

VHA Homeless Programs

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5 Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness

- Secretary's Plan to *End Homelessness among Veterans*
 - In 2009, Secretary Eric Shinseki announced the Five Year Plan to End Homelessness among Veterans.
 - Seeks to better coordinate our resources, improve collaboration, create new programs, and enhance research and policy to end the indignity of Veteran homelessness.
- Overview of Homeless Programs
 - Increase in and enhancement of programs and types of services over the years.



Homeless Veteran Population

- Homeless Veteran Population
 - The 2013 Point in Time Count (PIT), estimates there were 57,849 homeless Veterans on a single night in January 2013
 - In 2013, VHA served more than 350,000 Veterans and their family members through VA's specialized homeless programs
 - This comprehensive plan has already produced results yielding a 24% reduction in Veteran homelessness since the initiative began in 2010



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

VA Homeless Programs: HUD-VASH

Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing

Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program is a collaborative program between HUD and VA. Eligible homeless Veterans receive VA provided case management and supportive services to support stability and recovery from physical and mental health, substance abuse, and functional concerns contributing to or resulting from homelessness.

- 48,965 Vouchers are currently in use by Veterans and their families through HUD-VASH as of 11/30/2013

VA Homeless Programs: SSVF

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

SSVF provides supportive services to very low-income Veterans families in or transitioning to permanent housing. Funds are granted to private non-profit organizations and other community partnerships to provide supportive services and to promote housing stability.

In FY 2013 SSVF has served over 60,000 participants.

- Significant impact on Veteran families with over 13,000 children assisted.
- Of 38,385 Veteran participants, 14% were women.

VA Homeless Programs: GPD

VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem

Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program allows VA to award grants to community-based agencies to create transitional housing programs and offer per diem payments.

The GPD program offers communities a way to help homeless Veterans with housing and services while assisting VA medical centers by augmenting or supplementing care.

- Over 15,000 beds exist in the GPD Program nationally.
- In FY13 served over 45,000 unique.

VA Homeless Programs: HCHV

Health Care for Homeless Veterans

Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Programs reduce homelessness among Veterans by conducting outreach to those who are the most vulnerable and are not currently receiving services.

The Contract Residential Treatment Program ensures that Veterans with serious mental health diagnosis can be placed in community-based residential treatment programs which provide quality housing and services.

- FY 2013, the HCHV program provided services to 13,268 Veterans
- FY 2013, the HCHV program provided over 3,732 operational beds in support of homeless Veterans

VA Homeless Programs: DCHV

Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans

Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) Programs provide time-limited residential treatment to homeless Veterans with health care and social-vocational deficits.

DCHV programs provide homeless Veterans access to medical, psychiatric, and substance use disorder treatment in addition to social and vocational rehabilitation programs.

- FY 2013, the DCHV program provided services to 8,413 Veterans.
- At the end of FY 2013, the DCHV program provided 2,367 operational beds in support of homeless Veterans

VA Homeless Programs: NCCHV

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV) or Veterans at-risk for homelessness provides 24/7 access to trained counselors. Veterans, family members, VAMCs, Federal, state, local partners, community agencies, and service providers have access to the call center (1-877-4AID VET).

- In FY 2013, 80,558 calls were made to the NCCHV,
- 13% more than the year before

VA Homeless Programs: New Models

Safe Havens

The Low Demand/Safe Haven Model Core Principles

- Targets chronically homeless with mental illness and substance use problems
- Targets Veterans who have failed in traditional programs
- Does not require sobriety or compliance with MH TX as a condition of admission / continued stay
- Environment of care is non-intrusive as possible
- Rules focus on staff and resident safety

Evidence Base

- Modeled on HUD's Safe Haven Program funded by the HUD Supportive Housing Program authorized by McKinney-Vento Act of 1994
- A Harm Reduction Model

VA Homeless Programs: New Models

Community Resource and Referral Centers (CRRC)

- Strategically selected urban locations to test a “one-stop shopping” model program
- Secure store front community accessible space or partner with an existing community partners for space and services
- Space for collaborating community partners thru a sharing agreement or memorandum of understanding
- Maintain operations with extended hours
- Showers and laundry on site or through referral; access to food and clothing services via non-profit community providers
- Rapid referral to housing services (emergency and permanent)
- Medical and mental health services either on site or by referral

VA Homeless Programs: New Models

Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team (HPACT)

The H-PACT care teams provide homeless Veterans with medical care, case management, housing, and social services assistance to help them obtain and stay in permanent housing, thereby reducing emergency department use and hospitalizations and improving chronic disease management.

- Since the project launched in January 2012, H-PACT programs have reduced emergency department use by 29% (1,609 visits)
- 36 sites actively enrolling patients
- Reduced hospitalizations by 22.1% (266 admissions)

VA Homeless Programs: Community Engagement

Stand Downs

Multi partner provider, 1 to 3 day events to offer services and support for homeless Veterans. Range of services may include: food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, dental services, legal services, VA and Social Security benefits counseling. In addition, referrals to a variety of other services including medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment, as well as information on housing and employment resources.

- Since 1988 more than 500,000 Veterans and families have received services through Stand Downs.
- There were 230 events in 2013
- Data from 2011 indicated Veterans and Family Members Served
 - Total Veterans served : 45,957

VA Homeless Programs: Quick Overview

- HUD VASH - Permanent
- SSVF - Prevention and Re-Housing
- GPD / HCHV / DCHV - Bridge and Transitional
- Call Center - Immediate intervention and referral
- New Models - Identified gaps and innovative services
 - Safe Haven
 - CRRCs
 - HPACTs
 - Housing First Cores
- Stand Downs – Community engagement and primary/referral services

VA Homeless Programs: Call to Action VAS

- In Kind Services
- Direct Support
- Identified Needs and Gaps - localized
- New Models
 - CRRC, HPACT, Safe Haven
- Stand Downs
- Other actions – discussion
- Contact your medical center's homeless program coordinator