

Ending Homelessness Among Veterans

Review and Discussion Guide

1. Planning & Coordination

- a. Is your community/CoC working on ending homelessness among Veterans through participation in the Mayors Challenge, 25 Cities, Zero 2016, or another effort? Is there a planning and implementation group?
- b. Who's involved in your planning efforts? Do you have everyone you need in your primary planning and implementation group? Are your relationships effective?
 - i. VA staff?
 - ii. Other VA funded providers (e.g., GPD, HCHV)?
 - iii. CoC representatives?
 - iv. Other homeless system partners (street outreach, shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing)
 - v. Other key stakeholders including city, county officials, system partners, other community services providers, etc.?
- c. How frequently does the group meet? Do they have the authority to make policy and resource decisions to meet goals, resolve barriers, and ensure coordination?

2. Functional Zero Goals & Plan

- a. Has your community defined what ending homelessness among Veterans looks like and established a community-wide plan to achieve those goals?
 - i. Have you estimated the total unduplicated number of Veterans who will be homeless? If so, what information and/or tool did you use (e.g., PIT and extrapolation factor, VA Gaps Analysis Tool (GAT), SSVF Edition of Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3, SSVF Veterans Demand Analysis Tool)?
 - ii. Does your plan have measurable goals and operational targets for:
 - Permanent housing (PH) placements (for those not otherwise able to self-resolve) – including number of placement using VASH, **RRH (SSVF)**, or resulting from other VA residential programs (GPD, HCHV, DOM)?
 - Average/max length of time Veterans spend homeless?
 - Average/max length of time between homeless system entry and creation of an initial Housing Plan?

- Average/max length of time between **RRH (SSVF)** admission and housing placement?
- Occupancy/utilization rates for VASH, other key assets?

- b. Has your community identified the changes to the homeless system and strategies needed to accomplish your functional zero goals (i.e., ensure that homelessness for Veterans is prevented whenever possible and that when it occurs it is rare, brief, and non-recurring)?

3. Implementation

- a. Has your community identified every Veteran who is homeless right now by name?
 - i. Is this list reviewed at least bi-weekly by key community partners to ensure Veterans have a permanent housing plan and those plans are achieved?
 - ii. Is anyone missing from this process?
- b. Does every Veteran who is homeless now have a Housing Plan and access to safe (and low barrier, as needed) shelter and/or permanent housing?

- c. Are homeless Veterans rapidly engaged and offered shelter and/or housing that meets their needs? If so, is this true no matter where they are initially engaged in your community or what shelter or unsheltered location they may be in?

- d. Does your community have enough rapid re-housing (RRH) assistance available to meet the needs of every homeless Veteran who needs RRH now and in the next twelve months?
 - i. Are sufficient SSVF resources allocated to ensure there are no gaps and no turn aways?
 - ii. Are you using SSVF to rapidly re-house Veterans who are waiting on VASH or other PSH assistance when VASH/PSH isn't immediately available (versus Veteran waiting in shelter or on the street)?

- iii. Do you have a sufficient number of permanent housing partners (private landlords, housing authority, other subsidized housing, VASH, other dedicated permanent supportive housing) and placement opportunities to meet the needs of all Veterans homeless today and through the end of the year (i.e., can you meet your PH placement ("take down") target and achieve a steady state)?
- iv. Does capacity and housing placement support need to be increased? Is additional or dedicated staff needed?
- v. What strategies are in place or could be developed to address any gaps?

- e. Are you and your partners routinely monitoring goal achievement and key operational metrics (e.g., through monthly dashboard)? What other improvements are needed?
