SSVF Program Launch

for Grantees in Priority 1 CoCs

December 2014

Purpose

- 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

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>

Ending Veteran Homelessness

No Veterans sleeping on our streets and every Veteran has access to permanent housing. Should Veterans become or be at-risk of becoming homeless, we will have the capacity to quickly connect them to the help they need to achieve housing stability

End of 2015 (Jan 2016 PIT count)

- -0- unsheltered homeless Veterans
- ≤12,500 sheltered homeless Veterans on the pathway from housing crisis to housing stability

Ongoing

- ≥75% PSH programs and local VA medical centers use Housing First approach
- ≥90% at-risk Veterans assisted with homelessness prevention in PH at program exit
- ≥75% homeless Veterans served by VA and HUD homeless programs in PH at program exit

Methods

- Ending homelessness will require close coordination between SSVF grantees, CoCs, local VAMCs, and VA funded programs.
- SSVF grantees need to work with partners to develop data informed plan that includes:
  - regular meetings to plan and review progress
  - identify and include membership vital to achieve goals
  - integrate planning with existing efforts (25 City, coordinated assessment, Mayor's Challenge, Zero 2016, HUD TA)

Objectives

- Priority 1 “surge” funding designed to enhance resources so that
  - homeless among Veterans can attain virtual zero by the end of 2015 (as measured by 2016 PIT)
  - no Veteran is forced to live in the street or places unfit for human habitation
  - ensure long-term system change that allows homelessness to be prevented, or when it occurs, it is brief

Critical Elements

- Participate in CoCs coordinated assessment and planning efforts
- Integrate efforts with other VA programs, including local SSVF providers
- Landlords as critical resource & customers
- To end homelessness, be prepared to work with the most difficult households (progressive engagement)
- Prioritize RRH until data shows shift to prevention is possible
- Housing First is not Housing Only. Sustainment planning so interventions lasts – income resources (employment and benefits), medical and mental health care, legal assistance, credit counseling.

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