

SSVF: Community Plan Summary

Date Completed/Revised: 7/1/2015

Continuum of Care Name:	San Antonio/Bexar County CoC	CoC Number:	TX-500
CoC Representative:	Travis Pearson	Title:	CEO, Family Endeavors, Inc / President, SARAH
Phone/Email: (210) 431-6466 ; tpearson@familyendeavors.org			
Person Completing this Summary:	Bobby Ehrig	Title:	Program Manager - S. Texas Region 1, Family Endeavors, Inc
Phone/Email: (210) 431-6466, ext. 118 ; behrig@familyendeavors.org			

- 1. Primary Planning and Coordination Group:** Identify the primary group responsible for planning and coordinating efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in the CoC. List the principal members of this group and their affiliation.

Primary Group Name: South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH)	
Principal Members	Affiliation
Travis Pearson	Family Endeavors, Inc - SSVF Grantee
Lamar Elliott	Social Worker, VA VASH Program
Jerry Thayer	Senior Director, American GI Forum - SSVF Grantee
Shawn Rouse	Director - Client Services, American GI Forum - SSVF Grantee
Katie Vela	HMIS Administrator, City of San Antonio
Olga San Miguel	Salvation Army Hope Center
Jacquelyn Smith	Manager, San Antonio Housing Authority
Deborah Flach	San Antonio Housing Authority
Valerie Sullivan	Center for Health Care Services
Scott Ackerson	Center for Health Care Services - Haven 4 Hope
Avid Aurri	SAMMinistries
Steve Smith	SA Food Bank
Renee Trevino	Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid
Mario Cuevas	Salvation Army
Nancy Williams	Bexar County
Greg Matula	NuStar Energy
Mark Witherell	SA Police Department
Andey Grey	Church Under the Bridge

2. Ongoing Review and Coordination: Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group meets to review progress and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of what information is reviewed during these meetings.

The South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless, (SARAH), is the designated Continuum of Care (CoC) for San Antonio/Bexar County. With our partners in the community, meetings are held monthly to review progress and continue to adjust plans for ending homelessness. The group has developed a plan with the City of San Antonio to help drill down on those critically at-risk Veterans in an effort to reach Functional Zero. Increased efforts to coordinate services and information are on-going, including sharing of community events and service provider information to develop more holistic plans of long-term support. Progress from each group involved is reviewed to ensure that goals are met and that intervention processes in place are working. Monthly board meetings to address larger problems and issues.

The City of San Antonio Homeless Services has spearheaded individual target identification of unsheltered Veterans by name and is conducting bi-weekly workgroups to review clients and determine if any partner agency is currently assisting Veteran / Family. Plans include:

- a. Identification of specific barriers to housing for each Veteran (substance abuse, mental illness, previous evictions, criminal records)
- c. Development of a plan to overcome barriers and place the Veteran in permanent housing
- d. Developing a plan to for the Veteran to maintain lease compliance
- e. Shortening time in transitional housing

Wide implementation of the VI-SPDAT Assessment tool continues to prioritize the most critical Veterans and provide services in the most effective and expeditious manner. Implementation began in March 2015 and was mandated as an assessment tool on 23 Jun 2015.

3. Annual Demand, Goals, and Strategies for Achieving and Sustaining Functional Zero: Identify the estimated number of Veterans who are homeless annually and the community/CoC goals and strategies for achieving a functional end to Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (overall community/CoC goals, not just SSVF grantees). If one or more of the goals and strategies below have not yet been established for the community, leave blank and identify the date by which they will be established. See the **Ending Homelessness Among Veterans Overview** for additional guidance.

3A. Estimated Annual Number of Homeless Veterans: Identify the total unduplicated number of Veterans expected to be homeless in 2015 using data from the SSVF Edition of the Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 or data assumptions that have already been adopted by the community, such as the *VA CoC Gaps Analysis Tool (GAT)*.

Estimated Annual Total:	982
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3B. Community/CoC Goals: Identify your community's/CoC's key goals and targets.

A. Permanent Housing Placement Target & SSVF Rapid Re-Housing Placement Target:
 Complete and attach *SSVF Edition of Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 OR an CoC Gaps Analysis Tool – Strategy 4 (SSVF) Worksheet*

B. Length of Time Homeless Goal (max or average days):	60	days
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C. January 2016 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Goal	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Number of Veterans expected to be counted as homeless during the CoC's January 2016 PIT count:	81	0	81
Of number above, how many will also be counted as chronically homeless:	27	0	27

3C. Implementation Strategies: What strategies are being used to achieve and sustain functional zero?

	Yes/No/Under Dev
A. Has your community identified every Veteran who is homeless right now by name?	Yes
Is this list updated regularly?	Yes
Is this list reviewed at least bi-weekly by key community partners to ensure Veterans have a permanent housing plan and those plans are achieved?	Yes
B. Does every Veteran who is homeless now have a Housing Plan and access to safe (and low barrier as needed) shelter and/or permanent housing?	Yes
C. Is every Veteran who becomes homeless rapidly engaged and offered shelter and/or housing that meets their needs?	Yes
If so, is this true no matter where they are initially engaged in your community or what shelter or unsheltered location they may be in?	Yes
D. Are sufficient SSVF resources allocated to ensure there are no RRH gaps or turn-aways?	Yes
E. Are you using SSVF to rapidly re-house Veterans who are waiting on VASH or other PSH assistance if VASH/PSH is not available immediately or in near future?	Yes

4. Other Strengths and Challenges: Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

STRENGTHS: The SARAH and its community parnters have implemented mandatory VI-SPDAT use for Veterans and their family members. Training has been conducted to get 100% of staff qualified to conduct the assessment. City of San Antonio has provided multiple training events which has brought several agencies to their 100% goal. There was also a VI-SPDAT "blitz" conducted at the major homeless shelter with 20 volunteers from multiple agencies involved in an attempt to locate more Veterans not currently engaged. A goal to develop a map of the area with locations found by staff of encampments, culverts, bridges and other places where homeless reside has begun and will be shared by all parties to better develop plans of outreach and support. Progress continues on unified actions and is growing in size.

CHALLENGES: 2015 PIT was difficult to interpret. VA staff were needed to filter out those homeless who claimed Veteran status but could not be substantiated. There have been a large amount of false claimants in the San Antonio area. Difficulty in engaging Veterans in rural areas of the county still poses a significant issue. Many do not have normal areas of congregation. Reviewing take down numbers and Veterans still on the target list has been challenging but is being accomplished using the bi-weekly meetings. New state regulations on acceptable clients for rentals has forced programs to develop alternative means of locating units, which has slowed progress of housing Veterans.

Primary Group South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH)	
Principal Members	Affiliation
Travis Pearson	Family Endeavors, Inc - SSVF G
Lamar Elliott	Social Worker, VA VASH Proj
Jerry Thayer	Senior Director, American GI Forum -
Shawn Rouse	Director - Client Services, American GI Forum
Katie Vela	HMIS Administrator, City of San
Olga San Miguel	Salvation Army Hope Cent
Jacquelyn Smith	Manager, San Antonio Housing A
Deborah Flach	San Antonio Housing Authc
Valerie Sullivan	Center for Health Care Serv
Scott Ackerson	Center for Health Care Services - Ha
Avid Aurri	SAMMinistries
Steve Smith	SA Food Bank
Renee Trevino	Texas Rio Grande Legal A
Mario Cuevas	Salvation Army
Nancy Williams	Bexar County
Greg Matula	NuStar Energy
Mark Witherell	SA Police Department
Andey Grey	Church Under the Bridge
Gaylynn Schwenk	Family Violence Prevention Se
Ed Garza	San Antonio Independent Schoc

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2. Ongoing Review and Coordination: Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group meets to review progress and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of what information is reviewed during these meetings.

Beginning on December 15, 2014, the Austin Homeless Veterans Initiative (AHVI) members have met on a weekly basis (Monday AM) to provide updates on system coordination strategies such as Veteran Outreach, Landlord Outreach, HMIS Coordination and implementation of veteran referrals through Coordinated Assessment. Most importantly, the AHVI team reviews and refers real-time veteran cases with housing and other available supportive services and strategize solutions to address unique barriers for an individual household accessing housing.

The AHV Initiative tracks housing placements via Coordinated Assessment (via HMIS-ServicePoint) and provides weekly status updates on referrals. On a monthly basis, the programs serving the veterans provide a housing status update to ensure progress on successful housing placements. Currently, the CoC (ECHO) convenes the meetings and provide administrative support for the group to ensure tracking and progress toward re-housing all veteran households experiencing homelessness. In addition, this core body worked collaboratively to revise our Community Plan to End Veteran Homelessness and has reached out to other successful communities (Houston, New Orleans and LA) to learn best practices and strategies that we can adopt for the Austin/Travis County area. On May 30th, we implemented Housing Our Heros-coordinated volunteer veteran outreach effort in which we provide real time veteran status verification, complete coordinated assessment and provide real time program referrals to unsheltered veterans we have not yet engaged. We have scheduled two additional events (September and October) that may include utilizing active military members and ROTC cadets to add additional capacity to ensure we are engaging all veterans who are experiencing homelessness. In addition, we have increased engagement with key community leadership stakeholders (e.g. Mayor Adler, Senator Watson, City of Austin, Housing Authority of Austin, Non-Profit Provider Executive Directors) to help address the higher level systemic barriers to re-housing veterans (e.g. housing stock and housing affordability; landlord engagement, alternative funding sources for “bridge” funding, etc). Last, on May 1, 2015, we kicked off our OneKeyATX campaign to engage local landlords

3. Annual Demand, Goals, and Strategies for Achieving and Sustaining Functional Zero: Identify the estimated number of Veterans who are homeless annually and the community/CoC goals and strategies for achieving a functional end to Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (overall community/CoC goals, not just SSVF grantees). If one or more of the goals and strategies below have not yet been established for the community, leave blank and identify the date by which they will be established. See the **Ending Homelessness Among Veterans Overview** for additional guidance.

3A. Estimated Annual Number of Homeless Veterans: Identify the total unduplicated number of Veterans expected to be homeless in 2015 using data from the SSVF Edition of the Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 or data assumptions that have already been adopted by the community, such as the *VA CoC Gaps Analysis Tool (GAT)*.

Estimated Annual Total:	784
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3B. Community/CoC Goals: Identify your community’s/CoC’s key goals and targets.

A. Permanent Housing Placement Target & SSVF Rapid Re-Housing Placement Target:
 Complete and attach *SSVF Edition of Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 OR an CoC Gaps Analysis Tool – Strategy 4 (SSVF) Worksheet*

B. Length of Time Homeless Goal (max or average days):	45	days
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C. January 2016 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Goal	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Number of Veterans expected to be counted as homeless during the CoC’s January 2016 PIT count:	86	24	110
Of number above, how many will also be counted as chronically homeless:	13	4	17

3C. Implementation Strategies: What strategies are being used to achieve and sustain functional zero?

	Yes/No/Under Dev
A. Has your community identified every Veteran who is homeless right now by name?	Yes
Is this list updated regularly?	Yes
Is this list reviewed at least bi-weekly by key community partners to ensure Veterans have a permanent housing plan and those plans are achieved?	Yes
B. Does every Veteran who is homeless now have a Housing Plan and access to safe (and low barrier as needed) shelter and/or permanent housing?	Under Dev
C. Is every Veteran who becomes homeless rapidly engaged and offered shelter and/or housing that meets their needs?	Under Dev
D. Are sufficient SSVF resources allocated to ensure there are no RRH gaps or turn-aways?	Yes
E. Are you using SSVF to rapidly re-house Veterans who are waiting on VASH or other PSH assistance if VASH/PSH is not available immediately or in near future?	Yes

4. Other Strengths and Challenges: Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

The largest challenge that our CoC experiences is the consistent rise in housing costs. The local housing market is well above the FMR and is also extremely limited. At this point, Austin’s housing market is one of the most difficult in the country at a 98% occupancy rate. Building and maintaining relationships with affordable housing landlords is one of our top priorities. One of strengths is our ability to work closely with our CoC stakeholders to develop a centralized affordable housing list for Landlord Outreach/Housing Specialist staff to utilize. This new asset to the community is managed by the CoC and is being utilized by the SSVF program. The AHVI group also recently met with the a group lead by the Mayor of Austin Steve Adler and State Senator Kirk Watson, pulling the service community together with the Texas Apartment Association, seeking support in identifying 234 units for veterans (PIT Veteran Count 2015). While sourcing and securing affordable housing for low income veterans is increasingly difficult, as a community we are working extremely hard at addressing this issue through relationship building, civic advocacy and fostering new opportunities for low-income affordable housing and PSH development.

SSVF: Community Plan Summary

Date Completed/Revised: 7/1/2015

Continuum of Care Name:	Dallas City & County/Irving CoC	CoC Number:	TX-600
CoC Representative:	Charles Gulley	Title:	Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) Vice President of Programs
Phone/Email:	972-638-5605 / charles.gulley@mhdadallas.org		
Person Completing this Summary:	Bridget Gooden	Title:	Regional Program Manager, Family Endeavors Inc
Phone/Email:	214-932-6276 / bgooden@familyendeavors.org		

- 1. Primary Planning and Coordination Group:** Identify the primary group responsible for planning and coordinating efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in the CoC. List the principal members of this group and their affiliation.

Primary Group Name:	CoC Veterans Committee (a standing committee of the TX-600 CoC)		
Principal Members	Affiliation		
Edd Eason	CitySquare		
Chad Baker	Dallas Housing Authority		
Bridget Gooden	Family Endeavors		
Charlene Stark	Hope for the Brave		
Anthony Collins	Housing Crisis Center		
Charles Gulley	Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (CoC Lead)		
Alex Williams	Operation Relief Center		
Michael Allen	The Salvation Army		
Bruce Craig	Urban League of Greater Dallas		
Dean Cromwell	VA – Homeless Veterans Services		
Skylar Woods-Nunely	VA – Dallas VA-VASH		
Catriska Robertson	VA – North Texas		
Alex Empson	VA – Intern Program		
Sylvia Henderson	VA – Intern Program		
Heloise Ferguson	VA – VISN 17 Homeless Coordinator		
LaJohn McDonald, Jr.	Veterans Peer Network / Tarrant County MHMR		

2. Ongoing Review and Coordination: Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group meets to review progress and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of what information is reviewed during these meetings.

The CoC Veterans Committee (a CoC standing committee) meets monthly to discuss issues related to veterans and their families experiencing homelessness. Its core functions include:

- Development of recommendations and implementation planning for the CoC’s strategic plan
- Expanding access to and improving the quality of programs that care for homeless veterans including performance in alignment with HUD benchmarks
- Identifying and engaging community veteran organizations for partnership with CoC programs

Committee plans include conducting a 2015 veterans only count to supplement the annual Point-in-Time Count held in January 2015, receiving monthly reports from veterans housing providers and rapid re-housing program providers including the VA as to the number of veterans and their families being placed in housing each (similar to the monitoring done during the 100 Veterans in 100 Days 2013 campaign) and promoting the use of coordinated access with all veteran housing program providers.

3. Annual Demand, Goals, and Strategies for Achieving and Sustaining Functional Zero: Identify the estimated number of Veterans who are homeless annually and the community/CoC goals and strategies for achieving a functional end to Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (overall community/CoC goals, not just SSVF grantees). If one or more of the goals and strategies below have not yet been established for the community, leave blank and identify the date by which they will be established. See the **Ending Homelessness Among Veterans Overview** for additional guidance.

3A. Estimated Annual Number of Homeless Veterans: Identify the total unduplicated number of Veterans expected to be homeless in 2015 using data from the SSVF Edition of the Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 or data assumptions that have already been adopted by the community, such as the *VA CoC Gaps Analysis Tool (GAT)*.

Estimated Annual Total:	1,092
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3B. Community/CoC Goals: Identify your community’s/CoC’s key goals and targets.

A. Permanent Housing Placement Target & SSVF Rapid Re-Housing Placement Target:
 Complete and attach *SSVF Edition of Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 OR an CoC Gaps Analysis Tool – Strategy 4 (SSVF) Worksheet*

B. Length of Time Homeless Goal (max or average days):	30	days
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C. January 2016 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Goal	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Number of Veterans expected to be counted as homeless during the CoC’s January 2016 PIT count:	78	12	90
Of number above, how many will also be counted as chronically homeless:	26	4	30

3C. Implementation Strategies: What strategies are being used to achieve and sustain functional zero?

	Yes/No/Under Dev
A. Has your community identified every Veteran who is homeless right now by name?	No
B. Does every Veteran who is homeless now have a Housing Plan and access to safe (and low barrier as needed) shelter and/or permanent housing?	Under Dev
C. Is every Veteran who becomes homeless rapidly engaged and offered shelter and/or housing that meets their needs?	Yes
If so, is this true no matter where they are initially engaged in your community or what shelter or unsheltered location they may be in?	Yes
D. Are sufficient SSVF resources allocated to ensure there are no RRH gaps or turn-aways?	Yes
E. Are you using SSVF to rapidly re-house Veterans who are waiting on VASH or other PSH assistance if VASH/PSH is not available immediately or in near future?	Yes

4. Other Strengths and Challenges: Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

TX-600 is a participant in the Zero 2016 effort and has been successful, historically, in decreasing the number of unsheltered veterans and placing veterans in permanent supportive housing. In the 2014 Point-in-Time Count there were 42 veterans unsheltered.

2. Ongoing Review and Coordination: Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group meets to review progress and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of what information is reviewed during these meetings.

The Veterans Workgroup meets approximately every two weeks. The agenda begins with a review of the HMIS generated real-time list of homeless veterans and staff the efforts to housing possibilities. The list includes regularly updated case notes, service and housing history, barriers, and eligibility.

Coordination of services through both coordinated assessment system, HMIS, and CoC planning occurs monthly. In 2015, veteran service coordination will be examined as a part of the overall CoC system. The CoC will be undertaking two initiatives beginning December 2014 including the development of a Rapid Rehousing Learning Collaborative and the system mapping of the entire COC housing process using the CAARES model to optimize the veteran and non-veteran experience of intake, assessment and access to housing.

The CoC lead agency, Tarrant County Homeless Coalition, will be responsible, as the Coordinated Assessment and HMIS administrators, to track and maintain progress on housing, comprehensive data analysis on length of stay, housing stability, and recidivism.

3. Annual Demand, Goals, and Strategies for Achieving and Sustaining Functional Zero: Identify the estimated number of Veterans who are homeless annually and the community/CoC goals and strategies for achieving a functional end to Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (overall community/CoC goals, not just SSVF grantees). If one or more of the goals and strategies below have not yet been established for the community, leave blank and identify the date by which they will be established. See the **Ending Homelessness Among Veterans Overview** for additional guidance.

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Estimated Annual Total:	712
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3B. Community/CoC Goals: Identify your community's/CoC's key goals and targets.

A. Permanent Housing Placement Target & SSVF Rapid Re-Housing Placement Target:
 Complete and attach *SSVF Edition of Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 OR an CoC Gaps Analysis Tool – Strategy 4 (SSVF) Worksheet*

B. Length of Time Homeless Goal (max or average days):	30	days
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C. January 2016 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Goal	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Number of Veterans expected to be counted as homeless during the CoC's January 2016 PIT count:	55	4	59
Of number above, how many will also be counted as chronically homeless:	15	4	19

3C. Implementation Strategies: What strategies are being used to achieve and sustain functional zero?

	Yes/No/Under Dev
A. Has your community identified every Veteran who is homeless right now by name?	Yes
Is this list updated regularly?	Yes
Is this list reviewed at least bi-weekly by key community partners to ensure Veterans have a permanent housing plan and those plans are achieved?	Yes
B. Does every Veteran who is homeless now have a Housing Plan and access to safe (and low barrier as needed) shelter and/or permanent housing?	Under Dev
C. Is every Veteran who becomes homeless rapidly engaged and offered shelter and/or housing that meets their needs?	Yes
If so, is this true no matter where they are initially engaged in your community or what shelter or unsheltered location they may be in?	Yes
D. Are sufficient SSVF resources allocated to ensure there are no RRH gaps or turn-aways?	Yes
E. Are you using SSVF to rapidly re-house Veterans who are waiting on VASH or other PSH assistance if VASH/PSH is not available immediately or in near future?	Yes

4. Other Strengths and Challenges: Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

Need improved employment services
 Foster more relationships with more landlords because of a very tight housing market.
 Demonstrate to GPD agency staff that veterans are ready for housing and can be successful in a rapid rehousing model through the development of a CoC Rapid Rehousing Learning Collaborative beginning in January 2015.

2. Ongoing Review and Coordination: Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group meets to review progress and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of what information is reviewed during these meetings.

The CoC along with the committee members evaluates funding sources providing resources that focus on homeless veterans. Bi-Monthly meetings are held to discuss eligible activities, the level of resources available, duplication of services and barriers faced by households trying to access resources. HMIS reports are presented bi-monthly to determine program effectiveness in meeting local goals of ending chronic homelessness, increasing housing stability, increasing participant income and connection to mainstream benefits, and increasing the use of RRH. In addition, the committee works with agencies on capacity building efforts and/or connection/collaboration with strong community agencies should such steps be necessary/helpful in efforts to improve performance. On an ongoing basis the committee would evaluate programmatic barriers and develop and provide training and networking opportunities utilizing membership meetings for a forum for education. As of April 15th, Coordinated Assessment has been implemented in the community. Both SSVF grantees participated as a member of the Coordinated Assessment oversight committee. The committee ensures that all community program eligibility criteria is implemented. The Coordinated Assessment Committee developed a standard triage tool to properly match homeless veterans with proper housing options at first interview. The committee will create protocols for same day appointments for all housing referrals. These steps will ensure integration of SSVF into the CoC Coordinated Assessment System.

3. Annual Demand, Goals, and Strategies for Achieving and Sustaining Functional Zero: Identify the estimated number of Veterans who are homeless annually and the community/CoC goals and strategies for achieving a functional end to Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (overall community/CoC goals, not just SSVF grantees). If one or more of the goals and strategies below have not yet been established for the community, leave blank and identify the date by which they will be established. See the **Ending Homelessness Among Veterans Overview** for additional guidance.

3A. Estimated Annual Number of Homeless Veterans: Identify the total unduplicated number of Veterans expected to be homeless in 2015 using data from the SSVF Edition of the Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 or data assumptions that have already been adopted by the community, such as the *VA CoC Gaps Analysis Tool (GAT)*.

Estimated Annual Total:	557
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3B. Community/CoC Goals: Identify your community's/CoC's key goals and targets.

A. Permanent Housing Placement Target & SSVF Rapid Re-Housing Placement Target:
Complete and attach *SSVF Edition of Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 OR an CoC Gaps Analysis Tool – Strategy 4 (SSVF) Worksheet*

B. Length of Time Homeless Goal (max or average days):	13	days
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C. January 2016 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Goal	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Number of Veterans expected to be counted as homeless during the CoC's January 2016 PIT count:	58	23	81
Of number above, how many will also be counted as chronically homeless:	17	18	35

3C. Implementation Strategies: What strategies are being used to achieve and sustain functional zero?

	Yes/No/Under Dev
A. Has your community identified every Veteran who is homeless right now by name?	Yes
Is this list updated regularly?	Yes
Is this list reviewed at least bi-weekly by key community partners to ensure Veterans have a permanent housing plan and those plans are achieved?	Yes
B. Does every Veteran who is homeless now have a Housing Plan and access to safe (and low barrier as needed) shelter and/or permanent housing?	Yes
C. Is every Veteran who becomes homeless rapidly engaged and offered shelter and/or housing that meets their needs?	Yes
If so, is this true no matter where they are initially engaged in your community or what shelter or unsheltered location they may be in?	Yes
D. Are sufficient SSVF resources allocated to ensure there are no RRH gaps or turn-aways?	Yes
E. Are you using SSVF to rapidly re-house Veterans who are waiting on VASH or other PSH assistance if VASH/PSH is not available immediately or in near future?	Yes

4. Other Strengths and Challenges: Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

Strengths - Organizations are working together to assess housing options available to support short-term veteran needs. Having a continuum of housing options is helpful and the community coordinates well to address the need. All staff under the SSVF program are very experienced with the SSVF program. In addition, Coordinated Assessment has been implemented.

Challenges – There are no challenges that have been yet identified.

SSVF: Community Plan Summary

Date Completed/Revised: 7/1/2015

Continuum of Care Name:	Texas Balance of State (BoS) CoC	CoC Number:	TX-607
CoC Representative:	Mary Dodson	Title:	CoC Manager
Phone/Email:	512-861-2180 / mary@thn.org		
Person Completing this Summary:	Eric Samuels	Title:	Director of Continuum of Care Programs
Phone/Email:	512-687-5105 / eric@thn.org		

1. **Primary Planning and Coordination Group:** Identify the primary group responsible for planning and coordinating efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in the CoC. List the principal members of this group and their affiliation.

Primary Group Name:	TX BoS CoC's SSVF Planning Group	
Principal Members	Affiliation	
Eric Samuels	THN	
Mary Dodson	THN	
CoC Performance Monitor-Currently Vacant	THN	
Sophia Checa	THN	
Amanda L. Doemland	VAMC, Coastal Bend (Harlingen)	
Tammra (Tammy) Wood	V.A. North Texas Health Center	
Gerald Thayer	American G.I. Forum	
Cheryl Turner	Career and Recovery Resources	
Meg Podowski	Caritas of Austin, Inc.	
Melissa Rankin	Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fort Worth	
Randall Webster	Community Healthcore	
Suzanne Armour and Liz Lozano	Families in Crisis, Inc.	
Bridget Gooden	Family Endeavors, Inc. (Dallas area)	
Bobby Ehrig	Family Endeavors, Inc. (San Antonio and Laredo areas)	
Christina Petrossi	Goodwill Industries of Houston	
David Lewis	StarCare Specialty Health	
Estrella Colon	The Salvation Army (Houston area)	
Kiki Jackson	United States Veterans Initiative	

2. **Ongoing Review and Coordination:** Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group meets to review progress and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of what information is reviewed during these meetings.

The Texas Balance of State CoC (TX BoS CoC) covers 216 counties and is one of the largest CoCs in the country. Texas Homeless Network (THN) is the CoC Lead Agency for the TX BoS CoC. THN faces unique challenges serving its CoC members. Approximately 28 local homeless coalitions (LHCs) have elected representatives that serve on the TX BoS CoC Board. THN coordinates all CoC planning and operation tasks through those LHCs and representatives, in essence conducting a two-layer approach that allows for overarching policies on the CoC level and tailored strategies on the local level. Since the inception of the SSVF program, THN has taken the same approach with SSVF grantees in regard to planning and coordination of efforts to end homelessness for Veterans and their families.

In order to respond quickly to the May 1st due date for Community Plans, SSVF grantees in TX BoS CoC communities submitted to THN community plan summaries, inventory worksheets, and gaps analyses that represent 10 distinct coverage areas within the CoC. For the July 1st submission, grantees submitted updates to Community Plan Summaries and gaps analyses to THN, which Ms. Dodson aggregated to create a consolidated Community Plan Summary. Numerous calls were held and e-mails were sent between grantees and Ms. Dodson to discuss changes, calculations, and planning processes on the local level.

Updates were made to the CoC-wide gaps analysis. The actual 2015 PIT Count data was used (653 veterans). That gave a Total Homeless estimate for 2015 of 1,580 veterans. The number of veterans needing successful RRH in 2015 is 497. SSVF projects will exit 751 veterans from rapid re-housing to permanent housing, resulting in potential excess PH placements of 254 in the RRH need.

Since May 1st, the TX BoS CoC SSVF Planning Group has met to discuss CoC-wide planning: twice on monthly phone calls facilitated by the VA Regional Coordinator, Tamara Wright (5/5 and 6/2) and once via webinar facilitated by the CoC Manager, Mary Dodson (6/19). Also, Ms. Wright, Ms. Dodson, and Jim Yates from Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) met on 6/29 to discuss strategy and next steps.

Next Steps:

The Planning Group will compare local and CoC-wide data on needs, assets, and gaps.

- Complete gaps analyses for individual projects using the 2015 PIT count number of 653, divided by 216 counties in the TX BoS CoC, multiplied by the number of BoS counties covered in each project. Then, compare the gaps calculated using that method with the gaps identified in earlier version of gaps analyses. Use that comparison data to inform local planning further.
- Compare gaps analyses by project, assessing which projects and communities show gaps and which show potential excess PH placements. That information will indicate whether SSVF resources need to be adjusted in order to ensure no gaps in any SSVF project in the BoS CoC.

The Group will continue monthly phone calls with Ms. Wright and add monthly phone calls with Ms. Dodson to continue to plan and monitor progress on project-level Plans and the CoC-wide Plan.

- Successful strategies for coordination, permanent housing placement, and shortening length of time homeless will be discussed. Also, THN will continue to link grantees with other CoC and community resources.
- The Group will also develop a common definition for "functional zero" across the TX BoS CoC.
- Data on the number of veterans placed in permanent housing will be discussed.

Ideas for handling the complex planning work in the BoS CoC have been suggested:

- Identify how other BoS CoCs are handling the SSVF planning for their CoCs.

3. Annual Demand, Goals, and Strategies for Achieving and Sustaining Functional Zero: Identify the estimated number of Veterans who are homeless annually and the community/CoC goals and strategies for achieving a functional end to Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (overall community/CoC goals, not just SSVF grantees). If one or more of the goals and strategies below have not yet been established for the community, leave blank and identify the date by which they will be established. See the ***Ending Homelessness Among Veterans Overview*** for additional guidance.

3A. Estimated Annual Number of Homeless Veterans: Identify the total unduplicated number of Veterans expected to be homeless in 2015 using data from the SSVF Edition of the Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 or data assumptions that have already been adopted by the community, such as the *VA CoC Gaps Analysis Tool (GAT)*.

Estimated Annual Total:	1,580
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3B. Community/CoC Goals: Identify your community's/CoC's key goals and targets.

A. Permanent Housing Placement Target & SSVF Rapid Re-Housing Placement Target:

Complete and attach *SSVF Edition of Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 OR an CoC Gaps Analysis Tool – Strategy 4 (SSVF) Worksheet*

B. Length of Time Homeless Goal (max or average days):	32	days
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C. January 2016 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Goal	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Number of Veterans expected to be counted as homeless during the CoC's January 2016 PIT count:	220	39	259
Of number above, how many will also be counted as chronically homeless:	73	11	84

3C. Implementation Strategies: What strategies are being used to achieve and sustain functional zero?

	Yes/No/Under Dev
A. Has your community identified every Veteran who is homeless right now by name?	Under Dev
B. Does every Veteran who is homeless now have a Housing Plan and access to safe (and low barrier as needed) shelter and/or permanent housing?	Under Dev
C. Is every Veteran who becomes homeless rapidly engaged and offered shelter and/or housing that meets their needs?	Under Dev
D. Are sufficient SSVF resources allocated to ensure there are no RRH gaps or turn-aways?	Yes
E. Are you using SSVF to rapidly re-house Veterans who are waiting on VASH or other PSH assistance if VASH/PSH is not available immediately or in near future?	Yes

4. Other Strengths and Challenges: Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

STRENGTHS:
CoC-level: THN serves as the TX BoS CoC lead agency, and it often coordinates work among all Texas CoCs, which puts it in a unique position to assist in CoC planning. THN is also the lead implementer for planning and activities of the Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless (TICH). Because of these advantages, staff at THN have the ability to organize LHCs, larger CoC systems, and state agencies on specific initiatives. That experience will benefit the SSVF grantees and communities around the state. Another strength is that as projects develop, successful strategies can be shared, to increase the number of veterans housed.

Project level: Grantees have increased membership on their planning groups, have partnered with other veteran services and housing providers in their communities, and in several cases, have exceeded their projected numbers of veterans housed.

WEAKNESS:
CoC level: The TX BoS CoC is a large geographic area. Program coordination planning, and evaluation occurs on a CoC level and a local level. Regular meetings cannot easily be held in person, so planning is usually conducted via phone calls and webinars. Also, staffing capacity is a concern but options to increase staffing capacity are being considered.

Project-level: Among many grantees, geography and lack of housing and service resources in their coverage areas are limiting how quickly the projects can develop and how well they can succeed in housing veterans. In some communities, SSVF is the first and only rapid re-housing project. All grantees are committed to addressing and meeting the challenges, however.

More information on project-level strengths and challenges are identified in projects' individual SSVF Community Plans, which have been shared with Ms. Wright and Mr. Yates.



Primary Group TX BoS CoC's SSVF Planning Group	
Principal Members	Affiliation
Eric Samuels	THN
Mary Dodson	THN
CoC Performance Monitor-Currently Vacant	THN
Sophia Checa	THN
Amanda L. Doemland	VAMC, Coastal Bend (Harlingen)
Tammra (Tammy) Wood	V.A. North Texas Health Center
Gerald Thayer	American G.I. Forum
Cheryl Turner	Career and Recovery Resources
Meg Podowski	Caritas of Austin, Inc.
Melissa Rankin	Catholic Charities, Diocese of Fort Worth
Randall Webster	Community Healthcore
Suzanne Armour and Liz Lozano	Families in Crisis, Inc.
Bridget Gooden	Family Endeavors, Inc. (Dallas area)
Bobby Ehrig	Family Endeavors, Inc. (San Antonio and Laredo)
Christina Petrossi	Goodwill Industries of Houston
David Lewis	StarCare Specialty Health
Estrella Colon	The Salvation Army (Houston area)
Kiki Jackson	United States Veterans Initiative
Lisa Robinson and Ramon Gonzales	Volunteers of America Texas
Alex Koons	West Central Texas Regional Foundation

SSVF: Community Plan Summary

Date Completed/Revised: 7/1/2015

Continuum of Care Name:	City of Houston/Harris County	CoC Number:	TX-700
CoC Representative:	Eva Thibaudeau	Title:	Director of Programs
Phone/Email: 832-531-6026 ethibaudeau@homelesshouston.org			
Person Completing this Summary:	Gary Grier	Title:	Project Manager
Phone/Email: 832-53-6006 ggrier@homelesshouston.org			

- 1. Primary Planning and Coordination Group:** Identify the primary group responsible for planning and coordinating efforts to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in the CoC. List the principal members of this group and their affiliation.

Primary Group Name: Housing Houston's Heroes RRH Subcommittee	
Principal Members	Affiliation
Gary Grier	CoC Lead Agency / Coalition for the Homeless
Heather Muller	CSH-Coordinated Access/ CoC
Pat Smith	US Veterans Initiative
Gerald Eckert	Salvation Army Social Services
Leticia Harmon	Neighborhood Centers, Inc.
Cheryl Turner	Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.
Christina Petrossi	Goodwill Industries of Greater Houston
D'nais Mack	VA-HCHV
Toni Brown	VA-HCHV
Tamara Wright	SSVF Regional Coordinator
Mark Thiele	Houston Housing Authority
Kiki Jackson	US Veterans Initiative
Rex Marsau	US Veterans Initiative
Estrella Colon	Salvation Army Social Services
Kammie Williams	SEARCH Homeless Services
LeTia Benjamin	Goodwill Industries of Greater Houston
Gail Cote	Housing Corporation of Houston
Barbara Irving	Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.

2. Ongoing Review and Coordination: Briefly describe how often (e.g., monthly) the above group meets to review progress and coordinate efforts. Include a summary of what information is reviewed during these meetings.

Starting in August 1, 2013, the Housing Houston's Heroes, SSVF Subcommittee began meeting weekly (Thursdays at 11am) to coordinate services and standardized processes on system strategies to end Veteran Homelessness in Houston by 2015. The group initially completed the SSVF provider crosswalk to assess existing resources among or SSVF services providers and identify system gaps to be addressed by a coordinated system approach. In this regard, the group agreed to participate in using the Coordinated Access Housing Triage tool to identify households best served by SSVF intervention to exit homelessness within the Homeless response system. This process included placement of SSVF provider staff at the VA Drop in Center point of entry for a coordinated access approach. The VA VASH case-management lead has been involved in the workgroup since implementation for the SSVF and CoC workgroup to better coordinate resources and understand VASH utilization. SSVF providers participated at Stand Down to deliver immediate housing options and enrollments.

HMIS data quality improvement plan includes system information sharing agreement and quarterly dashboards of enrollments and exits with all SSVF providers and VA has read access to HMIS.

Reviewed during meetings : Outcomes including enrollments, target populations, utility as a bridge to VASH, Outreach, recidivism, Housing Stability (permanent housing, increased income and increased benefits)

Creation of Standardized RRH Case-management tools which were developed for the greater RRH System: Housing Stabilization Plan, Housing Placement Assessment, and Budget,

In the course of SSVF case management some clients were identified as meeting criteria more appropriate for VASH and a system was developed for transfer. Additionally, the workgroup provided Coordination of the Waiver tool for VASH to keep VASH clients housed with HP interventions. Also, regarding GPD the workgroup developed a standardized process that identifies veterans best suited for SSVF who were referred through a coordinated system from GPD to SSVF through coordinated access. GPD

3. Annual Demand, Goals, and Strategies for Achieving and Sustaining Functional Zero: Identify the estimated number of Veterans who are homeless annually and the community/CoC goals and strategies for achieving a functional end to Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 (overall community/CoC goals, not just SSVF grantees). If one or more of the goals and strategies below have not yet been established for the community, leave blank and identify the date by which they will be established. See the **Ending Homelessness Among Veterans Overview** for additional guidance.

3A. Estimated Annual Number of Homeless Veterans: Identify the total unduplicated number of Veterans expected to be homeless in 2015 using data from the SSVF Edition of the Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 or data assumptions that have already been adopted by the community, such as the *VA CoC Gaps Analysis Tool (GAT)*.

Estimated Annual Total:	1,730
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3B. Community/CoC Goals: Identify your community's/CoC's key goals and targets.

A. Permanent Housing Placement Target & SSVF Rapid Re-Housing Placement Target:
 Complete and attach *SSVF Edition of Veteran Homelessness Gaps Analysis Tool FY15Q3 OR an CoC Gaps Analysis Tool – Strategy 4 (SSVF) Worksheet*

B. Length of Time Homeless Goal (max or average days):	30	days
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C. January 2016 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Goal	Sheltered	Unsheltered	Total
Number of Veterans expected to be counted as homeless during the CoC's January 2016 PIT count:	245	0	245
Of number above, how many will also be counted as chronically homeless:	0	0	0

3C. Implementation Strategies: What strategies are being used to achieve and sustain functional zero?

	Yes/No/Under Dev
A. Has your community identified every Veteran who is homeless right now by name?	Yes
Is this list updated regularly?	Yes
Is this list reviewed at least bi-weekly by key community partners to ensure Veterans have a permanent housing plan and those plans are achieved?	Yes
B. Does every Veteran who is homeless now have a Housing Plan and access to safe (and low barrier as needed) shelter and/or permanent housing?	Yes
C. Is every Veteran who becomes homeless rapidly engaged and offered shelter and/or housing that meets their needs?	Yes
If so, is this true no matter where they are initially engaged in your community or what shelter or unsheltered location they may be in?	Yes
D. Are sufficient SSVF resources allocated to ensure there are no RRH gaps or turn-aways?	Yes
E. Are you using SSVF to rapidly re-house Veterans who are waiting on VASH or other PSH assistance if VASH/PSH is not available immediately or in near future?	Yes

4. Other Strengths and Challenges: Briefly describe any additional strengths and/or challenges relevant to your achieving VA and local goals.

Challenges --The Way Home Continuum expects challenges to continue with regard to housing location for low barrier, affordable housing options in the Market. Training, allocation of resources, and strategies have been developed to meet these challenges. The CoC has identified the following challenges:

- Immediate available housing stock access to interim/emergency beds
- Low barrier housing for felony (SO, Arson) child endangerment
- Efficiency in system
- Lack of viable public transportation in certain areas
- Discharge status of veterans with relation to eligibility for resources
- Clinic/Hospital discharges--without connection to coordinated access system or the VA medical center

Strengths--The Way Home Continuum has strength in the systematic approach to ending homelessness for all veterans and benefits from a far reaching collaborative that includes the VA, CoC, housing and RRH providers, primary care, outreach, coordinated access and other services. On June 1, 2015 our CoC was recongnized by USICH and the Secretaries McDonald, Castro, and Perez for effectively ending veteran homelessness. Allocation of resources have been right sized to identify the appropriate housing option to end each veteran's homelessness. Criteria has been developed to identify non chronic but high need veterans for HUD VASH. CoC PSH target veterans not eligible for HUD VASH. The strengths identified by the CoC include but are not limited to the following:

- System governance
- Work group leadership
- 25 cities initiative