



2019 VA, HUD, and USICH Community Planning Survey and local housing strategies

[Audio Link to Webinar](#)

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- Jeffrey Lubell, Director of Housing and Community Initiatives, Abt Associates

Agenda

- Introductions
- Survey Purpose and Background
- Survey Access
- FY 18 Completion
- Framing the current housing market
- The importance of a local housing strategy



Community Planning Data Context

- **Began February 2015:**
 - Written plans developed by SSVF Priority 1 funded communities.
 - Word document.
 - Mostly narrative.
- **March – November 2015:**
 - All community submissions.
 - Excel version; general data points & narrative.
- **2016:**
 - SurveyMonkey survey format.
 - Standardized response options.
 - Deeper dive into specifics of community planning efforts.
- **2017 - 2019:**
 - Joint survey in collaboration with HUD and USICH.



Survey Purpose

- Collect information on progress in ending Veteran homelessness.
- Provide an opportunity for reflection at the community level including strengths and areas for development.
- Assist Federal Partners (VA, HUD, and USICH) with understanding successes and challenges to:
 - Tailor training and technical assistance to effectively address local needs.
- Provides an opportunity for VAMC staff, CoCs, and community partners to collectively reflect at the community level on areas of strengths and areas for development.



Survey Content

- Demographics/Survey Completion Information
- Mayor or Public Official Involvement and Milestones
- Planning and Implementation Efforts
- Partnerships
- Data and Data Sharing
- Permanent Housing
- Adoption of Best Practices
- Federal Criteria and Benchmarks
- Technical Assistance and Additional Feedback
- ***New Questions on Coordinated Entry, Partnerships, and Data***



Expectations

- There should only be ONE response per CoC
- Responses are to be inclusive.
- SSVF grantees should facilitate submissions while including appropriate stakeholders (example: including HMIS lead agency for data portion to ensure accuracy).
- SSVF grantees should **not** submit responses in isolation.
- This survey is not meant to be an evaluation.
 - No impact on funding, awards, or compliance.
 - Open and honest responses needed.
- Balance of States (BOS):
 - Prepare a collective response as one (1) submission. .



Expectations



2019 Survey Access

- The FY 19 survey link and Companion Guide will be emailed to SSVF GIFTS point of contacts by Friday, April 12th
- An email will be sent to HUD Collaborative Applicants requesting participation and highlighting request for HMIS Leads to participate in the data completion
- Email questions to Tamara.Wright2@va.gov
- Surveys are due on Monday, June 3rd, 2019



2018 Survey Completion

- VA received data from 368 Continuums of Care (CoCs).
 - ~92% response rate (based on 401 CoCs nationally)
 - I challenge us all to increase the response rate!!
- Two states (Wyoming and Montana) were not represented in this dataset due to incomplete data submissions or failure to submit a survey.
- Difficulty obtaining data from small CoCs not covered by SSVF.
- There is a presentation of last year's results on SSVF University
https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/docs/Community_Planning_Survey_Presentation_FY18.pdf



2018 Survey Highlights

- Most Communities have a BNL and is updated at least monthly
- Most Communities are Case Conferencing at least monthly
- Diversion, data sharing, and prioritization are top requested TA items
 - VAMC's are sharing or have HMIS access at much higher rate than previously
 - Federal Partners introduced Rapid Resolution/Diversion training
- Most communities are seeking Federal Criteria and Benchmarks



Federal Partners

HUD

- Diversion/Rapid Exit
- Support with Coordinated Entry Implementation
- Promising Practices and Lessons Learned
- Unsheltered
- Rural and BOS

USICH

- Diversion/Rapid Exit Housing
- Partnerships/Landlord Engagement
- Rural areas
- Engaging Political Officials/Leadership
- Sustaining systems
- Understanding of Federal Criteria and Benchmarks


VA

- Diversion/Rapid Exit
- Support with VA Integration into CES especially dedication of resources and rural/BOS
- Support with CES positions (role, training, and collaboration with VAMC homeless programs and with CoCs)
- VA Data Sharing: Advanced Practices and Analysis



Using the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness to Establish Local Housing Strategies

April 11, 2019



Founded in 1924

NLC is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people. NLC works to strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions.



19,000 cities, towns, and villages

>2,100 direct members

**49 state municipal leagues
(not Hawaii...only one city)**



Launched in 2014

Joining Forces

HUD

USICH

VA



Mayors Challenge Federal Partners 2019

USICH

HUD

VA



Mayors Challenge National Partners 2019

**National Coalition for
Homeless Veterans**



**National Alliance to End
Homelessness**

Community Solutions

As of March 2019:

>500+ active participants

Quarterly newsletters

Bi-annual forums

Individual technical support as requested

On-going recruitment with HUD field
office directors & Regional Administrators




Use the Criteria & Benchmarks to Determine a Specific Ask of Mayors Challenge Participants

Landlord Engagement in Effective Systems



Charleston, SC
Charlotte, NC
Colorado Springs, CO
Madison, WI
Oakland, CA

Omaha, NE
Orlando, FL
Indianapolis, IN
St. Louis, MO
Tucson, AZ



Engage with area Apartment Associations

- Use data to contextualize progress and illustrate need
- Regular Events (once a month, twice a quarter)
- Variety of Events (member groups, match making events, educational/social)
- Use industry language
 - Class B/C
 - owner managed v. fee/third-party managed

Develop Landlord Incentive Funds

- **Incentive Funds v. Mitigation Funds**
 - **Damage costs (capped) above security deposit**
 - **“Gap” payments (payment standard v. market rent)**
 - **Vacancy payments**
 - **Utility arrears**
 - **Application fees, credit checks, criminal background checks**
 - **Property improvements (to meet HQS)**

Incentive Funds are example of local housing policy that improves access to the existing stock of housing.

Improving access to the existing stock is an entry point to community conversation about the need for a comprehensive and balanced housing strategy based on an assessment of local housing needs.



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