



Model Development Core

The National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (the Center) operates within an integrated organizational design, comprised of four cores: Model Development & Implementation; Policy/Program Integration; Education & Dissemination; and Research & Methodology.

The Model Development & Implementation Core develops and tests evidence-based and innovative models and program designs that provide services for homeless Veterans or those at risk for homelessness. The program designs are derived from research and/or existing service delivery methods utilized by non-VA providers or other government entities and based on Veterans' needs, gaps in services for homeless subpopulations, or service gaps in identified local communities or geographic regions. Based on the Interactive Systems Framework for Dissemination and Implementation (ISF), models follow a prescriptive sequence of development including: inquiry, determination of need, translation of the program design to accommodate VA systems, operationalizing, and consultation as well as monitoring, evaluation, and fidelity testing. The Model Development & Implementation Core also provides technical assistance on new and existing models and supportive services to guide the development and operation of those programs as they transition to operational status.

Since the Center's inception in 2010, the Model Development & Implementation Core led efforts in developing the following models:

Housing First Pilot Sites

Established at 14 sites nationally in Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, the Center, along with the originator of the Housing First approach, provided technical assistance, site fidelity reviews, and guidance to ensure programs were operating as designed. The Housing First pilot demonstrated the feasibility for VA Homeless Programs to adopt *Housing First* as the foundation principle of the HUD-VASH Program.

Safe Haven Residential Programs

Established as early recovery models of community-based treatment for the hard-to-reach/engage Veteran diagnosed with severe mental illness and/or substance use disorders, 24 programs were implemented at various medical centers around the country. Programs were specifically designed to engage those Veterans determined to be chronically homeless. Programs were successfully transitioned to Homeless Programs Office (HPO) Operations at the end of FY 2016.

Community Resource and Referral Centers (CRRCs)

As part of an enhanced VA effort to expand outreach services, the Center tested CRRCs at strategically selected urban sites in FY 2012. Thirty programs were developed to provide one-stop services in collaboration with local community, state, and other federal partners. Programs were successfully transitioned to HPO Operations in FY 2015.

Telephone Continuing Care and Recovery Support (TCCRS) Programs

In coordination with VA's Center of Excellence for Substance Abuse Treatment and Education, in FY 2013, the Center developed and tested recovery-coaching for Veterans living independently in the community utilizing HUD-VASH vouchers.

Coaching was conducted by phone with an emphasis on relapse prevention. Through the end of FY 2016, eight sites participated in the initiative and the programs received over 104 referrals.

The Domiciliary Low Demand (Dom-LD) Pilot

Working with the National Director, Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs, Center staff and university affiliates developed an implementation framework for establishing low-demand recovery-oriented residential services in a domiciliary setting. Tested at a large medical center in FY 2016 and FY 2017, technical assistance and implementation guidance was refined and has been disseminated for those sites that were interested in developing low-demand settings in domiciliary programs.

Based on the Safe Haven program design and modified for grant recipients, the Center is working with the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program to assist in the development and implementation of GPD low-demand programs. Additionally, the Center is coordinating with the Education & Dissemination Core to review and evaluate homeless program staff competency assessment instruments and developing an implementation framework to disseminate tools for assisting medical centers in clinically privileging homeless program staff to carry and administer naloxone to mitigate homeless Veterans' overdose risk.

For more information on the Center visit <https://www.va.gov/homeless/nchav/index.asp>, follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/VACtrHomeless> and VA Pulse <https://www.vapulse.net/groups/education-and-training-within-vhas-homeless-program-office>.