

A Surge on Veteran Homelessness March-May 2015

The Surge is a three-month joint VA/countywide acceleration effort to ensure we end Veteran homelessness by December 2015. This will involve rapid removal of barriers to progress, and testing and implementing strategies to accomplish several things: 1) increase identification and referral of homeless Veterans to system, 2) speed up the process from street to home, and 3) increase the number of Veteran housing placements each month.

AIMS (BY MAY):

- **Meet the monthly housing placement rate for veterans** (from 438 to 538 placements Countywide; SPA specific #'s to be provided)
- **Triple countywide veteran referrals to PHAs** (eg, VASH referrals to HACLA increase from 100 to 300 per month)

March Milestones	Point Person	Status Update
VA		
Staffing: Ensure there is adequate outreach and case management services to engage veterans and connect them to housing and other supports to end homelessness, including increasing community contracts. Identify and resolve hiring bottlenecks for local VAMC homelessness positions.	Vince Kane	90+ positions posted for VAGLA on usajobs.gov. Commitment to have all positions hired by April 15th.
Eligibility: Detail special staff or provide other pathways to produce more immediate eligibility checks for community partners and at the Community Entry Event days – even for vets not already linked to VA healthcare.	Vince Kane	
HMIS: Provide clear notice permitting read/write access for GLA & LB VA into local HMIS systems.	Vince Kane	Read-only access guidance coming 4/10(?)
Direct Referrals: Permit direct referrals from community providers to local housing authorities.	Vince Kane	
Mobility Ensure VA staff have access to resources to be in the community and to maximize their time in community with veterans and community partners	Vince Kane	
Communication: Ensure that there is communication across all staff	Vince Kane	

regarding the importance of harm reduction and housing first.		
Coordination: Establish and communicate protocol to connect vet to SPA CES intake points before or during VA admissions process.	Michelle Wildy	
Regional Events: Expand Community Entry Events (CEE's) to be jointly owned with community partners & provide a more immediate means to check eligibility for veterans in all circumstances.	Michelle Wildy	
Regional Staffing: As hiring picks up, outpost and embed outreach staff and case management staff within CES SPA teams.	Michelle Wildy	
SSVF SOAR Program: Launch Veteran-focused SOAR program.	Sarah Mahin	First cohort will start in April. Includes two VA outreach staff and a VA VASH person from each SPA, who will get matched with a corresponding SSVF provider. VA staff will help Veterans complete the SSA applications using the SOAR model. The SSVF staff person will sign forms that federal employees can't and help track applications through the SSA process.
Low Demand/Bridge Housing: Increase availability and access to bridge housing in order to facilitate the rapid movement of homeless Veterans off of the street and connecting them to permanent housing, healthcare and other supports to end homelessness.	Sarah Mahin	55 new bridge housing beds available in April.
LAHSA		
HMIS: Ensure new CES module in HMIS is operational and available for use.	Peter Lynn	
Agreements: Ensure major CES lead organizations have received and signed new HMIS organizational agreements.	Peter Lynn	
Training: Provide HMIS training and distribute log-ins.	Peter Lynn	
Outreach: Prepare ERT to assist with transportation and shelter entry for veterans identified through outreach.	Peter Lynn	

Mayor's Office		
<p>HUD: Coordinate follow up with HUD on key local asks.</p>	<p>Greg Spiegel</p>	<p>Allocate VASH in 1st quarter: HUD already sent out VASH allocation letter to HACLA. Expect to get 490 vouchers during April.</p> <p>Allow sub-geographic targeting by SPA: HUD approved preference for referrals from within same SPA as housing unit.</p> <p>SSVF Allocation: \$30 million for 5 organizations. 3 times more than second largest allocation in the country for State of Texas.</p> <p>Fund move-in costs: HUD will allow SSVF to pay for move-in costs.</p>
<p>Space: Identify City Space for use by VA Staff in each City SPA.</p>	<p>Greg Spiegel</p>	<p>VA is co-locating with HACLA at HACLA headquarters and Torrance office. MOU is signed.</p> <p>VA and HACoLA are expected to sign an MOU for additional space.</p> <p>CAO's office working on additional sites. Looking for City spaces in SPA 8 and Eagle Rock. CD 15 is looking for space in SPA 8.</p>
<p>Community Engagement: Participate in efforts to outreach to landlords and community partners to augment outreach and transportation efforts.</p>	<p>Joseph Chicas</p>	
HACLA		
<p>Non-Eligible Vouchers: Prepare allocation of vouchers for non-eligible veterans to be ready for distribution & account for dishonorably discharged</p>	<p>Carlos Van Natter</p>	<p>Will be contracting with 5 partners; ready to begin allocation in April.</p>

veterans.		
Regional Interviews: Prepare to test same-day interview and voucher issuance at Community Entry Events starting in April.	Isabel Araiza	
Pilot Pre-Inspections: Consider having several pre-inspected units available to test at select Community Entry Events.	Isabel Araiza	
VA Staff Siting: Prepare space for co-located VA staff at HACLA intake facilities - finish VA co-location for Torrance & downtown by Mid-April.	Carlos Van Natter	Partnership for Metro & Torrance sites. Move-in set for April.
Voucher Term: Consider reducing initial voucher term to 60 days.	Carlos Van Natter	
Voucher Payment Standard: Explore alternatives to increase FMR's by \$50-250.		
HACoLA		
Improve Inspections: Shorten inspection request turnaround from 2 weeks to 1-3 days. Create avenue to correct minor violations like cabinet doors shutting without unilaterally failing inspection.		
Non-Eligible Vouchers: Determine how current homeless preferencing can be used to offer vouchers for non-eligible veterans.	Emilio Salas	
Regional Interviews: Prepare to test same-day interview and voucher issuance at Community Entry Events starting in April	Christina Frausto-Lupo	
Pilot Pre-Inspections: Consider having several pre-inspected units available to test at select Community Entry Events.	Emilio Salas	
VA Staff Siting: Prepare space for co-located VA staff at HACoLA intake facilities.	Emilio Salas	VA has toured Alhambra site. Awaiting proposal from VA on specific space needs.
Voucher Payment Standard: Consider increasing VASH VPS to 110%. Explore feasibility of increasing FMR's in other programs by \$50-250	Emilio Salas	Preparing request to HUD. Additional waiver requests will be included to facilitate leasing process.

Voucher Term: Consider reducing initial voucher term to 60 days.	Emilio Salas	
HCID		
CES Guidance: Issue guidance on HOME regulations to enable PSH providers to use CES.	Suzette Flynn	In Con Plan and approved by City Council.
Landlord Identification: Work with landlord group to outreach to landlords.	Rushmore Cervantes	
County Departments		
Space: Identify County Space for use by VA Staff in each County SPA.		
Landlord Engagement: Prepare Housing Resource Center for possible use in effort.		
Resources: Identify discretionary funds & additional resources to align through Funders Collaborative		
Identify & Connect: Link Veterans who engage with County systems to regional VA & CES leads.		
Landlord Engagement Workgroup		
Materials: Develop a landlord outreach kit that includes materials for landlord recruitment that can be used by each	Tina Estedabadi	Landlord flyer on 4th draft. Ready to distribute end of April.
Identify: Focus groups/1:1s with landlords to identify barrier removal opportunities	Neil Haltrecht	Key barriers identified.
Engage & Recognize: Begin planning for engagement events or convenings (partnership with HCID, HACLA, Mayor's Office, and Business Leaders Task Force)	Tina Estedabadi	
United Way		
Support: Provide project management for co-leadership with the VA.	Joanna Bomba	Launched.
Barrier Removal: Project management for systems partners on barrier	Christine	Created google doc & regular check

removal.	Margiotta	ins with owners.
Data: Provide real-time SPA level data and dashboards.	Mike Nailat	
Communications: Support marketing and additional amenities at Community Entry Events.	Chris Ko	Draft of new marketing materials produced for review.
Incentives: Request incentives for early move-in by vets.	Chris Ko	Development department putting ask out to accounts.