

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Veteran Homelessness Goals
Office Hours

VHA Homeless Programs Office
July 6, 2023

Housekeeping

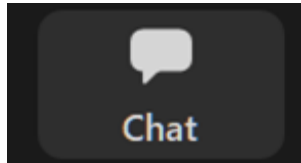
- This call will be recorded.
- The webinar will last approximately 60 minutes.
- All attendees will be muted.
- Questions can be submitted using the Chat function.
- If you have questions following the call, please email VHA11HPO38kGoalSupport@va.gov.



Zoom Controls

Typically, on the bottom of the screen

All participants are muted upon entry



Chat – add questions or comments during the call.

Agenda

- Progress Update
- Homeless Aging and Disabled Veterans Initiative
- Q&A



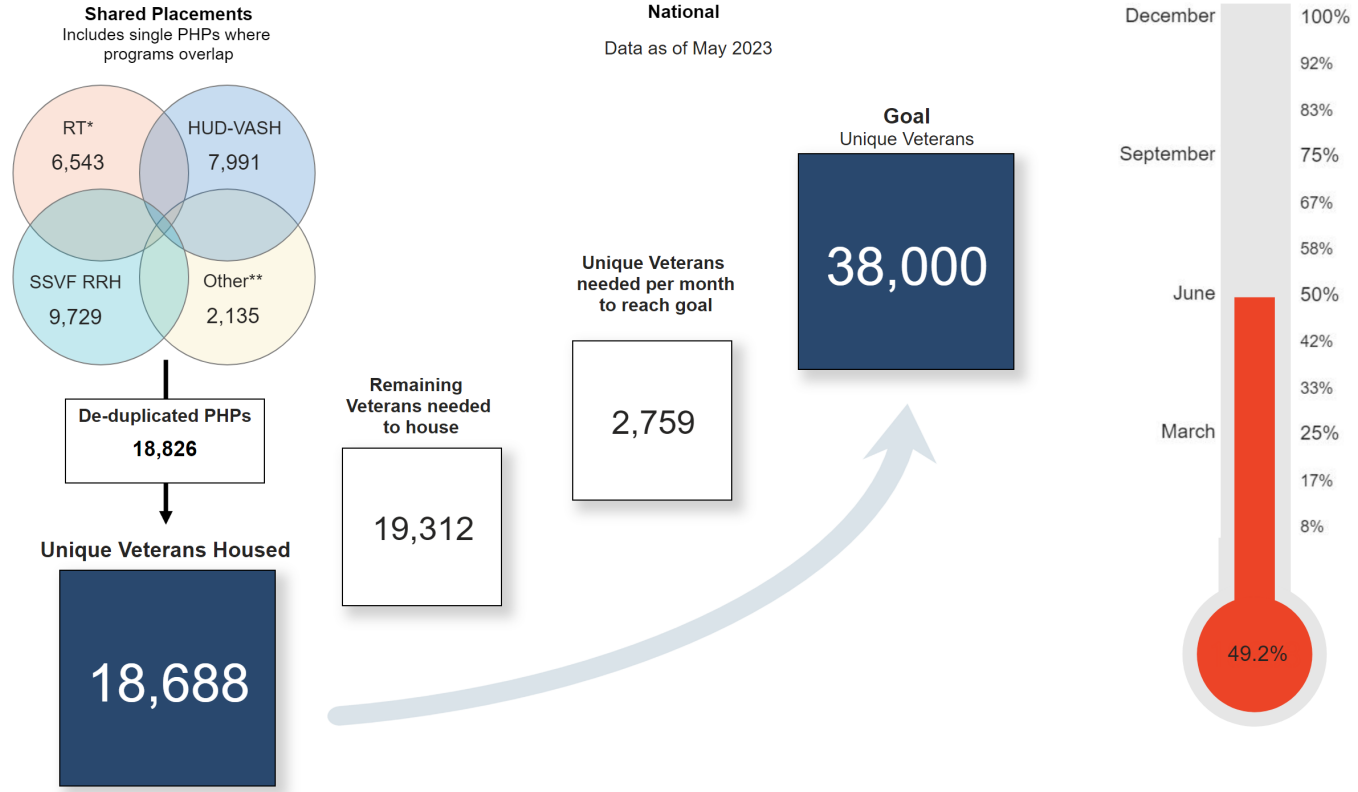
Progress Update



Goal 1: Permanent Housing

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Permanent Housing: VA has made a commitment to permanently house (PH) at least 38,000 unique Veterans in CY 2023. De-duplicated permanent housing placements (PHPs) for unique Veterans made during CY 2023 from the following programs count toward this goal: Grant and Per Diem (GPD), Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Contracted Residential Services (CRS), HCHV Low Demand Safe Haven (LDSH), Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) – Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) homeless services who obtain permanent housing (PH), Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment (MHRRT), HCHV Case Management (CM), and for Veterans homeless at entry for the following programs: GPD CM, SSVF – Homelessness Prevention (HP), Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO), and Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV).



* RT Programs: GPD and HCHV CRS/LDSH
 ** Other: MH RRTP, GPD CM, HCHV CM, Homeless VJP, and SSVF HP
 *** Nationally, Unique Veterans Housed represents all unique Veterans across facilities

Veteran Detail

Goal 2: Prevention of Returns to Homelessness

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Prevention of Returns to Homelessness: For Veterans who become permanently housed in CY 2023, no more than 5% return to homelessness. Of those who return to homelessness in CY 2023, no less than 90% will be re-housed or placed on a pathway to re-housing in CY 2023.



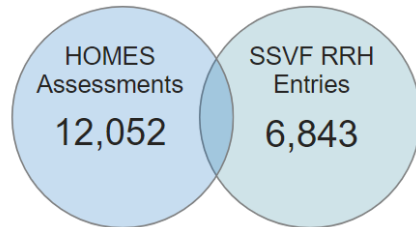
Goal 3: Engagement with Unsheltered Veterans

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Engagement with Unsheltered Veterans: Nationally, VA will increase outreach to and engage with no less than 28,000 unique unsheltered Veterans

National
Data as of May 2023

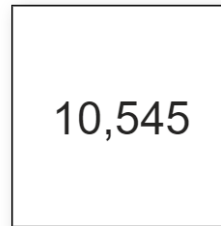
Unsheltered Veteran Engagement
Unsheltered Veterans de-duplicated by type of engagement (includes Veterans unsheltered at both assessment and SSVF RRH program entry)



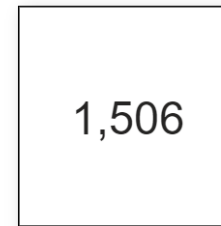
Unique Unsheltered Veteran Engagement



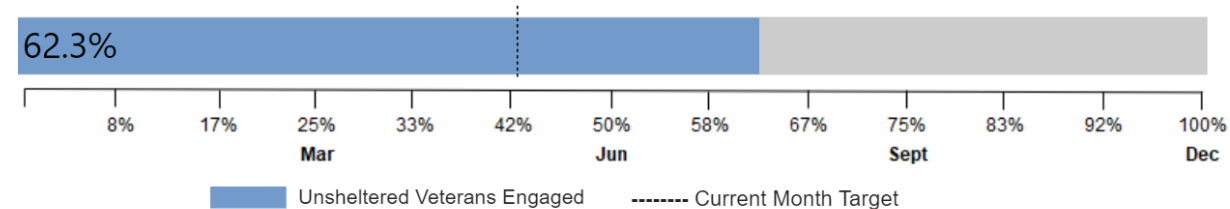
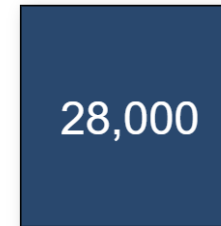
Remaining Unsheltered Veterans Needed



Unsheltered Veterans needed per month to reach goal



Goal Unique Veterans



Veteran Detail

Homeless Aging and Disabled Veterans Initiative and Alignment with the CY Goals



Today's Presenters

- Masaki Hirayama, LCSW, Health Systems Specialist, VHA Homeless Programs
- Deborah Lee, LCSW, HUD-VASH Regional Coordinator, VHA Homeless Programs

The Situation

- People 65 and older are the fastest-growing age group homeless; by 2030, their numbers will triple.
- Among single homeless adults, about half are ages 50+. Of these, almost half first became homeless after age 50.
- More than 60% of Veterans in the HUD-VASH program are older than 60 years.
- The proportion of sheltered homeless Veterans who are 65 and older increased by 46% in the past decade and by 20% among other sheltered homeless adults (Tsai et al., 2021).

Veterans Age 55+ Assessed for VA Homeless Services in FY 2022

Age Category	N	%
55-64	17,143	57%
>64	12,971	43%

The average age of Veterans assessed by VA Homeless Programs was **64** years of age.

Aging Accelerated: Weathering

- Adults ages 50 and older who are homeless are experiencing health conditions—including cognitive and functional impairment — 20 years earlier than their housed counterparts.
- Homelessness amplifies existing vulnerabilities in aging Veterans:
 - Premature aging.
 - Increased mortality.
 - Increased morbidity with cardiovascular disease, dementia, orthopedic conditions and oral/dental problems.
- Aging Veterans experiencing homelessness tend to use VA acute care services, such as emergency departments and inpatient services, more than other aging Veterans.

Pathways to Aged Homelessness



Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness aging on the street.



Death of spouse or parent = Income and/or housing decreased or lost.



Living on low-income with lack of affordable housing options and rising rental costs.



Current homeless system of care not equipped to address the complex needs of Veterans experiencing homelessness.



Ineffective utilization of healthcare systems and the community.



Insufficient Permanent Supportive Housing resources upon discharge from medical facilities.

Guiding Principles

- Work from a [Housing First](#) lens.
- Continue to provide services through a trauma-informed, Veteran-centered approach based on cultural humility and informed by an awareness of cultural, racial and demographic biases (for example, age).
- Actively challenge the notion that a Veteran must be able to live independently to be served in VA housing programs.
 - Ask: “What services can we provide to empower this Veteran to live safely in the least restrictive setting possible?”
 - Link the Veteran to those services.

Alignment of Services with CY Goals

- Permanent Housing Placements
 - Swift placement into housing by leveraging all available resources, i.e., consider co-enrollment with SSVF if they can rapidly rehouse while the VASH process is pending.
 - Specialized housing navigation, including knowledge of the housing types that could serve this population and how to navigate each opportunity.
 - Expand the local pool of PBV and specializing housing settings to offer increased choice.
 - Offer robust services to maximize support and accessibility to Veterans through all process steps, including outreach to permanent housing.
 - Encourage income maximization work, as increased income can result in increased access to housing settings.

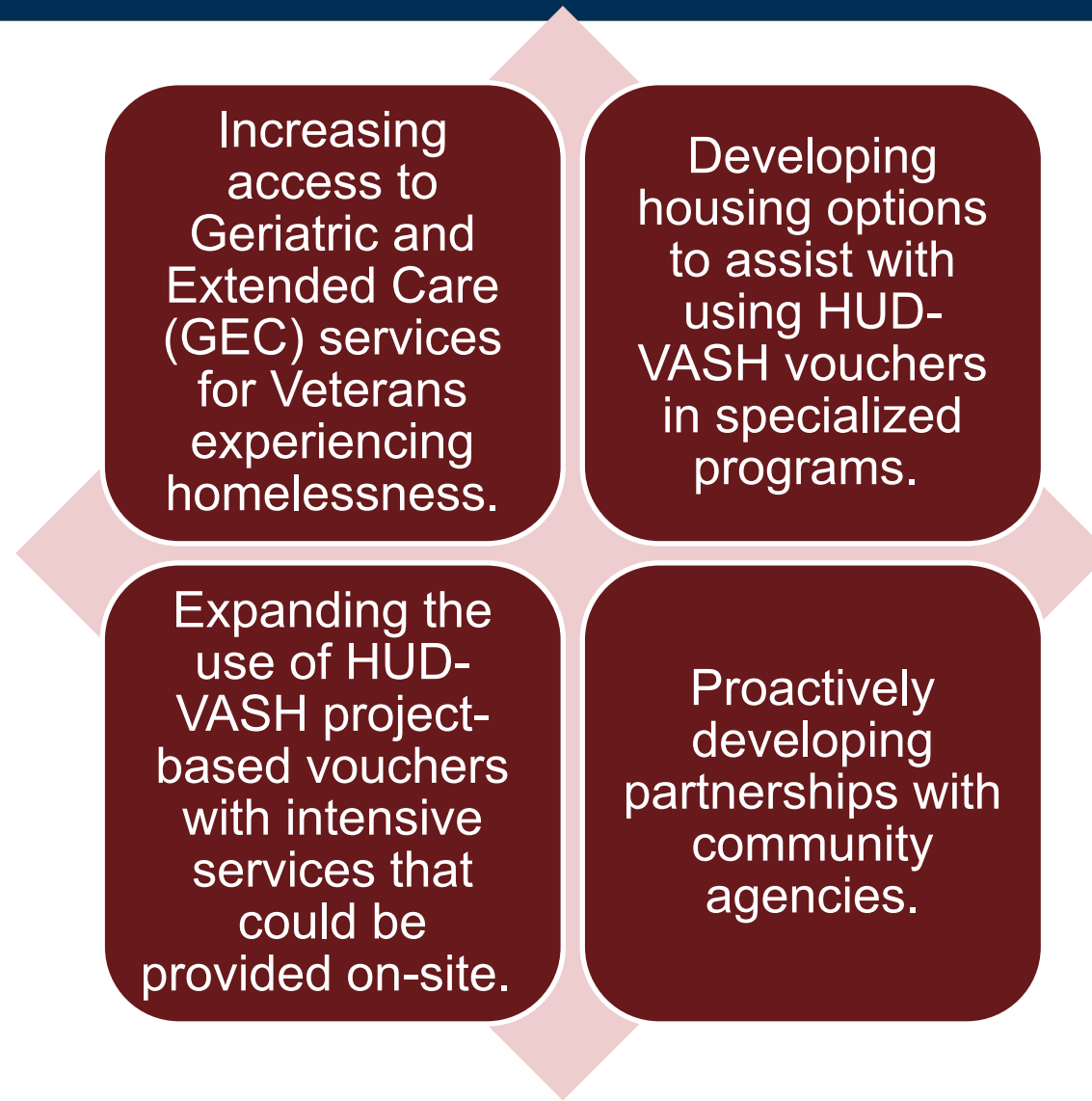
Alignment of Services with CY Goals

- Preventing Returns
 - Develop a high-quality service plan in collaboration with the Veteran to support stability and promote a successful tenancy.
 - Integrate an “aging plan” into your work with Veterans to proactively discuss aging in place and other preferences related to aging.
 - Linkages to supports such as Social Security Representative Payee Services and VBA Fiduciary Services.

Alignment of Services with CY Goals

- Engagement of Unsheltered Veterans
 - Use of By Name List (BNL) to track Veterans in the aging population, including engagement status and lead outreach staff.
 - Measures tracked on the BNL are engagement milestones, housing pathway, housing match, lease-up and lead stabilization services provider.
 - Leverage cross-sector partnerships to bring as much support as possible to the Veteran, including community outreach teams and community health workers.
 - Identify and address any barriers to immediately being offered access to VA contract residential treatment or transitional housing programs while working toward permanent housing solutions.

Strategies & Solutions



Serving Aging and Disabled Veterans: A Guidebook

- Released January 2023.
- Located on the [Homeless Hub](#) and the [PBV Enhancement Teams Page](#).
- Supports HUD-VASH programs in creating local strategic plans customized to the community's needs and representative of the Veterans they serve.
- Provides education on key programs and services, policy-based guidance on accessing these services and housing types, as well as tools and templates to support implementation.



References

- American Society on Aging [Homelessness, Older Adults, Poverty, Health \(asaging.org\)](https://asaging.org)
- Schinka, J. A., & Byrne, T. (2018). [Aging and life expectancy in homeless veterans: Nine questions](#). Washington, DC: US Department of Veterans Affairs National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans.
- Tsai, J., Mehta, K., Montgomery, A. E., Elbogen, E., & Hooshyar, D. (2021). Changing demography of homeless adult populations. *Perspectives in Public Health*, 141(3), 177-184.

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- Suh, K., Beck, J., Katzman, W., & Allen, D. D. (2022). Homelessness and rates of physical dysfunctions characteristic of premature geriatric syndromes: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Physiotherapy Theory and Practice*, 38(7), 858-867.
- Kaspro, W. J., & Rosenheck, R. (2000). Mortality among homeless and nonhomeless mentally ill veterans. *The Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 188(3), 141-147.
- Brown, R. T., Kiely, D. K., Bharel, M., & Mitchell, S. L. (2012). Geriatric syndromes in older homeless adults. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 27, 16-22.

Q&A and Next Steps



Wrapping Up

- The recording of this call will be posted to the [VHA Homeless Programs Hub](#) in the coming days and [VA.gov/Homeless](#).
- Join our Office Hours calls on the first Thursdays of the month at 3:00 p.m. Eastern / 2:00 p.m. Central / 11:00 p.m. Mountain / 12:00 p.m. Pacific / 9:00 a.m. Hawaii.
 - Our next call will be on Thursday, August 3, 2023
 - For questions, please email VHA11HPO38kGoalSupport@va.gov.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead