Logistics

- Asking questions during the webinar:
  - All participant phone lines are muted.
  - You will be unable to ask questions by phone.
  - Submit questions through the on screen questions box.

- After the webinar you will receive an email with a link to the recording and the survey.
Agenda

- The Homeless Veteran Landscape
  - Background and History
  - Critical Programs
- Moving Forward
  - How Far We’ve Come
  - Creating a System
- Questions
Homelessness Among Veterans from the American Revolution to the Civil War to Vietnam to the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
More Recent Times

Coming home after the Vietnam War, veterans struggled to re-integrate in a land that was less than welcoming. Unemployment ran high among these veterans as did behavioral health problems and physical disabilities.
By the numbers…

- 21.8 million veterans in US (2014); 10% were women
- One night count in January 2015 – 564,708 people were homeless- vopar login
- 47,725 homeless veterans
- Females make up about 8% of homeless vets.
Veteran Homelessness: Demographic Changes and Trends

- Presence of homeless women veterans
- Introduction of younger, more recently separated veterans
- Older veterans with chronic health conditions
- Most veterans in jails and prisons seen by VA in-reaching staff have a mental health or substance use disorder or both.
Veteran Homelessness: Wider Trends and National Movements

- Local partners in the homeless system use a shared database that could include employment data
- Shared information about street homeless veterans
- Targeting locations with high rates of veteran homelessness is now based on data
- Using researched practices such as PSH and Housing First
- Targeting services to specific populations
EXHIBIT 5.1: PIT Estimates of Homeless Veterans
By Sheltered Status, 2009–2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless Veterans</td>
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<td>-7.7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Early 1990s – mid 2000s:

- NCHV helped draft the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program as a way for community providers to work with the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) to help veterans get off the streets.

- The first Stand Down grants are made to offer a “hand up” out of homelessness.

- The Department of Labor (DOL) starts the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) to help homeless veterans connect to gainful employment.
2009 – Veteran Homelessness supplement to Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)

- PIT estimates
  - 75,609 homeless veterans
  - 57% in emergency shelter/transitional housing, 43% unsheltered
  - Veterans are overrepresented in homeless population

- One-year estimates:
  - 136,334 self-identified veterans spent at least one night in emergency shelter or transitional housing
USICH and the Federal Strategic Plan

Driving Principles:

- Homelessness is unacceptable
- No “homeless people”
- Invest in solutions
- Homelessness is solvable; we have learned a lot about what works.
- Homelessness can be prevented
- Strength in collaboration

Original Goals:

1) Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in five years;
2) Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in five years;
3) Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in ten years; and
4) Set a path to ending all types of homelessness.
Commitment from Federal Agencies

- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Department of Labor
- Leads to more resources for…
Strategies to End Veteran Homelessness

1. Start at the Top: Get State and Local Leaders to Publicly Commit to and Coordinate Efforts on Ending Veteran Homelessness

2. Implement a Housing First System Orientation and Response

3. Implement a Coordinated Entry System

4. Set and Meet Ambitious Short and Long-Term Goals by Deploying All Resources Effectively

5. Improve Transitional Housing Performance and Consider Adopting Different Models and/or Converting or Reallocating Resources Into Supportive Housing
Strategies to End Veteran Homelessness

6. Engage and Support Private Landlords as Partners
7. Identify and Be Accountable to all Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
8. Conduct Coordinated Outreach and Engagement Efforts
9. Increase Connections to Employment
10. Coordinate With Legal Services Organizations To Solve Legal Needs
The Cornerstone Programs

- Rapid re-housing and prevention: SSVF, ESG, and CoC
- Permanent Supportive Housing: HUD-VASH
- Transitional Housing: GPD
- Employment: HVRP, HVCES
Rapid Re-Housing and Prevention: SSVF

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

- Launched by VA in October 2011
- Awarded $60 million to 85 grantees
- Homeless or at-risk
- Emphasis on rapid re-housing and prevention
- Flexible with core services
Rapid Re-Housing and Prevention: CoC

Continuum of Care (CoC)

- Created in 2009 under HEARTH – combination of earlier homeless assistance programs.
- Administered by HUD
- Promotes community-wide commitment to goal of ending homelessness
- Competitive grants coordinated by a local or regional entity – over 400 CoCs
- Focus on rapid re-housing
- FY 2016 – %1.9 billion
HUD VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)

- Began in 2008
- Provides long-term case management, supportive services and permanent housing support for homeless veterans.
- More than 300 Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) have participated in the program
- Veterans who receive HUD-VASH vouchers rent privately owned housing and often contribute up to 30% of their income toward rent
- Since 2008, HUD has awarded more than 85,000 HUD-VASH vouchers
Transitional Housing: GPD

Grant and Per Diem (GPD)

- Began in 1993 – HVRP providers
- 2 components – Grant (construction) and Per Diem
- Limited stay – up to 24 months, ideally less than 90 days
- Provides housing and supportive services
- Veterans can be asked to pay up to 30% of income as rent
- Per diem rate $43.32 per day per veteran
- Program re-boot
Employment: HVRP

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP)

- Authorized in 1987, funded by DOL-VETS
- Primary objectives:
  1. Place homeless veterans in competitive employment
  2. Develop service delivery system
- In PY 2015, HVRP provided approximately $37 million in funding through 159 grants.
- Core principles: client-centered, coordinated effort, connects veterans to an array of services, job-driven training approach
29,373 Assessments Conducted
17,033 Veterans enrolled
14,997 male veterans
2,036 women veteran
Caucasian 39%
African American 50%
Hispanic 8%
Native American 1%
Other 2%
VA’s Homeless Veteran Community Employment Service

- Community Employment Coordinator at each VAMC
- Build a collaboration of veteran serving programs in the local workforce system
- Increase rates of employment in VA homeless programs
- [http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/HVCES.asp](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/HVCES.asp)
Organizing the Chaos...

- Employment
- Veteran Issues
- Treatment
- Legal Services
- Health Care
- Prevention
- Homeless Issues
- Affordable Housing
- Veteran Homelessness
To Create a Community

Veteran Homelessness

Affordable Housing

Homeless Issues

Rapid re-housing

Legal Services

Treatment

Veteran Issues

Health Care

Employment

Prevention
Federal Definition of “Functional Zero”

Meeting the Federal definition of “functional zero” does NOT mean that no veteran will experience homelessness! In fact, USICH describes it as:

“An end to homelessness does not mean that no one will ever experience a housing crisis again. Changing economic realities, the unpredictability of life, and unsafe or unwelcoming family environments may create situations where individuals, families, or youth could experience, re-experience, or be at risk of homelessness. An end to homelessness means that every community will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.”

According to USICH, the goal is that every community will have the capacity to:

- Quickly identify and engage people at risk of and experiencing homelessness.
- Intervene to prevent the loss of housing and divert people from entering the homelessness services system.
- Provide immediate access to shelter and crisis services, without barriers to entry, while permanent stable housing and appropriate supports are being secured.
- When homelessness does occur, quickly connect people to housing assistance and services—tailored to their unique needs and strengths—to help them achieve and maintain stable housing.
2 States and 24 Communities have Reached Functional Zero Systems!

- Albany, NY
- Montgomery County, MD
- Connecticut
- New Orleans, LA
- Cumberland County/Fayetteville, NC
- Philadelphia, PA
- Daytona Beach/Volusia County, FL
- Reading/Berks County, PA
- Des Moines, IA
- Rochester, NY
- Flagler County, FL
- Rockford, IL
- Houston, TX
- San Antonio, TX
- La Cruces, NM
- Saratoga Springs, NY
- Lancaster City and County, PA
- Schenectady, NY
- Las Vegas, NV
- Syracuse, NY
- Lynn, MA
- Troy, NY
- Mississippi Gulfport/Gulf Coast Regional CoC
- Virginia
- Mobile, AL
- Winston-Salem, NC
http://www.endhomlessness.org/library/entry/ssvf-surge-map
Building a Safety Net

- Housing
- Legal Services
- Employment
- Supportive Services
- Training

Veteran
NATIONAL VETERANS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

Addressing the employment needs of Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and those with significant barriers to employment.

FIND LOCAL SERVICES

NATIONAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Connecting wounded warriors, service members, veterans, their families and caregivers with those who support them.

News

Virtual Learning Class for New HVRP Staff

This VLC will prepare new HVRP staff, particularly those from new grantees, for the challenges of helping homeless veterans enter and remain in the workforce. Participants will have the opportunity to learn best practices and meet their colleagues from programs across the country.

(more...)

OPM Issues Proposed Rule for “Disabled Veteran Leave”

On June 6, 2016, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Implement the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015 (Public Law No. 114-75), which establishes a new leave category for federal employees known as “disabled veteran leave.”

(more...)

Just Released From USICH

USICH has released an updated version of 10 Strategies to End Veteran Homelessness based on lessons learned from the communities that have successfully ended veteran homelessness.

(more...)

Events

07-14-2016

Veteran Homelessness 101
Major Tasks at NVTAC

1. Improve Grantee Performance thru TA, Training, & Materials
2. Identify Best Practices and Support Other Research
3. Respond to TA Inquiries
4. Disseminate Information to Stakeholders
5. Employer Development
Contact Us

Request Technical Assistance

You can request Technical Assistance in three different ways:

- By emailing your request to NVTAC@ahpnet.com
- Complete the TA Request Form
- Contact the TA liaison for your region or the NVTAC Regional Contact in the list