WEBINAR:
WORKING WITH YOUR CONTINUUM OF CARE
THURSDAY
MAY 21, 2015
ABOUT THE CENTER

The National Veterans Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC) is a partnership among Advocates for Human Potential (AHP), the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) and the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Services (DOL-VETS).

Funded under a cooperative agreement for three years, the NVTAC supports the mission of the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) and its stakeholders.
MAJOR TASKS OF THE TA CENTERS

1. Provide TA & Training to HVRPs
2. Identify Best Practices and Support Other Research
3. Respond to Inquiries
4. Disseminate Information to Stakeholders
5. Outreach to Employers
WHAT IS THE CONTINUUM OF CARE?

The Continuum of Care (CoC) is the local body that oversees implementation of homeless programs within a given geographic area. Initially formed under, and currently funded by The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the CoC now incorporates other entities such as community leaders, Veteran Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs), faith-based organizations, and local business leaders in the homeless system planning process.
The Continuum of Care (CoC) has a board and committees that meet regularly to check in, navigate community issues, and coordinate services. Getting your organization involved will probably start with getting a seat at these meetings.
WHAT IS THE CONTINUUM OF CARE?

The CoC varies widely in the level of involvement and coordination of partners. In some rural areas, the CoC is often quite spread out. In more urban areas it may be well implemented and operating smoothly. Some cities are still working out the kinks in their CoC.
WHY IS THE CONTINUUM OF CARE IMPORTANT?

The CoC is an evolving system. Employment programs and Veteran programs need to make sure their voice is heard and that the needs of homeless veterans are addressed in the community.
The CoC is a platform that brings many players to the table. Your program can gain access to planners, decision makers, as well as learn about new resources. CoC meetings are a great format for networking and sharing information and educating partners about your program.
HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR CONTINUUM OF CARE

1. Go to: https://www.hudexchange.info/coc
2. Click on “Contact a CoC” in the upper right
3. Select your State, select “All” and click on “update”
4. Look though the list and see if your city, county, or region is listed
5. Remember that some cities and rural areas will be covered under “Balance of State” (BOC)
6. Click on the appropriate CoC
7. It will list the lead organization, points of contact, etc.
CONTINUUM OF CARE – EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

- **Measure 4: Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons in CoC Program-funded Projects**

- **Desired Outcome:** Increase in the percent of adults who gain or increase employment or non-employment cash income over time
## HUD 2015 Performance Measures for Employment and Income

| Metric 4.1: Change in employment income during the reporting period for system stayers | Metric 4.2: Change in non-employment cash income during the reporting period for system stayers | Metric 4.3: Change in total cash income during the reporting period for system stayers | Metric 4.4: Change in employment income from entry to exit for system leavers | Metric 4.5: Change in non-employment cash income from entry to exit for system leavers | Metric 4.6: Change in total cash income from entry to exit for system leavers |
CONTINUUM OF CARE: HOW TO ENGAGE

- Identify CoC lead organization and other players.
- Contact CoC lead and start conversation around HVRP participation.
- Attend meetings, participate in or establish employment committee and/or veteran committee.
- Participate in Coordinated Assessment.
COORDINATED ASSESSMENT PARTICIPATION

1) **Access.** Defined point (or points) of entry into the CoC’s crisis response system

2) **Assessment.** Standardized assessment to ensure consistency and uniformity in documenting clients’ needs

3) **Referral.** Intentional referral process to ensure clients are linked to the appropriate service strategy or intervention.
Do I need to participate in the CoC’s design, planning, and implementation of Coordinated Assessment? ... YES!

- All homeless assistance and homeless prevention services need to be included in Coordinated Assessment
- HVRP employment services are a critical component of the CoC’s programmatic infrastructure
- Participation in Coordinated Assessment is an opportunity to enhance service coordination, improve client outcomes, and assist Veterans to end their homelessness
HOW SHOULD HVRP GRANTEES PARTICIPATE IN COORDINATED ASSESSMENT PLANNING?

- Review each of the Coordinated Assessment design components and consider the role HVRP services can play in your CoC
  - Access
  - Assess
  - Referral
- Contact the CoC representatives in your region to get involved with planning and implementation
Access – Coordinated entry point into the CoC system of care.

- Virtual or physical access;
- Covers the geographic area of the CoC;
- Easily accessed by individuals and families seeking homeless prevention or homeless assistance services;
- Well advertised;
- Multiple entry models:
  - Single point of entry, multiple entry; 211; no wrong door
ASSESSMENT

Assessment – document the needs of individuals and families seeking housing or services

✓ Must use a comprehensive tool and standardized assessment process

✓ HUD does not require the coordinated assessment to determine eligibility
Referral provided for housing and/or services for individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis.

- CoC must establish written standards for the administration of projects, including eligibility criteria.
- Referrals must align with the CoCs written standards developed in conjunction with Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) recipients.
Integrate HVRP services into your CoC’s Coordinated Assessment approach:

- Contact the CoC lead for your region and inquire about the status of Coordinated Assessment planning and implementation
- Share screening, triage, and assessment protocols that your HVRP project currently uses
- Help CoC meet its employment goals
Zero: 2016
Ending Homeless

May 2015

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES
ENDING HOMELESSNESS
Are you ready for zero?

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
Apply now at www.zero2016.org
What stays the same
What changes:

Commitment to END veteran and chronic homelessness
Biggest Truth

About 90% of those moving from the street to housing make it. Same as other tenants.
We have amazing Federal partners: HUD, VA, USICH
Zero: 2016 Goal, Mayors’ Challenge, and Opening Doors

All communities in Zero: 2016 will end Veterans homelessness (no later than 12/31/15)
And, building on that momentum, will end chronic homelessness for individuals (no later than 12/31/16, oops 2017).
Early Results of the Community Self-Assessment Survey

THIS IS WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO!
#5
Implementing a Concrete Plan to Tap Mainstream funding
Being Like the Best

#4

Using Shared Data to Drive Decision-Making For Housing

Data is Sexy!
Being Like the Best

#3

Setting Eligibility Criteria for PSH at the Community Level Rather than the Provider Level
Being Like the Best

#2

Creating and Continuously Updating a Prioritized, By-Name List of Homeless Neighbors
Being Like the Best

#1

Implementing Housing First on a System-Wide Basis
Who has to be at the table

- Continuum of Care
- Housing Authority
- Veterans Affairs
What I dream

Expand your vision to include Ed Givens, who will die on the street without housing.

Do the impossible.
Now I want to get personal

I am fiercely committed to ending homelessness!
Commissioning of Leaders

If you are Committed to Ending Homelessness:
1. Pick up soldier
2. Stand up
Commissioning of Leaders
Are you ready for zero?

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
Apply now at www.zero2016.org
Contact me

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This is my job and your call is never an interruption.
QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Local issues and considerations?
- Challenges?
- Opportunities?
- How can NVTAC better serve HVRP Grantees?
- Other considerations?
- NVTAC Website Content – what do you want?
Contact us any time with any issues big or small!

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