Ending Homelessness Among Veterans

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Agenda

- Overview of the Federal Criteria and Benchmarks

- System Planning Processes

- HFA Strategies to Support Efforts to End Homelessness Among Veterans

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
COLLABORATIVE

Operational Definition of an End to Homelessness

- **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, strengths and desires—to help them achieve and maintain stable housing.

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Federal <u>Criteria</u> for Ending Veteran Homelessness

1. The community has identified all veterans experiencing homelessness.

2. The community provides shelter immediately to any veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it.

3. The community provides service-intensive transitional housing only in limited instances.

4. The community has capacity to assist veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing.

5. The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place should any veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future.

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Federal **<u>Benchmarks</u>** for Ending Veteran Homelessness

A. Chronic and long-term homelessness among veterans has been ended (Zero)

B. Veterans have quick access to permanent housing (90 days)

C. The community has sufficient permanent housing capacity (PIT)

D. The community is committed to housing first and provides service-intensive transitional housing to veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances (PH over TH)

PSH and the Federal Goals

- Prioritize **most vulnerable** Veterans, including those identified by non-VA partners, for housing

- Use **Housing First** approach – screen "in" not screen "out"

- **Lowering barriers** to entry and responsive case planning

- Veteran-Centric services based on **choice** and needs

- Integrated referral and access partnerships

- Evict/Dismiss from program only in **most extreme circumstances**

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Veterans System Planning Processes

- Continuum of Care (CoC) is responsible for developing systematic response to reach the goal of making homelessness among Veterans - Rare, Brief and One Time/Non-Recurring

CoC's Systematic Response Processes

- Veterans Core Leadership Group or Committee

- By Name List of Literally Homeless Veterans

- Case Conferencing Process

- Action Planning

HFA Strategies to Support Effort to End Homelessness Among Veterans

- Targeted Housing Production for PSH serving Veterans
    - Prioritize Veterans PSH within housing development procurements
    - Consider accepting Veterans PSH or housing proposals out of round on a rolling basis
    - Encourage the targeting of elder housing for Veterans
- Coordinate with PHAs to integrated Project Based VASH within QAP/LIHTC procurement.
- Focus state-funded rental assistance to address gaps identified by the CoC's Veterans Leadership Group (e.g. targeted support for non-VA eligible Veterans).
- Dedicate flexible HFA resources to support a Veterans targeted Landlord Mitigation Fund.
- Use influence statewide with landlords and property managers to gain commitments to house a Veteran.
- Coordinate with other State Agencies (i.e. DHS and DVS) to coordinate and align resources support local CoC efforts

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COLLABORATIVE

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