SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan: Instructions

One plan template should be completed per Continuum of Care (CoC) receiving Priority 1 SSVF funding. The CoC, each SSVF grantee operating within the CoC, VA Medical Center(s) point of contact for SSVF, and the VA Network Homeless Coordinator should be active participants in developing and approving this plan. The plan should include all SSVF grantees providing assistance within the CoC geographic area and address how SSVF funds will be used to:

1) *End homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015*
2) *Ensure long-term system change so that homelessness is prevented when possible and, when it does occur, it is rare and brief.*

Many CoCs have developed goals and strategies for ending Veteran homelessness in line with the Federal Opening Doors plan to end Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 and in conjunction with other related efforts, such as the 25 Cities Initiative, Mayor's Challenge, and local initiatives. The plan template asks your CoC to identify the number of Veteran households who are homeless annually, what percent of Veteran households will need rapid re-housing assistance to end their homelessness, and how many homeless Veterans are expected to be assisted with SSVF-funded rapid re-housing. Additionally, the plan template asks you to identify other goals the CoC has established relative to ending homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015. Goals may be both quantitative and qualitative, such as:

- Increasing the percent of Veterans who are diverted from emergency shelter to SSVF homelessness prevention assistance
- Reducing the length of time Veterans remain homeless
- Increasing the percent of Veterans with a positive housing outcome
- Decreasing the percent of Veterans who return to homelessness
- Fully implementing coordinated assessment and effective screening, diversion, and homeless assistance triage practices
- Establishing a community commitment to provide emergency/interim housing and immediate permanent re-housing assistance for any Veteran who becomes homeless
- Increasing fidelity to Housing First best practices across the system of care for Veterans experiencing a housing crisis.

If your CoC has existing data and plans that account for SSVF Priority 1 surge funding and other local SSVF funding, there is no need to re-develop goals or create additional workgroups. Please use that information to complete this template. However, if your CoC has not yet analyzed data to determine the annual number of Veterans who become homeless and created strategies to house all homeless Veterans, please use the tool titled "Veterans Demand Analysis and Progress Tracking Tool" to help guide your CoC's planning process and complete this template.

Completed planning templates must be submitted via email to the SSVF Regional Coordinator no later than December 1, 2014. Only one plan per CoC should be submitted. SSVF grantees operating in the CoC must determine who will submit the SSVF Priority 1 Community Plan on behalf of all SSVF grantees in the CoC.

SSVF grantees attending the December SSVF meetings in Tampa or LA should bring their plans with them and be prepared to discuss with peers. The meetings will provide an opportunity to hear what other grantees in priority 1 CoCs are doing, take programs to scale community-wide with surge funding, improve system efficiencies and effectiveness, and set a course for long-term system change.