



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

9th Annual Veterans Summit - Ohio

Lean Forward: The Veterans Sequential
Intercept Model; Intercept: 0 & 1

Homeless Services

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VISN 10 Network Homeless Coordinator

November 16, 2023



Veterans Administration: Veteran Homelessness Overview

VHA Homeless Programs and Mission

Homeless Definition and Current State

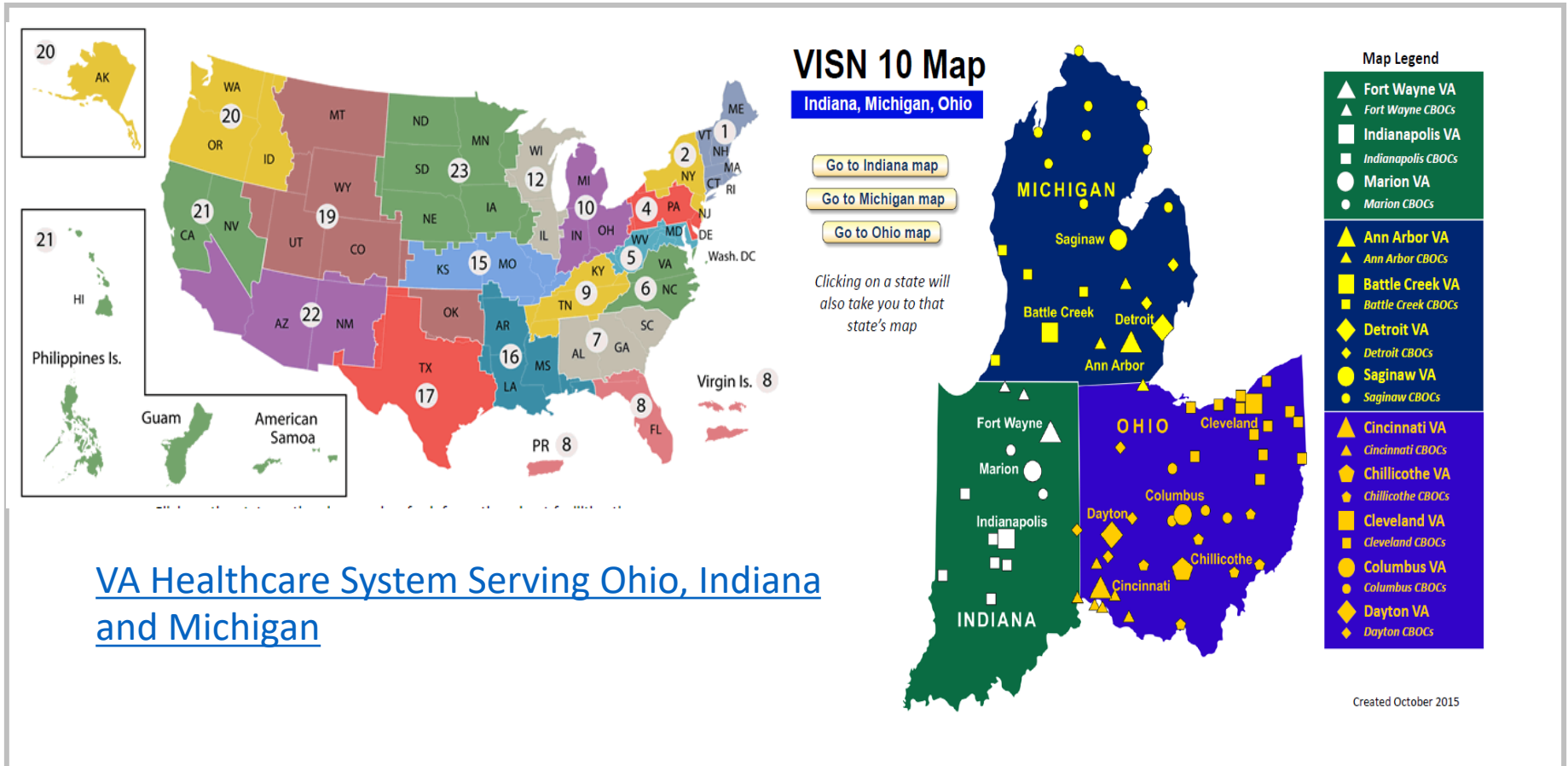
Homeless System Coordination to Ending Veteran Homelessness

VA's 2023 Homelessness Goals



U.S. Department
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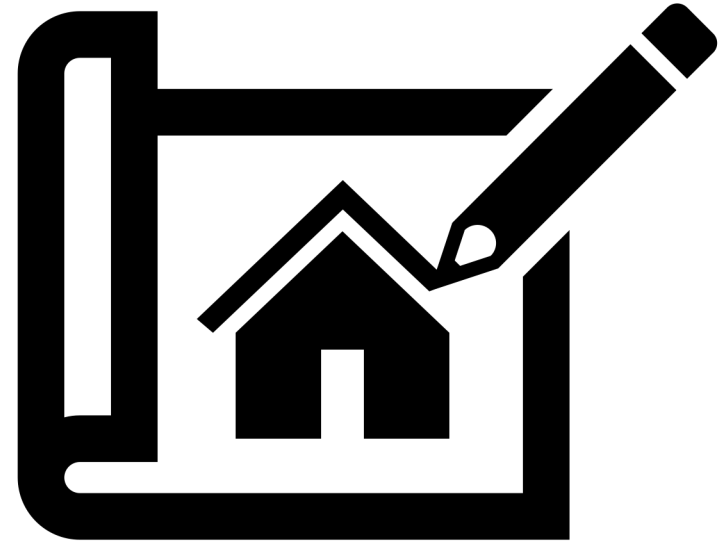
Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 10)



VA Healthcare System Serving Ohio, Indiana and Michigan



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



The State of Veteran Homelessness – An Overview

MISSION



- **Our mission** is to assist Veterans and their families in obtaining **permanent and sustainable housing** with access to high-quality health care and supportive services, and to ensure that **Veteran homelessness is prevented or otherwise rare, brief and nonrecurring**.
- **Our vision** is to **end homelessness for all Veterans and their families** using evidence-based, innovative practices and partnerships to provide access to permanent housing, and deliver services that are Veteran-centered, equitable, and inclusive, leading to personal empowerment and increased independence.



Definitions: Who is a “Homeless Veteran”?

- **Homeless**¹ – a person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes people whose primary locations are:
 - **Sheltered:** Designated emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens.
 - **Unsheltered:** Public or private places that are not ordinarily designated or used as shelter (e.g., streets, vehicles, or parks).
- **Veteran**² – An adult who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, including persons who served on active duty from the military reserves or the National Guard. For the purposes of these criteria, a Veteran is any person who served in the armed forces, regardless of how long they served or the type of discharge they received.

¹42 U.S. Code § 11302

²Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness | United States Interagency Council on Homelessness



HUD Definition

- The term homeless has the meaning given in section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11302(a)-(b)). Homeless as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 11302(a)-(b).
- There are four categories of Homeless
 - Literally Homeless;
 - Imminent Risk of Homelessness;
 - Homeless under other Federal statutes;
 - Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence.
- For more detailed information, please read the [Homeless Definition Final Rule](#) or [HEARTH Homeless Definition Final Rule](#)



VHA Homeless Programs

Homelessness Prevention Services

- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

Outreach, Engagement, Assessment, and Referral Services

- Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Outreach
- Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC)
- National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV)
- Justice-involved Veterans
 - Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)
 - Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV)

Residential Services

- HCHV Contract Residential Services (CRS)
- HCHV Low Demand Safe Haven (LDSH)
- Grant and Per-Diem (GPD) Transitional Housing

Permanent Housing Services

- Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

Specialty Services

- Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services (HVCEs)
- Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (HPACT)
- Legal Services for Veterans (LSV)



The State of Veteran Homelessness - Progress



Progress to Date

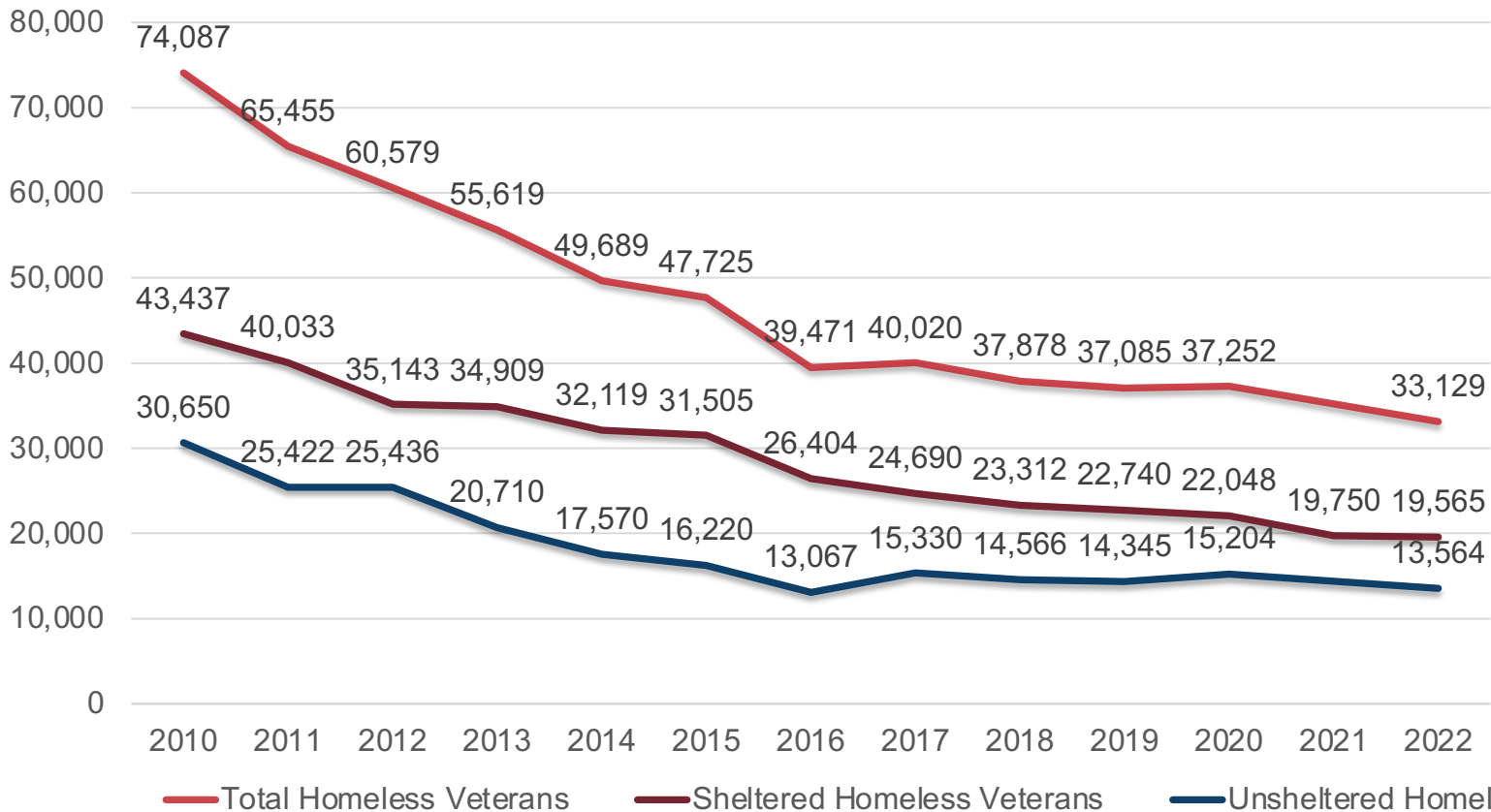
- Significant progress has been made to prevent and end Veteran homelessness.
- On a single night in January 2022, 33,129 Veterans were experiencing homelessness in the United States, down from 37,252 in 2020.
 - This represents an **11% decline in Veteran homelessness since 2020**, the last time a full count was conducted.
- Since 2010, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States has **declined by more than 55%**.
- Since 2015, **83 communities and 3 states** (Virginia, Connecticut and Delaware) have effectively **ended Veteran homelessness**.



Progress Toward Ending Veteran Homelessness

Veteran Homelessness has had a significant decline since 2010 with 55.3% Decrease in all Veteran Homelessness from 2010 to 2022 as reported in HUD’s Annual Point-in-Time Reports.

Reduction in Veteran Homelessness Annual Homeless Assessment Report, Point-in-Time, 2010–2022



55.3%
Decrease in
Homeless Veterans
Since 2010

54.9%
Decrease in
Sheltered Homeless
Veterans
Since 2010

55.7%
Decrease in
Unsheltered
Homeless Veterans
Since 2010

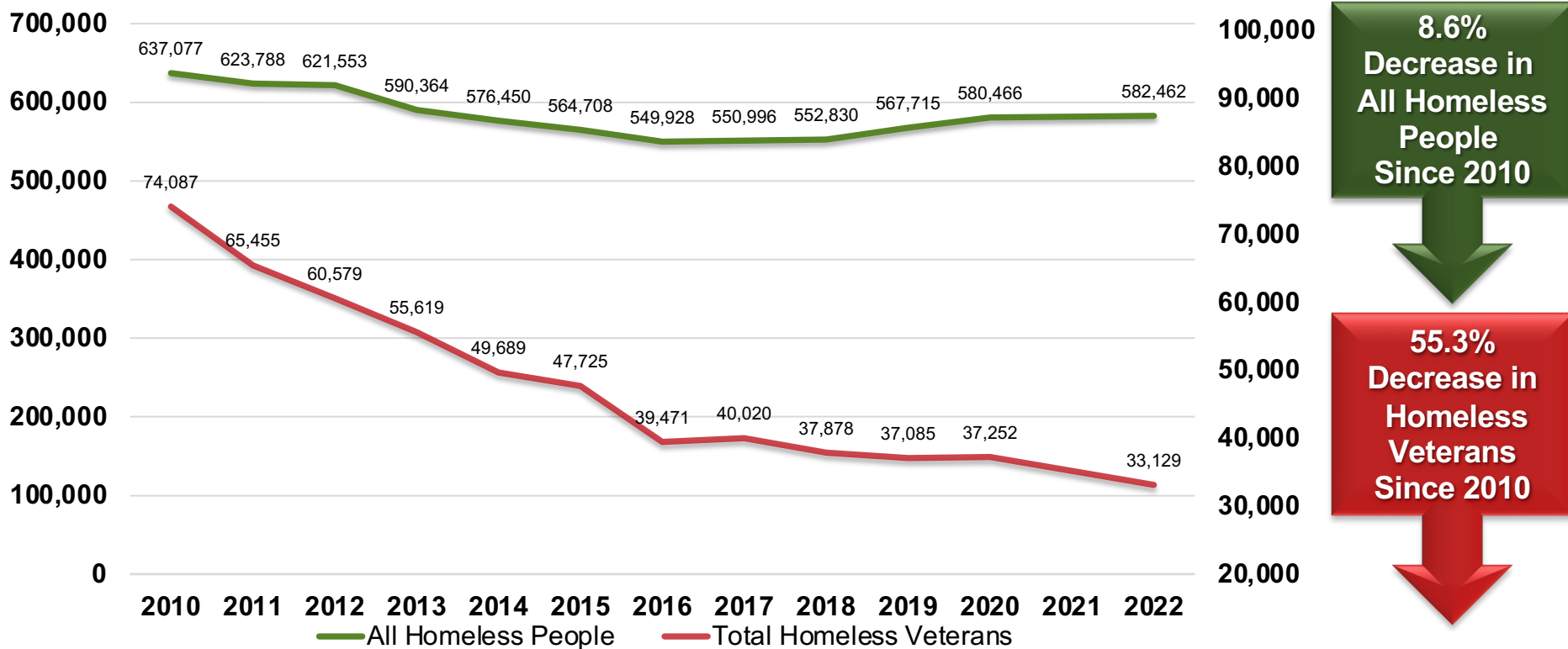
Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, 2010–2022



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Population of Homeless Veterans Compared to All Homeless People

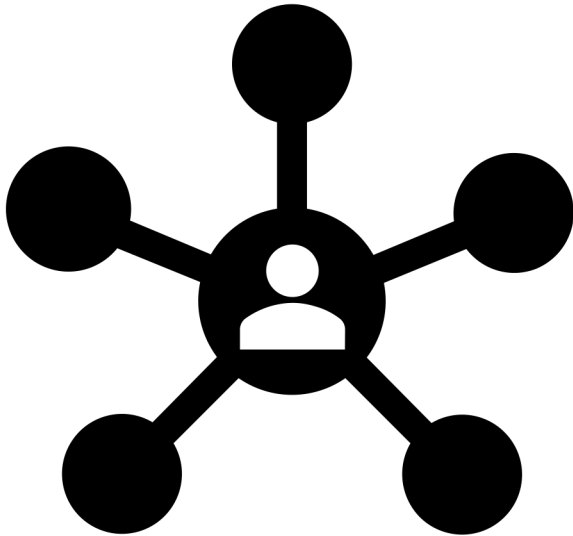
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Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, 2010–2022



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The State of Veteran Homelessness - Coordination

If the Number of *Known* Homeless Veterans is Decreasing...What is the problem?

Even though VA has several programs to support Veterans at risk for or experiencing homelessness, fewer than 1 in 5 Veterans who were homeless report using such services, with significantly fewer Veterans who live in nonurban areas accessing such services.

Together, we can identify and serve more veterans in crisis through a process called **Coordinated Entry**.



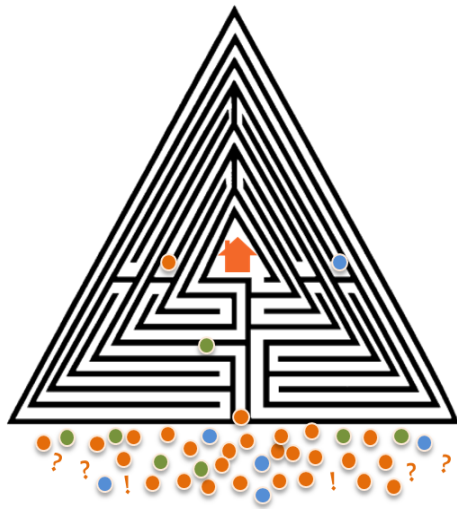
What is Coordinated Entry?

An approach to coordination and management of a crisis response system's resources that allows users to make consistent decisions from available information to efficiently and effectively connect people to interventions that will rapidly end their homelessness.



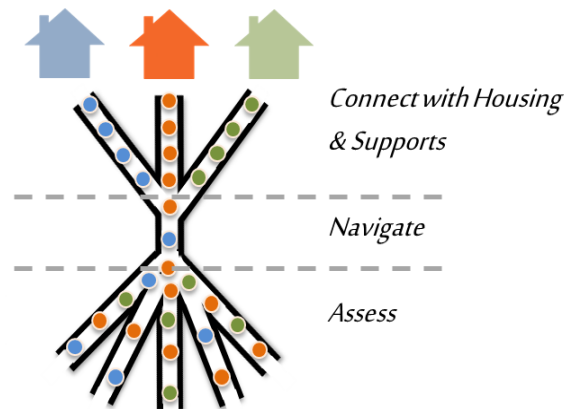
Why Coordinated Entry?

Without CES



A Homeless System's without Coordinated Entry may limit access to services and resources particularly for those with greatest need.

With CES



A Homeless System with Coordinated Entry improves access matching need to the right intervention.



Ending Veteran Homelessness

- Success in ending homelessness among Veterans is happening community by community. And measuring that success is now easier: New guidelines released by the [United States Interagency Council on Homeless \(USICH\)](#) help communities benchmark their progress toward ensuring that every Veteran has a place to call home.
- Criteria and Benchmarks
 - Identifying all Veterans Experiencing homelessness
 - Capacity to provide immediate shelter to any unsheltered Veteran
 - Dedication to Housing First - Limited service-intensive transitional; Rapid PH Placement
 - System capacity for sustainment

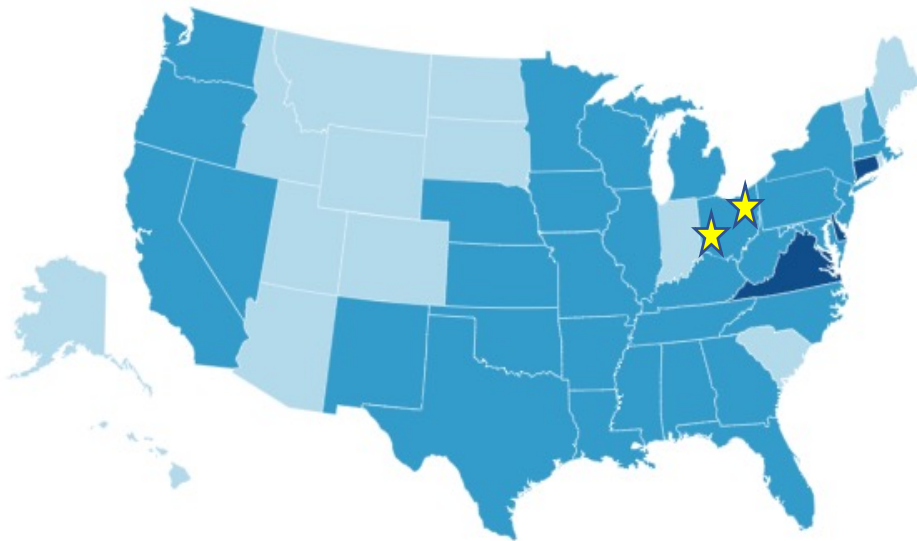


Ending Veteran Homelessness

VA is committed to ending Veteran homelessness, community by community. Our work in collaboration with large and small localities proves that—through their leadership, cooperation and evidence-based practices—it's possible to ensure that every Veteran has a home.

[Ending Veteran Homelessness - VA Homeless Programs](#)

3 STATES and **83 COMMUNITIES**



Ohio
Dayton/Montgomery County
Akron/Barberton/Summit County



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VA's 2023 Homelessness Goals



Our New Challenge: VA's 2023 Homelessness Goals

Goal 1: Consistency in Permanent Housing

- VA will house at least 38,000 more individual Veterans in calendar year (CY) 2023.

Goal 2: Prevention of Returns to Homelessness

- VA will accomplish the ambitious goal of ensuring that at least 95% of Veterans housed during this initiative stay housed.
- At the end of CY 2023, VA will ensure that at least 90% of Veterans who returned to homelessness are rehoused or on a path to rehousing.

Goal 3: Engagement of Unsheltered Veterans

- VA will engage with at least 28,000 unsheltered Veterans in CY 2023.



Progress to Date – September 2023

- **Goal 1:** Efforts have resulted in the permanent housing of 35,148 Veterans, which represents **92.5% of the permanent housing goal**.
- **Goal 2:** Out of the Veterans who have been housed, **96.6% have remained in housing**, while 3.4% (1,199 Veterans) have unfortunately returned to homelessness.
 - Of the Veterans who returned to homelessness, **94.9% (1,138 Veterans) have been rehoused** or placed on a pathway to rehousing.
- **Goal 3:** Outreach efforts have resulted in the engagement of 31,421 unsheltered Veterans, representing **112.2% of the engagement goal**.





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Thank you-

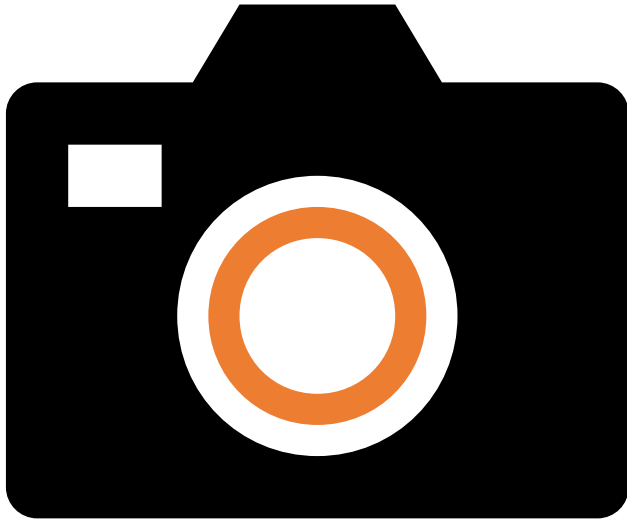
Bonus Slides – Information and Resources



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Picture Time

Take out your smartphone cameras and scan this QR code for links to the following resources:



Additional Information – Resource Links

Information

- [VA Homeless Programs](#)
- [VA Homeless FAQs - VA Homeless Programs](#)
- [Homeless Veterans Resources - VA Homeless Programs](#)
- [National Center on Homelessness among Veterans - VA Homeless Programs](#)
- [VA Employment Programs for Homeless Veterans - VA Homeless Programs](#)

Videos

- [Face Behind the File: Shelter from the Storm - YouTube](#)
- [HUD-VASH: Providing Safe Housing, Quality Health Care for Veterans – YouTube](#)
- [Homelessness among Veterans: Risk Factor Profiles and VA’s Tailored Interventions – YouTube](#)
- [Federal Eviction Moratorium: Resources for Veterans Experiencing Housing Instability – YouTube](#)
- [Help for Homeless Veterans -- Legal Professionals – YouTube](#)
- [How to Help Homeless Veterans - YouTube](#)



Subscribe to the Homeless Programs Monthly Newsletter

The Homeless Programs Office (HPO) newsletter contains news and information about VA's ongoing effort to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans.



Executive Director's Message | Around HPO

COVID-19 Response | Staff Spotlight | Fact of the Month

Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness are strongly encouraged to contact the [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](#) at (877) 4AID-VET (877-424-3838) for assistance.

Message From Monica Diaz, Executive Director, VHA Homeless Programs Office



VETERANS AFFAIRS HAS PROGRAMS FOR VETS EXPERIENCING THIS STATUS, WHOSE NUMBER WAS REDUCED BY HALF FROM 2010 TO 2019

If you responded, "What is homelessness?" while tuning into Jeopardy a few weeks ago, you answered the \$2,000 question correctly!

I owe the producers of the show a resounding "thank you." In just a few seconds, Jeopardy informed millions of Americans about VA's success over the past decade. As I watched the Jeopardy episode, I couldn't help but think about the similarities between the game and real life.

In the game of Jeopardy, there are multiple categories with answers ranging from commonly known to obscure information. As contestants respond to these prompts, they can either advance with large sums of money and prizes—or lose everything they earned with one wrong move.

- Each month, the Homeless Programs Newsletter provides readers with news and information about VA's ongoing efforts to prevent and end Veteran homelessness.
- Visit www.va.gov/homeless to subscribe.



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Check Out Our Podcast: Ending Veteran Homelessness

- Each month on the [Ending Veteran Homelessness](#) podcast, we explore all the ways our country is working to ensure that every Veteran has a safe and stable place to call home.
- Now available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and your podcatcher of choice!



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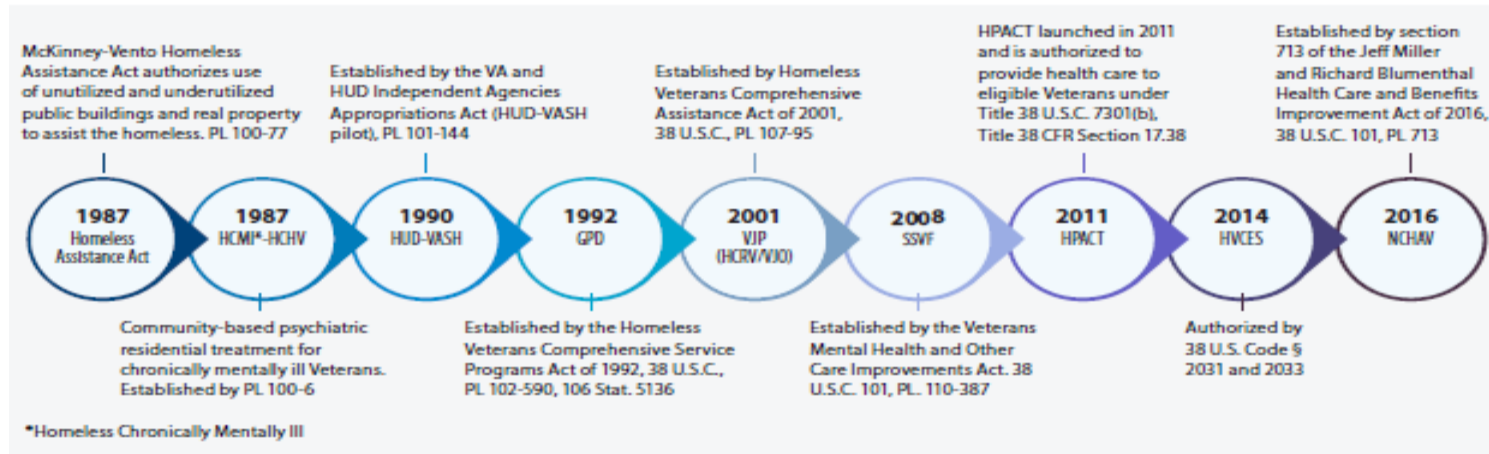
HUD Definitions Continued

CRITERIA FOR DEFINING HOMELESS	Category 1	Literally Homeless	<p>(1) Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); <u>or</u> (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less <u>and</u> who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution
	Category 2	Imminent Risk of Homelessness	<p>(2) Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; <u>and</u> (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing
	Category 3	Homeless under other Federal statutes	<p>(3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes; (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application; (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; <u>and</u> (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers
	Category 4	Fleeing/ Attempting to Flee DV	<p>(4) Any individual or family who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; (ii) Has no other residence; <u>and</u> (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing



LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE OF HOMELESS PROGRAMS

The graphic below shows VHA's legislative timeline for the authorization of VHA Homeless programs and services.



Veterans Health Care Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (PL 116-315)

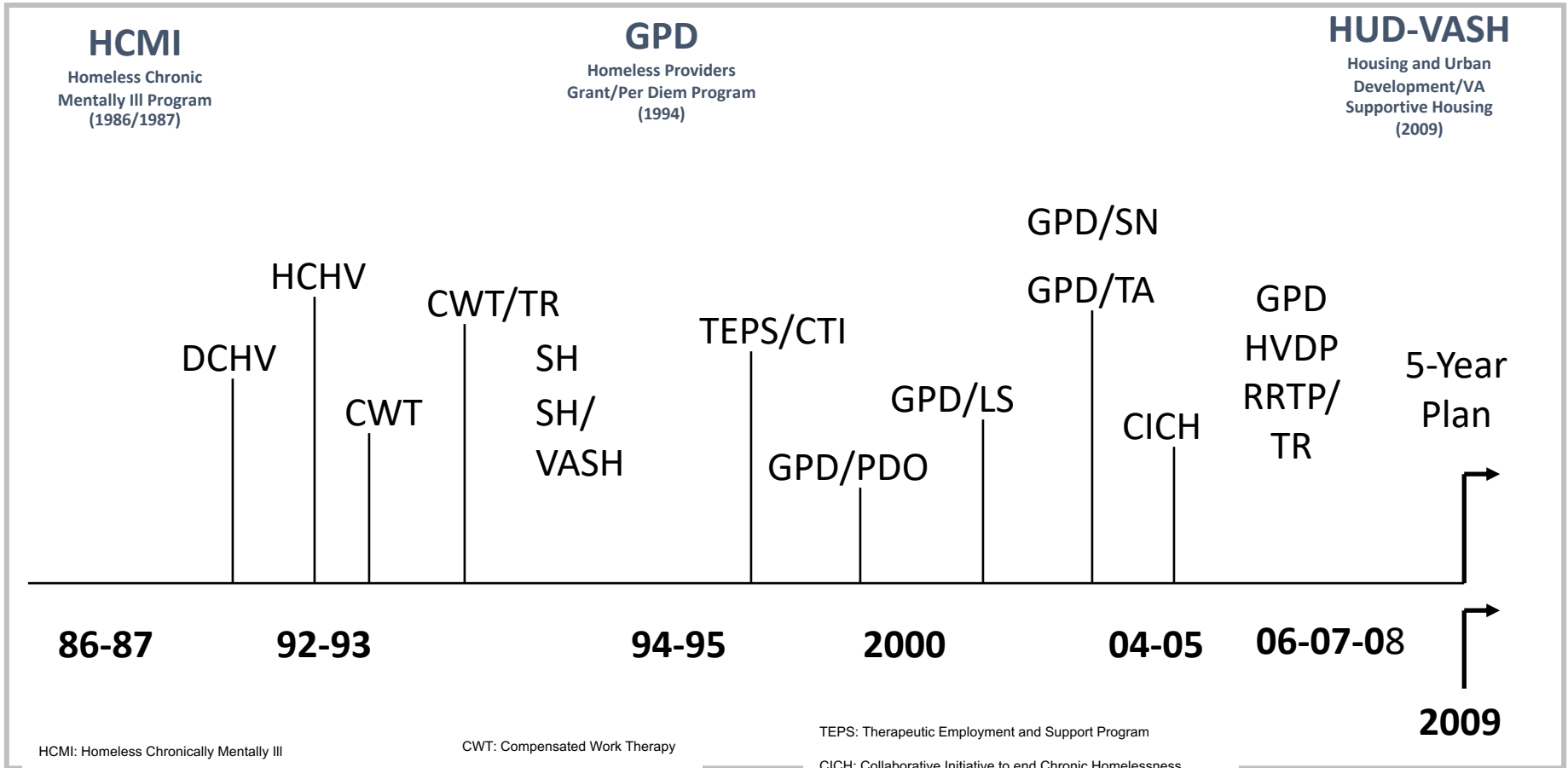
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (PL 116-283)

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (PL 116-260)



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VHA Homeless Program History 1986-2009



HCMI: Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill

DCHV: Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans

HCHV: Health Care for Homeless Veterans

SH, SH/VASH: Supportive Housing; Supportive Housing/HUD VASH

GPD: (Homeless Providers) Grant and Per Diem Program

CWT: Compensated Work Therapy

CTI: Critical Time Intervention

GPD/PDO: GPD Per Diem Only

GPD/LS: GPD Life Safety

GPD/SN: GPD Special Needs

GPD/TA: GPD Technical Assistance

TEPS: Therapeutic Employment and Support Program

CICH: Collaborative Initiative to end Chronic Homelessness

HVDP: Homeless Veterans Dental Program

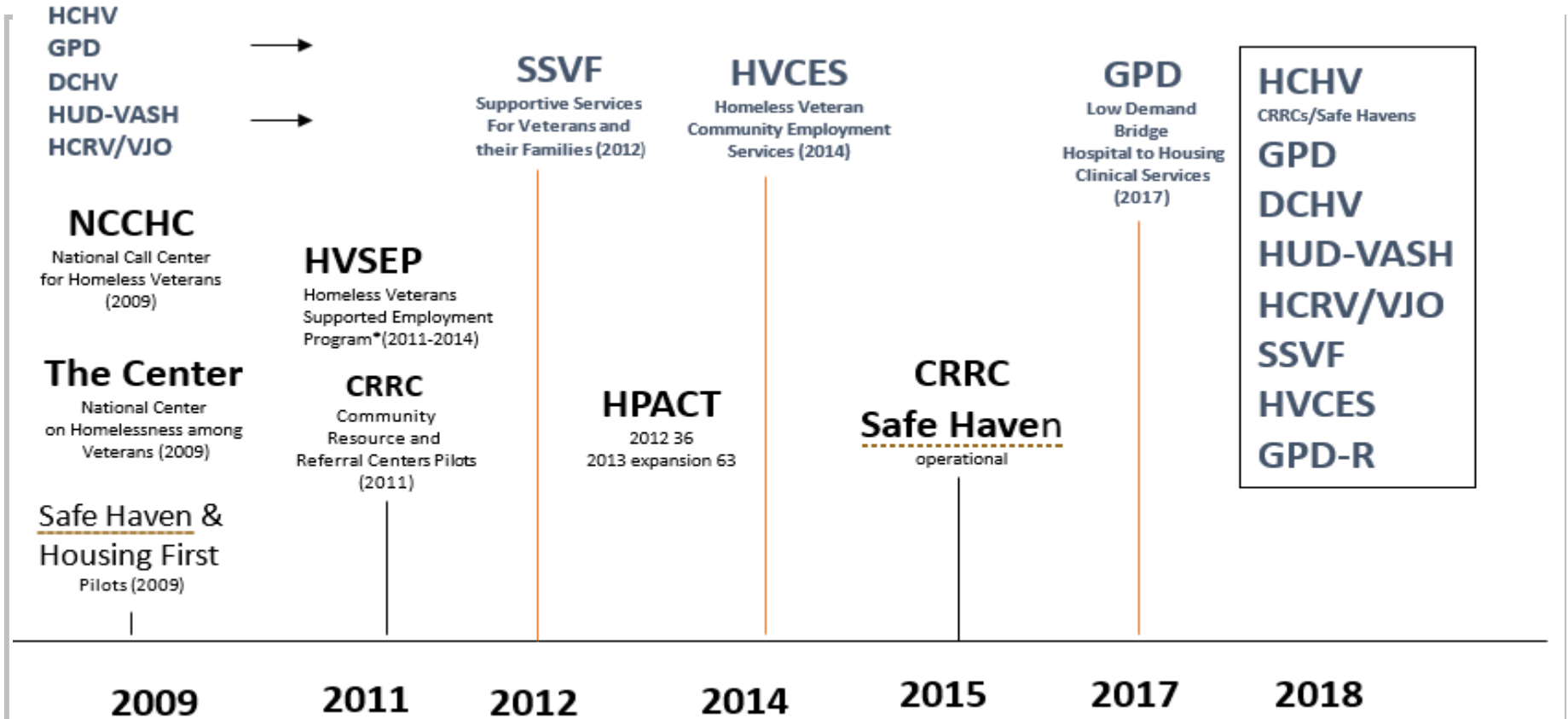
RRTP/TR: Residential Rehab Treatment Program/Transitional Residences

HCRV: Health Care for Reentry Veterans

HUD VASH: Housing and Urban Development/VA Supportive Housing



VHA Homeless Program History 2009 - 2018



*In Collaboration with the Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) Program

NCCHC: National Call Center for Homeless Veterans

The Center: National Center on Homelessness among Veterans

HVSEP: Homeless Veterans Supported Employment Program

SSVF: Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families

HPACT: Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams

HVCES: Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services

CRRC: Community Resource and Referral Centers



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