 CHALENG Survey Participation**

- In 2018, 3,950 individuals completed a CHALENG Participant survey. This included 2,229 homeless Veterans and 1,721 providers and other stakeholders (VA staff, state and public officials, community leaders, volunteers).
- Twelve percent of the homeless Veteran survey participants were women. Forty-seven percent of the homeless Veteran participants were between the ages of 45-60 with another 32% percent 61 or older. Fifty-one percent were non-White; 9% percent identified their ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino.



- There were 1,721 provider and other stakeholder participants. Of these, 46 percent were VA staff, two percent were other Federal employees, 34 percent were state/local official or community providers, and 18 percent were interested members of the community.

### Top Homeless Veteran Needs Identified in 2018 CHALENG Survey

- Eight of the top ten *unmet* needs were the same for male and female Veterans: child care, credit counseling, discharge upgrade, family reconciliation assistance, financial guardianship, housing for registered sex offenders, and legal assistance in two categories: child support and to prevent eviction/foreclosure. Two needs that were in the top ten unmet for male Veterans (but not female Veterans) were legal assistance to help restore a driver's license and legal assistance for outstanding warrants and fines. Conversely, dental care and drop in center/day program were on the female Veterans' top ten unmet list, but not on the male Veterans' top ten unmet needs list.
- Eight 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, clothing, and health and wellness. Two needs that were in the top ten met for male Veterans (but not female Veterans) were personal hygiene and medication management. Conversely, substance abuse treatment and clothing were on the female Veterans' top ten met list only.
- Consistency across time: for male Veterans, nine of the top ten *unmet* needs were the same in 2017 and 2018. Eight of the top ten *unmet* needs for female Veterans were also the same.
- Similarly, six and nine of the top ten *met* needs for male and female Veterans respectively were the same between 2017 and 2018.
- Consistent with 2017 data and with the previous 18 years of CHALENG data, in 2018 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 2018 Survey Results Summary

### CHALENG Participant Survey

#### A. CHALENG Participant Survey: Participation

**Total number of participants: 3,950**

- **Homeless Veteran participants: 2,229**
  - homeless Veteran male participants: 1,961
  - homeless Veteran female participants: 268
- **Provider and other stakeholder participants: 1,721**
  - VA Staff: 784
  - Other Federal staff: 43
  - State/local government agency, or community based homeless provider: 584
  - Interested member of the community: 310

#### B. CHALENG Homeless Veteran Participant Demographics

	Male Veterans	Female Veterans
Gender	88%	12%

Age	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	All Veterans
Less than 25	1%	1%	1%
25-34	7%	18%	9%
35-44	10%	19%	11%
45-60	47%	44%	47%
61+	34%	18%	32%



Ethnicity	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	All Veterans
Non-Hispanic/ Non-Latino	74%	81%	75%
Hispanic/Latino	9%	8%	9%
Don't Know	17%	11%	16%

Race	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	All Veterans
American Indian or Alaskan	7%	12%	7%
Asian	1%	2%	1%
Black or African American	38%	42%	39%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1%	0.4%	1%
White	50%	41%	49%
Don't know	3%	3%	3%

Where Veteran was living at time of Survey	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	All Veterans
Literally Homeless (on streets, in shelter, in car, etc.)	20%	16%	20%
Emergency Housing	5%	2%	4%
Transitional Housing (Grant and Per Diem housing, community contract housing)	25%	16%	24%
Permanent subsidized housing (HUD-VASH, section 8, etc.)	33%	39%	34%
Unsubsidized housing (private apartment/house/condominium)	17%	26%	18%



### 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 Homeless Veteran Highest Unmet Needs	Mean Score
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.16
2	Child Care	2.31
3	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.47
4	Financial Guardianship	2.52
5	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.52
6	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.54
7	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.55
8	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.56
9	Discharge Upgrade	2.59
10	Credit Counseling	2.60

#### Top Ten Highest Met Needs, Male Veterans

Rank	Male Homeless Veteran Highest Met Needs	Mean Score
1	Medical Services	3.55
2	TB Testing and Treatment	3.47
3	Case Management	3.45
4	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.36
5	Medication Management	3.34
6	Food	3.34
7	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.32
8	Health and Wellness	3.32
9	Personal Hygiene (Shower, Haircut, etc.)	3.32
10	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.29



**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 Homeless Veteran Highest Unmet Needs	Mean Score
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.16
2	Child Care	2.36
3	Dental Care	2.57
4	Financial Guardianship	2.58
5	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.58
6	Credit Counseling	2.61
7	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.63
8	Drop In Center and Day Program	2.63
9	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.64
10	Discharge Upgrade	2.65

**Top Ten Highest Met Needs, Female Veterans**

Rank	Female Homeless Veteran Highest Met Needs	Mean Score
1	Medical Services	3.51
2	TB Testing and Treatment	3.47
3	Case Management	3.40
4	Food	3.36
5	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.35
6	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.34
7	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.34
8	Clothing	3.27
9	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.23
10	Health and Wellness	3.22



**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	2.16
2	Child Care	2.31
3	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.47
4	Financial Guardianship	2.52
5	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.52
6	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.54
7	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.55
8	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.56
9	Discharge Upgrade	2.59
10	Credit Counseling	2.60
11	Emergency Housing for Families	2.62
12	Family and Marital Counseling	2.63
13	Dental Care	2.64
14	Assisted Living for the Elderly	2.73
15	Drop In Center and Day Program	2.73
16	Financial Assistance to Prevent Eviction or Foreclosure	2.76
17	Welfare Payments	2.77
18	Parent Education	2.80
19	Re-Entry Services for Incarcerated Veterans	2.81
20	Money Managing	2.83
21	Social Networking	2.89
22	Prevention	2.91
23	Goods (Furniture and Housewares) for New Apartment	2.92



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Rank	Male Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
24	Military Sexual Trauma	2.93
25	Vocational Rehabilitation	2.94
26	Utility Assistance	2.95
27	Move-In Assistance	2.96
28	Life Skills Training	2.96
29	Job Training	2.98
30	Help Getting Identification and Other Legal Documents	2.98
31	Elder Healthcare and Resources	2.99
32	Affordable Housing	2.99
33	Finding a Job or Getting Employment	2.99
34	Education	2.99
35	Basic Services (Phone, Voicemail, Address)	3.01
36	Spiritual	3.02
37	Landlord Relations and Tenancy	3.02
38	Transportation	3.02
39	Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability (SSD)	3.03
40	VA Disability/Pension	3.08
41	Long Term Permanent Housing	3.08
42	Transitional Living Facility and Halfway House	3.10
43	Treatment for Dual Diagnosis	3.13
44	Detoxification from Substance	3.16
45	Emergency/Immediate Shelter	3.18
46	Eye Care and Glasses	3.21
47	Clothing	3.25
48	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.29
49	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.29
50	Personal Hygiene (Shower, Haircut, etc.)	3.32
51	Health and Wellness	3.32



Rank	Male Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
52	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.32
53	Food	3.34
54	Medication Management	3.34
55	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.36
56	Case Management	3.45
57	TB Testing and Treatment	3.47
58	Medical Services	3.55

**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	2.16
2	Child Care	2.36
3	Dental Care	2.57
4	Financial Guardianship	2.58
5	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.58
6	Credit Counseling	2.61
7	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.63
8	Drop In Center and Day Program	2.63
9	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.64
10	Discharge Upgrade	2.65
11	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.68
12	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.69
13	Emergency Housing for Families	2.73
14	Family and Marital Counseling	2.74
15	Money Managing	2.75
16	Parent Education	2.80
17	Assisted Living for the Elderly	2.83



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18	Financial Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.84
19	Social Networking	2.85
20	Breastfeeding Information and Supplies	2.87
21	Prevention	2.89
22	Transitional Living Facility and Halfway House	2.89
23	Spiritual	2.91
24	Re-Entry Services for Incarcerated Veterans	2.93
25	Basic Services (Phone, Voicemail, Address)	2.94
26	Life Skills Training	2.94
27	Goods (Furniture and Housewares) for New Apartment	2.94
28	Affordable Housing	2.95
29	Transportation	2.95
30	Welfare Payments	2.95
31	Move-In Assistance	2.96
32	Landlord Relations and Tenancy	2.99
33	Emergency/Immediate Shelter	3.00
34	Elder Healthcare and Resources	3.00
35	Education	3.00
36	Utility Assistance	3.01
37	Women's Specific Mental Health Providers	3.02
38	Vocational Rehabilitation	3.02
39	Help Getting Identification and Other Legal Documents	3.03
40	Domestic Violence Support Services	3.06
41	Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability (SSD)	3.06
42	Job Training	3.07



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Rank	Female Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
43	Long-Term Permanent Housing	3.07
44	Women's Specific Healthcare Provider Availability	3.07
45	Finding a Job or Getting Employment	3.09
46	Military Sexual Trauma	3.09
47	Treatment for Dual Diagnosis	3.12
48	Detoxification from Substance	3.12
49	Eye Care and Glasses	3.13
50	VA Disability and Pension	3.15
51	Ob-Gyn Services	3.16
52	Personal Hygiene (Shower, Haircut, etc.)	3.17
53	Medication Management	3.22
54	Health and Wellness	3.22
55	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.23
56	Clothing	3.27
57	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.34
58	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.34
59	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.35
60	Food	3.36
61	Case Management	3.40
62	TB Testing and Treatment	3.47
63	Medical Services	3.51