



Federal Criteria and Benchmarks for Ending Veteran Homelessness

Orange County Commission on Homelessness
March 25, 2016

Getting to Zero



In October 2015 the Veterans Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Inter-Agency Council on Homelessness jointly published benchmarks for measuring a community's progress toward ending Veteran homelessness.

USICH “Operational Definition of an End to Homelessness”



An end to homelessness means that every community will have a **systematic response in place** that ***ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.***



Background

- Achievement of criteria and benchmarks is an important *milestone* and represents achievement of minimum system qualities and performance that indicate homelessness among veterans is **rare, brief, and non-recurring**
- Just as important to identify opportunities for *sustaining and institutionalizing* key practices/processes
- Use periodic monitoring and evaluation to determine if system practices, processes, and performance is at or above minimum level – implement corrective action as needed



APPLYING THE FEDERAL CRITERIA IN ORANGE COUNTY

Criteria 1



The community has identified, enumerated and engaged all Veterans experiencing homelessness

- Through coordinated outreach, multiple data sources, includes Veterans in all programs
- All persons who served in the armed forces, no matter their discharge type or eligibility for VA services

Criteria 2



The community provides shelter immediately (i.e. same day) to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it.

- Sufficient shelter capacity for any unsheltered Veteran who wants it, without unnecessary conditions

Orange County:

- ✓ Do you have any options for Veterans who are actively using?
- ✓ Can you get people off the street the same day?

Criteria 3



The community only provides service-intensive transitional housing in limited instances after Veteran has been offered a permanent housing placement.

- Priority placed on using transitional housing as short-term bridge to permanent housing

Orange County:

- ✓ No process that ensures all Veterans are offered permanent housing interventions before a transitional housing intervention

Criteria 4



The community has capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing

- Sufficient permanent housing resources for all homeless Veterans (including those who choose transitional housing)\
- Ability to assist Veterans to move into permanent housing quickly without barriers to entry, using Housing First approaches

Criteria 5



The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future

- Uses multiple data sources and conducts comprehensive outreach and engagement
- Adequate preventions resources and capacity
- Adequate resources and appropriate plans, services to promote the long-term housing stability for Vets who have entered permanent housing

Orange County:

- ✓ Little to no prevention assistance to prevent homelessness
- ✓ Master list process will continue to identify homeless veterans



APPLYING THE FEDERAL BENCHMARKS IN ORANGE COUNTY

Benchmark A



Chronic homelessness among Veterans has been ended

- No Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness, except Veterans who are chronically homeless who have been offered permanent housing but:
 - are not yet accepted or entered into housing
 - chose service-intensive transitional housing prior to permanent housing
- Continued outreach to Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness that have not yet accepted permanent housing with offer of permanent housing intervention at least once every two weeks

Benchmark B



Veterans have quick access to permanent housing

- Average time from identification to permanent housing entry 90 days or less among all Vets who entered permanent housing in past three months
- Two exceptions/exclusions:
 - Veterans identified and offered permanent housing intervention, but not initially accepted offer, average only includes time from permanent housing intervention acceptance until move-in
 - Veterans offered permanent housing intervention but chose to enter service-intensive transitional housing prior to moving to permanent housing
- Should also take into account, and may need to be tailored based on, local housing market conditions

Review Tool – Benchmark B (HMIS)



Do Veterans have quick access to permanent housing?

Target: For homeless Veterans placed in PH in last 90 days, excluding exceptions indicated below, the average time from date of identification to date of PH move-in is less than or equal to 90 days.

Total number of <u>Veterans</u> who moved into permanent housing	3
- Exemption: Do NOT include people who were offered a permanent housing intervention but chose to enter a service-intensive transitional housing project prior to entering a permanent housing destination. Number of Veterans offered PH intervention, but chose TH prior to PH destination:	0
Total <u>net</u> number of Veterans who moved into permanent housing (B1 - B2):	3
Total number of <u>days</u> it takes for all Veterans who become homeless to enter permanent housing - Days between date of identification to PH move-in for all Vet PH exiters. Exemption: For any Veteran who was identified and offered a permanent housing intervention, but did not initially accept the offer, include only the time from when they accepted the intervention until they moved into housing. Total days:	0
Total Number of Days ÷ by Total Net Number of Veterans =	0

Benchmark B achieved?

Yes

Benchmark B BNL (11/1/2015-2/1/2016)

B. Do Veterans have quick access to permanent housing?

Target: For homeless Veterans placed in PH in last 90 days, excluding exceptions indicated below, the average time from date of identification to date of PH move-in is less than or equal to 90 days.

Total number of Veterans who accessed permanent housing (B1):	17
- Exemption: Do NOT include people who were offered a permanent housing intervention but chose to enter a service-intensive transitional housing project prior to entering a permanent housing destination. Number of Veterans offered PH intervention, but chose TH prior to PH destination (B2):	0
Total net number of Veterans who moved into permanent housing (B1 - B2):	17
Total number of <u>days</u> it takes for all Veterans who become homeless to enter permanent housing: - Days between date of identification to PH move-in for all Vet PH exiters. Exemption: For any Veteran who was identified and offered a permanent housing intervention, but did not initially accept the offer, include only the time from when they accepted the intervention until they moved into housing. Total days:	2349
Total Number of Days ÷ by Total Number of Veterans =	138.1765

Benchmark B achieved?

No

Benchmark C



The community has sufficient permanent housing capacity

- Number of Veterans moving into permanent housing is greater than or equal to number entering homelessness during continuous 90 day period preceding benchmark measurement

Review Tool – Benchmark C (HMIS)



C. Does the community have sufficient permanent housing capacity?

Target: In the last 90 days, the total number of homeless Veterans moving in to permanent housing is greater than or equal to the total number of newly identified homeless Veterans.

The total number of Veterans exiting homelessness to permanent housing:	0
The total number of newly Identified homeless Veterans:	187

Benchmark C achieved?

No

Benchmark C BNL (11/1/2015-2/1/2016)



C. Does the community have sufficient permanent housing capacity?

Target: In the last 90 days, the total number of homeless Veterans moving in to permanent housing is greater than or equal to the total number of newly identified homeless Veterans.

The total number of Veterans exiting homelessness to permanent housing	17
The total number of newly Identified homeless Veterans	77

Benchmark C achieved?

No

Benchmark D



The community is committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances

- Number of Veterans entering service-intensive transitional housing is less than number entering homelessness during continuous 90 day period preceding benchmark measurement



QUESTIONS DISCUSSION

Barriers



- What affects achievement of the Criteria and Benchmarks?
 - Identification of all veterans
 - Access to shelter
 - Rapidly re-housing
 - Using transitional housing only in limited instances

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO ABOUT OC



- According to the BNL, during the look back period there were 212 unsheltered Veterans
- There were 3 in emergency shelter—shelters are not full
- Discrepancy between BNL chronically homeless (29) and HMIS (313)

NEXT STEPS

