

NCHV eNewsletter

October 2014



Remaining Space Limited for the 2014 NCHV Veterans Access to Housing Summit, Register Today!

New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu invited to speak

[Download the 2014 NCHV Veterans Access to Housing Summit brochure](#), which features an overview of the schedule for the event, Summit objectives, and hotel information.

Join NCHV and our community partners at the 2014 NCHV Veterans Access to Housing Summit, taking place Nov. 13-14 in New Orleans.

Stakeholders are encouraged to register quickly, as space is limited for this event.



To register online, [click here](#). To download the registration form to return by mail or fax, [click here](#). The discount room block at the [Hyatt Regency](#) is now sold out. To find an alternate hotel in the area, [click here](#).

More details:

Several interactive workshops will allow you to:

- Give your local perspective on changing Federal programs,
- Develop concrete action items for approaching local stakeholders, and
- Learn about new funding mechanisms to increase your community's housing stock.

Expert panelists will share engagement strategies and outcomes from 25 Cities, Zero: 2016, the Mayor's Initiative, and other coordinated local efforts to end veteran homelessness. Take advantage of this opportunity to work directly with the change-makers and experts in housing development for homeless and at-risk veterans!

Check back on the [Housing Summit web page](#) for updates. The Summit will run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13, and from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Friday, Nov. 14. Please join us for a reception to meet key stakeholders on Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. A Housing Summit program will be available in the coming weeks.

More about our host city:

New Orleans is nationally recognized for their extraordinary progress in alleviating homelessness. The city's efforts to end veteran homelessness show ingenuity, creativity and dedication. Over the past two years, veteran homelessness dropped 66 percent, a fact made all the more impressive given the city's spike in homelessness after Hurricane Katrina.

Earlier this summer, Mayor Mitch Landrieu announced the City of New Orleans' drive to be the first city in the country to end all veteran homelessness by 2014. "The President sent out a clarion call that this is not who we are as a nation and that we need to come together as one people to make sure that all the veterans have what they need, from housing to health care to jobs," Mayor Landrieu said at a ceremony on the 4th of July. New Orleans has already shown this dedication as an active member of the VA's 25 Cities Initiative. This effort is an example of the success possible when a community merges ending veteran homelessness into its overall homelessness plan.

New Orleans provides us with fitting surroundings for the NCHV Housing Summit to discuss what is possible as we strive to ensure affordable housing access for all veterans experiencing homelessness. Representatives from New Orleans have been invited to share their strategies, victories and challenges with Summit attendees.

HHS Releases Two New Reports on Using Medicaid to Cover Services for People in Permanent Supportive Housing

Reports serve as tools to expand services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) recently released two new reports: [Primer on Using Medicaid for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Tenants of Permanent Supportive Housing](#), and a companion document, [Medicaid and Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Individuals: Emerging Practices from the Field](#).

The reports serve as tools for States and communities working to expand services and supports for people in permanent supportive housing. While they focus on services for people experiencing chronic homelessness, the options highlighted in the Primer can be used by States to increase the role of Medicaid in providing supportive services to any individual who requires supportive services to achieve housing stability and improved health and well-being.

The Affordable Care Act creates new opportunities for health and behavioral health coverage for people experiencing homelessness. Through both the expansion of Medicaid coverage and new opportunities for care coordination such as through the new Health Home option, all States have the opportunity to increase Medicaid's role to serve individuals experiencing homelessness. Some States and communities have already led the way in designing innovative Medicaid programs to serve individuals experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless individuals through permanent supportive housing, a proven and cost-effective intervention for ending homelessness, improving health, and lowering public costs.

As the Medicaid program evolves to meet the needs of its beneficiaries, new policy and clarifications of existing policy will be made subsequent to the publication of this Primer. These will be disseminated through State Medicaid Directors' Letters and through other guidance which will be available on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid website at [cms.hhs.gov](https://www.cms.hhs.gov). The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and its partners will be releasing fact sheets that will help States, community health centers, supportive housing provider organizations, and organizations serving veterans understand the options outlined in these documents.

Secretary McDonald Announces VA to Continue Town Hall Events at VA Facilities Nationwide

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald has directed all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare and benefits facilities to continue to hold quarterly town hall events to improve communication with, and hear directly from, veterans nationwide. This follows the recent completion of town-halls at these facilities held between August and the end of September of this year.

“Every one of our medical centers and regional benefits offices held town hall meetings around the country in August and September, but we have more listening to do to better serve veterans and their families,” said Secretary McDonald. “As part of our Road to Veterans Day, VA is taking a hard look at everything we do in order to reorganize the Department around the needs of veterans. Direct feedback from veterans, employees and stakeholders is an important component of that Roadmap, and key to improving our services and operations,” Secretary McDonald added.

Details of events at each location will be forthcoming from local facilities. Additionally, VA is looking to continue to improve the town hall notification process, making sure they have the benefit of extensive local input. In addition to veterans and their families, the quarterly meetings are open to Congressional stakeholders, Veterans Service Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and other community partners.

Information about town hall events is available through your local VA Medical Center. To find the medical center closest to you, [click here](#).

USICH Webinar: FY 2014 CoC Program Competition - Strategies for Continued Success

Webinar recording and presentation materials available online

On Sept. 19, 2014, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) hosted a webinar for communities on strategies for continued success in responding to The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Funds in the FY 2013 - FY 2014 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition (FY 2014 CoC Program Funding Notice).

Attendees heard about the results of the FY 2013 competition, received an overview of the policy priorities guiding this year's competition, and learned more about the CoCs that reallocated program funding to permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing projects. Participants also learned details of the \$40 million set-aside for permanent supportive housing units prioritized for those experiencing chronic homelessness.

[Watch the webinar recording.](#)
[Download the slides.](#)

Funding Opportunities

The Catholic Human Services Foundation's mission is to promote and enhance the quality of life for those in need. To achieve this goal, the Foundation's primary focus is to support Catholic

organizations providing health and human services. The Foundation also directs its resources toward other worthy and charitable causes. Letters of inquiry from nonprofit organizations are accepted throughout the year to be reviewed on a quarterly basis. The Foundation primarily (but not exclusively) gives donations to organizations in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. For more information, [click here](#).

The Dart Foundation considers grant requests in the following areas: education, community services, with emphasis on youth programs and basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, and health services, and disaster relief. On the Foundation's website, there is a list of specific communities that funds are targeted toward. The Foundation will begin accepting applications after Nov. 15. For more information, [click here](#).

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National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

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