


## Ending Veteran Homelessness in the Ohio Balance of State CoC: Resources, Plans, and Next Steps


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## Webinar Issues


- Webinar is muted
- Submit questions through the chat/questions feature in GoToWebinar control panel
  - Questions will be answered during the webinar or after
- Will attempt to record webinar
- Powerpoint and materials posted at [http://cohio.org/information\\_resource/training\\_materials#BoS%20CoC](http://cohio.org/information_resource/training_materials#BoS%20CoC)



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## Webinar Overview

- Purpose of the Webinar
- Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoSCoC) Overview
- Zero: 2016 Campaign & National Goal to End Veteran Homelessness
- Ohio BoSCoC Homeless Vets Data
- VA Resources for Homeless Vets




## Webinar Overview

- Connecting Homeless Vets to Resources
- Ohio BoSCoC Resources for Homeless Vets
- Ohio BoSCoC SSVF Projects
- Links and Information
- Next Steps
- What Ending Vet Homelessness Looks Like




## Purpose of the Webinar

- Educate CoC members about resources available to homeless vets and how to access those resources
- Share information about efforts to end vet homelessness by the end of 2015
- Provide information about plans to define functional zero for Ohio BoSCoC




## Ohio BoSCoC Overview

- 80 less urban counties comprise Ohio BoSCoC
- As a CoC, we apply for federal CoC Program funds together (primary homeless program resources)
- COHHIO and ODSA serve as staff leads



### Ohio BoSCoC Overview

- Homeless Program Inventory
  - 2300 shelter beds
  - 1550 TH beds
  - 3200 PSH beds
  - RRH and homelessness prevention resources in every county




### Ohio BoSCoC Homeless Vet Data

- 2013
  - 227 homeless vets
    - 184 sheltered (shelters and transitional programs)
    - 43 unsheltered
- 2014
  - 210 homeless vets
    - 176 sheltered
    - 34 unsheltered
- 2015
  - 254 homeless vets
    - 224 sheltered
    - 30 unsheltered




### Ohio BoSCoC Homeless Vet Data

- Analysis
  - 21% increase in vet homelessness between 2014 and 2015
    - 27% increase in sheltered homeless vets
    - 11% decrease in unsheltered
  - 24% increase in shelter & transitional beds designated for vets (increase is all VA funded beds)




### Zero: 2016 Campaign & National Goal to End Veteran Homelessness

- US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) set national goal to end veteran homelessness by end of 2015
- Zero: 2016 Campaign is national effort to ramp up our work and successfully reach the USICH goal
  - Ohio BoSCoC participates in this campaign




### Zero: 2016 Campaign & National Goal to End Veteran Homelessness

- Zero: 2016 Participation means:
  - Ohio BoSCoC committed to working on this goal extra hard
  - 30 day goals
    - Identify all un-used VASH vouchers in Ohio BoSCoC and get eligible homeless vets housed ASAP
    - Create vet-friendly certification process and tools to increase landlord recruitment
    - Educate CoC about resources and how to access



### Zero: 2016 Campaign & National Goal to End Veteran Homelessness

- Zero: 2016 Housing Placement Goals
  - 894 permanent housing placements by end of 2015
    - equals 74 permanent housing placements monthly
  - Based on preliminary housing placement data reported through May 2015, 747 placements to go
    - equals 97 placements monthly through the end of the year



### VA Resources for Homeless Vets: Overview

- To be eligible for resources/benefits, homeless vet must have been active duty military and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable



### VA Resources for Homeless Vets: Overview

- Residential Care through Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) contract
  - Emergency shelter and residential treatment for homeless vets
- Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program
  - Community-based transitional housing for homeless vets



### VA Resources for Homeless Vets: Overview

- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
  - Homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing for homeless vets and their families
- VA Supportive Housing (VASH)
  - Permanent supportive housing for homeless vets and their families



### Eligibility for VA Resources

- VASH and HCHV
    - Veteran = a person who served in the active military, naval, or air services, including persons who served in Guard or Reserve if they were called up for Active Duty for other than training purposes
    - Veteran was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- Veteran is eligible for VA health care



### Eligibility for VA Resources

- GPD and SSVF
  - Veteran = a person who served in the active military, naval, or air services, including persons who served in Guard or Reserve if they were called up for Active Duty for other than training purposes
  - Veteran was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable



### Connecting Homeless Vets to Best Resources

- Refer to VA services to determine eligibility for services and benefits
  - VA Homeless Program/Outreach staff
  - VA facility for enrollment
  - VA Benefits Advisors
    - County Veterans Service Offices are good local resources



Help enroll in benefits

### Connecting Homeless Vets to Best Resources

- Alternative approach
  - Refer to local SSVF or GPD provider to determine eligibility for services and benefits
  - Help enroll in benefits
  - Refer to legal assistance as needed to see if vet may qualify for a discharge status upgrade



### Ohio BoSCoC Resources for Homeless Vets

- HCHV Beds
  - 52 beds in 5 counties
- GPD Beds
  - 106 beds in 7 counties
- SSVF
  - 12 grantees serving 72 counties (expansions pending)



### Ohio BoSCoC Resources for Homeless Vets

- VASH
  - 347 vouchers in 11 counties
- A variety of non VA-funded homeless and housing resources across almost all 80 counties



### Ohio BoSCoC SSVF Projects

- Almost every county served by an SSVF grantee
- Currently, turning away NO literally homeless eligible veterans for RRH assistance
- The most flexible and widely available resource for homeless vets that we have



### Links and Information

- Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration
  - <http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?STATE=OH&dnum=ALL>
- Veterans Benefits
  - [http://dvs.ohio.gov/HOME/Veterans\\_Benefits](http://dvs.ohio.gov/HOME/Veterans_Benefits)
- County Veterans Service Offices
  - [http://dvs.ohio.gov/HOME/County\\_Veterans\\_Service\\_Officers](http://dvs.ohio.gov/HOME/County_Veterans_Service_Officers)



### Next Steps

- Zero: 2016 Team meets weekly to monitor progress on goals
  - Anyone can be on this team!
- Adjust action steps as needed to meet goals
- Track homeless vets in HMIS weekly
- Monthly housing placement reports



## Next Steps

- Goal for 2016 PIT count
  - 200 sheltered vets max
  - 25 unsheltered vets max



## What Ending Vet Homelessness Looks Like

- Not going to reach 0 – FUNCTIONAL ZERO
- Developing our CoC's definition of our functional zero
  - Unsheltered homeless vet numbers will not increase, and all unsheltered vets have been identified by name and have a housing plan
- Reduce homeless vets length of time homeless in shelter and TH



## What Ending Vet Homelessness Looks Like

- Developing our CoC's definition of our functional zero (cont.)
  - All sheltered vets have a housing plan and those in shelter or TH are there by choice only, ie, anyone who wants rapid re-housing receives it



## What Ending Vet Homelessness Looks Like

- Will share our Ohio BoSCoC functional zero definition once finalized



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