

Federal Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness

September 9, 2020

10:45 -11:45





Webinar Agenda

- I. Veteran Criteria and Benchmarks
- II. Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Coordination
- III. Master List and Benchmark Generation Tool
- IV. Question and Answer Session



Statutory Authority and Mission

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is charged with:

- **Coordinating the federal response** to homelessness
- **Creating a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector** to reduce and end homelessness in the nation
- **Maximizing the effectiveness of the federal government** in contributing to the end of homelessness

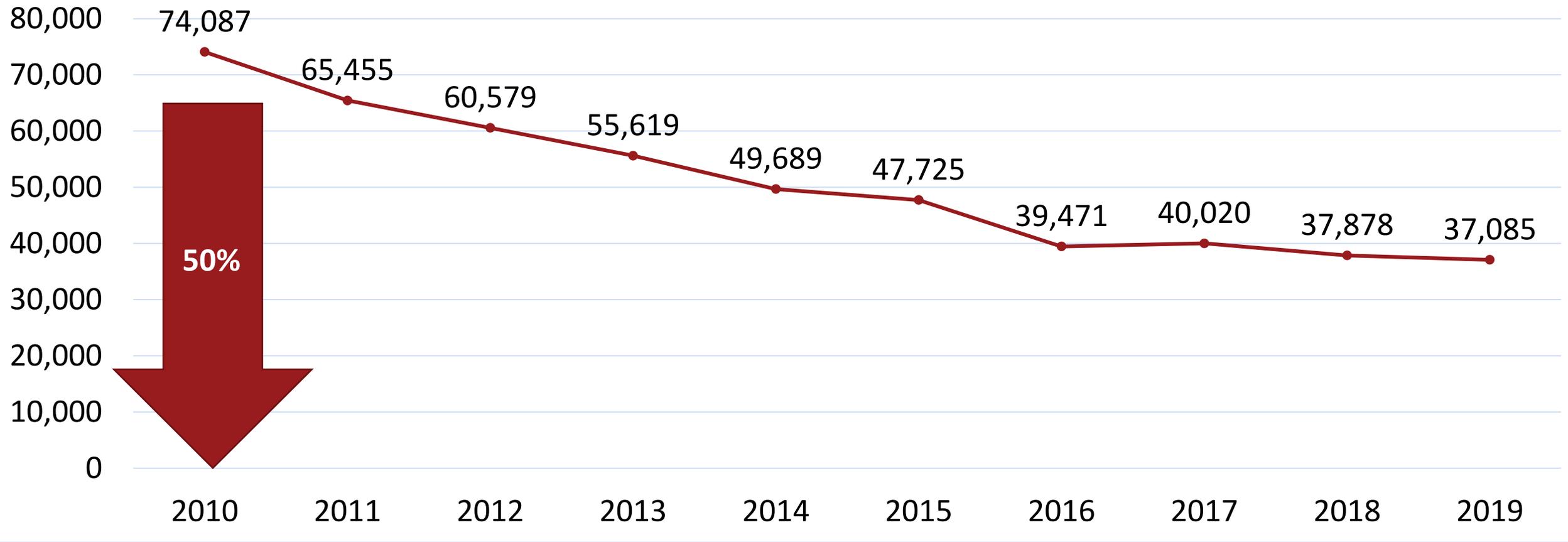


Coordinating the Federal Response

- The Council
- Council Policy Group
- Interagency Working Groups
- Performance measurement and accountability



National PIT Data on Veterans Experiencing Homelessness 2010-2019



% Change Over Time

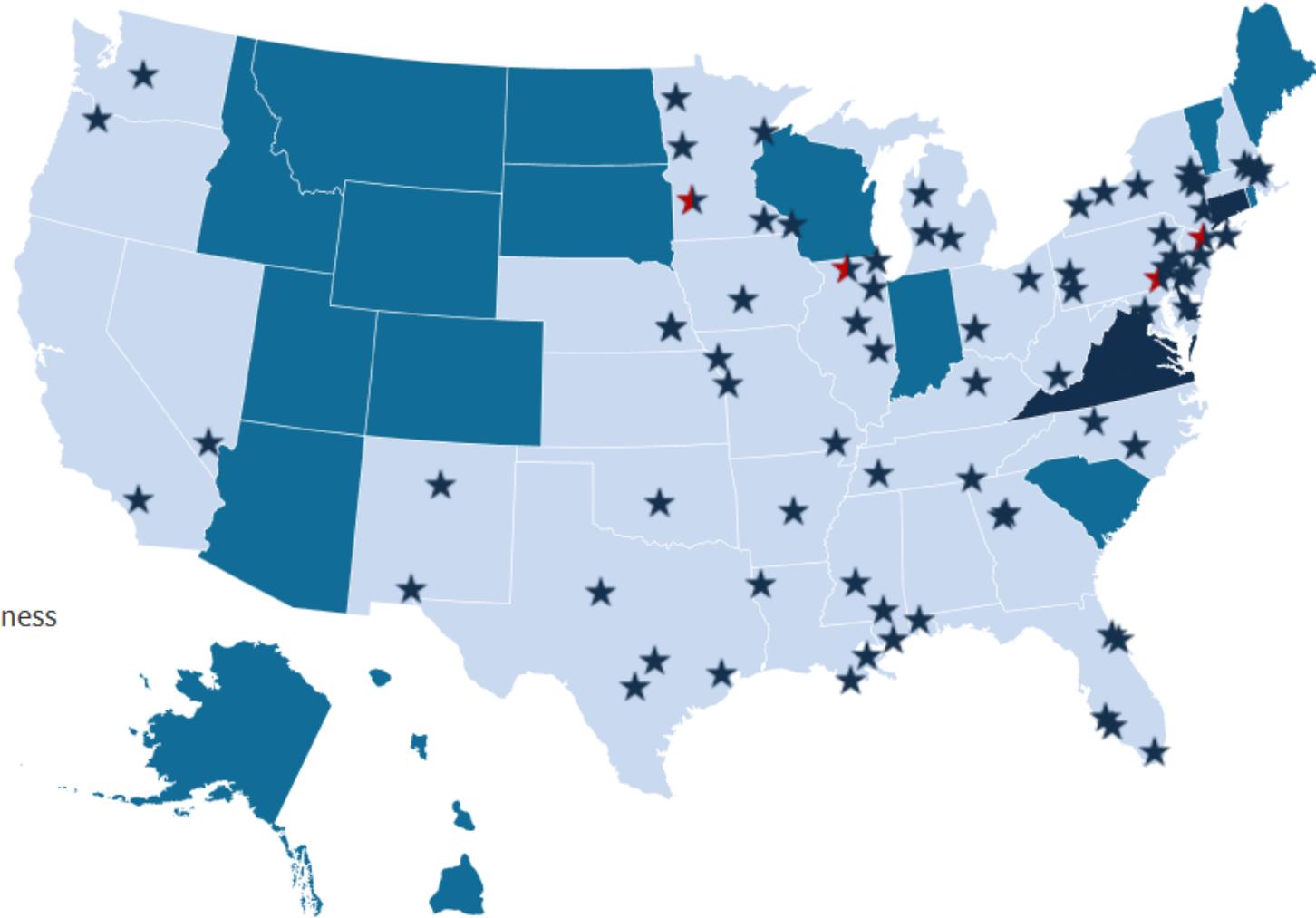
2018-2019	2017-2019	2016-2019	2015-2019	2014-2019	2013-2019	2012-2019	2011-2019	2010-2019
-2.1%	-7.3%	-6.0%	-22.3%	-25.4%	-33.3%	-38.8%	-43.3%	-49.9%

From HUD Point-in-Time Data



78 communities and 3 states have achieved the Federal Criteria & Benchmarks for Effectively Ending Veteran Homelessness

- ★ 78 communities and 3 states have ended Veteran homelessness
- ★ 4 communities have ended Chronic & Veteran homelessness
- ★ States that have at least one community that has ended homelessness



*See <https://www.usich.gov/communities-that-have-ended-homelessness> for latest status



Federal Criteria and Benchmarks for Ending Veteran Homelessness

- Developed by federal partners (USICH, VA, HUD)
- Represent a minimum standard to achieve success within a defined period, but goal is **ongoing assessment and improvement** even once confirmed
- May be periodically updated (most recently in June 2019)
- Key Updates included in Version 4 (June 2019) are:
 - Consolidating information, specifications, and clarifications to make it easier to review and understand all of the information holistically.
 - Providing clarification on the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program models and how those programs, and Veterans staying with them, are considered within the criteria and benchmarks.



Federal Criteria for Ending Veteran Homelessness

1. The community has identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness.
2. The community provides shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it.
3. The community provides service-intensive transitional housing only in limited instances.
4. The community has capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing.
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.



Federal Benchmarks for Ending Veteran Homelessness

- A. Chronic and long-term homelessness among Veterans has been ended (with few exceptions, including those who choose Transitional Housing to address a clinical need)
- B. Veterans have quick access to permanent housing (90 days or less on average, with few exemptions including those who choose Transitional Housing after declining PH)
- C. The community has sufficient permanent housing capacity
- D. The community is committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances



Service Intensive Transitional Housing

- Veterans who choose to enter any service-intensive transitional housing are provided with ongoing opportunities to express a preference for, to request, and to access a permanent housing intervention instead, through an at-least monthly review of their individualized service and housing plans and their desired outcomes for services and housing.
- Veterans who have been offered an available permanent housing intervention but have declined and instead chosen to enter a transitional housing program in order to appropriately address a clinical need are exempted from both Benchmarks A (chronic/long-term) and B (90-day average time to housing placement).



Benchmark A: Exempt Categories

Veterans, *in limited circumstances*, may be categorized within exempted groups that are not included within the calculation of Benchmark A:

- **Group 1:** Any Veteran experiencing chronic or long-term homelessness who has been identified and offered an available permanent housing intervention, but who has not yet accepted.
- **Group 2:** Any Veteran experiencing chronic or long-term homelessness who has been offered an available permanent housing intervention, but has declined and instead chosen to enter a transitional housing program in order to appropriately address a clinical need.
- **Group 3:** Any Veteran that has accepted a permanent housing intervention but is still actively in the process of identifying, securing, or moving into a unit.



Benchmark B: Exempt Categories

Veterans, *in limited circumstances*, may be categorized within exempted groups that are not included within the calculation of Benchmark B:

- **Group 1:** For any Veteran who was identified and offered a permanent housing intervention, but did not initially accept the offer, the calculation of the average should only include the time from when they accepted the intervention until they moved into housing; and
- **Group 2:** Any Veteran who was offered a permanent housing intervention but declined and has instead chosen to enter service-intensive transitional housing, whether to address a clinical need or not, prior to moving to a permanent housing destination, should not be included. Offers must be documented through a transparent, coordinated process within the homelessness service system so that a refusal of permanent housing intervention and the Veteran's choice to enter service-intensive transitional housing is easily verifiable



Summary of exempted groups that Veterans in transitional housing may fall within under Benchmarks A and B, *noting that there are no exempted groups for calculating Benchmarks C and D*

Veterans Staying in the Following GPD Models ...	Are Considered as Staying in ...	Under Benchmark A ...	Under Benchmark B ...
Low Demand	Service-Intensive Transitional Housing	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2
Hospital to Housing	Service-Intensive Transitional Housing	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2
Clinical Treatment	Service-Intensive Transitional Housing	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2
Service Intensive	Service-Intensive Transitional Housing	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 2
Bridge Housing	Bridge Housing	Some of these Veterans may fall within Exempted Group 3	None of these Veterans fall within any Exempted Group
Transition in Place	Permanent Housing	None of these Veterans fall within any Exempted Group	None of these Veterans fall within any Exempted Group



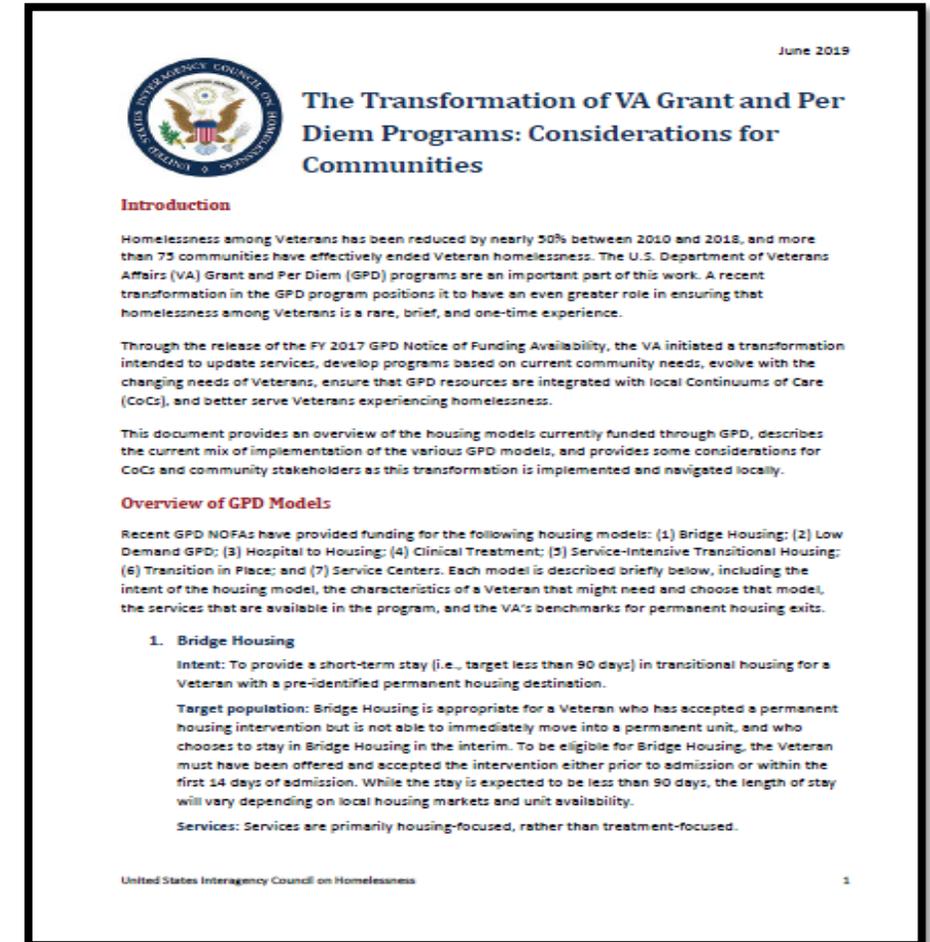
GPD Considerations in Relation to the Criteria and Benchmarks

- Offer Veteran-Centric services based on choice and needs
- Offer all Veterans an appropriate permanent housing intervention prior to GPD referral and enrollment
- Discuss permanent housing plan with Veterans while in GPD
- Engage with the community to use a Master List and Case Conferencing that expedites housing opportunities by ensuring communication and coordination
- Use lower barriers to entry and provide case management that results in termination only in most extreme cases



The Transformation of VA Grant and Per Diem Programs: Considerations for Communities

- Released on June 27, 2019
- Co-Published by USICH and VA GPD PO
- Overview of the housing models currently funded through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Grant and Per Diem (GPD) programs
- Describes the current mix of implementation of the various GPD models
- Provides some considerations for CoCs and community stakeholders as this transformation is implemented and navigated locally
- [GPD Transformation: Considerations for Communities](#)





Master List Template and Benchmark Report Generation Tool Version 3

- New version released on HUD Exchange and SSVF University
- Changes to Benchmark specifications have required updates to Benchmark report programming
- Users will have to migrate data from previous versions of the Tool – see the Instructions tab for more information
- Webinar demonstrating the Tool and how to migrate data into the new version will be available in January 2020



New Data Elements

Transitional Housing Type - Identifies the type of transitional housing bed the Veteran is enrolled in, either Bridge Housing, used as a short-term stay when a Veteran has been offered and accepted a permanent housing intervention, or Service Intensive Transitional Housing (TH), in which the Veteran is actively working to achieve permanent housing while they engage in clinically appropriate or other transitional housing services. There are different models of transitional housing in each type.

The TH Models are:

- 'VA GPD Bridge Housing (GPD-BH)'
- 'VA GPD Low Demand (GPD-LD)'
- 'VA GPD Hospital-to-Housing (GPD-HH)'
- 'VA GPD Clinical Treatment (GPD-CT)'
- 'VA GPD Service Intensive (GPD-SI)'
- 'Non-VA Bridge Housing'
- 'Non-VA Service Intensive TH'

The logic to determine which type of transitional housing a Veteran is in is:

If 'TH Model' is 'VA GPD Bridge Housing' OR 'Non-VA Bridge Housing' THEN Transitional Housing Type is 'Bridge Housing'

if 'TH Model' is 'VA GPD Low Demand' OR 'VA GPD Hospital-to-Housing' OR 'VA GPD Clinical Treatment' OR 'VA GPD Service Intensive' OR 'VA GPD Non-VA Service Intensive TH' THEN

Transitional Housing Type is 'Service Intensive TH'



Sustainability

- Uphold committed core leadership teams and engaged service networks
- Use data and benchmarks to monitor system effectiveness
- Integrate collaboration into CoC Governance and Coordinated Entry
- Plan shared trainings and clear communication protocols
- Integrate use of Master List and case conferencing into standard network operations
- Continue to recruit housing partners and landlords, and manage open unit portfolio

[Sustaining an End to Veteran Homelessness: Strategies for Institutionalizing Your Progress](#)



Helpful Tools and Information

- [Criteria and Benchmarks for Effectively Ending Veteran Homelessness](#)
- [Master List Template and Benchmark Generation Tool](#), developed by HUD and its partners, to help you manage your active list and calculate the benchmarks
- [The Transformation of VA Grant and Per Diem Programs: Considerations for Communities](#)
- [Sustaining an End to Veteran Homelessness: Strategies for Institutionalizing Your Progress](#)
- [Case studies](#) from communities that have achieved the goal
- [Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness](#)
- [SSVF Program Webpage](#)
- [GPD Program webpage](#)
- [Homelessness in America: Focus on Veterans](#)



Q&A

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