

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 Colorado Balance of State Continuum of Care represents numerous geographically and ideologically disparate communities spanning multiple VISNs and the State of Colorado, excluding only Denver/Metro and El Paso County. In light of this, Volunteers of America Colorado Branch and Rocky Mountain Human Services have sought to connect SSVF staff to impactful regional subcommittees of the Balance of State in order to coordinate outreach and service delivery at the local level. These committees meet regularly (typically monthly) and assess community needs, opportunities for coordination, and service gaps. As a result of these efforts to integrate SSVF services into the goals of community-wide efforts, SSVF enjoys a statewide reach throughout Colorado, with close coordination between both SSVF providers and other community service organizations alike. SSVF homelessness data is shared with local COC committees as well as local VA partners. At a statewide level, Volunteers of America and Rocky Mountain Human Services collaborate proactively in order to identify and meet community needs wherever they should present, and support each other with additional capacity should the need be made apparent.

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:	478
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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:	59	55	114
Of number above, how many will also be counted as chronically homeless:	13	12	25

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?	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.

As noted above, the geographically disparate nature of the Balance of State COC makes statewide coordination difficult. Some communities are completely untouched by the Continuum of Care, instead relying on word-of-mouth and grassroots community support to address homelessness. As a result, it is difficult to ascertain a 'true' reflection of the homelessness throughout the State. At the same time, the regional subcommittees that have formed to fill the gap left by a lack of community-specific COCs has resulted in the coordination of motivated and effective community partners, leading to substantive progress in the fight against homelessness in numerous rural communities.

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.

Members of the group are meeting weekly to pilot a coordinated assessment platform through Homelink. This pilot is focused on Veterans and works to build our Master List of Veterans experiencing homelessness in our CoC with the intent of developing in full for the larger CoC coordinated assessment to the general public. Members of the group report monthly to coordinate efforts and review progress. Each month, Veteran households who have been exited into permanent housing using SSVF, HUD-VASH, GPD or other VA program support will be recorded and taken off of the drawdown list. Each month, new eligible Veteran households who have been identified using the VI-SPDAT coordinated assessment tool are referred to SSVF and VA providers, and those certified into programs are recorded. If the provider cannot reach the Veteran, their name is brought up at the monthly list review to determine if the Veteran has other points of contact who can get them in touch with a provider. For those Veterans who are homeless and not connected with any VA or SSVF provider, efforts in bolstering street outreach capacity through volunteer and staff coordination are underway in the 7 county Denver/Metro area. This coordination is a partnership with MDHI CoC agencies to help with capacity in areas where we have a) identified potential homeless Veterans and b) suspect but do not have confirmation of homeless Veteran activity.

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:	1,654
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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:
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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:	160	40	200
Of number above, how many will also be counted as chronically homeless:	40	10	50

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?	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.

The biggest challenges in our CoC continues to be the extremely low vacancy/high cost rental market and flow of homeless individuals moving to the area. The coordination among Veteran service providers has allowed us to streamline our processes once the Veteran is connected, but the market realities have created longer than desirable screening-to-housing timelines, limited rental availability and created a gap of Veterans we are able to put into permanent housing. In order to meet these challenges and close the gap, we have created a landlord relationship management platform accessible to multiple Veteran-serving agencies to identify landlords willing to work with Veterans and identify and fill vacancies quickly, along with adding Housing Specialists to SSVF and VA funded programs. The data we have around how many homeless Veterans are in our CoC varies by source, and is influenced by the influx of people moving here. We are building a Master List that will help us know a more accurate count. We have also shifted outreach to reach Veterans who are not currently connected to services via street outreach collaboratives like Boots on the Ground and plan to utilize the 2016 Point in Time count as an opportunity to add to our roster of names currently being built through the VI-SPDAT coordinated assessment Homelink platform. The new Veteran Services Center building is allowing us to co-locate providers and connect Veterans to services more efficiently, and this building will host landlord summits to engage potential and existing landlords to participate in our campaign.

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The VA HCHV staff, SSVF staff and staff from local community shelters meet weekly for case conferenceing of Veterans seeking services at shelters and enrolled in VASH and SSVF but not yet in permanent housing. Additionally, the CoC has established a Community Advisory Council on Veteran Homelessness to provide a public forum for comments, council, advice and input on execution of the Community Plan, and to maintain transparency in the planning and execution of efforts to end Veteran homelessness in Colorado Springs. Monthly review at this meeting includes the numbers of Veterans housed by SSVF, VASH and other programs; and progress toward reaching our local criteria for "functional zero".

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:	442
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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:
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B. Length of Time Homeless Goal (max or average days):	90	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:			0
Of number above, how many will also be counted as chronically homeless:			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?	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?	Under Dev

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

Stengthers/Challenges. Colorado Springs faces a significant shortage of emergency shelter beds. However, local agencies have recently received approval to open two seasonal, low-barrier "winter" shelters effective Oct 19, one day before the Homeless Veteran Stand Down on Oct 20. Also, like many cities across the nation, Colorado Springs/El Paso County struggles with lack of shelter space, and lack of affordable housing. A recent City/County survey showed there are only 16 affordable and available units for every 100 extremely low income renter (earning between \$0 and \$17,259). Combined with a tight overall rental market (vacancy rate 2.33%) challenges our ability to find housing for former homeless Veterans. To mitigate this challenge, the local Apartment Association and the City of Colorado Springs are hosting a "Landlord Recruitment Breakfast" on September 21, to outline the City's commitment to the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, and to solicit landlord commitment to offering units for homeless Veterans. Another challenge is lack of transitional housing options. There are only 10 HCHV-funded Contract Residential beds with a continual waitlist of 15-20 Veterans, and no GPD beds in Colorado Springs. However, Veterans enrolled in SSVF who need longer term rental assistance than SSVF can provide but who do not need long-term case management are given priority for HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) through an agreement with the Colorado Springs Housing Authority. Lastly, the Colorado Springs CoC recently applied and was approved for the HUD Vets@Home Initiative that provides additional technical assistance as we approach the end of 2015.