

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan

Date Completed/Revised:

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Month			Day			Year			

Continuum of Care (CoC) Name: Boston		CoC #: MA-500
CoC Representative: Elizabeth Doyle		Title: Deputy Director
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Person Completing this Plan: Marta Budu-Arthur		Title: Program Director
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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:	
Principle Members	Affiliation
Marta Budu-Arthur	NECHV
Sean Terry	NECHV
Kevin Ward	NECHV
Andrew McCawley	NECHV
Kristine DiNardo	NECHV
David Thomas	BPHC
Larry Seamans	Pine Street Inn
Mary Johnson	Pine Street Inn
Elizabeth Doyle	DND
Jennifer Flynn	DND
Chris Dollard	VA Boston
Judith Lipton	VA Boston
Linn Torto	DHCD/DVS
Franchesca Casado	VOA
Eileen Merisola	VOA
Christiana Ellis-Morris	Vets Inc.
Shara Katsos	NHC VISN 1
Kevin Casey	NHC VISN1

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.

Currently the team meets as part of the 25 Cities/Homes for the Brave Initiative biweekly to review how many Veterans have been assessed, placed in the CHOMPS system, matched and housed. Three subcommittees meet weekly to discuss Veterans and the coordinated intake process. All city shelter providers and VA homeless staff are involved in these meetings and subcommittees. There has been discussion around revising the subcommittees based on needs. The mayor has also become involved in planning so there is an active effort to ensure that no silos are created. There is not a written plan to end Veteran homelessness at the moment. 25 cities focused on the mainstream coordinated assessment with Veterans being a subpopulation of that work.

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
Volunteers of America (P2)	\$448,032	100	60	60%
NECHV (P1)	\$1,500,000	337	303	90%
NECHV (P2)	\$772,412	201	120	60%
Veterans, Inc.	\$27,273	30	30	100%
TOTAL	\$2,747,717	668	513	77%

The P1 grantee will be serving more than 60% in rapid re-housing. Grant amounts and projected households are for a 1 year time period to help with planning purposes. It is understood that the P1 grant is 3 years at \$3 million. The P1 grantee plans to expend more in the 1st year.

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	1426	Apply 45% of 1426 (% from CHOMPS that are targeted to RRH)= 642	509	23	110
Households with Children	9	Apply 45% of 9 (% from CHOMPS that are targeted to RRH)=4	4	0	0
Total Homeless Veteran Households	1435¹	646	513	23	110

Community plans to review the gap of 110 by looking at the ability for other non-P1 SSVF grantees to increase their rapid re-housing percentage or overall number of households served. The team would also like to explore Ch.115 and ESG (MHSa and HomeStart) to see if they could provide RRH assistance for households not served with SSVF. Right now, these other resources are serving about 4%. The P1 grantee already requested the ability to increase their spending and overall number of households served during year 1. There will also need to be a discussion and communication with local organizations and programs like TPP, Ch.115 etc. about the focus on rapid re-housing and therefore perhaps needing their support with diversion and prevention. This could include developing specific goals within the plan and helping organizations to see what SSVF and other RRH providers are committing to in terms of resources.

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).

¹ Data from 2013 Veterans AHAR

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	328	0	328	8	0	8
Households with Children	2	0	2	0	0	0
Total Households	330	0	330	8	0	8

Based on the 2014 PIT for MA-500 Boston CoC, 436 Veteran households were sheltered, and 14 Veteran households were unsheltered. The community is proposing that functional zero includes zero Veterans unsheltered by the PIT in 2016, 8 chronic (a reduction by about 59 Veterans), and 330 sheltered (a reduction of 100). In terms of goals, the goal would be to identify every unsheltered Veteran and chronic Veteran as soon as possible and then work through the sheltered numbers.

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 Boston CoC is committed to achieving the goals laid out in “Bringing Boston Home: An Action Plan to house Boston’s Homeless 2013-2016,” which include reducing the number of homeless households who are most vulnerable by housing long-term shelter stayers, people living on the streets, and high utilizers of emergency services. Veterans are a priority population across all of these groups. In addition, the CoC and its partners will set a new 100-day goal as part of the 25-Cities initiative at the next community meeting on December 19th, 2014. Last, the Boston CoC seeks to align all resources for homeless veterans, including SSVF, to ensure that resources are used strategically and effectively to prevent and end homelessness among veterans in Boston.

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.

Veterans complete assessments (VI-SPDATs) with case managers/outreach workers at shelters or through street outreach throughout the continuum. All Veterans who are literally homeless and access drop-in centers, shelters, or outreach teams complete assessments and are then entered into the CHOMPS system to be matched to a program that meets his/her needs. SSVF is one of the resources Veterans can be matched to and all three Boston SSVF providers are participating in the 25 Cities/Homes for the Brave Initiative. In terms of homeless prevention, Veterans are referred to SSVF providers through various referral agencies including VA Homeless Outreach, Boston Housing Authority, Boston Housing Court, etc., to name a few. Teams will now start to “Case Conference” Veterans. Assist and Match will begin meeting together Case Conference Veterans.

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.

SSVF providers are all participants in the 25 Cities/Homes for the Brave Initiative and are working together to intake Veterans through the coordinated assessment that is currently being developed. One of the biggest goals for SSVF providers is to lead efforts in landlord recruitment and retention who are willing to house low-income Veterans. Boston CoC provider has hired a Housing Navigator who is responsible for landlord recruitment, accessing existing housing stock, and coordinate housing advocates/specialists to discuss affordable units in the area. NECHV P1 is meeting with Boston CoC to coordinate a housing position that would work closely with the Housing Navigator to house Veterans through SSVF and coordinate market rate units and landlords as well as create and maintain a housing data base.

SSVF providers in the Boston CoC are engaged with the Bedford VA and Boston VA Healthcare for Homeless Veterans teams to insure Veterans are receiving support. SSVF providers are also engaged with local housing authorities (Boston Housing Authority, Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership, etc.) to make sure available subsidized housing options are filled with the appropriate Veteran household. All VA teams and local housing authorities are involved in the 25 Cities/Homes for the Brave Initiative, which puts them in close communication and collaboration with all SSVF providers.

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

One strength that becomes a challenge for Massachusetts providers is our state benefit for Veterans called Chapter 115. This benefit provides a stipend for low-income Veterans and attracts people from all over the country, which is why the homeless Veteran percentages for Massachusetts have remained constant over the past several years.

Another strength is the amount of SSVF providers in Massachusetts which allows for a lot of collaboration and teamwork. If one grantee is unable to serve a Veteran household, another grantee can pick up where they left off.

A major challenge is the housing stock and market prices in the Boston area. It is very difficult to house low-income Veteran households when there is such a high demand for housing. Landlords are able to choose the highest bidder, which makes them less likely to take a chance on a low-income Veteran household. Since the launch in Tampa, Housing Specialist positions between SSVF and the CoC has been developed. One specialist will focus on subsidized housing resources, and the other specialist will focus on market rate units.