

What Does it Mean to End Veterans Homelessness?

- ▶ Ending veterans' homelessness does **not** mean no veteran will experience homelessness.
- ▶ It **does** mean that veterans who are experiencing homelessness move quickly into permanent housing.
- ▶ It **does** mean that the community has the capacity to make episodes of homelessness rare, brief, and a non-recurring experiences.
- ▶ It **does** mean that the community has enough resources and supports to keep the veteran permanently housed.

Measuring Community Capacity

- ▶ USICH and HUD have developed Benchmarks and Criteria used to determine whether a community has achieved a functional end to veterans' homelessness.
- ▶ Criteria focus on describing essential elements and accomplishments of the community's response.
- ▶ Benchmarks serve as important indicators of whether, and how effectively, that system is working on an ongoing basis.

What is a Functional End to Homelessness?

- ▶ Together, the Criteria and Benchmarks are intended to help communities drive down the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness to as close to zero as possible, while building systems that support long-term, lasting solutions that can effectively and efficiently respond to future needs.
- ▶ The concept of a functional end to homelessness, and using the established Criteria and Benchmarks, can be applied to all populations experiencing homelessness, and should be used to guide community planning at the systems level.

Criteria

- ▶ The Community has identified all Veterans Experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ The Community provides shelter immediately to any homeless Veteran who wants it.
- ▶ The community has capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing.
- ▶ The community has resources, plans, partnerships and system capacity in place for future at risk or homeless Veterans.

The Community has Identified All Veterans Experiencing Homelessness.

- ▶ Outreach & PIT Count
 - ▶ Street Outreach
 - ▶ Community Outreach
 - ▶ PIT Count
- ▶ Multiple Data Sources
 - ▶ Multiple data sources, including HMIS, Homes, Shelter, Safe Harbor and DV databases should be used to verify that all at risk veterans are identified.
- ▶ By Name List
 - ▶ Includes all veterans who are identified as literally homeless.
 - ▶ Managed by SSVF staff and shared with Veterans Prioritization Groups.*
 - ▶ Updated at least every 30 days. Every 2 weeks preferred.
- ▶ Coordinated Entry and Prioritization
 - ▶ Uses the veteran's wishes to determine which permanent housing solution is most appropriate and assigns a lead to be the primary contact for that veteran.

The Community Provides Shelter Immediately to Any Homeless Veteran Who Wants It.

- ▶ Diversion
- ▶ Shelter and Safe Harbor
- ▶ ESP Motel Voucher
- ▶ Bridge Housing
- ▶ SSVF Motel Program (EHA)

The Community Has the Capacity to Assist Veterans to Swiftly Move into Permanent Housing.

- ▶ Time from identification to permanent housing averages 90 days or less.
- ▶ Available Housing Programs and Supports
- ▶ Housing Locators and Navigators
- ▶ Landlord Relationships

The Community has Resources, Plans, Partnerships and System Capacity in Place for Future At-Risk or Homeless Veterans.

- ▶ Resources
 - ▶ Resources include things like RRH Program availability and funding, adequate housing inventory, and adequate staff to work with all homeless veterans.
- ▶ Plans
 - ▶ Plans include things like Coordinated Entry and prioritization, local involvement at the Local Work Group level, housing locator and navigator functions, community outreach, and housing based, client focused service models.
- ▶ System Capacity
 - ▶ System Capacity is measured by the ability to move homeless veterans quickly into permanent housing, and to support them so they remain housed.
- ▶ Partnerships
 - ▶ Partnerships include the relationships between agencies, organizations, and service providers coming together under one cause- to end veteran homeless.

Benchmarks

- ▶ Chronic and long-term homelessness among Veterans has been ended.
- ▶ Veterans have quick access to permanent housing.
- ▶ The community has sufficient permanent housing capacity.
- ▶ The community is committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances.

Chronic and Long-Term Homelessness Among Veterans has Been Ended.

- ▶ Chronic and Long-Term status are determined and documented by an in-depth housing history interview.
- ▶ Documentation includes data bases such as HMIS and HOMES, and written statements from others documenting literal homelessness during specific periods.
- ▶ The difference between Chronic and Long Term is simply a verifiable disability needed to meet the Chronic definition.
- ▶ There are no sheltered or unsheltered, chronic or long-term veterans identified in order to achieve a functional end to veteran homelessness.

Veterans Have Quick Access to Permanent Housing.

- ▶ The community has sufficient vacancy rates to meet the 90 days to housing requirement.
- ▶ Veterans are offered a permanent housing solution immediately after identification.
 - ▶ SSVF
 - ▶ HUD/VASH
 - ▶ HCV/PBV/Section 8
 - ▶ Other non-veteran programs

The Community Has Sufficient Permanent Housing Capacity.

- ▶ The average time from being identified as a literally homeless veteran until move into permanent housing is less than 90 days for all veterans experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ The community has sufficient RRH Programs and financial resources to offer veterans a permanent housing solution immediately.
- ▶ Available housing is affordable and sustainable to minimize or eliminate returns to homelessness.
 - ▶ Only 20% or fewer of veterans who were homeless and then permanently housed may return to homelessness within a two-year period to achieve the benchmark.

The Community is Committed to Housing First and Provides Service-Intensive Transitional Housing to Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Only in Limited Instances.

▶ Housing First

- ▶ Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements.

▶ Service-Intensive Transitional Housing (GPD, e.g. Patriot Place)

- ▶ Referrals to GPD should be made only to address clinical needs that could not otherwise be met by appropriate service while the veteran is permanently housed.
- ▶ Must be veteran's choice to seek service-intensive GPD services.
- ▶ Exits to GPD are not considered positive outcomes.

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