

# Updating HUD-VASH to Support Aging and Disabled Veterans

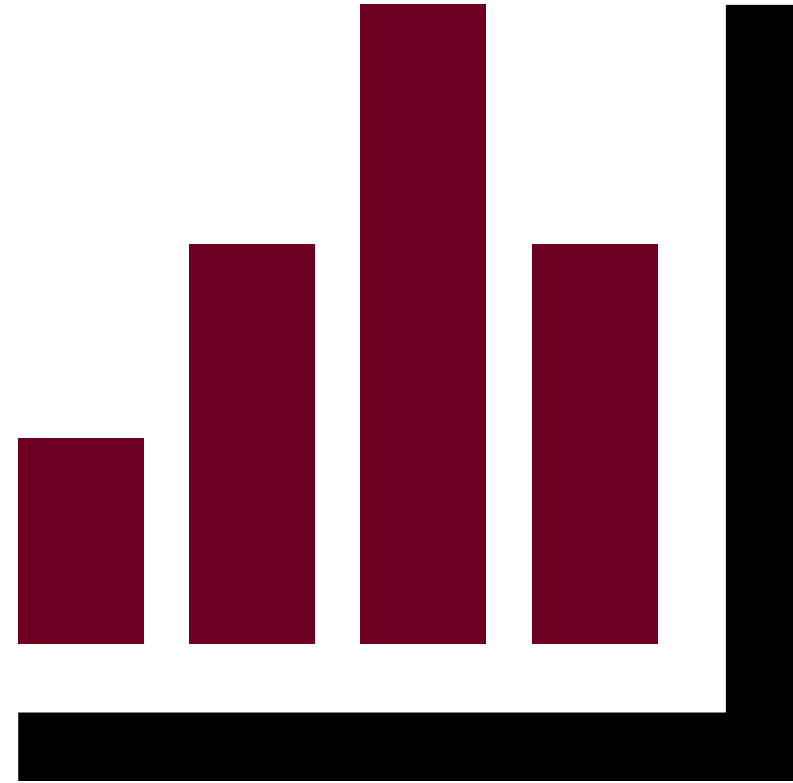
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# Agenda

- Older Adult Homelessness:  
Current State & Future Projections
- Strategies and Solutions
- Q&A and Discussion



# Older Adult Homelessness: Current State & Future Projections



# The Challenge

- Almost half of Veterans enrolled with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) are aged 65 years or older.
- More than 60% of Veterans in the HUD-VASH program are older than 60 years.
- It is expected that between fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2035, the subgroup of Veterans age 85 and older is expected to increase by 66%, and specifically the subgroup of women Veterans aged 85 and older is expected to increase by 159%.
- Americans with three or more health challenges will double for populations between 65 and 75 years of age; By the age of 75, a majority of Americans have three or more chronic medical conditions.

# Aging Accelerated – Weathering

- Studies have suggested that prolonged exposure to economically adverse conditions such as extreme poverty and homelessness intersect with racial marginalization to age individuals faster when compared to individuals who have not experienced extreme poverty or racial marginalization.
- Sources:
  - [The weathering hypothesis as an explanation for racial disparities in health: a systematic review - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)
  - ['Weathering': The health effects of stress and discrimination \(medicalnewstoday.com\)](#)
  - [How poverty and racism 'weather' the body, accelerating aging and disease](#)
  - [Black Women Excluded from Critical Studies Due to 'Weathering](#)

# Pathways to Aged Homelessness



Individuals experiencing chronic homelessness aging on the street.



Death of spouse or parent = Income and/or housing decreased or lost.



Living on low-income with lack of affordable housing options and rising rental costs.



Skilled care facilities not equipped to address the complex needs of individuals experiencing homelessness.



Alternating between nursing and other medical facilities and the community.



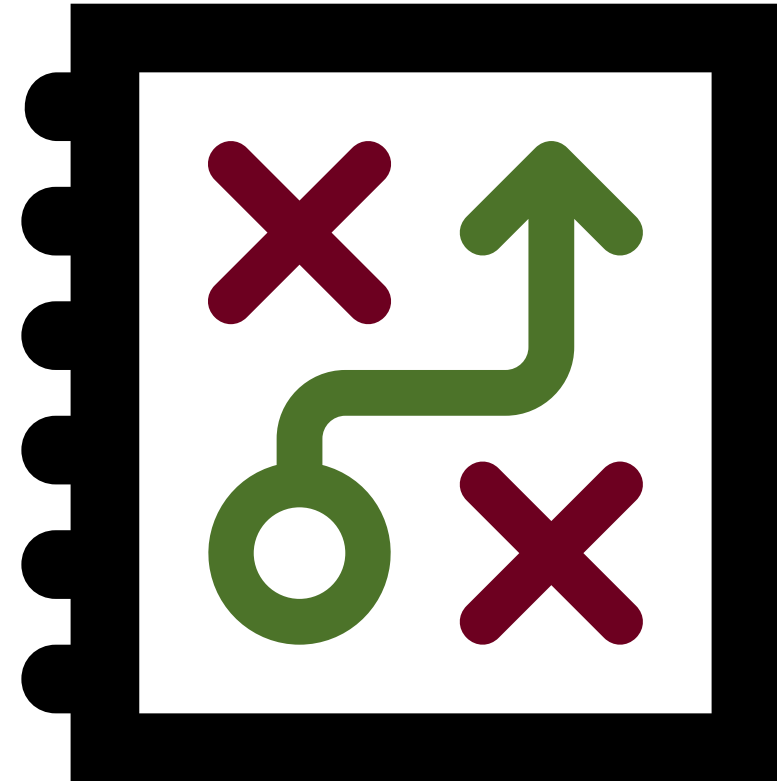
Lack of discharge planning/  
lack of resources upon discharge.



# VA's Commitment

- Our service commitment to the Veteran begins **the moment the Veteran touches the homeless response system**, either through outreach, identification through the by-name-list (BNL), the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans, Supportive Services for Veteran Families homelessness prevention, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical center contacts or any other pathway.
- Efforts will embrace **the lowest-barrier approach possible** while still accounting for Veteran safety, removing any processes that are not immediately relevant or necessary for immediate housing services.

# Strategies & Solutions





# Strategies & Solutions



Increase access to VA's Geriatric and Extended Care (GEC) services for Veterans experiencing homelessness.

Develop housing options to assist using HUD-VASH vouchers in specialized programs.

Expand the use of HUD-VASH project-based vouchers with intensive services that could be provided on-site.

Proactively develop partnerships with community agencies.

# Housing Options Using HUD-VASH Vouchers In Specialized Programs

- GEC and Community-based Options
  - Medical Foster Home
  - Community Residential Care
  - Assisted Living
  - Adult Care Homes
- HUD Special Housing Types:
  - Single room occupancy (SRO) housing
  - Congregate housing
  - Group home
  - Shared housing
  - Manufactured home (when the family owns the manufactured home and leases the space)
  - Cooperative housing (excluding families that are not cooperative members)

# PHA Special Housing Type/GEC Crosswalk

GEC Residential Care Program	PHA Special Housing Type	Voucher Type
Medical Foster Home	SRO, Group Home, Shared Housing, Adult Care Home	Tenant-Based Voucher
Community Residential Care Home	Shared Housing, Congregate Housing	Tenant-Based Voucher, Project-Based Voucher
Assisted Living	Adult Care Home, Congregate Care, Group Homes	Tenant-Based Voucher, Project-Based Voucher
Adult Care Home	Adult Care Home, Congregate Care, Group Homes	Tenant-Based Voucher, Project-Based Voucher

# Public Housing Authority (PHA) Considerations for Special Housing Types

- PHAs may permit participating households to use Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) assistance in a variety of special housing types.
- A PHA's decision to allow households to use HCV assistance in these housing types should be based on the PHA's assessment of the difficulties encountered by households currently looking for housing, applicant and participant demographics suggesting a need for specialized housing, and the availability of suitable housing of the various types in the local market.
- A PHA must always allow the use of a special housing type if needed as a reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities so that the program is readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities in accordance with 24 CFR part 8, even if the PHA does not normally allow the use of special housing types or limits the number of families using these special housing types.

# Next Steps

## HUD-VASH Programs

- Contact your HUD-VASH Regional Coordinator. Email [HomelessVets@va.gov](mailto:HomelessVets@va.gov) for more information.
- Establish initial discussions with the GEC program lead at your facility:
  - Medical Foster Home Coordinator
  - Home-Based Primary Care Coordinator
  - Community Residential Care Coordinator
- Request consultation with the National HUD-VASH and GEC program points of contact.

# Check Out *Ending Veteran Homelessness*

- Each month on the [Ending Veteran Homelessness](#) podcast, we explore how our country works to ensure every Veteran has a safe and stable place to call home.
- Check out February's episode, [Growing Older Together: How VA is Evolving to Support Aging Veterans](#) on San Francisco's Colma Veterans Village project-based voucher community.
- Subscribe today on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), or your podcatcher of choice!





# Q&A, Discussion, and Contact Info

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My Digital Business Card



VA Resource Links

