Ending Homelessness Among Veterans Overview

Goal: End Homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015. Federal, state, and local partners have committed to ending homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015. The goal is to achieve and sustain "functional zero" – a well-coordinated and efficient community system that assures homelessness is ***rare, brief and non-recurring*** and ***no Veteran is forced to live on the street.*** This means that every Veteran has access to the supports they need and want to avoid staying on the street and move quickly to permanent housing.

Ending homelessness among Veterans requires a community-wide plan that organizes all resources and programs ("assets") to achieve a functional end to Veterans homelessness this year AND sustain functional zero for Veterans going forward. Plans should include <u>immediate</u> steps to achieve functional zero by the end of this year and be periodically updated to ensure efforts are sustained. Plans should be developed in concert with CoC representatives, local VA staff, other VA funded providers, other homeless system partners, and other key community stakeholders and service providers. Community partners should meet regularly to resolve barriers and monitor progress.

Functional Zero Goals & Plan

<u>Goals</u>: Define functional zero for your community starting with the estimated number of Veterans who will be homeless annually (annual estimate). Estimates can be determined locally, using local data, or you can use VA estimates. Then set measurable goals concerning:

✓ **Permanent housing placement**
How many Veterans will need help to exit homelessness and obtain permanent housing annually? Monthly? How many will need permanent supportive housing (including VASH) or rapid re-housing assistance from Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program or another source?

✓ **Length of time homeless**
What is shortest length of time Veterans will be homeless (i.e., what does "brief" mean) if your community is as coordinated and efficient as it can be? Is this an average or a maximum with some exceptions?

✓ **Daily census**
If Veterans are homeless only for a brief time, how many Veterans can be expected to be homeless on any given night (on average)? This can be calculated: *annual estimate* x *length of time homeless* ÷ 365.

<u>Strategies</u>: Identify strategies, resources, and actions to achieve both short and long-term goals

Resources: Address resource development or changes to address gaps and meet goals

Efficiency: What does efficiency look like? Consider setting some key operational efficiency targets, such as:
✓ Length of time to initial Housing Plan creation after homeless system entry
✓ Length of time between rapid re-housing program entry and permanent housing placement
✓ Program occupancy
✓ VASH utilization

Periodic updates: Adjust for changes in estimated annual number/demand, improvements

Is your community ending homelessness among Veterans?

☐ Is every Veteran who is homeless right now identified by name?
  ☐ Is this list updated regularly?
  ☐ Is this list reviewed at least bi-weekly by key community partners to ensure Veterans have a permanent housing plan and those plans are achieved?

☐ Does every Veteran who is homeless now have a Housing Plan and access to safe (and low barrier, as needed) shelter and/or permanent housing?

☐ Is every Veteran who becomes homeless rapidly engaged and offered shelter and/or housing that meets their needs?
  ☐ If so, is this true no matter where they are initially engaged in your community or what shelter or unsheltered location they may be in?