2018 Rapid Rehousing Institute Federal Criteria & Benchmarks

Cross Population themes and lessons learned

Agenda

- Welcome
- Overview of Criteria and Benchmarks
- Lessons learned and Sustainability
- Community Example
- Questions

Sharing the Vision

Criteria and benchmarks work together to provide a complete picture of a community's response to homelessness.

- ❑ End chronic homelessness
- ❑ End Veteran homelessness
- ❑ End homelessness among families, youth and children
- ❑ Set a path to ending <u>all types</u> of homelessness

What does it mean to end homelessness?

An end to homelessness means that every community must have a systemic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can’t be prevented, it is a rare, brief, and one-time experience.

Operational Definition (Veterans)

Specifically, every community will have the capacity to:

- Quickly identify and engage people at risk of and experiencing homelessness.
- Intervene to prevent the loss of housing and divert people from entering the homelessness services system.
- Provide people with immediate access to shelter and crisis services without barriers to entry if homelessness does occur.
- Quickly connect people experiencing homelessness to housing assistance and services tailored to their unique needs and strengths to help them achieve and maintain stable housing."

Federal Criteria for Ending Veteran Homelessness

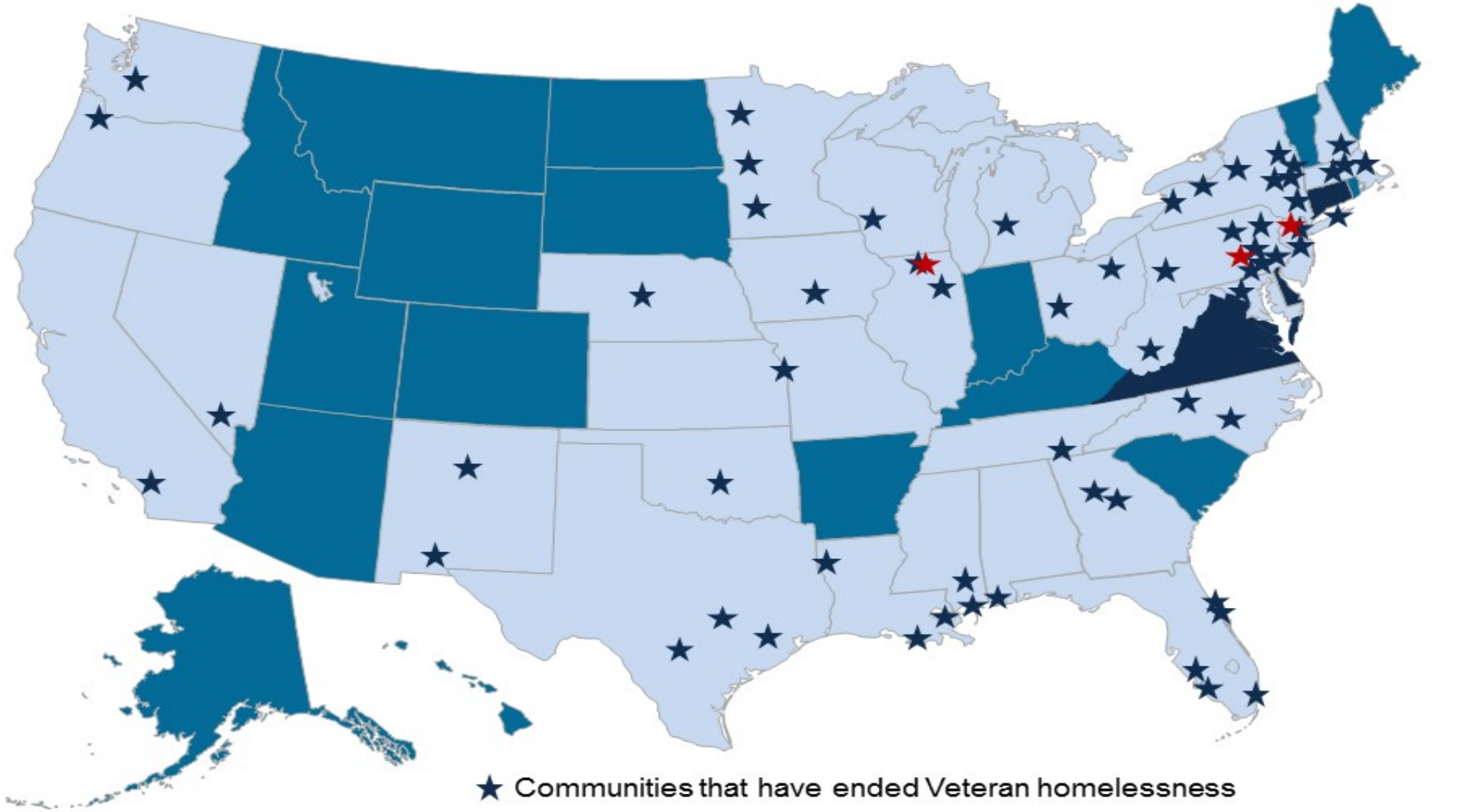
- The community has identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness.
- The community provides shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it.
- The community provides service-intensive transitional housing only in limited instances.
- The community has capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing.
- The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future.

Federal Benchmarks for Ending Veteran Homelessness

- Chronic and long-term homelessness among Veterans has been ended.
- Veterans have quick access to permanent housing.
- The community has sufficient permanent housing capacity.
- The community is committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances.

Other Populations Goals

- Criteria and Benchmark for Ending Chronic Homelessness (Released June 2016)
- Criteria and Benchmarks for Ending Family Homelessness (Released July 2017)
- Criteria and Benchmarks for Ending Youth Homelessness (Released February 2018)
- Ending Homelessness for All other Individuals (ongoing guidance)



★ Communities that have ended Veteran homelessness

★ Communities that have ended chronic homelessness

States that have at least one community that has ended homelessness

Consistent Themes

- Each Set of Criteria and Benchmarks are unique to the population
- Despite unique nature of populations, Federal Goals have consistent themes
- Vision for ending homelessness continue to rely on notion that all homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring:
  - Rare: Prevent and divert homelessness whenever possible
  - Brief: When homelessness does occur, households quickly connect to housing resources and appropriate resources
  - Non-Recurring: Households exiting homelessness are provided the services and support needed to retain their housing over time.

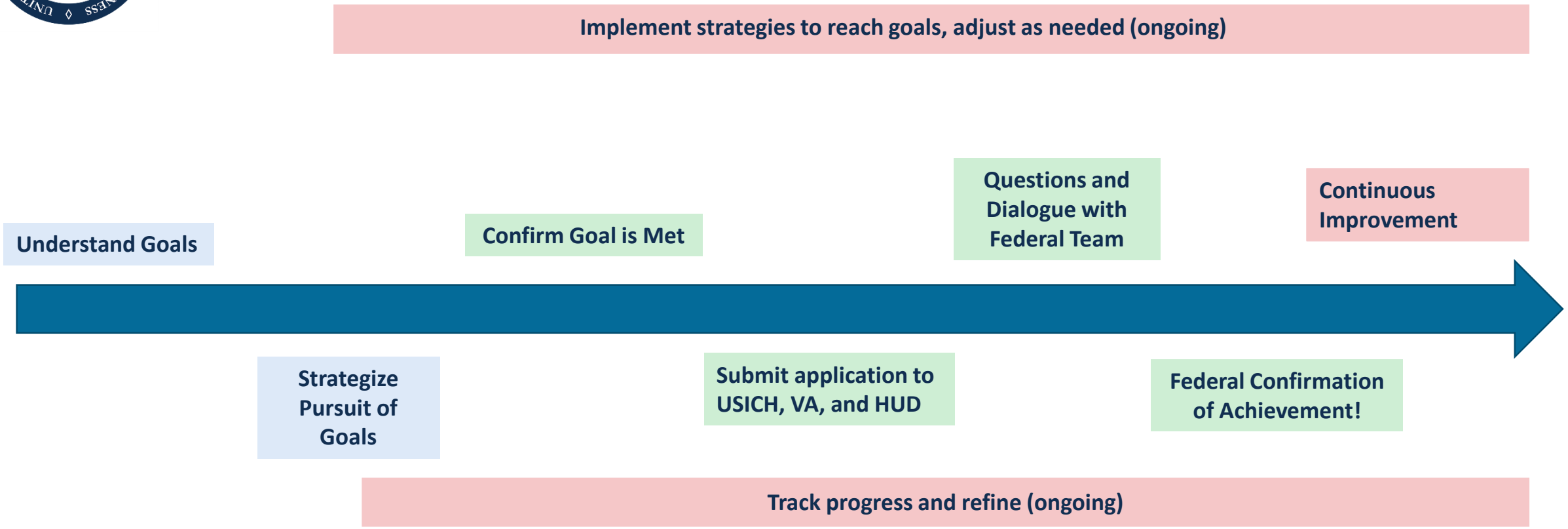
Federal Criteria Across Populations

- All households in population must be identified and outreached to, including use of a by name list to track individual progress toward housing
- No individual or household should ever be unsheltered – immediate temporary accommodations must be available, including for those with higher barriers
- All households quickly connected to permanent or non-time limited housing options
- Transitional Housing is used in limited instances and community fully embraces a Housing First approach in overall program and system design
- Homelessness can be prevented where possible; where not, system has capacity to link people to permanent housing quickly

Federal Benchmarks Across Populations

- System performance must be measured in near real time
- The overall number of people experiencing homelessness for each population is important but not the only factor
- The rapidity with which systems can connect individual households to housing, taking into account client choices, demonstrates overall system flow and capacity
- Transitional housing is a critical tool, but data should demonstrate permanent housing as the key driver of ending homelessness
- Long term capacity of the system must be adequate (sustainability)
- Benchmarks are milestones, not end goals. Always room for further improvement

Federal Confirmation Process



Key Lessons from the Confirmation Process

- **Strong Political Will**
  - Strong public commitment
  - Planning for administration changes
  - Recognition and celebration of public official efforts

- **Collaborative Efforts**
  - Cross cutting partnerships among local, state federal
  - Formalized data sharing strategies that integrate multiple data points across the CoC, VA and community providers
  - Transparent systems and strategies
  - Coordinated outreach efforts with direct linkage to BNL and housing resources
  - Formal MOUs or Letters of Agreements to formalize process and absorb personnel/partner transitions

Key Lessons from the Confirmation Process

- **Strong Coordinated Entry Systems**
  - Prevention and diversion when possible
  - Rapid linkages to housing offers and opportunities
  - PH as the primary intervention
  - Prioritization based on vulnerability and need
  - Fully Housing First Orientation

- **Efficient, housing focused Crisis Response**
  - Access to low barrier shelter at any time
  - Housing linkages immediately provided or soon thereafter
  - Shelter policies that support housing first system approaches
  - Creative means to prevent and also CES access when needed (Proactive, Prioritized, People-Centered)

Key Lessons on Sustainability

- Highly committed core leadership teams and service networks
- Public, focused commitment to overall Federal Goals from the beginning
- Full integration into CoC Governance and Coordinated Entry process
- P&Ps standardize CES population and how it fits into overall CES process
- Clear training and communication protocol providers
- Integration of Master List into standard, efficient system or, over time, integration of ML elements into HMIS or similar
- Clear, written process for recruiting housing partners and managing unit portfolio
- Communities willing to implement new programs/strategies (e.g. Rep payee program, mitigation funds) after confirmation in order to assist Veterans in maintaining housing.

Key Lessons on Sustainability

- Sustainability planning starts **NOW**, not after Federal Confirmation
- Firm, public commitments from local leadership (Mayors, County Officials, etc)
- Public and ongoing commitment to Federal Goals, including PR clarifications
- Implementation of MOUs or other formal agreements between system partners (CoC, VA, providers, etc)
  - Standard protocols that allow for sharing, analyzing and proactively using data across systems
  - Fully inclusive, transparent information sharing across all partners
  - Mutual and defined accountability
  - Cost sharing and other creative practices where possible (SSVF)

Community Example

Resources

- Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness
- Ending Veteran Homelessness: Our Progress, Essential Strategies, and the Work Ahead
- 10 Strategies to End Veteran Homelessness
- Vets@Home
- SSVF: Community Planning Toolkit includes guides and info for BNL, community planning, and case conferencing.
- GPD: Bridge Housing
- GPD: NOFA and Transformation Fact Sheet

Stay Connected

Subscribe to our newsletter: usich.gov/signup

facebook.com/USICH

twitter.com/USICHgov

www.usich.gov