

#1



COMPLETE

PAGE 2: Part 1: Demographics

Q1: Contact Information

Name	Mary Simons
Organization	Open Doors Homeless Coalition
Email Address	marysimons2@aol.com

Q2: Choose your Continuum of Care Code: (MS-503) Gulf Port/Gulf Coast Regional CoC

PAGE 3: Part 2: Coordination

Q3: Does the CoC provide input into the plan development and implementation? Yes

Q4: Who is the CoC point of contact?

Name:	Mary Simons
Email:	marysimons2@aol.com
Organization:	Open Doors Homeless Coalition
Phone #:	2283438991

Q5: How was the initial community plan developed? (Please select one) The CoC developed the plan to end Veteran homelessness as part of their larger planning efforts.

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Q6: Specifically, what role do SSVF grantees play in plan implementation? (Please select all that apply.)

One or more of the SSVF grantees are leading the coordination and facilitation of strategic planning meetings for the Veterans Subcommittee or CoC.

,

One or more of the SSVF grantees are leading the case conferencing process.

,

One or more of the SSVF grantees is leading certain aspects of the plan not covered above.

,

All SSVF grantees attend planning meetings and are actively engaged in planning efforts.

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All SSVF grantees participate in regular case conferences.

,

The SSVF grantees represent a unified team, stance, and strategy.

Q7: List all of the SSVF Grantees that are involved with the process in the community. Please list each program by their Grant ID/number and agency (not program) name. For example: 13-ZZ-094 Friendship Place.

14-MS-232 Hancock Resource Center
 13-MS-111 Region XII Commission on Mental Health
 14-MS-233 Voices of Calvary Ministry

Q8: Are the following VA funded programs involved?

	(no label)
HUD and Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	Yes
Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)	Yes
Grant and Per Diem (GPD)	Not Applicable
Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC)	Not Applicable
Domiciliary Care for Veterans (VA-Dom)	Not Applicable
Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)	Not Applicable
Safe Haven	Not Applicable

Q9: Are community partners able to share/receive client-level data with the VA and vice versa? Yes

Q10: Are community partners able to share/receive data on housing and performance with the VA and vice versa? Yes

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Q11: If the community is not able to share/receive data, which of the following would be helpful? (Select all that apply.)

Community is able to share/receive data ,
Other (please specify)
We share by phone and through the case conferencing process. We do not share through HMIS. It would be helpful if the VA participated fully in HMIS.

**Q12: Are Veterans integrated into coordinated entry?
Note: Participation in coordinated entry is a requirement of the SSVF program. (Please select all that apply.)**

Coordinated entry includes Veterans and allows for assessment, prioritization, and housing matching ,
Coordinated entry includes Veterans and the VA, but it is not the way to access VA resources like HUD-VASH ,
Coordinated entry is used as a referral source only but is not how Veterans access resources ,
Other (please specify)
We currently have a "no wrong door" coordinated entry process that is evolving. If a person enters through the CoC, he or she is referred to the VA for medical care and VASH, if appropriate. If the veteran is not eligible for VASH, the veteran is assessed, prioritized, and matched with available housing resources, including SSVF. At times, the VA will make a referral to SSVF for deposits in conjunction with VASH. If the CoC notices that someone has remained on the by-name list for a period of time, the HMIS administrator checks where the person has received services and initiates targeted outreach with providers, including CoC, SSVF, and/ or VA, depending on the veteran's needs.

Q13: Who is lead point of contact for coordinated entry?

Name: Patti Guider
Organization: Open Doors Homeless Coalition
Organization Type (VAMC, CoC, SSVF Grantee, etc.): CoC HMIS lead
Phone #: 228-604-2048
Email: pattiguider@opendoorshc.org

PAGE 4: Part 3: By Name List

Q14: Does the community have a by name list?

Yes

Q15: Who manages the by name list?

Name: Mary Simons
Role: CoC lead
Organization: Open Doors Homeless Coalition
Organization Type (VAMC, CoC, SSVF Grantee, etc.): CoC

Q16: Does your list have the following elements? (Select all that apply.)

Includes all unsheltered Veterans,

Includes all Veterans in emergency shelter (regardless of shelter funding source)

,

Includes all Veterans in transitional housing (GPD, community TH, regardless of funding source)

,

List is one complete document not made of multiple or different parts

Q17: If your community has a by name list, could you please provide us with the following data involving totals of those currently on the list:

Number of unsheltered Veterans on the list	6
Number of Veterans currently in ES on the list	3
Number of Veterans currently in TH (including GPD)	1
Number of Veterans who have a housing plan	8

Q18: How often do you meet to review and update the by name list? Monthly

Q19: What is your community's definition of ending Veteran homelessness? Please tell us about the strategies included in your plan. Please provide a succinct response. For example, ZZ-400 CoC defined ending Veteran homelessness by 0 unsheltered Veterans on a given night, less than 50 in emergency shelters and transitional housing all with a housing plan within 5 business days, and to house Veterans within 60 days of entering the homeless system.

The Gulf Port/ Gulf Coast Region CoC has met the federal benchmarks and criteria to effectively end homelessness among veterans and have achieved functional zero according to the Zero 2016 definition. We have identified an inflow of 17 veterans per month over the last four months and have consistently housed an average of 23 veterans per month for 12 months. We have housed veterans, on average, within 20 days of enrollment into a program. Veterans are maintaining housing at a rate of 94%. We intend to sustain the progress through the processes implemented in 2015. Every veteran currently experiencing homelessness tonight has a housing plan (8) or have refused housing and engagement continues (2).

PAGE 5: Part 4: Meetings and Strategy

Q20: What types of meetings does your community have?

(no label)

Case Conferences

Monthly

Strategic Planning Meetings (Bigger Picture)

Monthly

Q21: When are your next three strategic planning meetings? (Include date, time)

Meeting 1 02/18/2016 10:30 AM,

Meeting 2 03/17/2016 10:30 AM,

Meeting 3 04/21/2016 10:30 AM

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Q22: Would you like us to participate in one of these meetings?

Yes,

If you selected "Yes" please provide the Call In information
Call in information is not currently available; however, you certainly can participate in person or make call-in arrangements.

Q23: Do you have coordinated outreach efforts? (Select all that apply)

Team focused on outreach efforts,

Ability to quickly connect an unsheltered Veteran household to a safe place

,

Ongoing and consistent efforts,

Coordinated tracking efforts (as in assignments, planning, and mapping)

,

Know all Vets on street by name, and they are continuously engaged

Q24: Is permanent housing offered to Veterans experiencing homelessness upfront?

Yes

Q25: If Veterans are choosing service-intensive transitional housing are they:

(no label)

Being offered permanent housing while in service-intensive TH at least every two weeks

Yes

Are these offers documented?

Yes

Q26: Please describe your community's available housing resources and ability to place Veterans into housing (Please check all that apply.)

Sufficient quantity of permanent housing resources available in the community

,

Housing resources are readily accessible ,

Veterans household placement into permanent housing within 90 days or less

,

Ability to operate or navigate within the parameters of our housing market

PAGE 6: Part 5: Federal Criteria and Support

Q27: Has your community decided to pursue the federal partners' process?

Yes

Q28: Has your community submitted a claim to the federal partners (USICH, VA, HUD)?

Yes

Q29: If the answer to Question 28 was "Yes", please provide the date the claim was submitted and its current status (pending, approved, denied).

Date: November, 2015
Status: Approved

Q30: Is the community currently receiving technical assistance? Please check all that apply. If you select other, please indicate what other type of technical assistance you are receiving.

Zero 2016

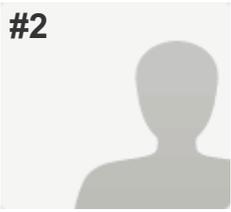
Q31: Would you like technical assistance (if available)? (Select all that apply.)

Other (please specify)
We are getting assistance from Zero 2016

Q32: Are there any comments/notes that you would like to share (about the survey, your community, etc.)?

Respondent skipped this question

#2



COMPLETE

PAGE 2: Part 1: Demographics

Q1: Contact Information

Name	Ledger Parker
Organization	MUTEH, Inc.
Email Address	lparker@muteh.org

Q2: Choose your Continuum of Care Code: (MS-501) Mississippi Balance of State CoC

PAGE 3: Part 2: Coordination

Q3: Does the CoC provide input into the plan development and implementation? Yes

Q4: Who is the CoC point of contact?

Name:	Reginald Glenn
Email:	rglenn@muteh.org
Organization:	MS Balance of State CoC
Phone #:	6019600557

Q5: How was the initial community plan developed? (Please select one) The CoC developed the plan to end Veteran homelessness as part of their larger planning efforts.

Q6: Specifically, what role do SSVF grantees play in plan implementation? (Please select all that apply.) One or more of the SSVF grantees are leading the coordination and facilitation of strategic planning meetings for the Veterans Subcommittee or CoC.

Q7: List all of the SSVF Grantees that are involved with the process in the community. Please list each program by their Grant ID/number and agency (not program) name. For example: 13-ZZ-094 Friendship Place.

13-MS-111 Region XII Commission on Mental Health & Retardation (Pine Belt Mental Health)

14-MS-231 MS United to End Homelessness

Q8: Are the following VA funded programs involved?

	(no label)
HUD and Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	Yes
Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)	Yes
Grant and Per Diem (GPD)	Yes
Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC)	No
Domiciliary Care for Veterans (VA-Dom)	No
Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)	No
Safe Haven	No

Q9: Are community partners able to share/receive client-level data with the VA and vice versa? Yes

Q10: Are community partners able to share/receive data on housing and performance with the VA and vice versa? Yes

Q11: If the community is not able to share/receive data, which of the following would be helpful? (Select all that apply.) Community is able to share/receive data

Q12: Are Veterans integrated into coordinated entry? Coordinated entry is being piloted ,
Note: Participation in coordinated entry is a requirement of the SSVF program. (Please select all that apply.) Coordinated entry includes Veterans and allows for assessment, prioritization, and housing matching ,
 Coordinated entry includes Veterans and the VA, but it is not the way to access VA resources like HUD-VASH

Q13: Who is lead point of contact for coordinated entry?

Name: Kathy Garner
 Organization: ASC
 Organization Type (VAMC, CoC, SSVF Grantee, etc.): CoC and HOPWA Grantee
 Phone #: 6014504286
 Email: asc@megagate.com

PAGE 4: Part 3: By Name List

Q14: Does the community have a by name list? No

Q15: Who manages the by name list?

Name: Ledger Parker
 Role: HMIS Admin, CoC Collaborative Applicant and Planning Grant Recipient, and SSVF Grantee
 Organization: MUTEH, Inc.
 Organization Type (VAMC, CoC, SSVF Grantee, etc.): CoC, SSVF, HMIS.

Q16: Does your list have the following elements? (Select all that apply.)

Respondent skipped this question

Q17: If your community has a by name list, could you please provide us with the following data involving totals of those currently on the list:

Respondent skipped this question

Q18: How often do you meet to review and update the by name list?

Respondent skipped this question

Q19: What is your community’s definition of ending Veteran homelessness? Please tell us about the strategies included in your plan. Please provide a succinct response. For example, ZZ-400 CoC defined ending Veteran homelessness by 0 unsheltered Veterans on a given night, less than 50 in emergency shelters and transitional housing all with a housing plan within 5 business days, and to house Veterans within 60 days of entering the homeless system.

The Balance of State CoC and its SSVF providers continue to exceed the CoC’s monthly target of 21 - 22 Veteran households being rapidly rehoused. Data from the VA Gaps Analysis and the Balance of State CoC’s HMIS lead agency, MUTEH, estimated that 259 Veterans will become homeless this year. Since last year’s (2015) Point in Time Count (Registry Week), MS Balance of State CoC providers have served 345 Veterans (data pulled from system-wide reports from the CoC HMIS database).

The group is in constant dialogue as they work toward the goal of ending veteran homelessness this year and were meeting at least monthly; however, certain leaders within the group meet more frequently and update the other group members as needed. This relieves group members from attending meetings that do not apply to their target population, but also allows for them to remain informed and give input as they see fit.

Since the Registry Week in January 2015, the CoC has attempted to add and subtract from the listing as needed; therefore, a list of homeless veterans (prioritized by their VI-SPDAT score) is available for review at each of the team’s meetings. The Collaborative Applicant for the Balance of State CoC, MUTEH, developed regionalized lists of Homeless Veterans. These lists were shared with the local VA Medical Center, and the VAMC staff were able to track which homeless Veterans had been engaged through the VA’s efforts. Huge successes were documented and shared with other providers - the region with the highest counts of veteran homelessness (in the entire Balance of State CoC) now has an application with the USICH to declare functional zero. There are currently two other communities that are preparing to contact USICH to declare functional zero.

The CoC committee has launched the Coordinated Entry System pilot in one of the CoC’s regional coalitions, and is currently reviewing the dynamics. The plan is to phase in other regional coalitions as determined by the CES committee. Reaching functional zero has continued to be the top priority of the group. System reports are consistently reviewed to ensure that programs are targeting those which are most appropriate for their program. The group also confirms that literally homeless veterans are being served in an adequate timeline (average length of homelessness is under 30 days). Linkages to mainstream resources are discussed with VA medical center staff sitting at the table alongside other homeless service providers.

The group aims to direct available prevention services to prevent the influx of Veterans into homelessness. The group hopes to work with the CoC HMIS committee in analyzing veteran shelter data to better identify which veterans in prevention will most likely hit the homeless system. The group, alongside other CoC committees, fully expects to end all veteran homelessness in the CoC’s 71 county coverage area in the near future.

Q20: What types of meetings does your community have?

(no label)

Case Conferences

Monthly

Strategic Planning Meetings (Bigger Picture)

Monthly

Q21: When are your next three strategic planning meetings? (Include date, time)

Meeting 1 03/04/2016 10:00 AM,

Meeting 2 04/01/2016 10:00 AM,

Meeting 3 05/06/2016 10:00 AM

Q22: Would you like us to participate in one of these meetings?

Yes,

If you selected "Yes" please provide the Call In information
6018126611 pin 1234

Q23: Do you have coordinated outreach efforts? (Select all that apply)

Team focused on outreach efforts,
Ability to quickly connect an unsheltered Veteran household to a safe place
,
Ongoing and consistent efforts,
Coordinated tracking efforts (as in assignments, planning, and mapping)
,
Know all Vets on street by name, and they are continuously engaged

Q24: Is permanent housing offered to Veterans experiencing homelessness upfront?

Yes

Q25: If Veterans are choosing service-intensive transitional housing are they:

(no label)

Being offered permanent housing while in service-intensive TH at least every two weeks

No

Are these offers documented?

No

Q26: Please describe your community's available housing resources and ability to place Veterans into housing (Please check all that apply.)

Sufficient quantity of permanent housing resources available in the community
,
Housing resources are readily accessible ,
Veterans household placement into permanent housing within 90 days or less
,
Ability to operate or navigate within the parameters of our housing market

PAGE 6: Part 5: Federal Criteria and Support

Q27: Has your community decided to pursue the federal partners' process? Yes

Q28: Has your community submitted a claim to the federal partners (USICH, VA, HUD)? Yes

Q29: If the answer to Question 28 was "Yes", please provide the date the claim was submitted and its current status (pending, approved, denied).

Date: 12/21/15

Status: Pending

Q30: Is the community currently receiving technical assistance? Please check all that apply. If you select other, please indicate what other type of technical assistance you are receiving. No

Q31: Would you like technical assistance (if available)? (Select all that apply.) Assistance with data sharing between VA and community

Q32: Are there any comments/notes that you would like to share (about the survey, your community, etc.)?

Our CoC covers 71 rural counties in Mississippi, we've worked diligently to coordinate efforts to end Veteran homelessness in our many communities. Therefore, several regional coalitions/communities are piloting CES efforts, but I have answered this survey to reflect the communities that are not. The survey would be answered more accurately (and be more positive), if we were able to report on the varying efforts that are occurring across our CoC.

#3



COMPLETE

PAGE 2: Part 1: Demographics

Q1: Contact Information

Name	Lisa G. Williams
Organization	PTEH, Inc.
Email Address	lgwilliams@ptehms.org

Q2: Choose your Continuum of Care Code: (MS-500) Jackson/Rankin, Madison Counties CoC

PAGE 3: Part 2: Coordination

Q3: Does the CoC provide input into the plan development and implementation? Yes

Q4: Who is the CoC point of contact?

Name:	Louis Armstrong
Email:	larmstrong@city.jackson.ms.us
Organization:	City of Jackson / MS-500 CoC Chair
Phone #:	601-988-3741

Q5: How was the initial community plan developed? (Please select one)

Other (please specify)
 An initial meeting with the VAMC was held with the SSVF service providers and CoC leadership from MS-500 and MS-501 was held to identify key elements for the state, as noted by the VAMC plan. A meeting with the providers and CoC leadership then developed a plan specific the needs of veterans in the catchment areas and resources of the providers. Both CoC's were initiants of the plan, due to the cross-CoC provision of services by most of the SSVF providers. The plan's follow-up was turned over to CoC sub-committees within the perspective CoC's.

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Q6: Specifically, what role do SSVF grantees play in plan implementation? (Please select all that apply.)

One or more of the SSVF grantees are leading the coordination and facilitation of strategic planning meetings for the Veterans Subcommittee or CoC.

,

One or more of the SSVF grantees are leading the case conferencing process.

,

All SSVF grantees participate in regular case conferences.

,

Some SSVF grantees attend planning meetings and are actively engaged in planning efforts.

,

The SSVF grantees represent a unified team, stance, and strategy.

,

Other (please specify)

Monthly agenda calls with SSVF technical support allow all providers to share information, challenges and solutions.

Q7: List all of the SSVF Grantees that are involved with the process in the community. Please list each program by their Grant ID/number and agency (not program) name. For example: 13-ZZ-094 Friendship Place.

14-MS-234 Catholic Charities, Inc. (Diocese of Jackson)

15-MS-331 PTEH, Inc.

14-MS-233 Soldier On of Delaware, Inc.

Q8: Are the following VA funded programs involved?

	(no label)
HUD and Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	Yes
Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)	Not Applicable
Grant and Per Diem (GPD)	Not Applicable
Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC)	Yes
Domiciliary Care for Veterans (VA-Dom)	Not Applicable
Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)	Yes
Safe Haven	Not Applicable

Q9: Are community partners able to share/receive client-level data with the VA and vice versa?

No

Q10: Are community partners able to share/receive data on housing and performance with the VA and vice versa?

Yes

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Q11: If the community is not able to share/receive data, which of the following would be helpful? (Select all that apply.)

A call with the VA Privacy Officer regarding privacy policy and releases

,

A call with the VAMC Information Security Officer (ISO) related to security and the ability to share data with an outside source that is not the VA (e.g. transmission of PII over VA networks/systems)

,

Support with explaining the importance to a VAMC Director

,

Support on sharing and communicating performance data

Q12: Are Veterans integrated into coordinated entry? Note: Participation in coordinated entry is a requirement of the SSVF program. (Please select all that apply.)

Coordinated entry is in the planning stages only and has not been implemented

,

Coordinated entry is used as a referral source only but is not how Veterans access resources

Q13: Who is lead point of contact for coordinated entry?

Name:

Lisa G. Williams

Organization:

PTEH

Organization Type (VAMC, CoC, SSVF Grantee, etc.):

SSVF Grantee/HMIS Lead Agency

Phone #:

601-213-5301 ext. 101

Email:

lgwilliams@ptehms.org

PAGE 4: Part 3: By Name List

Q14: Does the community have a by name list?

Yes

Q15: Who manages the by name list?

Name:

Quotasze Williams

Role:

HMIS Coordinator

Organization:

PTEH

Organization Type (VAMC, CoC, SSVF Grantee, etc.):

SSVF Grantee/SSVF Lead Agency

Q16: Does your list have the following elements? (Select all that apply.)

Includes all unsheltered Veterans,

Includes all Veterans in emergency shelter (regardless of shelter funding source)

,

Includes all Veterans in transitional housing (GPD, community TH, regardless of funding source)

Q17: If your community has a by name list, could you please provide us with the following data involving totals of those currently on the list:

Number of unsheltered Veterans on the list	16
Number of Veterans currently in ES on the list	17
Number of Veterans currently in TH (including GPD)	9
Number of Veterans who have a housing plan	23

Q18: How often do you meet to review and update the by name list? Quarterly

Q19: What is your community's definition of ending Veteran homelessness? Please tell us about the strategies included in your plan. Please provide a succinct response. For example, ZZ-400 CoC defined ending Veteran homelessness by 0 unsheltered Veterans on a given night, less than 50 in emergency shelters and transitional housing all with a housing plan within 5 business days, and to house Veterans within 60 days of entering the homeless system.

The MS-500 definition of ending Veteran Homelessness followed the Functional Zero Definition: The community's average number of homeless veterans per month is less than the average number of veterans housed per month within the same catchment area. The completion of the PIT count and re-evaluation of the plan will re-define the definition in 2016.

PAGE 5: Part 4: Meetings and Strategy

Q20: What types of meetings does your community have?

	(no label)
Case Conferences	Monthly
Strategic Planning Meetings (Bigger Picture)	Other

Q21: When are your next three strategic planning meetings? (Include date, time)

Meeting 1 02/24/2016 01:00 PM,

Meeting 2 03/24/2016 01:00 PM,

Meeting 3 04/23/2016 01:00 PM

Q22: Would you like us to participate in one of these meetings? No

Q23: Do you have coordinated outreach efforts? (Select all that apply) Ongoing and consistent efforts

Q24: Is permanent housing offered to Veterans experiencing homelessness upfront? Yes

Q25: If Veterans are choosing service-intensive transitional housing are they:

	(no label)
Being offered permanent housing while in service-intensive TH at least every two weeks	No
Are these offers documented?	No

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Q26: Please describe your community's available housing resources and ability to place Veterans into housing (Please check all that apply.)

Housing resources are readily accessible ,
 Veterans household placement into permanent housing within 90 days or less
 ,
 Ability to operate or navigate within the parameters of our housing market
 ,
 Other (please specify)
 There is a shortage of affordable, habitable housing in the catchment area of MS-500

PAGE 6: Part 5: Federal Criteria and Support

Q27: Has your community decided to pursue the federal partners' process?

Yes

Q28: Has your community submitted a claim to the federal partners (USICH, VA, HUD)?

No

Q29: If the answer to Question 28 was "Yes", please provide the date the claim was submitted and its current status (pending, approved, denied).

Respondent skipped this question

Q30: Is the community currently receiving technical assistance? Please check all that apply. If you select other, please indicate what other type of technical assistance you are receiving.

Zero 2016, SSVF TA

Q31: Would you like technical assistance (if available)? (Select all that apply.)

Assistance with by name list,
 Assistance with data sharing between VA and community
 ,
 Assistance with strategy development,
 Assistance with stakeholder coordination and communication
 ,
 Assistance with CoC engagement

Q32: Are there any comments/notes that you would like to share (about the survey, your community, etc.)?

Strengths are:

Being part of the Zero 2016 Campaign to end homelessness has brought community partnerships together in new ways and have allowed our CoC to focus on by name listed of veterans identified within our community to focus housing at reaching these VA and local goals. The City of Jackson's mayor signing the Mayoral Challenge to end Veteran Homelessness has also offered new support to meeting local goals. Identified challenges throughout the CoC is the need for a wider community and service provider "by-in" to best practice approaches. All SSVF service providers have been recently re-funded and most are members of the CoC. This provides an opportunity to collectively examine our strengths and goals reached as a community, and set specific goals for the new funding period, to better coordinate the use of these funds as a continuum specifically for veterans. The Zero 2015-2016 goals allow the CoC to target specific numbers. New mergers with the HMIS system state wide also allow this CoC to examine the data of other CoC's in the state to request sharing of strategies used to reach target goals and populations. Challenges are:

Commitment from local emergency shelters and day shelters to assist with better identification of homeless veterans who would benefit from available services targeted at ending homelessness is challenging within the area. Many of

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who would benefit from available services targeted at ending homelessness is challenging within the area. Many of these service organizations missions are focused on offering temporary respite for homeless persons while addressing their primary issue or in the case of more faith based organizations throughout the community keeping persons engaged while reaching goals outside of the issue of homelessness. Mississippi's current poverty rate of 22%, which is the highest in the nation coupled with the current unemployment rate of 6.8%, which is the second highest in the nation. will continue to also prove a challenge for communities throughout Mississippi. Episodes of homelessness within our state as a result can be at a higher percentage than the national average making the utilization of many tools aimed at projecting need result in underestimating actual demand.

Strengths are:

Being part of the Zero 2016 Campaign to end homelessness has brought community partnerships together in new ways and have allowed our CoC to focus on by name listed of veterans identified within our community to focus housing at reaching these VA and local goals. The City of Jackson's mayor signing the Mayoral Challenge to end Veteran Homelessness has also offered new support to meeting local goals. Identified challenges throughout the CoC is the need for a wider community and service provider "by-in" to best practice approaches. All SSVF service providers have been recently re-funded and most are members of the CoC. This provides an opportunity to collectively examine our strengths and goals reached as a community, and set specific goals for the new funding period, to better coordinate the use of these funds as a continuum specifically for veterans. The Zero 2015-2016 goals allow the CoC to target specific numbers. New mergers with the HMIS system state wide also allow this CoC to examine the data of other CoC's in the state to request sharing of strategies used to reach target goals and populations. Challenges are:

Commitment from local emergency shelters and day shelters to assist with better identification of homeless veterans who would benefit from available services targeted at ending homelessness is challenging within the area. Many of these service organizations missions are focused on offering temporary respite for homeless persons while addressing their primary issue or in the case of more faith based organizations throughout the community keeping persons engaged while reaching goals outside of the issue of homelessness. Mississippi's current poverty rate of 22%, which is the highest in the nation coupled with the current unemployment rate of 6.8%, which is the second highest in the nation. will continue to also prove a challenge for communities throughout Mississippi. Episodes of homelessness within our state as a result can be at a higher percentage than the national average making the utilization of many tools aimed at projecting need result in underestimating actual demand.

The Central MS. CoC, despite a great deal of restructuring in the last year, has continued to maintain an excellent level of direct services to the veterans in our area. As we restructure the leadership roles within our community, we welcome the input of the technical assistance provided above. We are anxious to improve our levels of service by expanding our

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presence from individual agency providers to community providers.

The survey format is much more comprehensive to the focus and planning needed within our community, and a much better tool for our leadership to use.
