

## Faith Mission Inc. SOAR Ohio Perspective on Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

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## Historical Information

- ▶ Stable housing provides the foundation upon which people build their lives. There are an estimated 23.4 million veterans in the US, and 2.2 million military service members, and 3.1 immediate family members.
- ▶ In 2016, approximately 39,500 veterans experienced homelessness on a single night.
- ▶ Compared to 2013, the US Census Bureau data reports 49,865 veterans experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ Efforts to combat homelessness are having an impact, particularly among veterans experiencing chronic homelessness.
- ▶ Most veterans who are discharged from the military are faced with challenges due to physical injuries, mental illness, PTSD and / or substance use disorders.
- ▶ Mental illness and substance use disorders have been identified as risk factors leading to disabling conditions that prevent the Veteran from accessing or maintaining employment being a leading to the veteran to experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ Approximately 50% of returning service members who need treatment for mental health conditions seek it, but slightly more than half **DO NOT** receive adequate care that is needed.

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## Perspective of Veterans who experience homelessness in Ohio

- ▶ Since 2010, Veteran homelessness in Ohio has declined by 43.5 percent.
- The 2013 US Census Bureau reports the Ohio specific veterans experiencing homelessness statistics are as follows:**
- ▶ The Ohio veteran population is 864,923 individuals.
  - ▶ The number of veterans experiencing homelessness was 1,236.
- According to HUD in 2017:**
- ▶ On a single night in Ohio, January 2017, 862 veterans were experiencing homelessness. Veteran homelessness decreased 7.3 percent (or 68 persons) since January 2016.

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## SOAR OHIO PROJECT SPECIALIST Recap and Perspective

- ▶ Veteran homelessness in Ohio has been reduced by 10,000 veterans over a 3 year period.
- ▶ This is due to the dedicated partnerships between HUD, SAMSAH, VA Administration.
- ▶ More importantly programs like SSVF, SOAR Ohio Project, and HVRP provide opportunities of stability and housing for these veteran clients as well as connections to main stream benefits.
- ▶ Outreach in the communities served
- ▶ Partnership and collaboration with local VA, Veterans service commission, shelters, hospitals, and community mental health centers, and nursing facilities.
- ▶ Client engagement
- ▶ Community referrals
- ▶ Most importantly has been word of mouth through prior clients I have served.

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## Franklin County Veterans Data

- ▶ According to HMIS, as of March 2018 there were 97 individual veterans experiencing homelessness within shelters, Grant per diem, and SSVF programming.
- ▶ Per Faith Mission's SSVF program manager, 86 veterans experiencing homelessness have been served between October 2017 through March 2018.
- ▶ A snap shot on March 22, 2018 Faith Mission Shelters had 47 active veteran clients in shelter beds.

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## SOAR Ohio Project Specialist Goal

- ▶ Continually prioritizing Veterans experiencing homelessness for SOAR Ohio Project referrals.
- ▶ Open hours dedicated for Veterans experiencing homelessness.
- ▶ Affording these Veterans the opportunity of the SOAR Ohio Project expedited process with DDS for SSI/SSDI decisions within 85 days or less.
- ▶ Playing an intricate role in assisting Franklin and Fairfield Counties, Faith Mission and the SSVF program in ending Veterans Homelessness.

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