# Coordination with CoCs and Coordinated Assessment

SSVF Priority 1 Launch

December 2014

# Session Goals

- Self-assess program status in planning & integration, targeting of Veteran households and evaluating progress
- Develop strategies to improve coordination with CoCs on a community plan to end homelessness among Veterans
- Develop strategies to improve integration of SSVF into CoC's coordinated assessment process for diversion and rapid re-housing
- Create action steps to improve coordination & referrals

# Part I:

# Strategic Coordination with CoCs

# Strategic Coordination with CoCs

- CoC are important partners in ending homelessness among Veterans because they are responsible for community planning, managing funding from HUD and other sources, and evaluating program and system performance

- Effective coordination to end homelessness for Veterans includes:
  - Shared goals and performance measurements
  - Identified stakeholder responsibilities
  - appropriate referrals
  - problem-solving to remove barriers
  - additional resources to meet the needs of every household, particularly for Veterans who are not eligible for VA-funded programs
  - regular evaluation to monitor progress and direct changes

# Implementing a Coordinated Plan

- Good planning and coordination with the CoC and VA, and with CoC and VA providers is essential to successfully use SSVF resources to end Veteran homelessness
  - Meet regularly with community partners to establish specific goals and targets to end Veteran homelessness
  - Ensure that the right CoC decision makers are at the table
  - Ensure that SSVF providers coordinate with CoC providers to utilize SSVF and other resources effectively to quickly re-house or divert each identified Veteran

# Improving Community Coordination Discussion

1. Has the community established specific targets and goals, and identified how many Veteran households need to be served?

2. What is the process to identify and develop housing plans, including utilization of SSVF resources, to house every Veteran experiencing homelessness on the street, in shelter or transitional housing?

3. Is there a regular evaluation of progress towards goal of ending homelessness of Veterans and resolution of any coordination issues?

# Part II:

# Coordinated Assessment and SSVF

# Coordinated Assessment

- Main steps in coordinated assessment:
  - Access
  - Assessment
  - Assignment/Referral

- Grantees need to:
  - Participate in development of coordinated assessment to ensure SSVF is fully integrated
  - Develop partnerships to ensure Veterans are referred to SSVF, and that those who do not qualify for SSVF are provided other options in the community

# Diversion & SSVF

Focus effort on diverting Veterans from homelessness through the CoC's intake center or at the door of shelter:

- Work with Veteran to identify somewhere safe they can sleep temporarily
- Provide SSVF homelessness prevention services and financial assistance as needed

# Diversion & SSVF Discussion

1. In communities with coordinated assessment, are grantees getting referrals when a Veteran is asking to come into shelter and has been screened as appropriate for diversion?

2. In communities that have not implemented coordinated assessment yet, are grantees getting a call from shelter staff when a Veteran has been screened at shelter as appropriate for diversion?

3. What can be done to increase diversion referrals to SSVF?

# Rapid Re-housing & SSVF

- Every homeless Veteran can be rapidly re-housed – no requirement for income, employment or treatment
- Rapid re-housing can be used as bridge to PSH
- SSVF should be the designated housing exit for all Veterans if Veteran doesn’t self-resolve within a given amount of time (locally determined) and other programs are full

# Rapid Re-housing & SSVF Discussion

1. In communities with coordinated assessment, are grantees getting referrals as soon as a Veteran enters shelter or is engaged by street outreach and is determined to need assistance leaving homelessness?

2. In communities that have not implemented coordinated assessment yet, are grantees getting a call from shelter or street outreach staff as soon as they learn about a Veteran who is literally homeless and is determined to need assistance leaving homelessness?

3. What can be done to increase rapid re-housing referrals to SSVF?

# SSVF Grantee Team Discussion

1. Given the current status of coordination between the CoC, VA and SSVF grantee(s), what do we do next to improve coordination?

2. Given the current status of coordinated assessment in our CoC, what do we do next to increase and/or make diversion referrals more effective?

3. Given the current status of coordinated assessment in our CoC, what do we do next to increase and/or make rapid re-housing referrals more effective?