

Zero: 2016

from Community Solutions



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Zero: 2016 Weekly Update

Dear Zero: 2016 Community Leaders,

We've heard it time and time again. Communities across the country are struggling with and debating the role of Grant and Per Diem (GPD), and other VA and HUD funded transitional housing in ending veteran homelessness.

Changes are necessary to ensure that transitional housing programs like GPD are providing maximum impact in the push to end and sustain an end to veteran homelessness. As we speak, there are efforts underway -- both at the local and national level -- to find solutions. In December, our partner, the [National Coalition of Homeless Veterans](#) (NCHV) shared information with its membership on the [pending "reboot" to the GPD program](#).

In order to end veteran homelessness, all veterans, including those in transitional housing, need to be part of a community's By-Name List and integrated into the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System. While there are still regulatory and statutory changes that will be necessary to fully integrate GPD into a high-functioning Coordinated Entry System, [NCHV's guidance](#) gives us a place to start.

The good news is that we're already beginning to see manifestations of the changes signaled by NCHV. Just two weeks ago, on January 25th,

the VA's National GPD office hosted a call for GPD providers to formally discuss ways to use GPD as bridge housing. And more than 400 people joined ([you can view the slides from this call here](#)). In fact, there was enough interest to necessitate a follow-up call this past Monday for additional Q+A. One thing is clear -- GPD providers heard about the role bridge housing can play in ending veteran homelessness.

What is your role in this? GPD and transitional housing providers have now heard multiple times that they should be examining new ways for them to fit into the community's efforts to end veteran homelessness -- but they need your help!

Here are three things you can do:

1. Invite GPD Providers to your case conferencing meetings
2. Get all veterans in GPD beds onto your By-Name List
3. Work with GPD providers to test ways to shorten lengths of stay and increase exits to permanent housing

Innovations around transitional housing and GPD will come from the field. We will be working with NCHV and other partners to highlight bright spots nationally. **Now is the time to design the future we want in order to ensure no veterans experience homelessness.**

Let's do this,
Beth

GPD Bright Spot: Washington DC Edition

In August of last year, the team in DC pulled together a group of key players who worked to ensure that GPD programs were fully integrated into the system they were building to achieve and sustain Functional Zero. This group included stellar representatives from four local GPD providers: [US Vets](#), [Veterans on the Rise](#), [Access Housing](#), and [Chesapeake Health Education Program](#). They were committed to using data to drive their decisions around how to use VA-transitional housing more efficiently and effectively. This group, led by our partners at the [Rapid Results Institute](#) through the 25 Cities Initiative, chose to focus their work on several key areas as part of a 100 Day Challenge to reinvent GPD in the community including:

1. increasing the rates of exit to permanent housing and
2. shrinking the number of Veterans who had long-term stays in GPD.

In the 100 Days prior to the challenge, the DC team exited 100 people from their GPD, but only 55% of these exits were to permanent housing. In the 100 Days of the Challenge, they exited 100 people and increased the rate of exit to permanent housing to 68%. And guess what? They're still going! In the 60-70 days since the challenge ended, they are on pace to again exit 100 people, but this time with 75% going to permanent housing. That is what a commitment to solutions looks like, and by bringing all of the players to the table, DC has been able to find a way to incorporate GPD into their system and use it as a critical tool in working toward the goal of ending veteran homelessness.

In addition to enhancing their exits to permanent housing, DC is simultaneously moving forward on shrinking the number of veterans with extremely long stays in GPD. At the end of December, there were 30 people who had been there 270 days or more. Just one month

later, at beginning of February, they are down to 19.

The DC team isn't finished. They're still working together, but none of it would have been possible had they not reached out to these GPD providers as integral allies in the effort to end Veteran homelessness.



Zero: 2016 is a rigorous national change effort designed to help a committed group of US communities end chronic and veteran homelessness outright by December 2016.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

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