

Mayors Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness

FAQ

Q: What is the Mayor's Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness?

A: *A call to action – announced by First Lady Michelle Obama and amplified by the HUD Secretary, by leaders across HUD, VA, USICH, and by the National League of Cities – is for mayors to make a commitment to ending Veteran homelessness in their cities in 2015.*

<http://1.usa.gov/1oWU4Go>

Q: When was the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran's Homelessness issued and who issued the challenge?

A: *In June 2014, First Lady Michelle Obama announced the Challenge as part of the Joining Forces Initiative.*

<http://1.usa.gov/1MFyuiq>

Q: How many Mayors have signed on to the challenge? Has Durham's Mayor signed on?

A: *Mayor Bell, along with over 100 Mayors from all over the Country, has signed on to the challenge.*

<http://bit.ly/1B2cbkL>

Q: How can it be possible to end Veterans Homelessness? This seems like unrealistic.

A: *The Mayors of Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Houston, and New Orleans have announced and end to Chronic Veterans Homelessness <http://huff.to/1KyDdRH> Using the guidelines for counting homelessness under the Mayor's Challenge and the tools that are being made available to communities to pool resources and coordinate efforts, Durham is within range for ending Chronic Homelessness among Veteran's by the end of 2015.*

<http://1.usa.gov/ZDFd9G>

Q: Shouldn't the Veterans Administration (VA) take care of homeless Veterans?

A: *The VA has developed many programs to help end Veteran homelessness. Even with such a strong network of resources, the VA cannot end Veteran homelessness alone. The VA has forged partnerships with thousands of community stakeholders who are helping with the boots-on-the-ground efforts to provide homeless services and to raise awareness of the supportive services available to homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families.*

<http://1.usa.gov/1dwCcyz>

Q: What progress has been made so far in Durham since the Mayors Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness began?

A: *Since Mayor Bell signed the challenge in June 2014, Durham's homeless housing system of housing and service providers, has collectively housed 165 Veterans. On average, organizations and programs from all sectors of the Durham community are housing 10-15 Veterans each month.*

Definitions

1. “Homeless Veteran” means:
 - a. A Veteran as defined by the Veteran’s Administration and verified in NCHMIS Data element number 3.7
 - b. Residing in Emergency Shelter or Transitional Housing that is included in Durham’s 2015 Homeless Housing Inventory <http://bit.ly/1JHaYSj> or in an unsheltered (i.e. streets, encampment, car, etc.)
 - c. Homeless Status is verified in NCHMIS using 2014 Universal Data Element (UDE’s) numbers 3.9 & 3.17 <http://bit.ly/1f0Rg8z>

2. “Chronic Homeless Veteran” means:
 - a. #1. a-c above but does not include persons residing in GPD/TH &
 - 1) Has a disabling condition as verified in NCHMIS in UDE number 3.8
 - 2) The four sub-questions in Universal Data element 3.17 verify continual homelessness for a year of more or for or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years.
<http://bit.ly/1KnikuM>

3. “Ending Veterans Homelessness” means:
 - a. If a homeless point in time count using HUD guidelines were conducted:
 - 1) any Veteran who is counted in shelter, transitional housing, or on the streets and has been homeless for 30 days or less and;
 - 2) wants and is willing to accept housing (Permanent Housing, Rapid Rehousing, or other type of housing which would preclude the Veteran from being counted in a point in time count) and;
 - 3) The homeless housing system has the capacity and resources needed to house the Veteran in 30 days or less.

4. “Ending Chronic Veterans Homelessness” means:
 - a. Criteria in #2 and #3 above are met

5. “Housed Veteran” means:
 - a. A Veteran who would NOT be counted as part of a homeless point in time count using HUD guidelines

6. “Successful Housing Placement” selected from NCHMIS include: <http://bit.ly/1QtPApb>
 - a. Moved from one HOPWA funded project to HOPWA PH
 - b. Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy
 - c. Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy
 - d. Permanent housing for formerly homeless persons
 - e. Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy
 - f. Rental by client, with GPD TIP housing subsidy

- g. Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy
- h. Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy
- i. Staying or living with family, permanent tenure
- j. Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure