

Department of Housing and Urban Development – Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program

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Outline

- ” HUD-VASH Program Description
- ” Voucher Utilization Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-March 2013
- ” Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Homeless Programs
- ” Mission
- ” Data on Homeless Veterans
- ” Barriers
- ” Solutions
- ” The Way Forward

Housing and Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program

- “ Two United States (US) Departments working collaboratively on a common goal
- “ The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has Congressional appropriations for Housing Choice vouchers:

HUD's Appropriation			
HUD-VASH	Appropriation	Approx. Vouchers	Total Vouchers
FY 2008	\$75 M	10,150	10,150
FY 2009	\$75 M	10,290	20,440
FY 2010	\$75 M	10,096	30,536
FY 2011	\$50 M	7,349	37,885
FY 2012	\$75 M	10,450	48,335
FY 2013	\$75 M	10,000	58,335

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/vash

HUD-VASH

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is appropriated funding for HUD-VASH staff to provide case management and supportive services

- FY 2008-2012 has 1,985 HUD-VASH Staff, to include independently licensed master's level social workers, Nurses, Peer Supports, Substance Use Disorder Specialists, Housing Specialists, administrative supports, etc.
- Additionally, FY 2013 hiring is underway, but positions continue to be adjusted with voucher allocation changes
- VA developing “enhanced” HUD-VASH teams, in select areas where there is highest need
- VA has the capacity to ensure high level wrap-around services to Veteran participants

HUD-VASH

“ HUD-VASH is the Nation’s largest supportive housing initiative that targets homeless Veterans and their families

➤ As of end of March 2013,

- ❖ 48,181*, Housing Choice Vouchers (HCVs) are available for use in the HUD-VASH program
- ❖ 46,031 vouchers were in use
- ❖ 41,882 Veterans were housed using a HUD-VASH voucher
- ❖ 86.7 percent of the FY 2012 funded positions are filled
- ❖ 91.1 percent of all FY 2008-2012 funded positions are filled

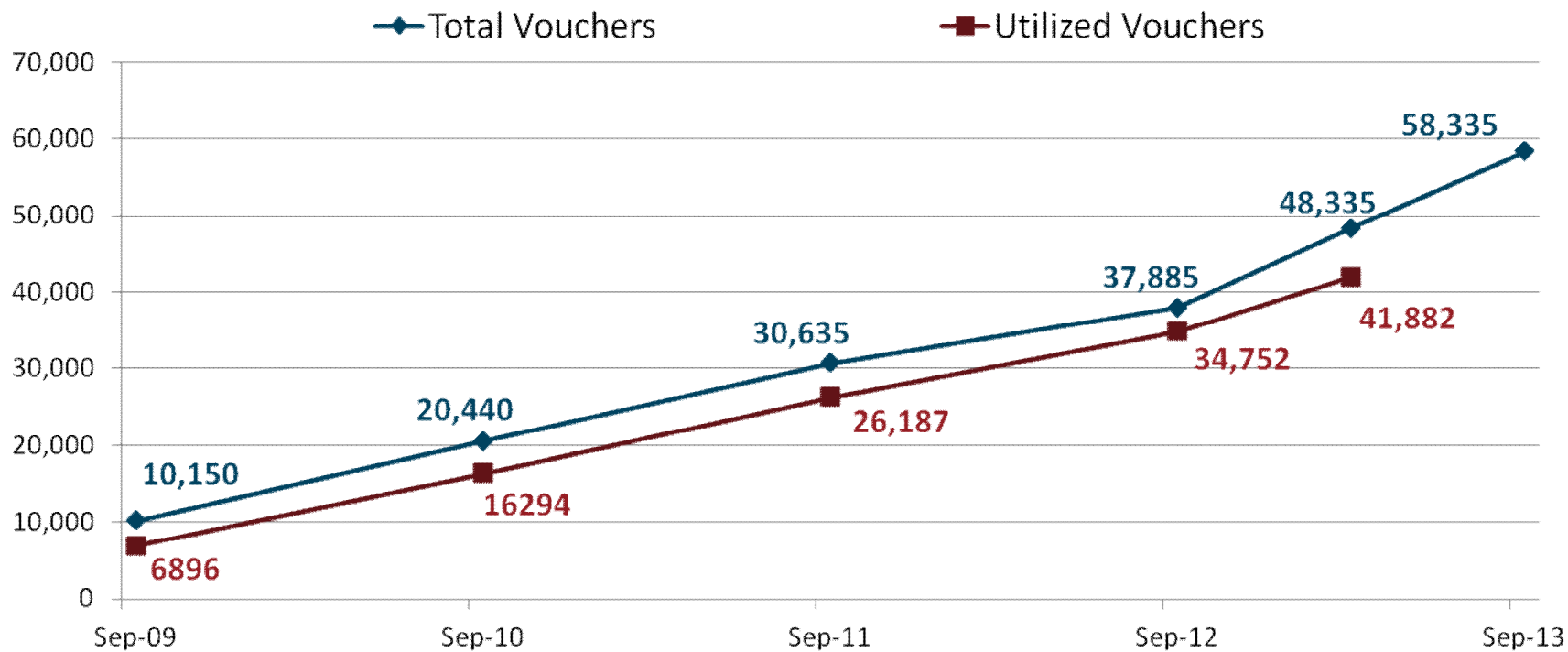
*Inactive Project Based Vouchers (PBV) bring the total to 48,335

HUD-VASH Priorities

VA and HUD agree that vouchers are to be targeted to those homeless Veterans with the highest vulnerability and need so that this resource is maximized

- “ Chronically homeless Veterans are the first priority
- “ VA also assists vulnerable homeless Veterans such as:
 - Women Veterans
 - Veterans with families
 - Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) Veterans
 - Veterans with significant disabilities

HUD-VASH Voucher Utilization from September 2009 until March 2013



VA Homeless Services

VA has a wide array of services for Veterans who are homeless

HUD-VASH is one option in the VHA Office of Homeless Services

- Outreach
- National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
- Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC)
- Health Care for Homeless Veterans Contract Beds
- Safe Havens
- Veterans Benefits Homeless Program
- Grant and Per Diem Transitional Housing
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
- Homeless Veteran Supported Employment Program (HVSEP)
- Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV)
- Justice Outreach

VHA Homeless Programs Mission

The mission of VHA's Homeless Program Office is to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans and their families, and to assist in the achievement of optimal functioning and quality of life through provision of a comprehensive continuum of care that includes: Outreach/Education, Prevention, Treatment, Income/Employment/Benefits, and Housing/ Supportive Services provided in collaboration with Federal, state, local governments and community partners

"In 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs launched a comprehensive, multifaceted plan to eliminate homelessness among Veterans

"Housing First is a best practice that VA leadership embraces



Outreach /Education Treatment Prevention Housing Employment /Income /Benefits Partnerships



Veteran Homelessness

Poverty

Unemployment/Economics

Substance Use

Lack of Affordable Housing

Medical/Mental Health
Issues

Domestic Violence

Prior History
of
Incarceration

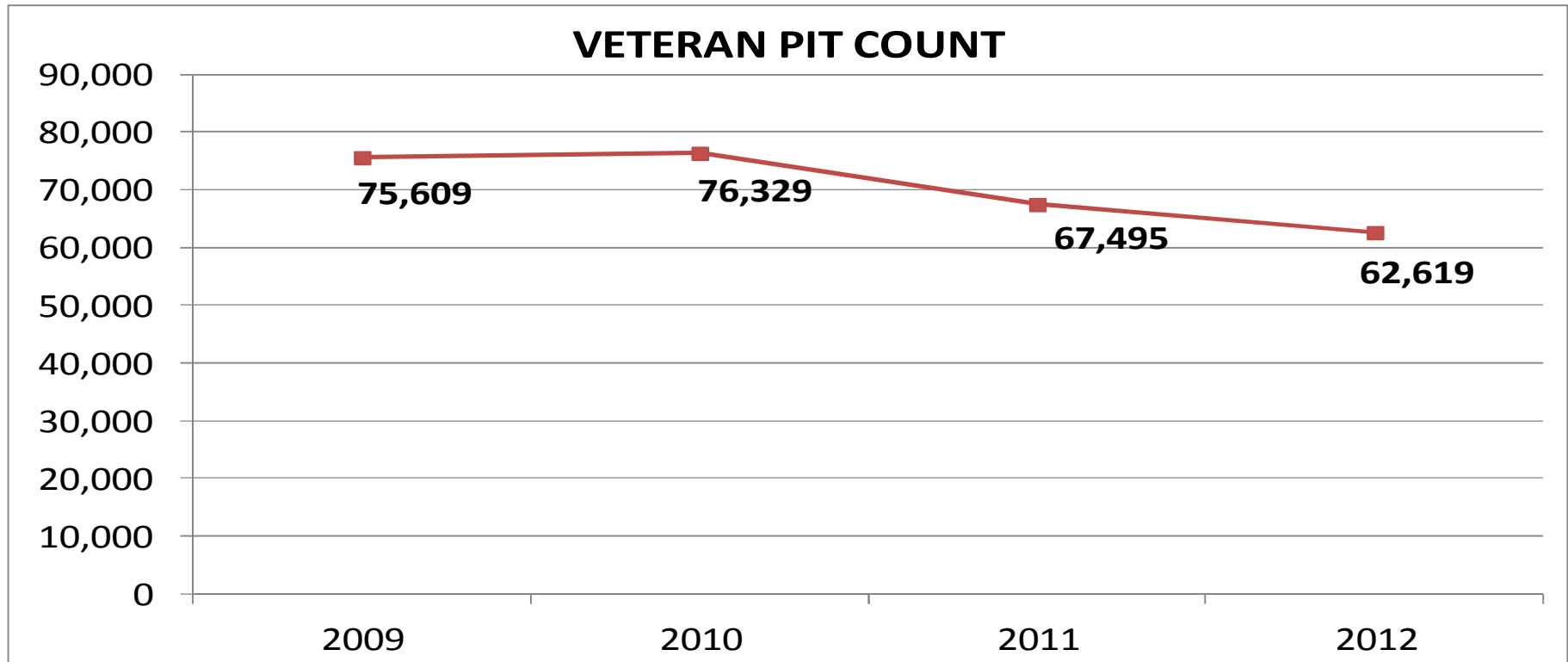
Unsuccessful Transition
from Military

Family
Decomposition

Prior history of
homelessness

Scope of Veteran Homelessness

The 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, prepared by HUD, estimates there were 62,619 homeless Veterans on a single night in January in the United States, a 7.2 percent decline since 2011 and a 17.2 percent decline since 2009.



Notes:

- All PIT counts are snapshots of homelessness taken in the last week of January of the stated year

Veteran Homelessness Data

HOMELESS VETERANS DATA	FY11	FY12	FY13 YTD Q2
TOTAL # SERVED IN SPECIALIZED HOMELESS OR AT-RISK PROGRAMS (includes VBA and other programs that code homeless Veterans)	210,006	257,962	223,944
TOTAL # SERVED IN VHA SPECIALIZED HOMELESS OR AT-RISK PROGRAMS	157,113	200,847	165,850
# SERVED NEW TO VA SERVICES IN PAST 2 YEARS	95,113	118,424	71,047
# CONTACTED THROUGH OUTREACH (Uniques)	98,044	119,662	86,001
# OF HOMELESS VETERANS ASSESSED	66,375	97,614	48,093
# OF CHRONICALLY HOMELESS VETERANS ASSESSED	22,175	31,331	15,608
% OF VETERANS ASSESSED WHO WERE CHRONICALLY HOMELESS	33%	32%	32%
HOMELESS STATUS AT TIME OF ASSESSMENT			
% LITERALLY HOMELESS	61%	62%	61%
% IMMINENT RISK FOR HOMELESSNESS	9%	10%	9%
% UNSTABLY HOUSED	13%	12%	12%
% STABLY HOUSED	13%	14%	15%
% NOT ANSWERED	4%	2%	3%

Chronically Homeless Veteran Admissions to HUD-VASH

This Chart shows the number of Veterans who met the Federal criteria for chronically homeless at the time of admission

Year	CH Admissions	All Admissions	Percent
2009	4,951	10,059	49.2%
2010	6,990	13,526	51.7%
2011	8,496	15,582	54.5%
2012	11,756	22,375	52.5%
2013 Q1	2,645	4,375	60.5%
2013 Q2	2,609	3,754	69.5%
2013 (through Q2)	5,254	8,129	64.6%
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION			

Housing First

- “ Housing First is an evidence based, cost effective approach to ending homelessness for the most vulnerable and chronically homeless individuals
- “ Housing First in VA centers on quickly providing homeless Veterans with permanent housing through the HUD-VASH and/or Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) programs and with needed services provided
- “ There has been an ongoing Housing First pilot project in 14 selected HUD-VASH programs
- “ Preliminary results have been positive, and a community of learning and sharing has been created through regular monthly calls coordinated by the National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans.

Housing First in VA

- “ Full implementation of the Housing First model is goal
- “ Every facility was required to:
 - ❖ Participate in Housing First training
 - ❖ Complete a baseline assessment of their readiness to implement Housing First
 - ❖ Cooperatively develop specific plans, with their Public Housing Authorities, to more rapidly house HUD-VASH Veteran participants
- “ Ongoing VISN specific Housing First technical assistance continues to be provided by a team of advisors.

Barriers to Rapidly Housing Homeless Veterans in HUD-VASH

- ” Change is hard and scary
- ” Veteran participants are:
 - ❖ Difficult to find at times
 - ❖ Ambivalent
 - ❖ Distrust VA/Government
- ” No/Severely Limited Income
- ” Processes within the various systems involved
- ” Credit and/or Legal history
- ” Housing Stock Limitations
- ” Identifying appropriate applicants
- ” Sequester Impact

Solutions!

Engaging the Veteran – Veteran centered

- “ System change
- “ Culture change

Income for Deposits, etc.

- “ Veterans Benefits Administration and Social Security Administration
- “ Homeless Veteran Supported Employment Program (HVSEP)
- “ Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
- “ Community Resources (Emergency Solutions Grant Program, Faith-based assistance, community funds, etc.)
- “ Veterans Employment Programs through the Department of Labor

Solutions!

- “ Centralized processes
- “ Stakeholder investment to remove barriers/simplify the process
- “ Landlord Fairs
- “ Brochures
- “ Education about HUD-VASH
- “ Boot Camps with leadership to make changes
- “ Education about Regulations/Statutes
- “ HA processes adjust to unique situations of homeless Veterans
- “ Inspections expedited
- “ Regular Structured Communication with other Stakeholders

Partnerships

- “ Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- “ 100,000 HOMES Campaign/Common Ground
- “ Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) HS
- “ United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
- “ Community Governments
- “ Public Housing Authority (PHAs)
- “ Continuum of Care (CoCs)
- “ Department of Labor (DOL)
- “ Local Homeless Providers
- “ Faith-based groups
- “ Law Enforcement



Supportive Services For Veteran Families (SSVF)

- “ Unlike VA’s traditional Homeless Programs which focused on the treatment and rehabilitation of the individual Veteran, prevention of homelessness addresses those Veterans and their families who are at immediate risk for becoming homeless or have recently become homeless
- “ The primary focus of the SSVF program is to aid Veteran families with their housing needs through:
 - Prevention, and
 - Rapid Re-housing

In FY 2012, SSVF served 35,363 individuals, exceeding the annual projection of 22,000 for the fiscal year.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

In July 2012, VA's SSVF Program awarded 151 community agencies in 49 states and the District of Columbia totaling \$100 million.

- SSVF Dashboard Highlights thru February 2013 (FY 2013):

- Served 33,604 participants.
- Significant impact on Veteran families with 7,977 children assisted.
- Of 20,189 Veteran participants, 2,747 are women (13.6% of Veterans served).
- 3,501 Veteran participants are OEF/OIF/OND (17.3% of Veterans served).

“ Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), published October 26, 2012, for approximately \$300 million in grant funding for FY 2014

“ NOFA closed Feb. 1, 2013

SSVF and HUD-VASH

- “ HUD put out a new ruling that homeless Veterans who are served by SSVF continue to maintain HUD-VASH eligibility in “Q & A”

<http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewFaqById&faqID=2246&cv=t4&keywords=HUD-VASH&facetParent=&facet=&facetItem=&isFacetSearch=&programID=0&esystemID=0&productTypeID=0&resourceTopicID=0&faqTopicID=0&faqSubTopicID=0&datefrom=&dateto=&sessionid=1DB6130DE7CD87313F4CDC7196A4B3A3&searchID=502384&searchtype=2&refererType=homeFaqSrc&listSessionFilter=&keywordinsearch=&listSearchwithin=&resultType=2>

- “ SSVF provides rapid re-housing; HUD-VASH works with those most likely to return to homelessness (at risk, vulnerable and chronically homeless)
- “ HUD-VASH
 - Provides the affordable permanent housing solution
 - Wraps the social services around the Veteran participant
 - Smooths the processes involved
 - Provides on-going case management

The Way Forward

- “ Continue to promote active partnerships and collaborations with Federal Departments/Agencies, Tribal Governments, State and Local municipalities and community organizations to include DoD Active and Reserve Components and local Continuums of Care.
- “ Develop focused efforts to address unique needs of homeless Veteran special population groups:
 - Rural
 - Veterans with Families
 - Chronically Homeless
 - Seriously Mentally Ill
 - Women Veterans
 - OEF/OIF/OND Veterans
 - Over age 65 Veteran

The Way Forward

- “ Develop and implement evidence-based models of care
- “ Through the use of the Homeless Registry, create learning communities that share data, best practices and are results driven.
- “ Improve homeless Veterans' employability
- “ Support Veterans' recovery from homelessness
- “ Advance Veterans' integration into their community
- “ Promote Veteran independence from initial contact through graduation from case management

Questions...

For more information on VA's programs for Homeless Veterans:

<http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/index.asp>

Help for Homeless Veterans
877-4AID-VET
va.gov/homeless | (877) 424-3838