

SSVF: Community Plan Summary

Date Completed/Revised: 8/18/2015

Continuum of Care Name:	District of Columbia CoC	CoC Number:	DC-500
CoC Representative:	David Tweedie	Title:	System Administrator
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Person Completing this Summary:	Kally Canfield	Title:	Division Director
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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:	Veterans NOW	
Principal Members	Affiliation	
David Tweedie	The Community Partnership (CoC)/HMIS/Coordinated Assessment	
Kristie Greenwalt	D.C. Interagency Council on Homlessness	
Theresa Silla	D.C. Interagency Council on Homlessness	
Kevin Morton	D.C. Department of Veterans Affairs	
Garnet Nelson	D.C. Department of Veterans Affairs	
Kally Canfield	Friendship Place/SSVF/Coordinated Assessment	
Dominga Helgesson	Friendship Place/SSVF/Coordinated Assessment	
Adam Rocap	Miriam's Kitchen/Coordinated Assessment	
Christy Respress	Pathways to Housing	
Alfarabi Ishaq	D.C. Department of Human Services	
Dallas Williams	D.C. Department of Human Services	
Ron McCoy	D.C. Housing Authority	
Keith Moone	D.C. Housing Authority	
Jessica Smith Haynie	US Vets/SSVF	
Linda Clark Holland	US Vets/SSVF	
Renee Kelly	Housing Counseling Services/SSVF	
Oscar Mitchell	Housing Counseling Services/SSVF	
Gay Shane	Operation Renewed Hope Foundation/SSVF	
Charles Avery	Veterans on the Rise	
Greg Crawford	Access Housing	
Michael Strong	CHEP	
Charlie Jones	DHS	
Bill Walker	DC Mayor's office	
Michael DeHart	Community Connections	
MiMi Scotchmer	Community Connections	
Sarah Honda	Community Connections	

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.

Veterans NOW, formed from the Veterans Boot Camp and now including 25 cities and the mayor's challenge, has been meeting since August 2013. Currently Veterans Now meets twice monthly to (1) review assessment coverage (2) develop/deploy strategies to target veterans residing in shelter or transitional housing for assessment (note: we have very good coverage of unsheltered individuals) (3) monitor housing placement rates and identify strategies to accelerate housing placement (4) quantify/monitor system inflow/outflow (5) measure resource gaps and identify ways to fill gaps, and (6) identify/troubleshoot systems issues as they arise.

Additionally, Veterans NOW staff meet weekly with HUD VASH and Department of Human Services to refer and case conference all permanent supportive housing for veteran placements including those that are not eligible for HUD VASH. Separately, Veterans NOW staff join SSVF providers to meet weekly to similarly refer and case conference each SSVF placement. During the SSVF weekly coordination meeting, we do live assignments from our universal registry and provide updates on those previously assigned.

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:	779
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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:	140	20	160
Of number above, how many will also be counted as chronically homeless:	31	10	41

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.

The District of Columbia has benefited from an outstandingly strong partnership with our local Department of Veterans Affairs, where we have spearheaded the implementation of our Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement system for veterans starting in August 2013. Since then, we have (1) adopted a HIPAA-compliant Release of Information (2) utilized a Common Assessment across all providers (3) developed a Universal Registry fully built within HMIS from which individuals are housed (4) implemented a Housing Navigator and Case Conferencing Process to move people from assessment to housing placement (5) and instituted weekly meetings where providers review assessments, assign supports, and provide referrals for housing. Through these processes, we continue to quantify and work to overcome the following primary challenges system-wide: (1) increasing the units allocated to the Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement system (2) decreasing housing barriers preventing veterans from being successfully matched to housing (such as sobriety requirements, income requirements, type/amount of program rules, VHA ineligibility, etc) (3) increasing integration with outside systems and registries (4) integrating transitional housing providers within the assessment and housing placement process.

The only area that remains under development is that every homeless veteran does not yet have a Housing Plan and access to safe shelter and/or permanent housing. At this time, the resources are there for these veterans. We know every veteran by name, but not every veteran has been assessed with a housing plan and a few don't want to be assessed. We are committed to ensuring that the average days any veteran will be homeless to be 30 days. The definition of functional zero for DC: "By December 31, 2015, every veteran experiencing homelessness within the District of Columbia will be either: 1. Permanently housed, or 2. Identified for housing placement and housed within 30 days, or 3. For veterans identified for housing placement but stating that they are not ready: we will continue to engage, motivate, and work in partnership to end their housing crisis as soon as possible."

For this plan update, we are highlighting that we have a 2 day boot camp scheduled for 8/19/15 and 8/20/15 in order to ensure all