



Austin Homeless Veterans Initiative Update
For City of Austin Veteran's Commission
January 20, 2016
Presented By Niki Paul, Director of Operations

Mayor Adler's Bold Leadership: Housing Heroes Fund

- By December 31st the Mayor's Office achieved his goal of identifying over 200 low-barrier, affordable housing units for Veterans experiencing homelessness
- The Mayor's Office Work Group stakeholders-Sen. Kirk Watson's Office, Austin Apartment Association, Austin Board of Realty, VA-HUD VASH, ECHO, Front Steps, HACA and others meet weekly to progress goal
- Housing Heroes Fund has leveraged housing opportunities for some of the hardest to house veterans
 - Created Risk Mitigation Fund for affordable rental units utilizing alternative screening criteria for Veterans
 - Supporting rent "buy-down" strategy for initial year to achieve affordable rents

Austin Homeless Veterans Initiative: Community Collaboration In Action

- Extraordinary Inter-Agency Collaboration
 - Since December 2014, the VAMC, Travis County, City of Austin and many Local Non-Profit stakeholders (including ECHO, Front Steps-SSVF, Caritas-SSVF, A New Entry, Green Doors, Texas Veterans Commission, Goodwill) have met weekly to plan, implement and identify barriers to achieve our community goal to end veteran homelessness

Functional Zero Benchmarks and Criteria:

Benchmark A: Zero Chronic Homeless Veterans

- As of December 31st we have 54 Chronic Homeless Veterans engaged and on the path to housing

Benchmark B: Time to Re-Housing=<90

- As of December 31st the average time to re-housing is **95 days**

Benchmark C: Sufficient Housing Capacity: # of Veterans identified=# of Veterans Housed per month (90 day sample)

- December: 40 Veterans Identified vs. 32 Veterans House

How to Get Involved & Additional Information

- Mayor Adler's Housing Heroes: <http://housingheroesaustin.org/>
- Austin Homeless Veterans Initiative-Weekly Meeting-Monday's, 10AM-11AM, Palm Square, 100 N. IH35, Ste 1000
- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) <http://usich.gov/action/what-it-means-to-end-homelessness/criteria-for-achieving-the-goal-of-ending-veteran-homelessness>

ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTIN

Keys to our Progress

Local Leadership

Mayor Adler spearheaded the *Housing Heroes Fund*, leveraging community investments to house Veterans in Austin's high cost rental market.

Strategic Collaboration

Dedicated program staff across service providers working collaboratively.

Shared Data

Creation of a shared community-wide master list of Veterans needing housing and coordination across agencies to house them.

Landlord Partnerships

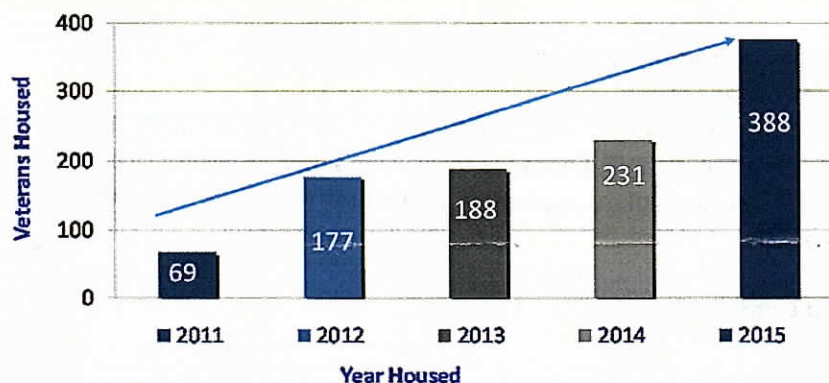
Working with landlords and property owners to address barriers to accessing affordable housing in a booming rental market.

Dedicated Resources

Using all available *Housing First Rapid Rehousing* and *Permanent Supportive Housing* resources, like *SSVF* and *HUD-VASH* to house Veterans as quickly as possible.

Creating a robust response system that makes homelessness *Rare, Brief and Non-Recurring*

**We have increased our system's housing capacity:
the number of Veterans housed increased more than 5 times from 2011 to 2015**



We have reduced the average time it takes to house a Veteran experiencing homelessness:



Data Source: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) – Persons Experiencing Homelessness 2011 – 2015 – Rev. 1/20/2016

Participating Stakeholders

Housing & Support Services Partners:

AIDS Services of Austin
Americorp VISTA
American Legion
A New Entry
Austin/Travis County Integral Care
Caritas of Austin
Central Texas VA Medical Center
City of Austin
Downtown Austin Community Court
ECHO

Private-Sector Housing Partners:

Austin Apartment Association, Austin Board of Realtors and Texas Apartment Association

Foundation Communities
Front Steps
Goodwill of Central Texas
Green Doors
Housing Authority for the City of the Austin
LifeWorks
Texas Veterans Commission
TexVet
Travis County
Trinity Center

Other Community Contributors:

Capital Metro
DLA Piper, LLP
Freedom Office Supplies
Gridmates
HEB
Intel
Shalom Austin Jewish Community
St. Martin's Lutheran Church
University of Texas-Cadets

Help us continue our efforts: if you know a Veteran who is experiencing homelessness, they can call 2-1-1, so they may be connected to services.

