Promoting Long-Term System Change & Metrics for Measuring Progress

SSVF Priority 1 Program Launch

December 2014

Session Goals

- Understand concept of optimization relative to homeless crisis response system and long-term system change
- Understand key characteristics and indicators of optimized homeless crisis response systems
- Identify implications for local P1 community plans and what SSVF teams can do to promote optimization locally

Overview of Session

1. Brief presentation
2. P1 SSVF team discussion – opportunities to promote local optimized system
3. Large group discussion – key takeaways, next steps

Two Goals for Priority 1 Communities

October 1, 2014: Surge Start

January 2016 PIT Count

Near-Term

End homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015

Long-Term

Optimize local system to ensure homelessness among Veterans is prevented when possible and, when it does occur, it is <u>rare</u> and <u>brief</u>

Long-Term Goal

Optimize system to sustain efforts beyond 2015 to ensure homelessness among Veterans <u>is rare and brief</u>

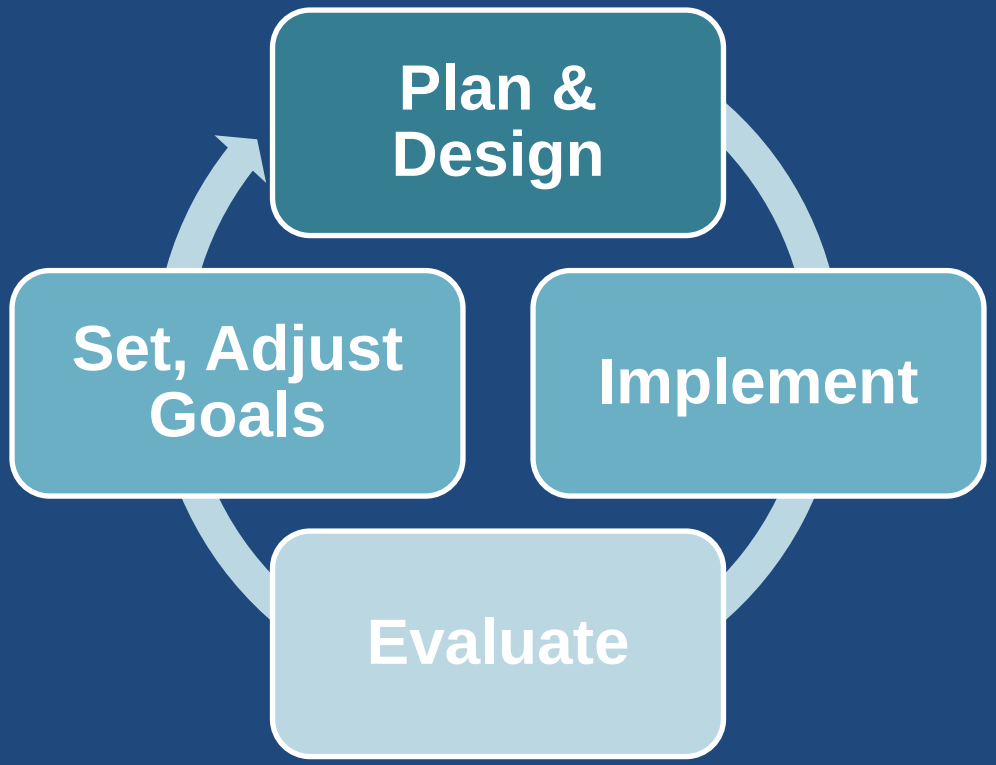
Optimization: an act, process, or methodology of making something (as a design, system, or decision) as fully perfect, functional, or effective as possible.

-Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Long-Term Goal

However…

- **Optimization is an ongoing process, not an end state, requiring ongoing monitoring and adjustment as demand, resources, and other conditions change**



Optimized System
4 Characteristics & Indicators

1. Veterans avoid falling into literal homelessness unnecessarily and have access to prevention assistance

Veterans most at-risk are quickly screened and diverted from emergency shelter to prevention assistance when other safe, appropriate housing is available or can be negotiated, even if temporarily. Prevention assistance is flexible, offered in a progressive manner, and can be accessed immediately when needed.

Key Indicators:

- ✓ Low annual and PIT number of homeless Veterans
- ✓ High percent of Veterans obtain/maintain permanent housing upon exit from prevention
- ✓ Veterans assisted have similar characteristics to those who become homeless

Optimized System
4 Characteristics & Indicators

2. No Veteran is ever forced to live on the street

Community and homeless system commit to provide sufficient resources to ensure no Veteran is ever forced to live on the street. Veterans who are or are about to become literally homeless are offered low barrier emergency and permanent housing options, including supports and housing offered by the VA. Outreach staff are actively engaged with every unsheltered Veteran and provide immediate access to low-barrier shelter and housing options.

Key Indicators:

- ✓ Few if any unsheltered homeless Veterans during PIT

Optimized System

4 Characteristics & Indicators

3. Homelessness, when it occurs for a Veteran, is as brief as possible

From initial contact to exit from homelessness, system and providers act in a coordinated manner, adhere to Housing First practices, and provide individualized, progressive assistance to end homelessness quickly. Every Veteran who falls into homelessness is rapidly linked to re-housing assistance.

Key Indicators:

- ✓ Brief average length of time homeless
- ✓ Low annual and PIT number of homeless Veterans
- ✓ At least as many Veterans exit homelessness as who enter in a given month
- ✓ Veterans report they can easily navigate and access right amount and type of homeless system assistance they need and want to exit homelessness

Optimized System
4 Characteristics & Indicators

4. Homeless Veterans successfully exit homelessness and very few return

System facilitates access to comprehensive range of community-based housing and service partners, as well as VA resources, to support successful exits from homelessness, greater housing stability, and non-housing-specific needs. System has dedicated capacity (staff, resources) to develop and manage comprehensive range of partnerships.

Key Indicators:

- ✓ High percent of homeless Veterans obtain permanent housing upon exit
- ✓ Few Veterans return to homelessness
- ✓ Veterans report they can easily navigate and access community-based housing and services with help from the homeless system they need and want to do so

Activity

Purpose: Using information and ideas shared yesterday and today, identify ways local system can be optimized and what key next steps the SSVF team can take to promote long term system change.

- SSVF Team discussion
- Identify note taker for report out
- Large group discussion