National Alliance to End Homelessness—Beyond a 17 Percent Decrease: Next Steps for Ending Veteran Homelessness

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Help for Homeless Veterans
877-4AID-VET
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Washington, D.C. — July 22, 2013 —
The Nation’s Goal:
End homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015.
In 2009, VA announced a plan to accomplish this goal.

... To solutions that promote permanent housing for Veterans and prevent homelessness

The plan moves VA away from managing homelessness ...
Ending Veteran Homelessness

Overview

We are now in the final phase of the three-phase plan.

Phase I: Build (FY 2010–FY 2011)

Phase II: Assess and Adjust (FY 2012–FY 2015)


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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
The number of Veterans who are homeless is down **17.2 percent** since 2009...
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
Where Are We Going?

- Move every Veteran quickly and safely off the streets and into permanent or short-term housing with plans to quickly move the individual to permanent housing.

- Embrace “no wrong door” philosophy and “Housing First” approach.

- Work with HUD to provide case management to HUD-VASH voucher recipients.

- Prevent homelessness and rapidly re-house Veterans and their families through SSVF.

Overarching Strategies

- Outreach and Rapid Engagement
- Rapid Re-Housing and Prevention
- Housing First
- Ongoing, flexible support

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Where Are We Going?

Move Veterans Into Housing Faster

Boot camps and other coordinated community planning efforts have resulted in the use of these tactics to move Veterans into housing faster:

- Conduct mass screenings and briefings with VA and PHAs
- Complete VA and PHA applications during street outreach and at drop-in clinics
- Encourage PHAs to accept nontraditional supplemental documentation
- Use “navigators” to help complete program paperwork and obtain supporting documents
- Use HCHV, GPD resources as bridge to permanent housing

**HUD-VASH**

Combines housing vouchers and supportive services to help Veterans who are homeless and their families find and sustain permanent housing.

- 42,786 = housed or leased to date
  - 12 percent = women
  - 14 percent = Veterans with children
  - 10 percent = OEF/OIF Veterans

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VA
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Where Are We Going?

Alleviate Homelessness Among Women Veterans

VA is making sure our services meet the needs of women Veterans and women Veterans with children.

- Fastest growing segment of the homeless population.
- VA is engaged in an ongoing effort to reshape programs to address women Veterans’ unique needs.
- Last year, about 9 percent of those served in VA’s programs for homeless and at-risk Veterans were women.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

For very low-income Veterans, provides case management and time-limited payments to prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran’s home or identify a new, more suitable housing situation for the individual and his or her family; or to rapidly re-house Veterans and their families who are homeless.

- 45,630 = total SSVF participants to date
  - 28,246 = total Veterans
  - 10,551 = total children
  - 3,889 = total female Veterans
  - 5,183 = total households with children

New SSVF Awards for FY 2014 Services

Number of Grant Awards

- 0-4
- 5-9
- 10+

NOTE: Some grantees serve multiple states, adding 39 grantees to total state grantee count.
VA now has 37 Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (H-PACTs) providing comprehensive, integrated care to 6,300 Veterans.

- More H-PACTs forming
- Data show cost-effectiveness:
  - Patients enrolled in H-PACT experience on average 36.6 percent fewer emergency department visits.
  - H-PACT patients require an average of 34.1 percent fewer hospitalizations. If duplicated across the entire health care system, this reduction could save VA up to $7.2 million per year.
Where Are We Going?

Assess Veterans’ Housing Situations

VA medical centers use **simple screening tool** to assess the housing situation of every Veteran who comes for care at a VA medical center.

From October 2012 through June 30, 2013:
- 3,646,984 Veterans accessing outpatient care were screened
  - 0.7 percent screened positive for *housing instability*
  - 0.9 percent screened positive for *risk*
  - 98.4 percent screened *negative*

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**Homeless Veterans Supported Employment Program**

Employs formerly homeless Veterans to provide vocational assistance, development, training, and ongoing support in the community to improve employment outcomes among Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

- Of the 10,837 homeless Veterans served so far this year, 1,027 graduated from the program with a job.
- Of the 12,815 homeless Veterans served last year, 1,126 left the program with employment.
Where Are We Going?

- Created comprehensive homeless Registry
- Use Registry’s HOMES system to track data on Veterans who are homeless and monitor them as they move through system
- Share data with community partners to identify Veterans with history military service
- Use Veterans Reentry Search Service to locate two to three times more individuals with a history of military service in courts, prisons, jails.

Enhance Data to Better Track Results

Specialized Programs:
Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)
Helps Veterans avoid unnecessary or incarceration
172 VJO specialists
58,110 Veterans served to date
(Since inception, FY 2010 through June 2013)

Health Care for Reentry Veterans Program (HCRV)
Eases Veterans’ transition from prison to the community
44 HCRV specialists—roughly two for each Veterans Integrated Service Network
53,562 Veterans served to date
(Since inception, FY 2007 through June 2013)
Where Are We Going?

With VA’s $1.3 billion in specialized programs for Veterans, intensive outreach, and growing partnerships, we are serving more Veterans every year.

So far in 2013, VA …

… is on pace to serve 23 percent more Veterans overall this year than last year.

… served 164,683 Veterans new to VA services in the past two years.

… assessed 72,530 homeless Veterans, about 24,406 of whom were chronically homeless Veterans.

Specialized Program: Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem

Through governments or nonprofits, provides grants and payments to develop and operate temporary housing and/or service centers for Veterans who are homeless.

- To date, GPD has provided services to more than 37,600 unique Veterans.
- Last year, GPD served 2,820 women Veterans.
Where Are We Going?

Close Gaps

Review VA and community resources, document gaps, and devise strategies for closing those gaps to reach, house, and serve every Veteran without a safe, stable place to call home.
WHAT CHALLENGES DO WE FACE?
What Challenges Do We Face?

Affordable Housing

- More quality, safe, and affordable housing.
- Housing options that are near transportation and jobs.
- Offset the increasing cost of housing with down payment assistance.

Legislative and Statutory Barriers

- Development on VAMC campuses.
- Sequestration.
- SSVF cap hinders expansion and flexibility.
What Challenges Do We Face?

- Veterans’ ineligibility for VA health care and services.
- Emergency, transitional, or permanent housing for homeless Veterans who are registered sex offenders.
- Available and accessible transportation.
- Jobs, jobs, jobs.

Mainstream Resources, Transportation, Employment and Training

Other Challenges …

- Free civil legal assistance, including eviction and foreclosure prevention, resolution of warrants and fines, and driver’s license restoration.
- Access to mental health and substance use care following discharge from active duty; these are strong predictors of a person’s becoming homeless.
- Need for in-depth exploration of services for female Veterans.
- Deployment of new technologies to make real-time survey data and results available.
WHAT CAN COMMUNITIES DO TO END AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS?
What Can Communities Do?

- Share data.
- Conduct or expand joint outreach with VA’s homeless program personnel to share information and strategies.
- Set ambitious goals for engaging and rapidly housing all Veterans by the end of 2015.
- Identify Veterans ineligible for VA health care and services and have a comprehensive plan to serve these individuals.
- Locate bridge housing until Veterans’ permanent housing placements are available.
- Work with funders, business, and organizations in your community to help Veterans pay deposits on, stock, and furnish their new homes and apartments.
What Can Communities Do?

- **Add your voice** to those supporting SSVF expansion to more communities and to efforts to ensure that Grant and Per Diem funding can be used for after care for Veterans who’ve transitioned to other housing.

- **Make the Call** to 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838) or chat online at [va.gov/homeless](http://va.gov/homeless).

**Participate in the 2013 CHALENG survey!**

[va.gov/homeless/chaleng.asp](http://va.gov/homeless/chaleng.asp)
TOGETHER, WE CAN END HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

LEARN MORE AT VA.GOV/HOMELESSLESS