Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Webinar Series

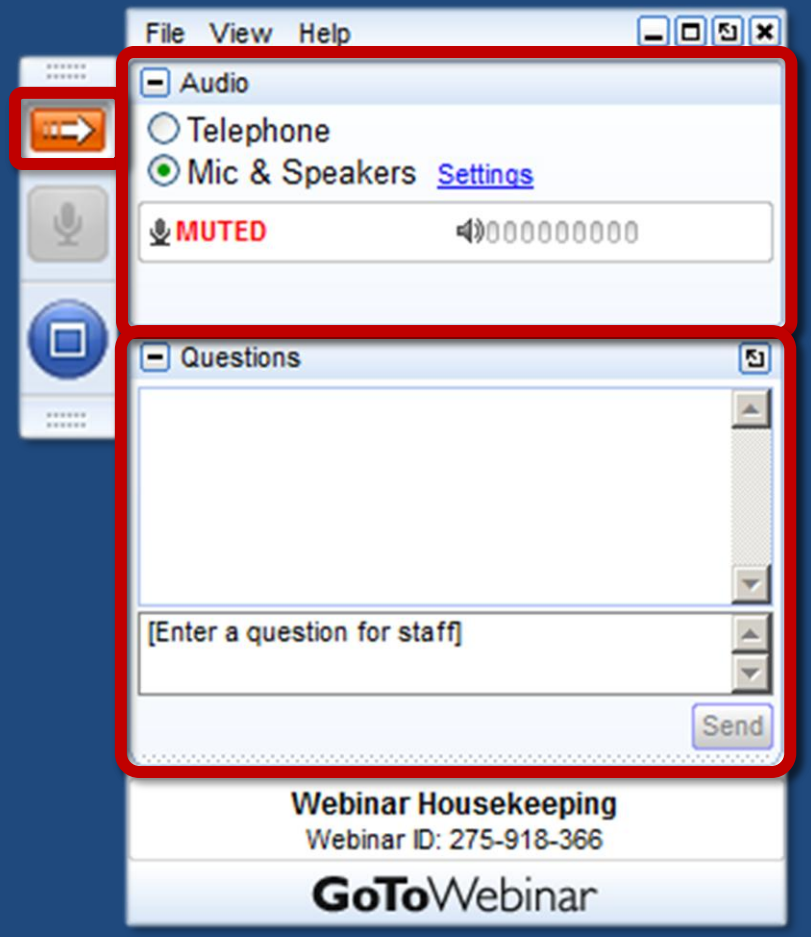
Priority 1/Surge National Kick-Off

October 16, 2014

Webinar Format

- Webinar will last approximately 1.5 hours
- Participants' phone connections are "muted" due to the high number of callers
  - Questions can be submitted during the webinar using the chat function
- Questions can also be submitted anytime to SSVF@va.gov

How to Submit Questions during the Webinar



Your Participation

Open and hide your control panel

Submit questions and comments via the Questions panel

Note: Today's presentation is being recorded and will be posted onto SSVF University.

Objectives

- Overview of funds awarded
- VA expectations of Priority 1/Surge Funding: Ending Veteran Homelessness and System Change
- Introduction to the Priority 1/Surge Funding implementation process including CoC, VA, and other local partners
- Support from VA Regional Coordinators and Technical Assistance

Overview of Funds Awarded and Timeline

Funds Awarded

Round 1 NOFA:

Funding Category	Amount Awarded	Grants	Participants to be Served	Number of States & Territories Served
FY2014 Awards (Priority 2 & 3)	~$300 M	301	~115,000	All 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands
FY2015 Awards (Priority 1 & 3)	~$207 M	82	~70,000	Awards augment services in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Island, and Guam, ***including "surge" funding for 56 high need communities.***

Funds Awarded

- **Round 1 (FY15)** funding includes Priority 1 “surge” awards for grantees in 56 high need CoCs
  - Priority 1 awards are 3 year awards

- **Round 2** NOFA issued 10/10/2014: additional $93M for 28 high need CoCs not funded in round 1

- ***All SSVF grantees in Priority 1 high need CoCs are expected to participate in Priority 1/surge planning & implementation***

Goals for Priority 1 CoCs

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>

Near-Term Goal: Prevent and End Veteran Homelessness by the End of 2015

- Opening Doors Goal to Prevent and End Veteran Homelessness
- Priority 1 funding strategically allocated to communities with the highest populations of homeless veterans
- What must each Priority 1 community do to get to zero?

Getting to Zero: Key CoC Indicators & SSVF Role

- **Provide emergency shelter when needed so no Veteran is ever forced to live on the street**
  - Engage and immediately link unsheltered Veterans to emergency shelter, GPD, or other transitional housing; provide additional support and assurance while they await permanent housing with SSVF RRH assistance
- **Divert Veterans when possible from emergency shelter**
  - Establish rapid screening and referral protocols to SSVF HP assistance and prioritize those diverted for SSVF

Getting to Zero: Key CoC Indicators & SSVF Role (con't)

- **Reduce the length of time Veterans are homeless**
  - Assure CoC-wide rapid screening & triage of homeless Veterans to SSVF RRH assistance
  - Assure that SSVF assistance is used to help our most vulnerable homeless Veterans find housing now, without condition, and even when no immediate PSH or long-term permanent housing solution is yet identified
- **High percent of homeless Veterans obtain permanent housing**
  - Assure SSVF assistance reaches *every* homeless Veteran not able to exit homelessness on own or not otherwise exiting with other solution (e.g., to PSH without bridge assistance)

Getting to Zero: Key CoC Indicators & SSVF Role (con't)

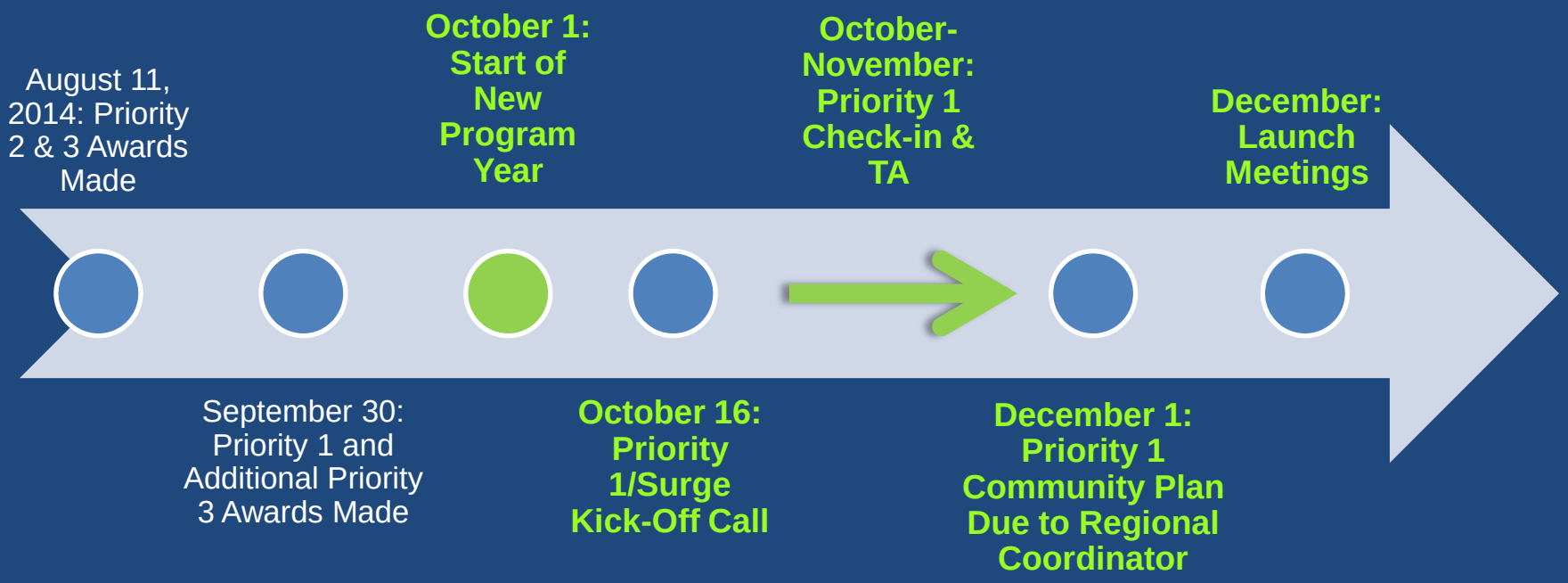
- **Low percent of homeless Veterans return to homelessness**
  - Assure SSVF assisted Veterans are connected to VA and community supports, get on waiting lists for long-term housing subsidies (if needed and eligible), and have plan for future housing crises

Long-Term Goal: System Optimization

- **Sustain efforts beyond 2015 and implement system changes to ensure homelessness among Veterans <u>is rare and brief</u>**
  - Reach Veteran households most at-risk of entering shelter
  - Rapidly return Veteran households who become homeless to permanent housing within short period (e.g., 30 days) of becoming

Priority 1/Surge Implementation

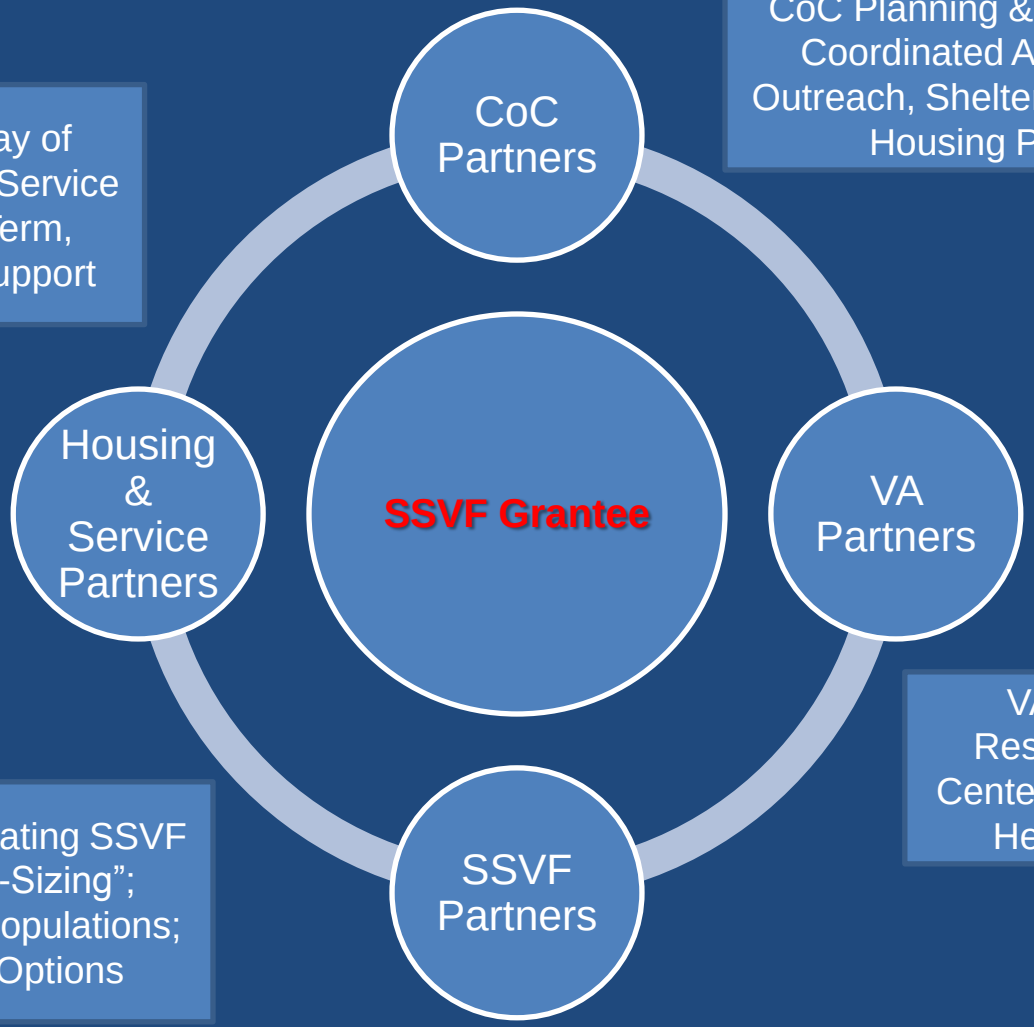
Round 1 Surge: Initial Planning and Implementation Milestones



Local Collaboration: Essential Partners

- Collaboration is key to success
  - Among SSVF Grantees
  - CoC and CoC processes & partners (e.g., coordinated assessment)
  - VA partners: VAMC(s), benefits, VA funded programs,
  - Community-based housing and service partners

Local Collaboration: Essential Partners



CoC Planning & Governance; Coordinated Assessment; Outreach, Shelters, Transitional Housing Partners

Comprehensive Array of Housing Options; Key Service Linkages for Long-Term, Community-Based Support

VASH, Community Resource and Referral Center, GPD, Employment, Healthcare, Benefits

Coordinating & Integrating SSVF Assistance; “Right-Sizing”; Establishing Target Populations; Sharing Housing Options

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan

- Many communities have plans developed or under development for ending Veteran homelessness

- Priority 1 communities are expected to complete and submit a *SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan*
  - Written plan to be completed by CoC, all local SSVF grantees, and local VA representatives (NHC(s), VAMC PoC(s), other VA partners)
  - 1 plan per Priority 1 Community
  - **Due: December 1, 2014 to Regional Coordinator**

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan

- Plan template and instructions will be sent to local grantees, CoC leads, and VA representatives

- Plan requires grantees and CoC and VA partners to identify:
  - Key planning committee overseeing local efforts & ongoing coordination efforts
  - All SSVF grantees, funding and projected households to be served in CoC geography
  - Annual number of Veteran households projected to become homeless & # needing RRH (SSVF or other)
  - CoC short and long-term goals
  - SSVF role in CoC coordinated assessment system
  - Additional strengths and challenges

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan

- Many communities have determined the number of Veterans who become homeless annually and/or monthly and established processes to identify and track homeless Veterans as they make progress toward permanent housing

- VA optional tool to support communities: *Veterans Demand Analysis and Progress Tracking Tool*

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan: Process

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan: Demand Analysis

Total SSVF Resources in the CoC's geographic area (may need to pro-rate for grants spanning CoCs)

How much SSVF must be dedicated to RRH in order to house all Veterans who are literally homeless NOW and those who will become literally homeless during 2015?

How many Homeless Veterans?

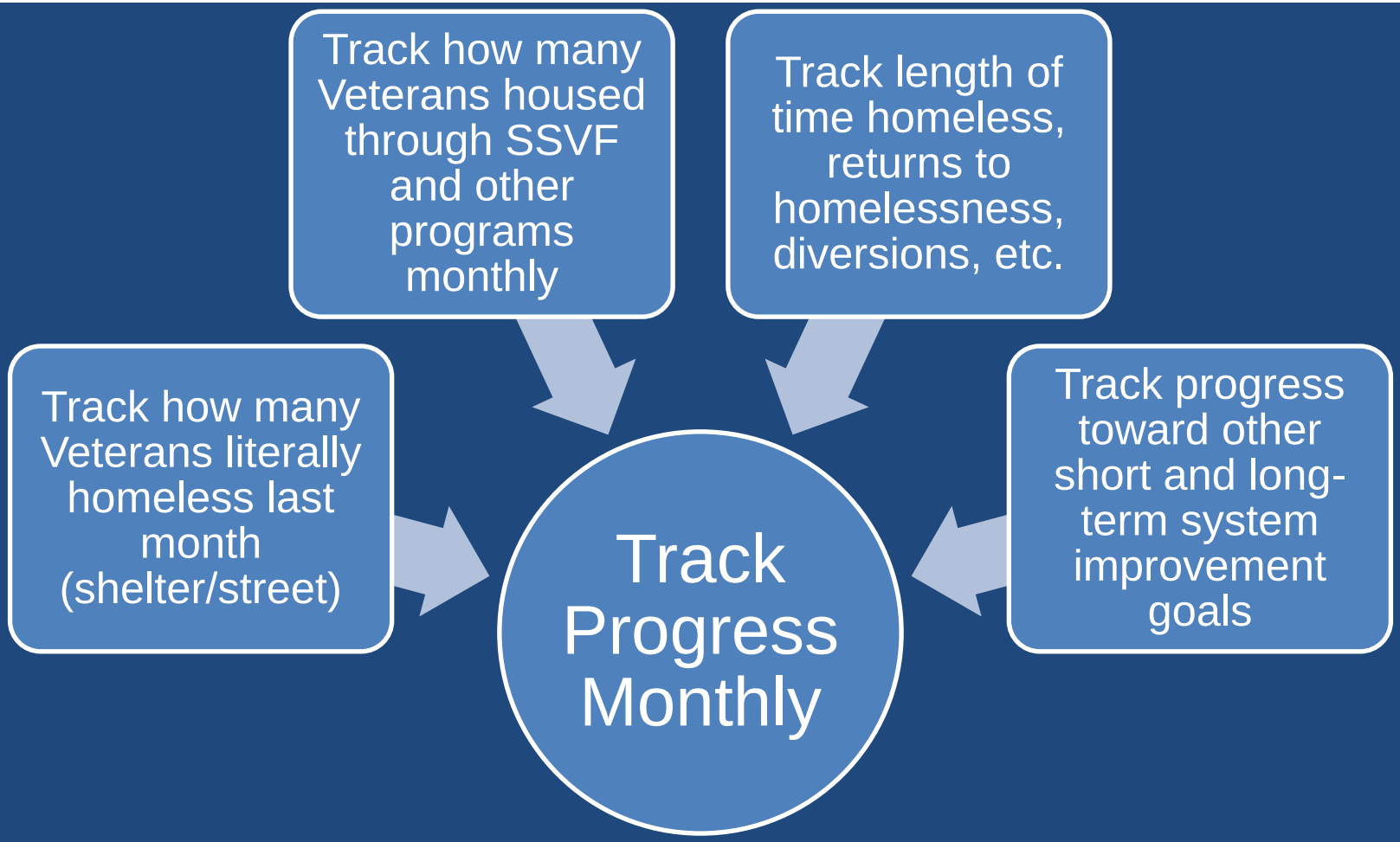
How many need RRH (SSVF/other; including as a "bridge")?

Demand Analysis

What other resources are needed to house all homeless Veterans triaged for RRH (who might not be eligible for SSVF or who might need additional resources) or who need different housing interventions.

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan: Set Goals

SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan: Tracking Progress



SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan: Continuous Improvement

Adjust as needed based on progress and data.

Support from VA Regional Coordinators and Technical Assistance

Check-in Calls

- October-November with Regional Coordinator and TA staff
  - **Goal**: complete by 11/14/2014
- Target: currently funded Priority 1 communities
  - Required: all SSVF grantees
  - Invited & strongly encouraged to participate
    - CoC lead representative(s)
    - VAMC(s) point(s) of contact
    - VA Network Homeless Coordinator
    - Other key partners (up to SSVF grantee(s), CoC and VA partners to determine)

Ongoing Technical Assistance

- SSVF University
- Additional remote and on-site support from Regional Coordinator and/or TA staff as requested and approved
  - Examples:
    - Help facilitate or participate in local planning meeting
    - Assist with demand and SSVF resource analysis
    - Support further integration of SSVF in 25 City initiative or Mayor's Challenge efforts
- Future regional meetings

Priority 1 December Meetings

- Locations: Tampa, FL and Los Angeles, CA
- Target Participants: SSVF grantee leadership
- Objectives:
  - Hear from VA national leadership
  - Share and learn with peers
  - Identify areas to improve Veteran access to SSVF assistance
  - Identify areas to improve collaboration among SSVF grantees and with CoC, VA and other local partners
  - Review & refine Priority 1 Community Plan to end homelessness among Veterans by 2016 and foster long-term change

Additional Questions?

SSVF Program Office

Phone:

1-877-737-0111

Email:

ssvf@va.gov

Website:

www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf.asp

Includes link to ***SSVF University***

THANK YOU!!