

Department of Veterans Affairs

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Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiative

VA VHA Homelessness Program Webinar



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Conrad Washington

Acting Director

Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiative (CFOI)

United States Department of Veteran Affairs

Conrad Washington serves as the Acting Director with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiative (CFOI) within the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA). In this capacity, he provides collaborative strategic leadership to develop and cultivate partnerships nationwide with faith-based, non-profit, and community organizations. These partnerships assist to increase awareness of VA programs and services for Veterans, their families, survivors, caregivers and other beneficiaries.

Previously, Mr. Washington served in the Corporate Senior Executive Management Office (CSEMO) delivering an enterprise-wide approach to executive personnel management for the VA. Mr. Washington retired from the United States Marine Corps with 20 years of active duty service to include an infantry battalion combat tour in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF-II). Positions during his military career include; Administrative/Personnel Chief, Senior Drill Instructor, Formal Schools Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty.



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Anthony Love

**Senior Advisor and Director of Community Engagement
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Anthony Love serves as Senior Advisor and Director of Community Engagement for Veterans Healthcare Administration, Homeless Programs working out of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration Homeless Programs Office. In this role, he provides timely and insightful advice to the National Director of VHA Homeless Programs on operational and strategic opportunities, as well as identifies and recommends best practices related to homeless solutions, community, state and local government engagement.

Anthony previously served as Deputy Director for at the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), where he was responsible for coordinating the state and local work of the Council and serve as the lead on Veterans issues for the Council. Anthony has over 20 years of experience in homelessness and poverty issues.



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VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE

VA CENTER FOR FAITH AND OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVE

Anthony Love
Senior Advisor and Director of Community Engagement
VHA Homeless Programs

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VA MISSION, VISION, STRATEGY

Mission Align programs, guidance and processes to optimize the provision of care and services to Veterans who are homeless across VA and to reduce the number of Veterans who experience homelessness.

Vision A systematic end to homelessness, which means there are no Veterans sleeping on the streets of our Nation and every Veteran has access to permanent housing. Veterans who become or are at-risk of becoming homeless will have the capacity to be quickly connected to the help they need to achieve housing stability.

Strategy

- Transform temporary and shelter-based options to prevention, employment, and permanent supportive housing solutions.
- Identify and assist homeless Veterans in obtaining permanent housing with needed treatment and other support services wrapped around the Veteran to promote housing stability and improved quality of life.
- Leverage best practices among grass roots organizations, neighborhood groups, and local community agencies to enable partnerships that foster a “no wrong door” philosophy as Veterans access an increasing array of Federal-community programs and services.
- Foster and enable close cooperation between VA Medical Centers and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD’s) local Continuum of Care systems.
- Maintain strong interagency collaboration resulting in successful policies and procedures such as Housing First, Rapid Re-Housing, HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF).

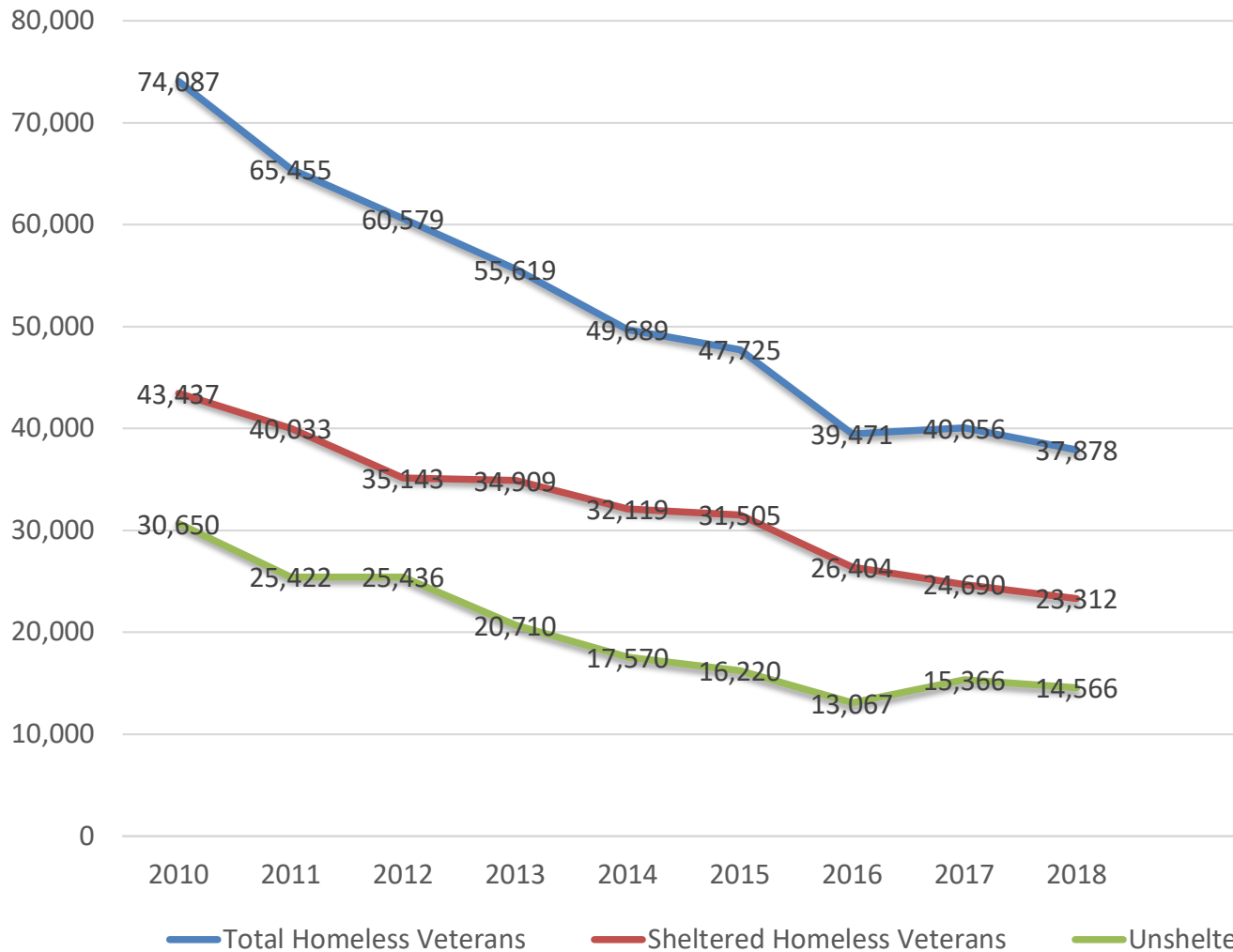


STATE OF VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

- Significant progress has been made to prevent and end Veteran homelessness. The number of Veterans experiencing homelessness in the United States has declined by nearly half since 2010.
 - On a single night in January 2019, a little over 37,000 veterans were experiencing homelessness. This represents a 50% decrease since 2010.
- In FY 2019, nearly 83,234 Veterans and their family members were housed or prevented from becoming homeless.
 - Nearly 21,000 children of Veteran households served.
- Since 2010, 825,818 Veterans and their family members have been permanently housed or prevented from becoming homeless.
- Efforts to end Veteran homelessness have greatly expanded the services available to permanently house homeless Veterans and implemented new programs aimed at prevention, treatment, low-threshold care/engagement strategies and the capacity to track and monitor homeless outcomes.
- VA offers a wide array of interventions designed to find homeless Veterans, engage them in services, find pathways to permanent housing, and prevent homelessness from occurring.



EFFECTIVENESS OF HOMELESS PROGRAMS: REDUCTION IN VETERAN HOMELESSNESS SINCE 2010



49%
Decrease in Homeless Veterans

46%
Decrease in Sheltered Homeless Veterans

52%
Decrease in Unsheltered Homeless Veterans



THE FEDERAL RESPONSE

- Utilize a **Housing First approach**, which removes barriers to help Veterans obtain permanent housing as quickly as possible, without unnecessary prerequisites.
- **Prioritize the most vulnerable Veterans**—especially those experiencing **chronic homelessness**.
- Coordinate outreach efforts **to identify and engage every Veteran experiencing homelessness** and focus outreach efforts on achieving housing outcomes.
- **Leverage other housing and services resources** that can help Veterans who are ineligible for some of VA's programs obtain stable housing.
- Meet each community where it is – and customize the support to the unique circumstances of the community and the level of development of its **Coordinated Entry System**.
- **Increase early detection and access** to preventive services so at-risk Veterans remain stably housed.
- **Closely monitor progress toward the goal**, including the success of programs achieving permanent housing outcomes.
- Aligning local goals and strategies with **Home Together: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness**.



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT-VA SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (HUD-VASH) PROGRAM

- A collaborative program between VA and HUD to move VA Healthcare eligible Veterans and their families out of homelessness and into permanent housing. HUD provides housing assistance through its Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8), issued through public housing authorities, that allows homeless Veterans to rent privately owned housing.
- VA case managers provide these Veterans with support by connecting them to services such as health care, mental health treatment and substance use counseling that will help them in their recovery process and with their ability to maintain housing in the community.
- As of the end of FY 2019:
 - Over 90,000 vouchers are active
 - Over 83,000 are in use
 - Over 77,000 Veterans are housed/under lease



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES (SSVF) PROGRAM

- The SSVF program provides supportive services to very low-income Veteran families that are currently in or transitioning to permanent housing.
- SSVF is designed to rapidly re-house homeless Veteran families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk due to a housing crisis.
- 2019 Outcomes:
 - Over 105,000 Persons served
 - Over 70,000 were Veterans
 - Almost 21,000 were children
 - 91% of Veterans and their families remained housed after prevention intervention
 - 77% of Veterans and their families remained housed after rapid rehousing intervention



HOMELESS GRANT AND PER DIEM (GPD) PROGRAM TRANSFORMATION

- VA's largest transitional housing program with over 12,750 operational beds nationwide.
 - Over 23,000 Veterans entered GPD transitional housing.
 - Almost 12,000 homeless Veterans exited GPD to permanent housing.
- VA is encouraging the development of transitional housing that meet specific community needs for homeless Veterans through. All applicants were expected to develop services that have low barriers to access.
- GPD supports 5 specific transitional housing models;
 - Bridge Housing,
 - Hospital to Housing,
 - Low Demand,
 - Clinical Treatment and Service Intensive transitional housing.
 - Service Intensive Transitional Housing
 - Transition in Place



COVID-19 and Homeless Veterans

- Conditions
- HPO Response
- Cares Act



HOW TO HELP END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

- **Housing Partners**
 - Accepting HUD-VASH vouchers
 - Setting aside housing units for low-income Veterans and their families
 - Developing housing units for low-income Veterans and their families
 - Assisting Veterans needing to quarantine/isolate
- **Employment Partners**
 - Working with VA's Community Employment Coordinators (CECs) to recruit, interview, & hire job-ready Veterans for entry and mid-level positions
 - Provide job training or apprenticeship opportunities
 - Creating a positive work environment where Veterans can be successful
- **Community Partners**
 - Donation Partners – Organizations that provide move-in or every-day, household essentials for Veterans exiting homelessness.
 - Outreach Partners – Organizations that share information with their membership or network on how they can support VA's and its partners' efforts to fill critical needs gaps for homeless and at-risk Veterans.



NEXT STEPS

To access resources and tools to assist Veterans in your community, and to learn more about the programs offered by VA, please visit or call the following:

- VA Homeless Programs Webpage (<https://www.va.gov/homeless/>)
- National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
(<https://www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp/>
1-877-424-3838)



BACKGROUND SLIDES



VHA HOMELESS PROGRAMS

Community Resource and Referral Centers (CRRCs):

CRRCs are a collaborative effort of VA, communities, service providers, and agency partners. Centers are located in strategically selected areas to provide both a refuge from the streets and a central location to engage homeless Veterans in services. When Veterans enter these centers, they are referred to physical and mental health care resources, job development programs, housing options, and other VA and non-VA benefits.

Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV):

The DCHV program provides time-limited residential treatment to homeless Veterans with mental health and substance use disorders, co-occurring medical concerns, and psychosocial needs such as homelessness and unemployment.

Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV):

The central goal of the HCHV program is to reduce homelessness among Veterans by connecting homeless Veterans with health care and other needed services. This program provides outreach, case management, and HCHV Contract Residential Services, ensuring that chronically homeless Veterans — especially those with serious mental health diagnoses and/or substance use disorders — can be placed in VA or community-based programs that provide quality housing and services that meet their specialized needs.

Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV): The HCRV program is designed to address the needs of incarcerated Veterans when it comes to re-entering their community. The goals of HCRV are to prevent homelessness; reduce the impact of medical, psychiatric, and substance use problems on community readjustment; and decrease the likelihood of re-incarceration for those leaving prison.

Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (H-PACTs): H-PACTs provide a coordinated “medical home” tailored to homeless Veterans’ needs. At selected VA facilities, Veterans are assigned to an H-PACT that includes a primary care provider, nurse, social worker, homeless program staff, and others who offer medical care, case management, housing assistance, and social services. The H-PACT provides and coordinates the health care that Veterans may need while helping them obtain and stay in permanent housing.

Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem (GPD): The GPD program allows VA to award grants to community-based agencies to create transitional housing programs and offer per diem payments. The purpose of the program is to promote the development and provision of supportive housing and/or related services — with the goal of helping homeless Veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-determination. GPD-funded projects offer communities a way to help homeless Veterans by providing housing and other services and at the same time assist VA medical centers by augmenting or supplementing care.



VHA HOMELESS PROGRAMS

Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups):

This project brings together consumers, providers, advocates, local officials, and other concerned citizens to identify the needs of homeless Veterans and work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action. Local CHALENG meetings represent important opportunities for VA and public and private agency representatives to meet and develop meaningful partnerships to better serve homeless Veterans.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF): This program, authorized by Public Law 110-387, provides supportive services to very low-income Veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing. SSVF is designed to rapidly rehouse homeless Veteran families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk of becoming homeless due to a housing crisis. Funds are granted to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives, which then provide very low-income Veteran families with a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability.

Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO): The purpose of the VJO program is to prevent homelessness and avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans. This is accomplished by ensuring that eligible justice-involved Veterans encountered by police, and in jails or courts, have timely access to VHA mental health, substance use, and homeless services when clinically indicated, and other VA services and benefits as appropriate.



QUESTIONS



VA Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiative

For additional questions, contact:

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CFOI WEBSITE:

www.va.gov/cfbnpartnerships



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