

# Ending Veteran Homelessness

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## Overview

We've all been there. You're up late at night, staring at your Performance Management Tracker. Your eyes hone in on your improvement median and you think to yourself, "How on earth are we gonna make this next shift happen?" At VA, we get it. We know that a key driver in communities achieving Functional Zero is increasing outflow – helping even more Veterans experiencing homelessness move into permanent housing. But in 2024, with rental costs soaring and staffing challenges worsening, it can feel like that next downward shift is out of reach. That's where our One Team Approach comes in.

VA's One Team Approach offers you coordinated, united actions, and interconnection between the different programs in your community as you work to achieve functional zero:

- Acknowledges a shared vision and principles to guide efforts toward ending Veteran homelessness.
- Establishes clear roles, defines responsibilities, and develops communication channels to improve our system and achieve our goals.
- Recognizes the strengths and expertise of programs to define strategies that offer the most effective and efficient interventions to help Veterans obtain and sustain permanent housing.
- Considers all potential options and resources to support the Veteran's journey to housing stability.

During this breakout, you'll hear about how you can implement One Team in your community and have your policy and technical questions directly answered by VA's national subject matter experts. The Q&A alone is worth its proverbial weight in gold!

## Additional Details

VA's One Team policies and practices directly focus on permanent housing as the solution to Veteran homelessness.

### Policy Supports

- Expanded co-enrollment and Collaborative Case Management opportunities
- Same-Day Access policies that promote rapid access to services for Veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

- Varied housing and subsidy types to meet the unique needs of individual Veterans.
- Various incentives and landlord-related supports to overcome significant housing market challenges.

#### Practice Supports

- Robust local coordination expectations that include leadership, active by-name lists, case conferencing, data management, and other planning activities that support system-level efforts.
- Shift in emphasis from individual programming to a coordinated, cross-program effort that promotes individualized services and housing plans.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

Veteran homelessness is a complex issue, and complex issues require creativity and all hands on deck. No matter how Veterans connect with us, we want them to find a coordinated process that allows us to develop a holistic, tailored housing and service plan centered on their personal choices.

Communities can act by strengthening or reinvigorating Veteran Leadership Teams. VA and our partners have proven that we know what it takes to solve homelessness, demonstrated by a more than 52% reduction in Veteran homelessness since 2010. One Team collaborations should result in the deployment and full utilization of all outreach, interim housing, permanent housing, and supportive service resources in a community.

Integration with local Continuums of Care is key, and by working together we can leverage resources, share critical data, and maximize the effectiveness of the assistance being provided to end homelessness among Veterans.

## Considerations for Equity

VA strives for equitable outcomes for all Veterans. All VA and VA-funded programs should strive to center equity in key areas, such as representation in leadership, using available data to identify and solve for disparities, and center Veterans with lived experience in all efforts to end homelessness.

