SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan

Date Completed/Revised:

0	2	/	1	3	/	2	0	1	5
Month			Day			Year			

Continuum of Care (CoC) Name: San Diego	**CoC #:** CA-601

CoC Representative: Karen Brailean & Jessyca Carr	**Title:** Board Members

**Phone/Email: Karen@bftep.com 858-663-3585	jessyca.carr@salvationarmy.org 858-505-3941**

Person Completing this Plan: Teresa Grenawalt	**Title:** SSVF Program Manager

**Phone/Email: 858-268-4804	teresa.greanwalt@ccvcs.net**

211. **Primary Planning and Coordination Group**: Identify the primary group responsible for planning and coordinating efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in the CoC. Identify the principal members of this group and their affiliation.

Primary Group Name:	
Principle Members	**Affiliation**
Nadirah Sahar	Veterans Village of San Diego
Andre Simpson	Veterans Village of San Diego
Mike Judd	Veterans Village of San Diego
Teresa Grenawalt	Veterans Community Services-Community Catalysts
Janeth Ventura	Veterans Community Services-Community Catalysts
Roderick Santulan	Interfaith Community Services
Dean Dauphinais	Interfaith Community Services
Jennifer Hark-Dietz	PATH
Vanessa Castro	PATH
Marc Stevenson	St. Vincent de Paul Village
Gabriel Kendall	211-San Diego
Jeffry Burkard	VA (GPD & HUD-VASH – SSVF liaison)
Imelda McClendon	25 Cities Downtown Community Coordinator & RTFH
Tom Theisen	25 Cities Downtown Design Team Leader & RTFH Board Chair
Megan Dunn	25 Cities North County Community Coordinator
Yolanda Sidoti	VA San Diego Healthcare
Cara Franke	VA-GPD
Jessica Chamberlain	VA San Diego Healthcare
Michael McConnell	Funders Together to End Homelessness & 25Cities Leadership Team

2. Ongoing Review and Coordination: Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group or a related review/coordination group meets to review Veterans who are homeless, track progress toward re-housing, and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of what information is reviewed during these meetings.

The **Primary Planning and Coordination Group** will meet every other month throughout the year of 2015. This group will complete the following tasks: track progress toward re-housing as reported by the SSVF providers, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), and the 25 Cities Community Coordinator(s) for housing placements outside of Veteran specific resources (RRH/PSH); coordinate outreach efforts; establish a mechanism for reporting out to the entire Continuum of Care (CoC) to ensure SSVF coordination is on target to meeting the CoC's goals to end Veteran and chronic homelessness. The **Primary Planning and Coordination Group** will coordinate closely with the CoC, VA and Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) system. General updates from the VA (VASH & GPD), SSVF, CoC, CAHP Design Team & Leadership will be discussed during these meetings.

The **SSVF Case Conferencing Group** will consist of Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grantees and subgrantees, HUD-VASH, and the CAHP system Community Coordinator(s). This group will meet bi-monthly at 11am every other Tuesday beginning on February 17th, 2015. A primary function of this group is to case conference on Veteran households who have been assessed with the VI-SPDAT and match them to the most appropriate resource. Case conferencing is intended to avoid a duplication of services and to identify the right-sized intervention for each Veteran household. The **SSVF Case Conferencing Group** will share monthly data such as number of new enrollees, number of housing placements, and number of Veterans applying for services. We will also discuss cases that are beyond SSVF's scope of care and establish a process to refer them to appropriate community resources ensuring these Veteran households do not slip through the cracks.

---

3. SSVF Grantees Serving CoC Geography: Identify each SSVF funded agency serving Veterans in the CoC geography and each SSVF total grant award amount for FY15, including priority 1 ("surge), 2 (renewals), and 3 (other new) awards. If one agency has multiple awards, list each separately. Pro-rate a grant award amount if the award covers more than one CoC geography. Include the projected annual number of households each grantee can serve and the total number of households across all grantees.

Grantee Agency Name	Grant Amount	Total Annual Projected Households	Total Annual Projected Households: Rapid Re-Housing	% of Total Households to be Assisted with Rapid Re-Housing
Veterans Community Services (2)	$1,688,678.00	390	292	75%
Interfaith Community Services (1)	$1,000,000.00	190	148	78%
Veterans Village of San Diego (2)	$1,000,000.00	300	225	75%
Veterans Village of San Diego (1)	$1,000,000.00	225	169	75%
TOTAL	**$4,688,678.00**	**1105**	**834**	

4. Annual Demand and Need for Rapid Re-Housing Assistance: Using the *Veterans Demand Analysis and Progress Tracking Tool* or other demand analysis data agreed to by the primary group above, identify:.

- The most recent actual or projected annual unduplicated number of homeless Veterans (on street and/or who access emergency shelter, Safe Havens, or transitional housing, including GPD) in the CoC geography, by household type
- The number of those Veterans who will need rapid re-housing assistance to exit homelessness
- The number of Veterans needing rapid re-housing assistance who are projected to be eligible for SSVF RRH assistance.

	Annual Unduplicated Homeless Veteran Households	Estimated # of Needing RRH (a)	Projected # to be Assisted with SSVF RRH (b)	Projected # to be Assisted with Other RRH (c)	Gap (a-(b+c))
Households without Children	2643	1348	804	20	(524)
Households with Children	65	33	30	3	0
Total Homeless Veteran Households	**2708**	**1381**	**834**	**23**	**(524)**

5. CoC Goals for Ending Homelessness Among Veterans: List the CoC's goals for ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (fill in additional related goals the CoC has determined, if relevant).

The CoC is key signatory of 25 Cities Initiative and Zero:2016 focusing on ending veteran and chronic homelessness in San Diego. The Regional Task Force on the Homeless (RTFH) funded through the CoC conducts the annual Point In Time Count (PITC) and this year SSVF grantees will be integrated into the PIT count. There will be SSVF providers at all the PITC survey locations and anyone identifying as a Veteran will be immediately connected to SSVF provider where they can begin the process to receiving services tailored towards ending their homelessness. The CoC has also identified CoC Board Liaisons who will be working closely with the SSVF grantees to provide guidance and support. The CoC has established goals for ending Veteran homelessness detailed below:

CoC Plan Goals

- Prioritize 85% of CoC Funded PSH for chronically homeless (CH) and veterans
- Create 69 PSH beds dedicated to CH or Veterans
- Make 348 beds available to CH/veterans through turnover

VA – CoC Plan March 2014 & 25 Cities Goals

- Increase vacancies targeted to non-VA eligible veterans and CH
- Rapidly rehouse 65 persons with non-VA sources
- 25 cities: effectively matches, houses, and retains <u>150 veterans.</u>

What are the CoC's goals for the estimated number of Veterans, including chronically homeless Veterans, who will be homeless as of the night of the January 2016 PIT Count?

	All Homeless Veteran Households (including CH)			Chronically Homeless Veteran Households		
	Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL	Sheltered	Unsheltered	TOTAL
Households without Children	545	0	545	174	0	174
Households with Children	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Households	**545**	**0**	**545**	**174**	**0**	**174**

Has the CoC established other goals related to preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015? ☒ **Yes** | **No**

If "Yes", please describe:

> The goals that are established in this plan have been adopted by the CoC. The CoC Board is in the process of adopting a new plan focused on ending veteran and chronic homelessness in San Diego.

6. SSVF Integration into CoC Coordinated Assessment System: Briefly describe how Veterans access SSVF assistance (across all SSVF grantees) via the CoC's coordinated assessment system (e.g., "All Veterans who present to the CoC coordinated assessment center are screened for their current situation, needs, and SSVF eligibility. Then…."). If not yet fully developed, describe your plans and implementation timeframe. Specifically address:
   a) How Veterans who present for shelter are screened and diverted to SSVF homelessness prevention assistance when they have somewhere safe and appropriate to stay that night.
   b) How Veterans who become literally homeless are screened and triaged to SSVF rapid re-housing assistance as soon as possible once it is clear the Veteran is unable to resolve their homelessness without assistance.

SSVF grantees are increasing their efforts to link up with the VA more often and coordinate outreach efforts. In the near future, SSVF grantees will be able to conduct outreach at the VA Medical Centers with the VA's outreach team in order to capture veterans accessing medical services and are experiencing homelessness. This will allow all SSVF grantees to participate on a rotation basis and increase more awareness around SSVF services. SSVF grantees are increasing outreach to homeless shelters and other community based homeless providers in order to reach our target population as soon as they enter emergency shelters and transitional housing programs. After outreach, the Veteran household will be promptly entered into the Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) system.

San Diego's CAHP system efforts are currently concentrating on downtown San Diego, Vista and Escondido. The SSVF grantees will administer the VI-SPDAT and Family-VI-SPDAT (San Diego's coordinated assessment tool) to all Veteran households applying for services and/or while engaging during outreach services throughout the entire San Diego County region. The SSVF grantee will enter the assessment into HMIS and the Performance Management and Communications Platform (PMCP). The Community Coordinator(s) will manage the Veteran households entered into the PMCP and this list will help facilitate the case conferencing meetings. The SSVF grantee can self-assign their program to be the Housing Navigator for a Veteran household and immediately begin services. The SSVF will first ensure the Veteran household is not already in the system by reviewing HMIS records. Veteran households who score for rapid re-housing (prioritized first) or mainstream services will be referred to an SSVF program. Veteran households who score for permanent supportive housing will be discussed during the case conferencing meetings to determine the best course of action based on the resources available at the time. If HUD-VASH does not have a case management and/or voucher vacancy the Veteran may be referred to non-VA PSH, SSVF or GPD per client-choice and program eligibility factors.

The VI-SPDAT score will inform the CAHP system, SSVF and the VA for which resources is most appropriate for each household. The following guidelines have been agreed upon by this group.

Single adult Veterans scoring 0-4 will be referred to SSVF. Single Veterans scoring 5-9 will be prioritized and referred to SSVF. Single Veterans scoring 10+ and are not eligible for HUD-VASH will be referred to SSVF. The SSVF provider may discuss transitional housing/GPD with the Veteran if it seems appropriate.

Veteran families scoring 0-5 will be referred to SSVF. Veteran families scoring 6-11 will be prioritized and referred to SSVF. Veteran families scoring 12+ and are not eligible for HUD-VASH will be referred to SSVF. The SSVF provider may discuss transitional housing/GPD with the Veteran family if it seems appropriate.

a) Veteran households who present for shelter and have a safe place to stay may be referred to SSVF services for homelessness prevention services. The SSVF grantees have modified the Prevention Screening Disposition tool to be a common form used among all SSVF grantees. Each grantee submitted a change request to adopt the same tool. Each grantee will use the threshold score of 14. SSVF grantees will establish a plan to educate the shelters, 211 San Diego, and key referring agencies on the use of this screening tool for homelessness prevention cases diverting from shelter.
b) Veteran households who are homeless within the CAHP system geographic area (downtown San Diego, Vista and Escondido) will be assessed by a CAHP participating organization and entered into the PMCP. Via the CAHP system, the Veteran household will be referred to an SSVF program if the VI-SPDAT score is within the RRH range. If SSVF has vacancies to accept those scoring for mainstream resources or are not eligible for HUD-VASH, those cases will also be referred to an SSVF program. These cases may be reviewed and assigned to a Housing Navigator weekly during the bi-monthly SSVF Case Conferencing meetings and the CAHP Housing Navigator meetings (occurring on alternate weeks).

In both cases, a and b, above, SSVF providers have developed common forms to aid in the referral process. All SSVF providers are utilizing a shared Release of Information which will allow SSVF providers to exchange necessary information to determine eligibility and past services received. All SSVF providers are utilizing the same SSVF Referral Form with all grantee information included. SSVF providers will establish a plan to educate key referring agencies and 211 San Diego on the referral form and referral process for each SSVF provider.

7. Long-Term System Improvements: Briefly describe how the CoC plans to utilize SSVF Priority 1 and all other SSVF funding over the next three years to foster long-term system improvements and optimization so that homelessness is prevented whenever possible and when it does occur, it is rare and brief. Specifically address areas for improvement related to:

    a) Further integrating SSVF assistance into the CoC's planning, oversight processes and coordinated assessment system.

    b) Ensuring comprehensive coordination with VA systems and other VA funded programs.

    c) Improving or establishing partnerships with community-based services and public/private housing providers.

The SSVF grantees are committed to using SSVF resources to contribute to the long-term system improvements in San Diego. SSVF has played a key role on the 25 Cities Design Teams to establish the local CAHP system. The San Diego CoC is committed to using a common definition and measurements to get to zero on veterans and on chronic homelessness using an evidence-informed Common Assessment Tool to triage households into recommended housing interventions. SSVF grantees are working closely with the local CoC on utilizing SSVF Priority 1 and all other SSVF funding over the next three years to meet the needs of the community. Current SSVF grantees are actively participating in the 25 cities initiative and will continue to participate in the Zero: 2016 effort as well.

a) SSVF grantees are participating on one or both of the CAHP system Design Teams to assist in the design of the coordinated assessment system. This Primary Planning and Coordination Group recruited two CoC Board Members to aid in incorporating SSVF into the CoC's planning. The meetings every other month will allow a platform for SSVF to have a stronger voice with the CoC and CAHP system. An SSVF provider on the CoC Governance Board as well as SSVF providers on the full CoC membership.

b) SSVF grantees meet quarterly with the VA healthcare system. The VA has identified a HUD-VASH & SSVF liaison. GPD participates in the quarterly meetings. During these meetings we discuss program updates, coordinated outreach efforts, Veterans' barriers to accessing services, referral processes, and some case conferencing. The VA is participation on the Primary Planning and Coordination Group that meets every other month. This will further ensure comprehensive coordination efforts. The VA healthcare system has offered SSVF providers an opportunity to screen homeless veterans at the hospitals and clinics on a rotation schedule. The VA is working on logistics and the process for authorizing SSVF staff to work onsite. SSVF and HUD-VASH are ironing out a referral process for Veterans who may qualify for both programs. Currently, HUD-VASH refers Veterans to SSVF for security deposit assistance. SSVF may refer Veterans to HUD-VASH on a case by case basis when the Veteran is unable to maintain housing once SSVF assistance ends. Additional development of the appropriate criteria to refer SSVF participants to VASH is being completed. The VA and SSVF will hold a meeting to discuss incorporation of GPD transitional housing into the VA-SSVF referral process. Additionally, the VA liaison will ensure linkages to all Healthcare for Homeless Veterans programs as appropriate, as well as communication with the Veterans Benefits Administration representative.

c) The 25 Cities Initiative has increased the collaboration among SSVF grantees and other community-based service providers and housing providers. SSVF staff coordinates outreach efforts with non-VA funded programs such as the Oceanside and Escondido Police Departments, San Diego Police Department's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) who partners with our Health and Human Services Administration HOT team and homeless service providers. During the Housing Navigator case conferencing meetings via the CAHP system/25 Cities, resources are exchanged among providers. This allows for a platform to strengthen partnership. A landlord engagement subcommittee was established to build the community's network of landlords to better facilitate housing placements. This subcommittee is co-chaired by two SSVF provider staff. The subcommittee has developed innovative solutions to landlord outreach such as securing an airplane fly over at a San Diego Chargers' game during halftime asking landlords to house a Veteran and a number to contact. Landlords who engaged were invited to a dinner at Phil's BBQ on February 12, 2015. The landlord subcommittee held a landlord luncheon and collected feedback from local Single Room Occupancy owners and property managers. The San Diego Housing Commission has developed a 5 point plan to address homelessness in San Diego. SSVF grantees are engaging in this plan to help facilitated permanent housing placements for Veterans using these resources. County housing Authorities of Carlsbad, Encinitas, Oceanside are working on housing resources specific to veterans and chronic and participate on the Housing Subcommittee in North County San Diego.

8. Other Strengths and Challenges: Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

We have a lot of strengths as a community providing homeless services. Since the 25 Cities Initiative launch, many of the service providers are coordinating to come up with a common goal to address veteran and chronic homelessness. As a community, this has strengthened our level of communication and collaboration efforts which has increased community awareness around homelessness. It has also reduced duplication of services through increased communication and identifying the strengths and specialty of each organization within the CoC. San Diego has identified a Coordinated Assessment tool as a community that has allowed us to prioritize and provide the appropriate level of service for those experiencing homelessness. We have a sub-committee dedicated to working on establishing and strengthening landlord relationships, looking at innovative ways to increase the landlord pool. The efforts of the CoC, 25 Cities and CAHP system have gained political backing from: 7 San Diego Mayors (signed onto the Mayors' Challenge to end Veteran homelessness), County Board of Supervisors (named 2015 the Year of the Veteran), United States Congress Members, Speaker of the California State Assembly, numerous City Council Members and Mayors. 25 Cities was awarded $200,000 by Funders Together Ending Homelessness to enhance our efforts towards ending veteran and chronic homelessness.

One of our biggest challenges in San Diego is the housing market. San Diego has a 2.3% vacancy rate, among the lowest vacancy rate in the United States among metropolitan communities. We also struggle with resources for veteran households who are not eligible for VASH and need another form of permanent supportive housing. Another challenge that is not unique to us is the length of time it takes for veterans to receive an answer on their VA service connection claim and/or SSI/SSDI award. Most of the time that is the only form of income a Veteran can access and the length of time to process their claim creates a major hardship for them. Collectively with the support of the Corporation for Supportive Housing providers in San Diego created the HOPE project, modeled after the national SOAR program to expedite applications with the Social Security Administration. Data and data analysis is another challenge for San Diego. Consistent tracking and improved analysis of the veteran data is needed. This should include the specific number of veterans experiencing homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered, connection to resources and successful placements into permanent housing from all sources (VA, PHA, CoC, etc.).