

Community Discussion Worksheet

Some Ideas for Next Steps and Outcomes:

- Create a Veterans Sub-Committee of the CoC or other forum to meet regularly, or if you have one, put new veterans funding on the next agenda and consider applying
- Invite VA representatives to attend CoC meetings
- Schedule trainings for CoC providers about VA benefits
- Take time at the next CoC meeting to talk about identifying veterans in homeless programs and VA benefits eligibility
- Designate someone to review data in the community about numbers of homeless veterans, who serves them, and what their needs are and report back
- Involve veteran service organizations in your work; connect through the HUDVET Resource Center
- Exchange business cards
- Brainstorm with your County Veterans Service Office about creating partnerships to help homeless veterans in your community apply for benefits
- Inform local elected officials about the national commitment to end veteran homelessness in five years
- Ensure outreach workers know what might make a veteran eligible for benefits and how to connect them to resources to help them apply

Discussion Questions

1. Share what programs are available to homeless veterans in your community now (including veteran-specific, homeless-specific and homeless veteran-specific.) Who should be connected and informed about them who is not? What works well about those programs and what could be improved?
2. Consider the resources presented by HUD and VA. Is your community making the best use of these resources? If not, why not? What would be better? Who needs to be at the table?
3. Consider the ideas suggested above. Would any of them work in your community? What else could you do that would be better? What would it take?
4. President Obama has committed to ending veteran homelessness. What will your community need to do to reach that goal locally?

Take note of your plans on your "Next Steps" sheet!

HUD-VA Providers Information & Networking Event
August 18, 2009
Fresno, CA

Next Steps