

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan

Date Completed/Revised:

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Month			Day			Year			

Continuum of Care (CoC) Name: Tampa/Hillsborough County		CoC #: FL-501
CoC Representative: Antoinette Hayes Triplett		Title: Chief Executive Officer
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Person Completing this Plan: Marie Galbraith		Title: SSVF Program Manager
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1. 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: 25 Cities Committee / Veterans Focus Group	
Principle Members	Affiliation
Antoinette Hayes Triplett / Antonio Byrd	Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative (CoC Lead)
Edi Erb / Rich Boozell / Jack Garrett	Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative (CoC Lead)
Marie Galbraith / Justin Baker	Tampa Crossroads (SSVF Priority 1)
Bryan Sullivan	St. Vincent De Paul (SSVF Priority 3)
Harry McCurdy (Other VA Staff As Appropriate)	James A. Haley Veterans Hospital
Qiana Daughtry	Tampa Dept. of Housing & Community Development
Margaret Jones	Tampa Housing Authority
Felicia Crosby-Rucker / Sharon Subadan	Hillsborough County Government
Christine Long	Metropolitan Ministries
Jana Balicki	Agency for Community Treatment Services (ACTS)

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.

Tampa / Hillsborough County CoC is a partner in the 25 Cities Initiative and significant progress has been made since launch in March 2014. We experienced a major change in leadership at THHI during this timeframe. The last local 25 Cities committee meeting on 10/16/14 was a Sustainability Review to establish goals and action items in support of our 100-Day Goals, which included Operation Reveille - a local initiative to house 50 homeless veterans on Veterans Day - as well as plans to house an additional 50 veterans by March 3. In September Operation Reveille planning, implementation, and follow-up meetings began and continue to take place to ensure households are successful long-term. This includes leadership meetings to track overall progress and address issues related to funding coordination and other high level matters. Additionally ongoing direct service provider meetings (including both SSVF programs) are held to coordinate case management, landlord issues, and other supportive service needs. In October both SSVF grantees (Priority 1 and 3) launched new programs and began serving Hillsborough County. In February the first collaborative meeting between both SSVF providers took place and included VA representation. Initial discussions included development of a small Veterans Focus Group that will meet monthly to coordinate efforts and report back to the community during monthly CoC meetings. The lead from this group will then work with the CoC and 25 Cities groups to help merge VA assets and processes more seamlessly into broader community efforts to end homelessness. Specifically we will track monthly permanent housing numbers by program, ensure proper coordination between HUD-VASH, GPD, and SSVF Programs, streamline referral process to VA programs, review HMIS data entry procedures, and coordinate housing search and landlord solicitation efforts. The principle members and structure of this new Veterans Focus Group will be finalized in March.

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
Tampa Crossroads, Inc.	1,000,000	400	280	70
Society of St. Vincent De Paul	1,500,000	400	240	60
TOTAL	2,500,000	800	520	65%

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	750	750	560	190	0
Households with Children	50	50	40	10	0
Total Homeless Veteran Households	800	800	600	200	0

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).

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	0	0	0	0	0	0
Households with Children	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Households	0	0	0	0	0	0

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 CoC goal is to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 and to have a system in place by 2016 in order to prevent homelessness whenever possible. And when it does occur, it is rare and brief.

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:

- 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.
- 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.

Direct referrals continue to be made to SSVF from community providers and VA (including HUD-VASH) alike. The CoC has a committee in place to oversee the implementation of coordinated assessment which launched in March 2014 and is still evolving. Organizational changes at THHI have presented challenges with managing this process. Both SSVF programs and other providers in the community are currently using the VI-SPDAT and referring to the CI&A priority list as appropriate. VA staff cannot enter data into HMIS (approval request is pending) but VI-SPDATs are being done on hard copy and submitted to THHI to complete data entry. The current recommendation remains multiple access points to the system and the use of the VI-SPDAT for matching persons to the most appropriate housing intervention to end the household's homelessness. Memoranda of Understanding to identify participating agencies and to clarify the organization's role are pending. A draft will be available by March 1.

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.

Based on our projected annual demand and need for rapid-rehousing assistance – and in consideration of other funded programs in the CoC that are not targeted to veterans – the CoC plans to identify SSVF (Priority 1 and all other funding) as the priority program for referring veterans seeking RRH assistance. From a CI&A perspective the committee recommendation moving forward is to facilitate access to assistance as quickly as possible and to switch from providers selecting referrals from the CI&A wait list, to the assessor (person completing a screening) linking persons with agencies with open slots based on a recommended prioritization plan and program eligibility (includes screening for SSVF eligibility). Veterans will be referred to the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans, HealthCare for Homeless Veterans Outreach Team, and the SSVF Program based on household choice. Under this future model the system will include a diversion strategy that will be reviewed and revised as needed to ensure prevention is accessed timely. If diversion is not an option the assessor will check for bed availability in emergency housing (County-funded emergency-bridge housing programs or other emergency shelter program), where further assessment to match households to the most appropriate housing intervention may occur (including referral to SSVF for RRH services). THHI has been meeting with the Crisis Center to develop a "Homeless Hotline," which creates a virtual access site for the front end of the system as originally recommended by the CI&A Steering Committee. Future meetings and participation in technical assistance available through the 25 Cities Initiative will be coordinated based on need. SSVF providers are an integral part of planning for the Coordinated Intake & Assessment process and will be invited to participate in any future meetings.

The Veterans Focus Group cited in #2 will ensure comprehensive coordination between CoC and VA systems / other VA funded programs. The plan is to track and share monthly data in order to strategically ensure veterans are being matched to the most appropriate programs based on eligibility and needs assessment.

The following plans have been discussed relative to establishing better partnerships with our public/private housing providers and our community providers:

- Identify all funded Housing Specialist positions within the community with the goal of establishing a coordinated system.
- Plan a Landlord Seminar and invite all of our landlord partners in the community in order to provide education on programs and obtain feedback on how to improve customer service with a focus on case management.
- Create a centralized database of all housing providers currently partnering with CoC programs.
- Invite landlords from the seminar to join a Landlord Focus Group that would meet regularly and to provide ongoing input.
- SSVF housing specialists will be included in this process and will collaborate to backfill units when it is necessary to move another SSVF participant who is unable to sustain the lease.
- Utilize GIS mapping to determine high need areas.

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

Ongoing organizational changes at THHI have presented challenges overall. However our new CoC leadership successfully planned, coordinated, and implemented Operation Reveille on Veterans Day 2014 with 52 veterans rapidly housed in a single day. This initiative has improved collaboration amongst our CoC including key partners within the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County. The plan is to build on this momentum and continue to foster support from the community and local businesses to end veteran homelessness. Ongoing collaboration between key providers will continue over the next 12 months (and beyond) to ensure all veterans housed under this initiative are successful long-term and do not re-enter the homeless system.

In February the first Community Housing Homeless Solution Centers opened with 75 crisis beds and on-site case management. Another RFP will be released for a project starting in September 2015. The existing County Neighborhood Service Centers (currently provide short term rental assistance) are potential target locations, and would enable prevention cases to be served out of the same centralized location(s). SSVF program(s) would be represented at each center with staff equipped to complete program screenings on-site.

One of our biggest resource gaps is the lack of adequate emergency housing options for families.