



COMMUNITIES ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF ENDING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference

February 18, 2016

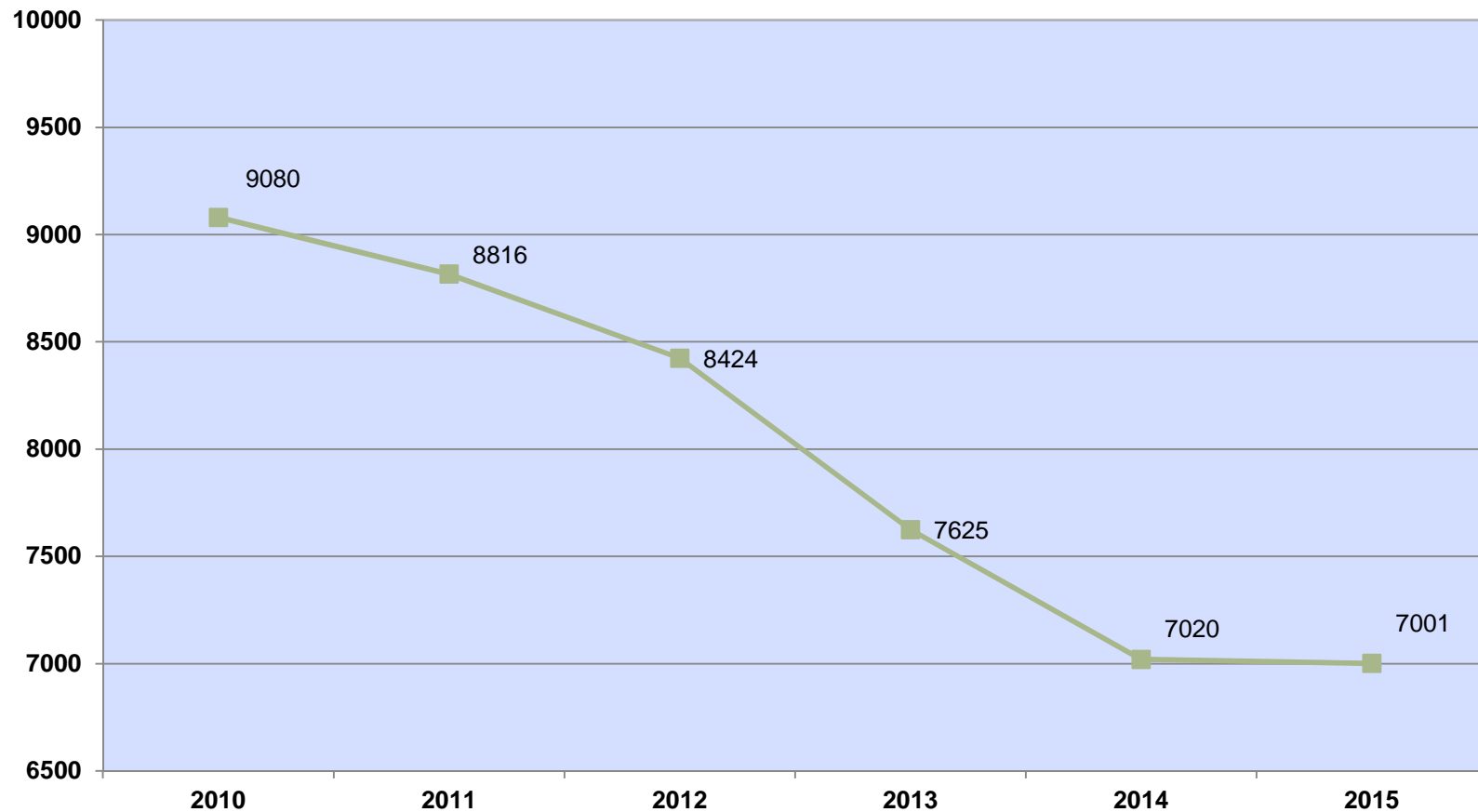
Kathy Robertson

Virginia Department of Housing and
Community Development



Virginia's 2015 Point-in-Time Count

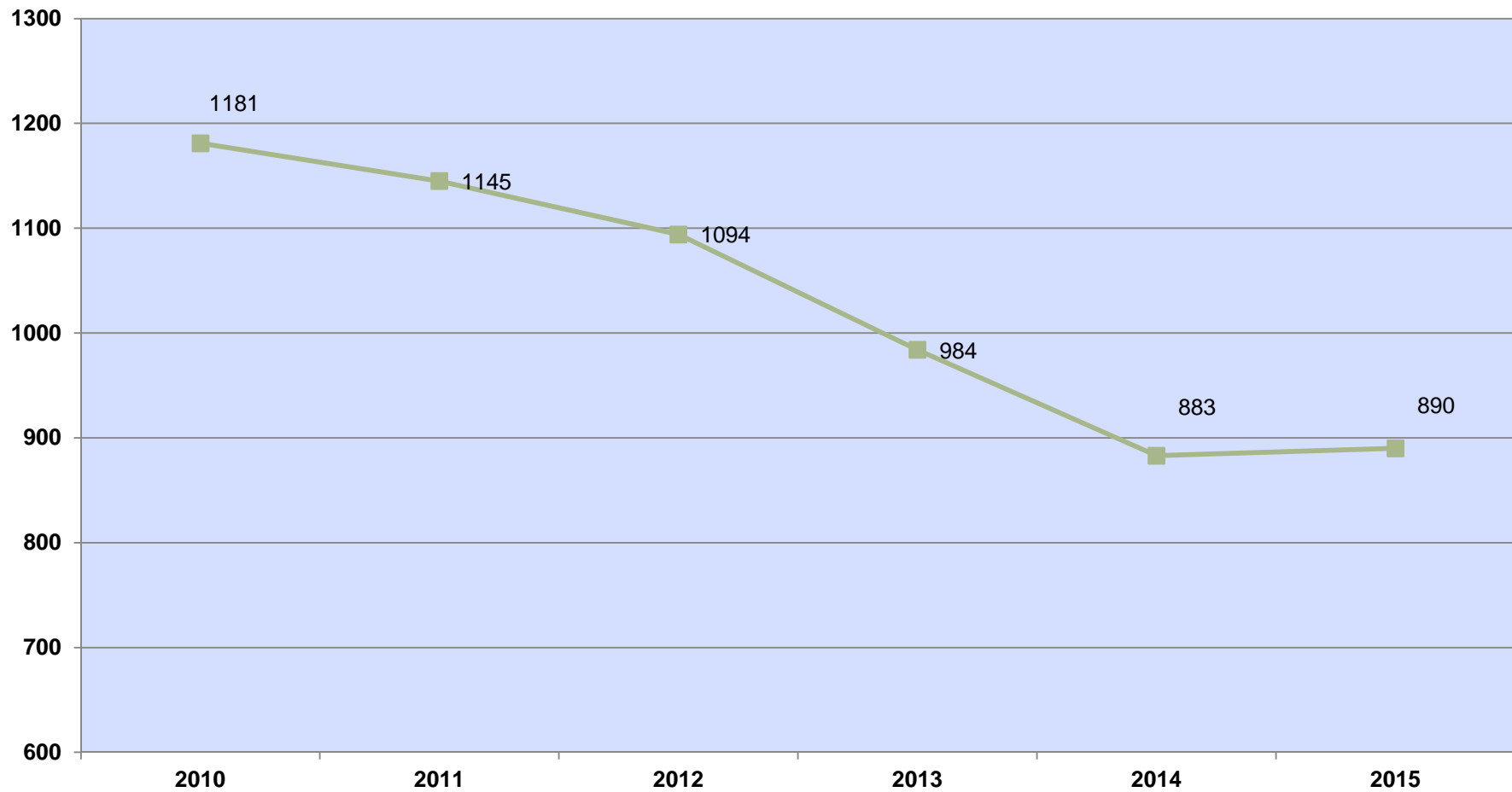
Total Homeless Persons 23% decrease from Jan. 2010 - 2015



Virginia's 2015 Point-in-Time Count

Households with Adults and Children

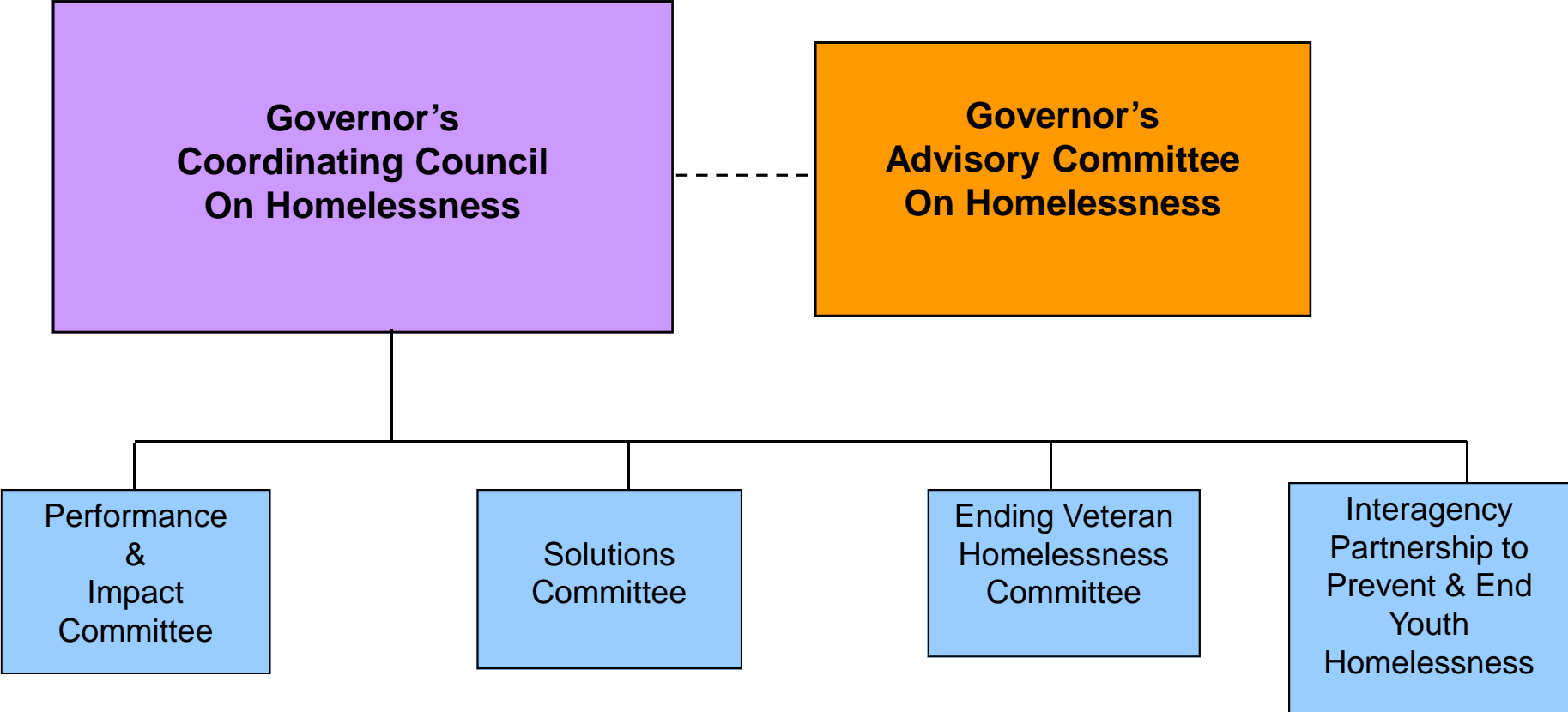
24.6% decrease from Jan. 2010 - 2015



Virginia's Efforts to Reduce Homeless

- Executive Order 10 in May 2010
 - Established a housing policy framework with a focus on homelessness
 - Homeless Outcomes Advisory Committee
 - State plan with five strategies to meet the overall goal of reducing homelessness by 15% by the end of 2013
- Governor McAuliffe issued Executive Order 32
 - Housing policy agenda key components:
 - Prioritize most urgent areas of housing and homeless program needs
 - Advice and recommendations that address:
 - homelessness, particularly among veterans, young adults and children
 - rapid re-housing strategies
 - housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities and special needs
 - appropriate housing options for an aging demographic

Governor's Initiative on Homelessness



System Transformation



Changing
Resources

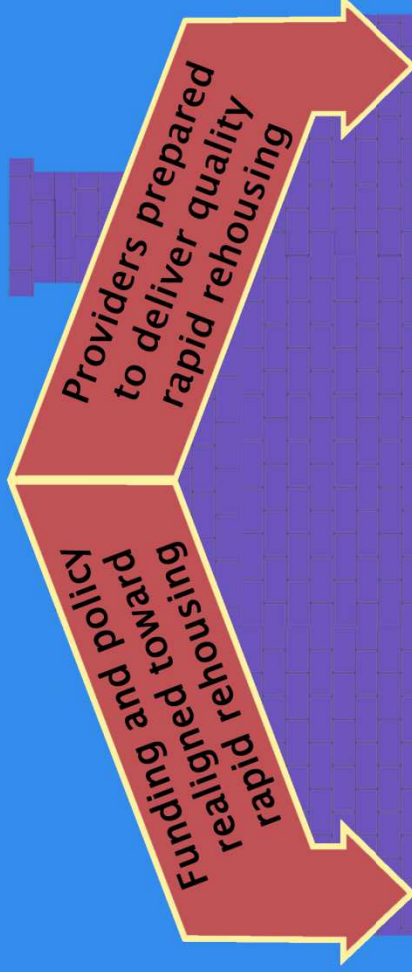


Changing
Practice

Keys to Success

- Encourage buy-in and commitment from influential leadership
- Create financial incentives for shifting to rapid re-housing
- Define and reward high performance
- Communicate early and often
- Build provider capacity to deliver rapid re-housing
- Help communities analyze their resource investments

HOW VIRGINIA REDUCED FAMILY HOMELESSNESS 25% THROUGH RAPID REHOUSING



Robust communication among state government, local communities, and homeless services providers

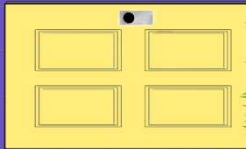
Organizations Offered:
- RRH Workshops
- RRH Collaboratives
- System Design Clinics
- "Opening Events"

Analyzed investments to improve future outcomes

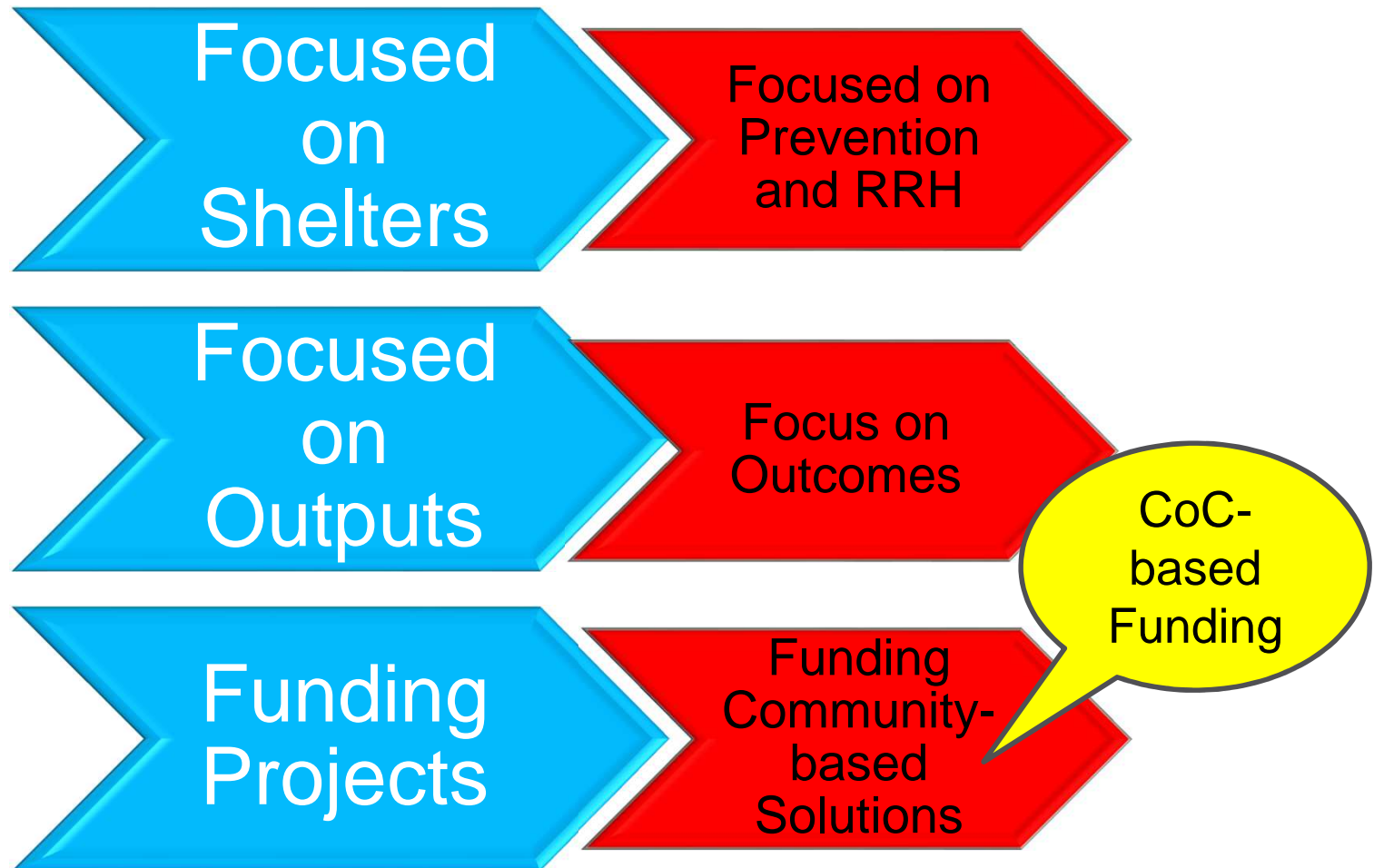
Governor prioritized RRH as Virginia's primary intervention for homeless families

Created financial incentives for communities to shift to RRH

Defined and rewarded high performance



Moving to Community-based Solutions





Emergency Crisis Response System

*Homelessness should be rare,
brief and non-recurring.*

Ending Veterans Homelessness

Statewide Coordination

- Governor's Coordinating Council on Homelessness Veteran Sub-Committee
 - 1st Homeless Veteran Summit (June 2014)
 - 2nd Homeless Veteran Summit held on June 17th, 2015 in Richmond
- Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness (June 2014)
 - Governor McAuliffe 4th Governor to sign on
 - 20 Mayors and County Officials have since signed on
- Homeless Veteran Boot Camp and 1st 100 Day Challenge (Sept. 2014- Feb. 2015)

Additional Resources

General Assembly Support

- \$1 million in Rapid Re-Housing (\$500,000 for Veterans)
- 3 additional Veteran Housing Resource Specialists (Hampton Roads, Roanoke, Northern Virginia)

Utility Assistance

- Dominion Virginia Power Energy Pledges \$2.5 million
 - Expansion of Energy Share Program
 - 5-year commitment of \$500,000 per year
- Appalachian Power Company Veteran Energy Assistance Pilot (\$100,000)

Community Level

- Additional Section 8 vouchers
- Move-in kits, furniture, deposits, etc.
- Increased landlord engagement

Functionally Ended Veteran Homelessness in November 2015

Keys to Success

- Increased coordination among state, federal, & local partners
- HUD's Multifamily Property Initiative (Landlord engagement; developing homeless preferences)
- VHDA Housing Search Portal:
<http://www.virginiahousingsearch.com/Veterans.html>
- Alignment of priorities
 - Implementation of best practices

Community Keys to Success

- Coordinated community outreach to identify and assess homeless veterans using common assessment tool
- Data sharing among all community providers and VAMC's to have one list of homeless veterans prioritized based on vulnerability
- Increased coordination among providers has streamlined processes to place veterans in housing
- Leveraging additional community and public housing authority resources to house additional homeless veterans
- Following Housing First principles
- Developed improvement/acceleration strategies aimed at removing bottlenecks

Streamlining of
delivery of
services



Communication



Collaboration

BEFORE

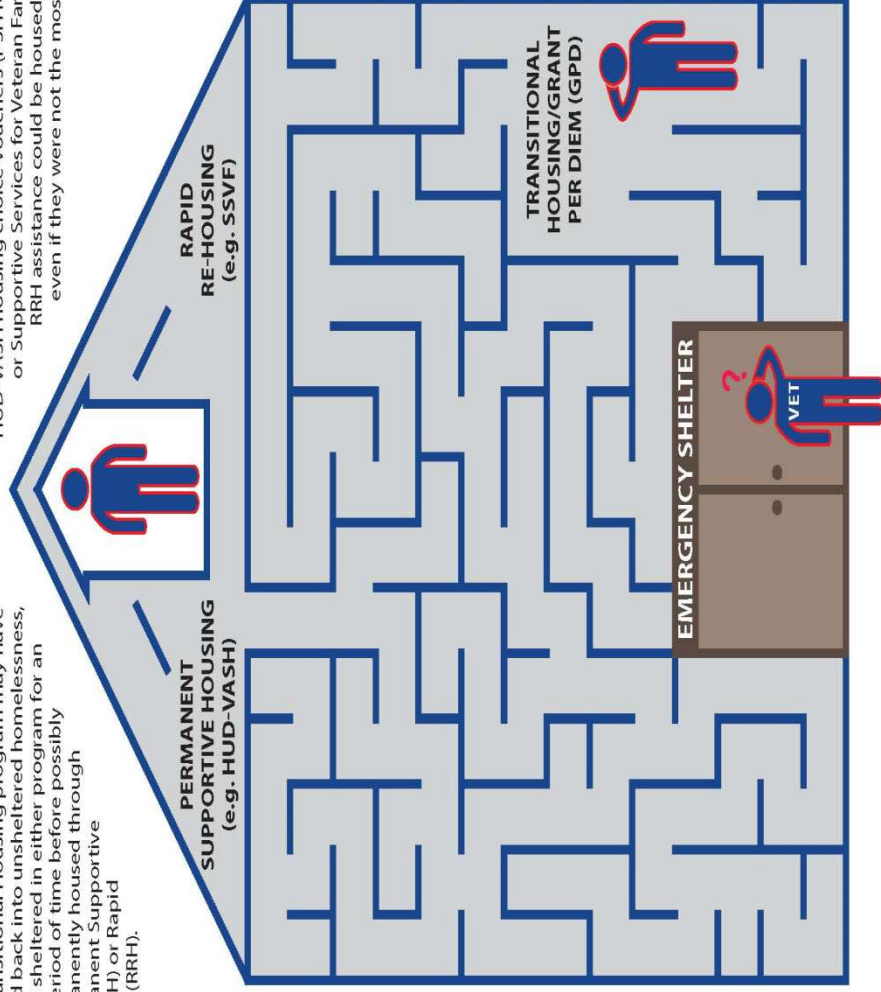
VETERAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY BASED RESOURCES

A Veteran entering either a community based Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing program may have either cycled back into unsheltered homelessness, or remained sheltered in either program for an extended period of time before possibly being permanently housed through either Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) or Rapid Re-Housing (RRH).

VETERAN SPECIFIC RESOURCES

Veterans who knew of veteran housing resources such as HUD-VASH housing choice vouchers (PSH for veterans), or Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) or RRH assistance could be housed, sometimes even if they were not the most vulnerable.



AFTER

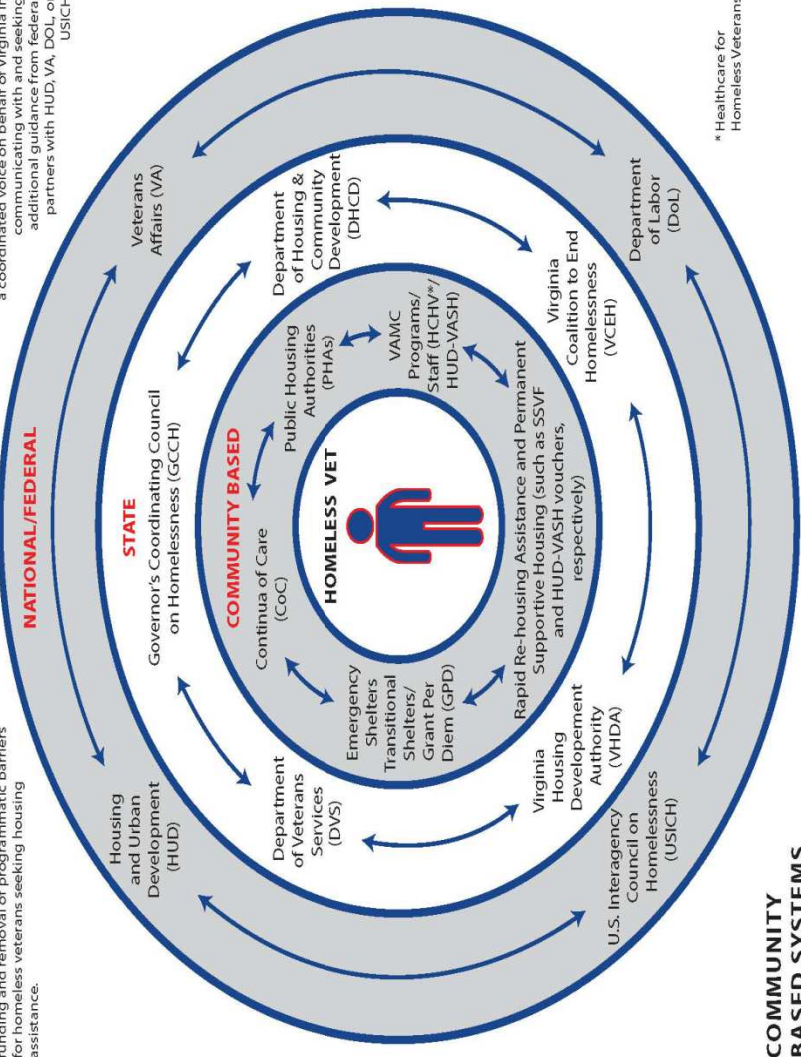
VETERAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

FEDERAL SYSTEMS

The federal departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Veterans Affairs (VA), and Labor (DOL) communicate and coordinate housing and supportive services through the umbrella guidance of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). The increased coordination at the federal level has resulted in additional funding and removal of programmatic barriers for homeless veterans seeking housing assistance.

STATE SYSTEMS

The Governor's Coordinating Council on Homelessness (GCCH) has provided state agencies and statewide non-profit partners a platform through which state level housing program and funding policies are influenced to further streamline how communities can serve their most vulnerable veterans. Additionally, the GCCH provides a coordinated voice on behalf of Virginia in communicating with and seeking additional guidance from federal partners with HUD, VA, DOL, or USICH.



* Healthcare for Homeless Veterans

COMMUNITY BASED SYSTEMS

Community based providers representing the entire spectrum of housing and supportive services are regularly communicating with one another, coordinating outreach to continue to identify veterans experiencing homelessness, and through a standardized triaging process, are ensuring that veterans with the highest level of needs are being matched using targeted resources within an average of 90 days.



October 2014 – December 2015

**1,621 homeless veterans housed
statewide!!!**

Applying Strategies to Address Homelessness among Other Populations

- Setting metrics for ending youth, family, and chronic homelessness
- Funding rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing
- Engaging mainstream systems to provide income supports, health care, and employment services
- Ensuring connections to mainstream resources that are critical to success of existing efforts
- Focusing on data-driven results

Opportunities for Increased Federal Partnerships

- Increase affordable housing opportunities
- Encourage coordination between the homelessness service system and mainstream programs in applications for funding
- Continue to identify ways to encourage the reallocation or conversion of funds away from less-effective programs
- Continue to provide greater encouragement or incentives to workforce systems to align their employment services with homelessness services, such as rapid re-housing
- Continue to provide guidance to encourage Grant and Per Diem programs to participate in and receive referrals to and from coordinated entry systems, to reduce barriers to entry, and to facilitate quicker permanent housing exits

Contact Information

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