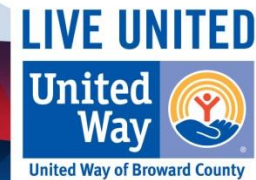
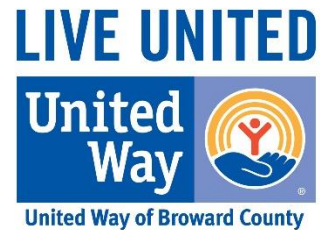


MISSION UNITED

Proudly Serving Those Who Have Served



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES



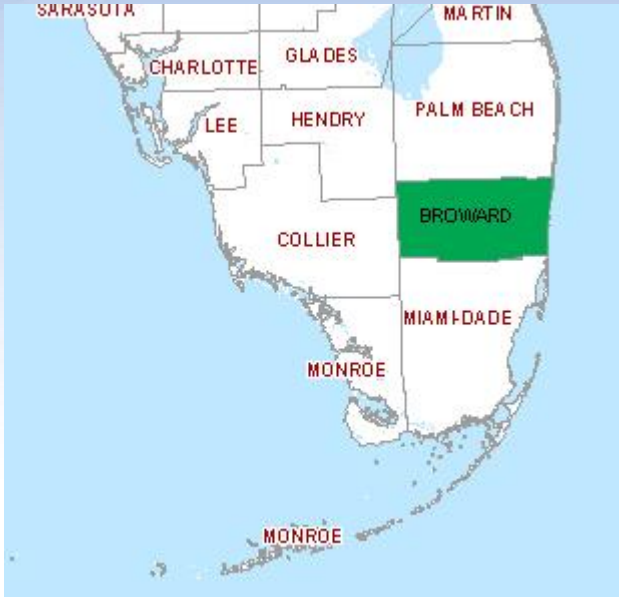
MISSION UNITED SSVF Program



SSVF Grantee and Lead Agency of SSVF Collaborative



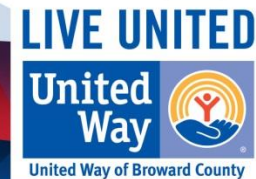
Serving the Greater Fort Lauderdale area



Fort Lauderdale & Broward County, FL

- Population of 1.85 million (2nd in FL).
- Almost 120,000 veterans.
- Second largest number of FL veterans.
- Shared geography with other providers.
- Strong partnership with CoC and VA.
- Homeless PIT Count Reductions:
 - From 265 in 2013 to 212 in 2016
 - Performing in top tier of both these national initiatives for re-housing.

Zero: 2016
from Community Solutions



Challenges faced

- High rent costs: MSA has the highest rent burden in FL.
- Almost 58% of residents pay more than 30% of their income for housing and 31% pay more than 50%.
- Rent costs increased by 8.2% in 2015 and still rising.
- With 97% occupancy landlords and property managers can replace their tenants rather easily and still be choosy.
- Low unemployment but wages are not rising as quickly.
- More than half of renters lack \$500 for an emergency.

Targeting and Prioritizing

- Almost 2/3 of requests for assistance are for prevention.
- Set higher HP score using VA threshold tool (from 8 to 11).
- Prioritize those with the highest risk factors:
 - Previous history of homelessness.
 - Recent drop below 30% of AMI or 200% of FPL.
 - Doubled up families only with proper documentation.
 - Those at the *most imminent* risk of becoming homelessness.
 - Those who lack any other resources and housing options.
- If not eligible, clients are diverted to other programs.

Prevention lessons from SSVF

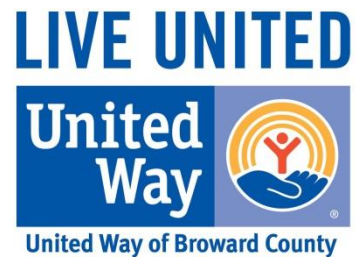
- Identify and address the underlying reason for the risk.
- Help client to make realistic budgets based on expenses.
- Pay only minimum amount needed to retain housing.
- Not every unit can be saved – move clients as needed.
- Obtain lease rescissions from a landlord when possible but evictions, while bad, are not always a failure.
- Focus on a “right now home”, and not a “forever home”.
- Families usually more successful than single clients.
- Beware of clients shopping around for assistance.

Some of our creative strategies

- Landlord events: networking with property managers and real estate agents willing to be flexible with veterans.
- Shameless poaching of Section 8 landlord list from HAs.
- Maintain and grow relationships with local landlords.
- Set realistic expectations for clients new to area or new to experiencing homelessness or housing instability.
- Better to spend more money on a more sustainable unit.
- New client orientations cover topics of employment, self-care, housing law, client expectations, and successes.

SSVF Prevention Outcomes

- For our first year, almost 94% of clients did not return to homelessness so program may not have adequately targeted those at the highest risk.
- After prioritization and targeting those numbers changed to 86% for year 2 and 87% for year 3.
- More than 70% exited to un-subsidized housing.
- Almost 4% of discharged participants transitioned to homeownership (with lower monthly costs!).
- Over 30% of working clients increased income.



MISSIONUNITED.ORG
954.4.UNITED
pcalvo@unitedwaybroward.org
954-308-9263