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://cohhio.org/information_resource/training_materials#BoS%20CoC

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

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

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

- **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 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
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>VA Resources for Homeless Vets: Overview</th>
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<tr>
<td>• To be eligible for resources/benefits, homeless vet must have been active duty military and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable</td>
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<td>• Residential Care through Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) contract</td>
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<td>– Emergency shelter and residential treatment for homeless vets</td>
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<td>• Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program</td>
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<td>– Homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing for homeless vets and their families</td>
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<td>• VA Supportive Housing (VASH)</td>
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<td>• Refer to VA services to determine eligibility for services and benefits</td>
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<td>– VA Homeless Program/Outreach staff</td>
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<td>– VA facility for enrollment</td>
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<td>– VA Benefits Advisors</td>
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<tr>
<td>• County Veterans Service Offices are good local resources</td>
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<td>• Help enroll in benefits</td>
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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
- Veterans Benefits
  - http://dvs.ohio.gov/HOME/Veterans_Benefits
- County Veterans Service Offices
  - 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 (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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