Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiative

Update to Chicago Continuum of Care (CoC) Board of Directors
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August 21, 2019
Accomplishments to Date

• Began in 2015 and served as the pilot for what is our current Coordinated Entry System
  • Created the One List (by-name list of Veterans) through partnership with Jesse Brown VAMC and the CoC
  • Tested implementation strategies: case conferencing, housing navigators, skilled assessors, outreach coordination
  • EVHI’s Leadership and Implementation team structure served as basis for the CoC’s new governance and implementation structures through the Action Agenda.
  • EVHI’s data-driven decision-making process led to HMIS dashboards – the precursor to the CoC’s Dashboard to End Homelessness.

• Since 2015, the CoC has:
  • Reduced Veteran homelessness by 28%.
  • Moved more than 5,000 Veteran households to permanent housing.
**Dedicated Veteran Resources**

- **$22 million for VA transitional and permanent housing**

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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Approximate # of Units/Beds</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HUD VASH:</strong> permanent supportive housing – CHA voucher + intensive support services from Jesse Brown VAMC)</td>
<td>1,282 units</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF):</strong> short-medium term prevention or rapid rehousing assistance. Financial assistance + services</td>
<td>265 units</td>
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<td><strong>Grant and Per Diem (GPD):</strong> project-based and scattered-site transitional housing. Includes medical respite, service – intensive, and clinical models</td>
<td>216 beds</td>
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Crisis Response Services

Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC)

• Co-located at A Safe Haven. CRRC provides case management, referral services, transportation to VA Medical Centers, and offers space for community partners to meet with Veterans onsite.
• Social workers are trained in Diversion, and serve as CES Skilled Assessors

VA Contract Transitional Beds

• Located at A Safe Haven and provides immediate, short-term transitional housing for Veterans entering our system. Referrals come from VA Medical Centers and the Community Resource and Referral Center
EVHI Current State

Chicago's Dashboard to End Homelessness

Participant Engagement with Chicago Homeless System
Current Project Involvement & Length of Time in System

Number of Participants with Selected Criteria
640

Show Each Client in Only One Project
EVHI 2019 Priorities

Implement a Diversion strategy
- Reduce our Veteran inflow and ensure resources are going to our most vulnerable Veterans
- Reduce the impact of homelessness on the Veterans in our community
- Chicago participated in a Rapid Resolution pilot project (SSVF) that is now incorporated into our broader Diversion strategy

Reduce the length of time from identification to housed
- Weekly case conferencing with service providers to identify best practices, address barriers, and share resources, in particular housing and landlords
- Coordinate services for Veterans working with multiple providers to streamline services
- Coordinated with SSVF grantees responding to applications for additional funding to support system-level staff to serve as Diversion Specialists, Housing Specialists, and Skilled Assessors

End chronic homelessness among Veterans
- Currently, 138 Veterans on our One List are experiencing chronic homelessness
- Intentional case conferencing and resource building