G4: 3.1.d: Supplemental - Decrease veteran homelessness from 1,475 to 737 by 12/31/2016 (by 50%)

HOMELESS VETERANS

WA State Department of Veterans Affairs

- Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Director
- Mary Forbes, Assistant Director
Background: Homeless Veteran Demographics

- 70% Have substance abuse issues
- 68% Reside in principal cities
- 51% Of individual homeless Veterans have disabilities
- 50% Are white males, compared to 35% of non-Veterans
- 50% Have serious mental health issues
- 50% Are age 51 or older
- 41% Are between the ages of 31 and 50
- 32% Reside in suburban or rural areas
- 20% Of male homeless population are Vets
- 9% Of total adult homeless population are Vets
- 9% Are between ages of 18 and 30

Data from National Coalition on Homeless Veterans

Current State: Ethnic and Gender Disparities

- General Population
  - 93.2% Males
  - 6.8% Females

- Homeless Population
  - 94.7% Males
  - 5.3% Females

- Note: Percentages of homelessness unavailable for unreported homeless
Current Measure
Decrease veteran homelessness from 1,475 to 737 (50%) by 12/31/15

Homeless Veteran Point in Time Counts 2013 - 2016

Analysis
- Homeless veteran population has remained fairly consistent between 1,318 and 1,484 for past four years
- Over 10,000 veterans were placed in stable housing from 2013 to 2015
- According to HMIS data, 5,952 homeless veterans were housed in 2015. Of those, 2,454 were in King County
- Veterans are experiencing challenges similar to those of the overall homeless community. High rents are resulting in two emerging and alarming categories:
  - Working Veterans are unable to afford the cost of rent and/or mortgage
  - Senior veterans on fixed incomes

Marysville Rental Market Sample

THE RENTER SQUEEZE: $30K - $50K INCOME
Households in this income bracket made up about 20 percent of Marysville renters and 14 percent of Seattle renters in 2015.
Over the years the portion of this group paying too much — more than 30 percent — of their income for rent has grown sharply.

IF SEATTLE AND MARYSVILLE WERE BOTH MADE OF 100 RENTERS HOW WOULD THEY COMPARE? EACH HOUSE ICON REPRESENTS A RENTAL HOUSEHOLD
What has been done to decrease veteran homelessness in the past four years?

- Conducted four regional technical assistance summits to coach counties to access veterans benefits, connect to HUD-VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) vouchers and obtain access to rapid re-housing funding
- HUD-VASH vouchers increased from 250 in 2012 to 2,700 in 2016
- 39 counties are accessing SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) with over $5M in federal funding for rapid re-housing and case management
- Three county MOU’s in place to train and provide technical oversight to new county veterans service officers to increase access to health and financial benefits
- 900 veterans connected to employment through VA Homeless Veterans Reintegration (HVRP) employment support grant
- 120 veterans graduated to permanent housing from Building 9 for Veterans
- Implemented incarcerated veterans programs working inside prisons to decrease veteran recidivism and increase employment opportunities
- Outreach in two rural counties for connections to benefits through Public Private Partnership with WestCare
- Lease and renovation of the Betsy Ross Women’s Residence at Orting adding an additional 11 transition rooms

Current State: Challenges of Veterans by Age

WA Veterans by Age 9/30/2016

Analysis:

Current Conflict
Challenges:
- Veterans are experiencing and surviving Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and higher rates than ever before
- 50% are diagnosed with Behavioral Health/Readjustment issues

In-Between Wartimes Challenges:
- No wartime service = not eligible for VA Pension or Aid and Attendance

Vietnam Era Veterans Challenges:
- Late onset Post Traumatic Stress (PTS)
- Family dysfunction
- Fixing health
- Fixed incomes
- 205,000 served during Vietnam era with PTS rates over 20% per national studies
## HOUSING

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| Conduct 4 regional Homeless Veterans Summits                          | WDVA       | County, State, Federal, and local government providers, Public Housing Authorities, Homeless Providers, Faith-based organizations, Veteran Service Organizations, WA Services, VA Rural Health Outreach | • Address regional challenges around veterans housing and homelessness  
• Identify partners for collaboration and improved access to housing at state and local levels  
• Increased public awareness and understanding of military culture  
• Increased collaboration in provider network  
• Identify current needs of homeless veterans by community | In process  | Feb 2019                |
| Homeless Veterans Housing Study                                       | Commerce   | WDVA  
Veterans Village, Drexel House, LHI, Hope Housing LLC, Yakima Marine Corps Reserve Project, Faith-based County Continuum's of Care | • Case study results focusing on the use of USICH best practices within a selection of communities across the state  
• Use data to drive outcomes and create accountability among all homeless and housing providers  
• Identify, support, and negotiate dedicated, affordable housing for veterans  
• Collect and share data to determine need and track progress | In development | 2018                |
| Increase number of Public-Private Partnerships                        | WDVA       | Veterans Village, Drexel House, LHI, Hope Housing LLC, Yakima Marine Corps Reserve Project, Faith-based County Continuum's of Care | • Foster partnerships with key stakeholders to improve veteran pathways to stability  
• Coordinate resources to streamline funding  
• Target and reallocate existing resources | Ongoing     | Ongoing                |
| Provide technical assistance to Balance of State counties through outreach | Commerce   | WDVA  
WestCare, Home Depot, Veterans Village, Drexel House, LHI, Hope Housing LLC, Yakima Marine Corps Reserve Project, Faith-based County Continuum's of Care | • Create statewide by name list of homeless veterans  
• Report and prioritize veteran housing placements | Ongoing     | June 2018               |
| Add housing units at the State Veterans Homes                         | WDVA       | WestCare, Home Depot  
Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs  
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services | • 55 sustainable housing units at the State Veterans Homes at Orling and Retail | In process | 2020                |
| VA Grant and per diem funding reappropriation for Building 9 Transitional Housing | WDVA       | WestCare, Home Depot  
Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs  
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services | • Continuation of 65-bed transitional homeless veteran housing | In process | April 2017               |

## SERVICES

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| Enhance WDVA Homeless Program with two dedicated outreach and benefits specialists | WDVA       | Governor, WA State Legislature  
Veterans Village, Drexel House, LHI, Hope Housing LLC, Yakima Marine Corps Reserve Project, Faith-based County Continuum's of Care | • Increased enrollment in benefits and services  
• Increase in number of homeless veterans housed and employed | In development | July 2018                |
| Increase homeless veterans funding and access to WDVA's Veterans Innovations Program and Homeless Assistance Program | WDVA       | Governor, WA State Legislature  
Veterans Village, Drexel House, LHI, Hope Housing LLC, Yakima Marine Corps Reserve Project, Faith-based County Continuum's of Care | • Increased funding available to veterans experience homelessness or being at risk of homelessness | In development | July 2018                |
| Focus on Pierce and Spokane Counties to coordinate services and maximize funding | WDVA       | Pierce and Spokane County governments, local veteran providers, Goodwill Industries | • Identification of community partners  
• Coordination with local Continuums of Care to coordinate homeless assistance resources and develop strategies to prevent and end homelessness within their communities | In process | 2017                |
| Increase the number of Veteran Courts and Veteran Treatment Therapeutic Courts | WDVA       | County and City Justice Systems  
Veterans Village, Drexel House, LHI, Hope Housing LLC, Yakima Marine Corps Reserve Project, Faith-based County Continuum's of Care | • Engage veterans in wrap-around services to increase the likelihood of long-term success as they transition back into the community, thus reducing their likelihood of homelessness | In process | Ongoing                |
| Homeless Veterans Taskforce                                          | WDVA       | Homeless and formerly homeless veterans, CDL, County, State, Federal, and NFP providers | • Identify service needs of current homeless veteran population and coordinate efforts | In Concept Stage  | June 2017                |