TX BoS CoC General Meeting

Agenda
December 9, 2020, 2:00-3:30 P.M.

Registration link: https://thn.adobeconnect.com/dec20gm/event/event_info.html

Meeting materials available at: https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/join-us/#bos-gen-meetings

I.   **Welcome, Introductions, Staff Photos & Map of Attendees**

II. **Data Snapshot –** 2020 Texas (statewide) Point-in-Time Count Data

III. **How we are Ending Homelessness –** Ending Veteran Homelessness: Identification, Outreach, and Engagement

IV. **Community Conversation –** Covid-19, Cold Weather Shelter, and the 2021 PIT Count

V.   **Committee Updates –**
   a. Community Investment Committee (CIC)
   b. Coordinated Entry Steering Committee (CESC)
   c. Data Committee
   d. Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)
   e. Victim Services Provider Committee (VSPC)
   f. Performance Evaluation Committee (PEC) – recruiting members; if interested, complete this form: https://forms.gle/ntoPDtYNjAZcVFCM8 – Jim

VI. **Announcements**
   a. Barriers Fund Program application will open on January 6th
      i. Request for Applications (RFA) webinar will be held on December 30th at 11:00. Registration link
   b. THN offices will be closed from December 21st -January 5th

VII. **Next Meeting**
   February 10, 2020; Main topic: HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) Program
   Watch the website and *BoS News* for more information

Staff will be available on the webinar for 15 minutes after the meeting ends, for an open discussion on topics that attendees want to discuss.

TX BoS CoC General Meeting

Give your feedback!
Please complete the anonymous survey you will receive after the meeting ends, to let us know what was helpful and what would could be better for the next meeting.

Become a CoC Member!
Anyone who works or lives in the CoC's geographic area, and all housing and homeless services projects in the CoC's geographic area, are considered to be members of the CoC. The CoC has an open invitation process, so people may join at any time.

THN invites members to participate in the CoC's activities. Learn more on the email list, the website, and social media.

CoC General Meetings include presentations by and conversations between CoC members and staff on topics that are important to preventing and ending homelessness. See the schedule for dates, topics, and registration links. Meeting notes and recordings are posted on THN's website at https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/get-involved/.

Announcements

Barriers Fund Application Training

The Texas Balance of State CoC will offer a training webinar for prospective applicants interested in applying for the Barriers Fund Program. The training will provide information on how to submit an application for the Barriers Fund using SurveyMonkey Apply, including application and registration processes, eligibility criteria and program requirements, and the post-submission review process.

The training will be held on **December 30, 2020 from 11:00 AM CST – 12:30 PM CST.** Any 501(c)3 agency located in the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) that has been in operation for at least two years and is interested in applying for the Barriers Fund Program is encouraged to attend. Click here to register today.

If your organization plans to apply for the TX BoS CoC Barriers Fund Program and does not yet have a Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number and/or is not currently registered with the System for Award Management (SAM), please do not delay in obtaining this information.

To obtain a DUNS number, or to find out if your organization has a DUNS number, please visit the DUN & Bradsheet (D&B) website.

To register, update, or renew your status with the System for Award Management, you can visit the official website here.

For additional assistance with obtaining this information, please feel free to reach out to Anja Taylor at anja@thn.org.
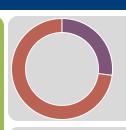
Homelessness in Texas

27,229
Individuals experiencing homelessness on a single night in 2020.

51% Sheltered

49% Unsheltered

Ethnicity Breakdown
27% Hispanic/Latino

73% Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino

Racial Disparities
37% of people experiencing homelessness in Texas are Black or African American, despite only being **13%** of Texas' total population *(based on 2010 census).*

Adults (25+)
21,518

Youth (18-24)
1,663

Children (0-17)
4,048

Veterans
1,948

8% of adults experiencing homelessness are Veterans

Unaccompanied Youth
1,217

49% are living in an unsheltered location

Parenting Youth
233

29% increase since 2019

*365 children with youth parents

5% decrease in the number of children since 2019

Unaccompanied Children
191

*Kids under the age of 18 without a parent/guardian

Chronically Homeless
3,736

3% increase since 2019

42% Reported a barrier to housing

1% decrease since 2019

Serious Mental Illness — 4893

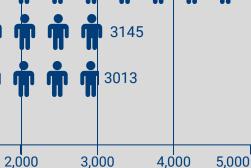Substance Use Disorder — 3145

Survivor of Domestic Violence — 3013
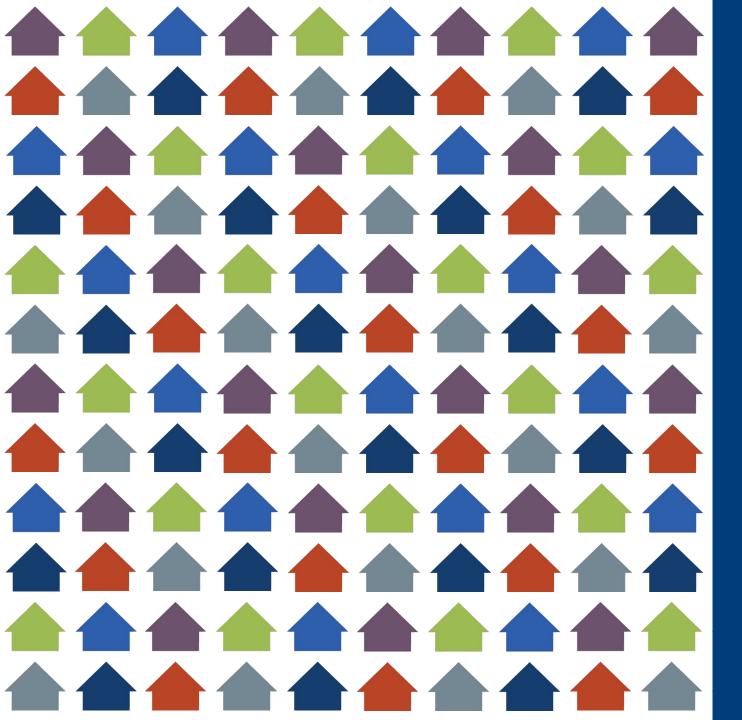
HIV/AIDS — 356

| | 0 | 1,000 | 2,000 | 3,000 | 4,000 | 5,000 |

THN
TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

Preventing and
Ending Homelessness
among
TX BoS CoC Veterans

Strategies For Change

thn.org

Marliza Marin

Ending Veteran Homelessness Specialist

marliza@THN.org

Mollie Lund

Supportive Services Manager

mollie@THN.org

The Military in Texas and the TX BoS CoC

The Military in Texas

- The population of Veterans in Texas: **1,573,737**
- Did you know that Two Counties within the Texas Balance of State are in the top 100 counties in the United States where Veterans live?
- The TX BoS CoC is home to 49% of the total Veteran Population in Texas: **769,498** Veterans.

Rates of Homelessness among Veterans

- "Just over 9% of all adults experiencing homelessness in the United States are Veterans of the U.S. military."- USICH
  - This data point is one of the many nationally recognized statistics around homelessness and was calculated solely by using PIT Data

What are the Stages to Ending Veteran Homelessness?

- Developed by the Texas Homeless Network **(THN)** in partnership with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness **(USICH)** and the Veteran Affairs **(VA)** office.
- These stages were developed to help **guide** communities in their journey to end Veteran homelessness.
- Each county within the BoS is placed in one of the stages in order to help determine possible **next steps** to ending veteran homelessness in the community.
- The stages contain **several systems** that have proved to **work together** to help communities end Veteran homelessness.

Stage One

- ~~SSVF or Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) funding~~
- ~~Coordinated Entry process~~
- ~~participation in the Point-In-Time Count (PIT)~~
- ~~Local Homeless Coalition (LHC)~~
- ~~focus on Veterans~~

Stage Two

- ✓ SSVF or Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) funding
- ✓ Coordinated Entry process
- ✓ Participation in the Point-In-Time Count (PIT)
- ✓ Local Homeless Coalition (LHC)
- ~~focus on Veterans~~

Stage Three

- ✓ SSVF or Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) funding
- ✓ Coordinated Entry process
- ✓ Participation in the Point-In-Time Count (PIT)
- ✓ Local Homeless Coalition (LHC)
- ✓ focus on Veterans

Stage 1

- Communities in the first stage of Ending Veteran Homelessness:
  - Does not receive funding from SSVF or TVC grants.
  - No Coordinated Entry process
  - Does not participate in the Point-in-Time (PIT) count
  - Is not part of a Local Homeless Coalition (LHC) and/or a group of organizations that provide homeless services
  - Does not place focus on housing veterans

Stage 2

- Communities in the second stage of Ending Veteran Homelessness:
  - Receive funding from SSVF or TVC grants.
  - Has a Coordinated Entry process in place
  - Does participate in the Point-in-Time (PIT) count
  - Is part of a Local Homeless Coalition (LHC) and/or a group of organizations that provide homeless services
  - **Do not** place focus on housing veterans

Stage 3

- Communities in the third stage of Ending Veteran Homelessness:
  - Receive funding from SSVF or TVC grants
  - Have a Coordinated Entry process in place
  - Participate in the Point-in-Time (PIT) count
  - Are part of a Local Homeless Coalition (LHC) and/or a group of organizations that provide homeless services
  - Do place focus on housing veterans
    - Veteran-specific case conferencing
    - Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness
  - Use or are ready to use the USICH Benchmark & Criteria tool

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Count is an annual effort led by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to estimate the number of Americans, including Veterans, without safe, stable housing. It is one of the tools used to assess progress each year toward VA's priority goal of ending homelessness among Veterans.

Key Considerations:

1. Engage the local VA Medical Center and VA department staff that provide services to homeless veterans or work on homeless issues to help plan and implement the count.

2. Reach out to local Veteran Service Organizations (e.g. American Legion, Disabled American Veterans) for their cooperation with the count.

3. Recruit homeless or formerly homeless veterans to be enumerators for the unsheltered count.

PIT Count and Beyond

Outreach should occur more than once a year and should be a collaborative effort across your community. The PIT Count, while necessary, is not the only tool you can use to identify and connect veterans with resources. We encourage communities to view is as a template for best practices when it comes to community engagement.

A promising practice being used by communities around the country is surge canvassing- community partners, local VA staff, and homeless providers cover the geographic area in a community for several consecutive days to locate and identify each veteran experiencing homelessness, and then quickly link them with permanent housing and resources.

- This concentrated, collaborative effort has been used by national initiatives including 100,000 Homes and 25 Cities Initiative as an effective means of populating an Active list, raising awareness and generating community support for ending veteran homelessness.

Coordinated Entry (CE)

A process through which people at risk of or experiencing homelessness can:

- **access** services in the housing crisis response system in a streamlined way
- have their strengths and needs quickly **assessed**,
- are **referred** to appropriate housing and mainstream services tailored to their needs,
- while the most intensive housing programs are **prioritized** for those with the highest service needs.

Coordinated Entry (CE)

Purpose of Coordinated Entry:

- A way of structuring a community's systems of care so that it fits together **intentionally** and **efficiently**
- A framework that transforms a community from a network of projects making individual decisions into a **fully-integrated crisis response system**

Coordinated Entry (CE)

Who and what is involved?

Coordinated Entry Planning Entity

Local planning and management body (often associated with a local homeless coalition)

+

Homeless Management Information System

HMIS facilitates the CE process and provides data and reports about the local CE system.

→

Local Coordinated Entry Process

Entry Points
Receiving Agencies
Non-Participating Agencies

Using the CE Process to End Veteran Homelessness

ACCESS	ASSESSMENT	PRIORITIZATION	REFERRALS

ACCESS

How do Veteran households know how to access Entry Points? Which agencies are serving as Entry Points? What services can we provide earlier in a housing crisis?

ASSESSMENT

What are their immediate needs?
What are their strengths?
What are the barriers to housing?
Out of all the housing programs, which ones are they most likely eligible for?

PRIORITIZATION

Use priority factors to identify the most vulnerable households.

The Housing Priority List in HMIS

REFERRALS

Match households to housing programs and contact them to offer assistance.

Case Conferencing for Veteran households

Community Challenge

- Communities all over the state of Texas have taken on challenges, often referred to as Mayor's Challenges or 100 Day challenges, to end veteran homelessness. These type of challenges **engage and mobilize entire communities** and bring people, organizations and civil servants together to accomplish a common goal- ending veteran homelessness.

- To get started, reach out to other homeless service providers in your community and prioritize the housing of veterans in your community by creating a Master List, also known as a By-Name List or an Active List.

- Master Lists help communities keep track of identified veterans experiencing homelessness. Creating a list and meeting regularly with community partners to discuss **direct action** has proven to be a successful tool to ending veteran homelessness.

- The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) developed a benchmark & criteria tool to help communities gauge their progress on ending veteran homelessness.

USICH Criteria & Benchmarks Tool
for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness

- The USICH Criteria & Benchmarks tool are a list of **4 benchmarks and 5 criteria**.

- Together, the criteria and the benchmarks are intended to help communities drive **down the number of Veterans** experiencing homelessness to as close to zero as possible, while building systems that support **long-lasting solutions** that can efficiently and effectively respond to future needs

Benchmarks
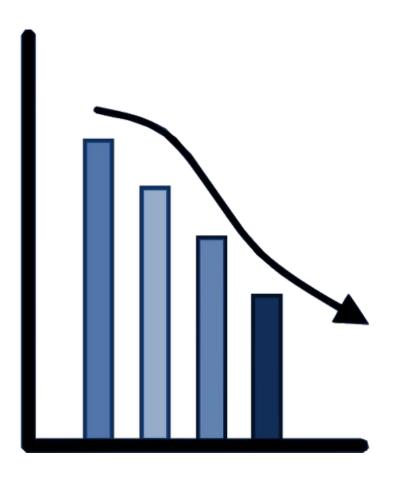
1. Chronic and long-term homelessness among Veterans has ended.
2. Veterans have quick access to permanent housing.
3. The community has sufficient permanent housing capacity.
4. The community is committed to housing first and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances.

Criteria

1. Community has identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness
2. Community provides shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it
3. Community provides service-intensive transitional housing only in limited instances
4. Community has capacity to assist Veterans to swifty move into permanent housing
5. Community has resources, plans, partnerships and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in future

Data
you need to calculate benchmarks

1. # of Veterans on Master List
2. # of Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness on active list
3. # of Veterans experiencing long-term homelessness on active list
4. Date of identification
5. Date of documented offer of a permanent housing intervention
6. Date of acceptance/decline
7. Date of move-in to permanent housing destination
8. Date of move-in to TH, by type of TH
9. Yes/no, entering TH in order to appropriately address a clinical need
10. Date of removal from active list for other reasons

Master List

- A Master List is also known as a By-Name list or an Active list

- Your community's Master List must **identify all homeless Veterans**, including those who are in unsheltered and sheltered locations.

- The list may be populated by databases such as **HOMES or HMIS.**

- Updates should be conducted **at least monthly** to ensure information is current.

- If a Veteran on the Master List can no longer be located after repeated attempts for **90 days or more**, their status can change from "active" to missing"

Elena Lusk

Director of Housing Initiatives
United Way Denton
Elena@UnitedWayDenton.org

John Meier
SSVF Program Manager
West Central Texas Regional Foundation
jmeier@westcentraltexas.org

Questions

County Name	State Abbr.	CoC	SSVF Funding (y/n)	TCV Grant Funding (y/n)	PIT (y/n)	PIT Count	Council of Government	LHC	CE Region Name	EVH Stage
Anderson	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	3	East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Andrews	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	3	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Angelina	TX	TX BoS	N	N	Y	104	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Aransas	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	4	Coastal Bend Council of Governments	None	Victoria	1
Armstrong	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	1	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Atascosa	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	17	Alamo Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Austin	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	83	Houston-Galveston Area Council	Colorado Valley Homeless Coalition	Bastrop	1
Bailey	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	4	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1
Bandera	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	4	Alamo Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Bee	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	89	Coastal Bend Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Blanco	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	3	Capital Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Borden	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	0	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Brewster	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	3	Rio Grande Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Briscoe	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	1	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Brooks	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	4	Coastal Bend Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Brown	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	Y	23	West Central Texas Council of Governments	Brown County Home Solutions, Inc. (BCHS)	18th Region	1
Burnet	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	27	Capital Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Caldwell	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	25	Capital Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Callahan	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	16	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Carson	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	3	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Cass	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	83	Ark-Tex Area Council of Governments	Terkana Homeless Coalition	Texarkana	1
Castro	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	1	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Chambers	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	25	Houston-Galveston Area Council	Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition (GCHC)	Beaumont/Orange	1
Cherokee	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	Y	21	East Texas Council of Governments	Cherokee County Human Needs Network	18th Region	1
Cochran	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	1	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1
Coke	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	2	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition (CVHPC)	18th Region	1
Coleman	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	1	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Collingsworth	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	1	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Colorado	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	4	Houston-Galveston Area Council	Colorado Valley Homeless Coalition	Bastrop	1
Comal	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	Y	46	Alamo Area Council of Governments	Comal County Homeless Coalition	18th Region	1
Comanche	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	16	West Central Texas Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition (CVHPC)	18th Region	1
Concho	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	1	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition (CVHPC)	18th Region	1
Cooke	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	25	Texoma Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Crane	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	3	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Crockett	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	2	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning	18th Region	1
Crosby	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1
Culberson	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	1	Rio Grande Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Dallam	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	4	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Dawson	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	2	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Deaf Smith	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	3	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Delta	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	3	Ark-Tex Area Council of Governments	Back Home Northeast Texas Homeless	Mount Pleasant, Texarkana	1
Denton	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	Y	258	North Central Texas Council of Governments	Denton County Homless Coalition (DCHC)	Denton	3
DeWitt	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	2	Golden Crest Regional Planning Commission	Victoria Area Homeless Coalition (VAHC)	Victoria	1

County Name	State Abbr.	CoC	SSVF Funding (y/n)	TCV Grant Funding (y/n)	PIT (y/n)	PIT Count	Council of Government	LHC	CE Region Name	EVH Stage	
Dickens	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	1	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1	
Dimmit	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	None	18th Region	1	
Donley	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	2	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1	
Duval	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	3	Coastal Bend Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1	
Eastland	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	3	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1	
Ector	TX	TX BoS	N	N	Y	77	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	Odessa Coalition for the Homeless	Odessa	1	
Edwards	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	1	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	None	18th Region	1	
Ellis	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	Y	74	North Central Texas Council of Governments	Ellis County Homeless Coalition	18th Region	1	
Erath	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	24	North Central Texas Council of Governments	Homelessness HELP	18th Region	1	
Fannin	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	49	Texoma Council of Governments	Texoma Homeless Coalition	18th Region	1	
Fayette	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	5	Capital Area Council of Governments	Colorado Valley Homeless Coalition	Bastrop	1	
Fisher	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	2	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1	
Floyd	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1	
Franklin	TX	TX BoS	N	N	Y	3	Ark-Tex Area Council of Governments	Back Home Northeast Texas Homeless (fka East Texas Community Coalitoin)	Mount Pleasant	1	
Frio	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	2	Alamo Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1	
Gaines	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	2	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1	
Galveston	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	Y	386	Houston-Galveston Area Council	Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition (GCHC)	Galveston	3	
Garza	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	4	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1	
Gillespie	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	5	Alamo Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1	
Glasscock	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	1	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1	
Gonzales	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	Y	2	Golden Crest Regional Planning Commission	Victoria Area Homeless Coalition (VAHC)	18th Region	1	
Gray	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	4	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1	
Grayson	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	Y	84	Texoma Council of Governments	Texoma Homeless Coalition	18th Region	1	
Guadalupe	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	77	Alamo Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1	
Hale	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	92	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1	
Hall	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	1	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1	
Hamilton	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	1	Central Texas Council of Governments	Central Texas Homeless Coalition	Killeen	1	
Hansford	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	3	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1	
Hardin	TX	TX BoS	N	N	Y	3	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission	Southeast Texas Coalition for the Homeless	Beaumont/Orange	1	
Hartley	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	3	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1	
Haskell	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	3	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1	
Hays	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	Y	102	Capital Area Council of Governments	HOME Center	18th Region	1	
Hemphill	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	2	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1	
Henderson	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	21	East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1	
Hidalgo	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	Y	242	Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	None	Hidalgo	1	
Hockley	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	4	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1	
Hood	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	3	North Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1	
Hopkins	TX	TX BoS	N	N	Y	3	Ark-Tex Area Council of Governments	Back Home Northeast Texas Homeless Coalition (fka East Texas Community Coalition)	Mount Pleasant, Texarkana	1	0.5
Houston	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	4	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1	
Howard	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1	
Hudspeth	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	3	Rio Grande Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1	
Hunt	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	91	North Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1	
Hutchinson	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	4	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1	

County Name	State Abbr.	CoC	SSVF Funding (y/n)	TCV Grant Funding (y/n)	PIT (y/n)	PIT Count	Council of Government	LHC	CE Region Name	EVH Stage
Irion	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	1	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coaliton (CVHPC)	18th Region	1
Jackson	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	17	Golden Crest Regional Planning Commission	Victoria Area Homeless Coalition (VAHC)	Victoria	1
Jasper	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	49	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	Rural Homeless Network (fka Southeast Texas Homeless Coalition)	18th Region	1
Jeff Davis	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	1	Rio Grande Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Jim Hogg	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	South Texas Development Council	None	18th Region	1
Jim Wells	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	25	Coastal Bend Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Johnson	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	226	North Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Jones	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	2	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Karnes	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	3	Alamo Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Kaufman	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	Y	63	North Central Texas Council of Governments	Kaufman County Homeless Coalition	18th Region	1
Kendall	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	Y	27	Alamo Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Kenedy	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	0	Coastal Bend Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Kent	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	0	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Kerr	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	21	Alamo Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Kimble	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	2	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coaliton (CVHPC)	18th Region	1
King	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	0	South Plains Association of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Kinney	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	2	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	None	18th Region	1
Kleberg	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	84	Coastal Bend Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Knox	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	2	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
La Salle	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	1	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	None	18th Region	1
Lamb	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	6	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1
Lampasas	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	4	Central Texas Council of Governments	Central Texas Homeless Coalition	Killeen	1
Lavaca	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	2	Golden Crest Regional Planning Commission	Victoria Area Homeless Coalition (VAHC)	Victoria	1
Liberty	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	119	Houston-Galveston Area Council	Gulf Coast Homeless Coalition (GCHC)	18th Region	1
Lipscomb	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	2	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Live Oak	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	Coastal Bend Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Llano	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	4	Capital Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Loving	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	0	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Lubbock	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	Y	283	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	Lubbock	3
Lynn	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1
Marion	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	East Texas Council of Governments	North East Texas Homelessness Consortium (NET)	Longview, Texarkana	1
Martin	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	3	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Mason	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	2	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coaliton (CVHPC)	18th Region	1
Matagorda	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	Houston-Galveston Area Council	None	18th Region	1
Maverick	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	None	18th Region	1
McCulloch	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	1	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coaliton (CVHPC)	18th Region	1
McMullen	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	0	Alamo Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Medina	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	17	Alamo Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Menard	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	Y	1	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coaliton (CVHPC)	18th Region	1
Midland	TX	TX BoS	N	N	Y	227	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Mills	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Mitchell	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	1	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Moore	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	4	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1

County Name	State Abbr.	CoC	SSVF Funding (y/n)	TCV Grant Funding (y/n)	PIT (y/n)	PIT Count	Council of Government	LHC	CE Region Name	EVH Stage
Motley	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	1	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1
Nacogdoches	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	4	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Navarro	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	50	North Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Nueces	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	Y	830	Coastal Bend Council of Governments	Homeless Issues Partnership, Inc. (HIP)	Corpus Christi	3
Newton	TX	TX BoS	N	N	Y	16	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Nolan	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	17	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Ochiltree	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	3	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Oldham	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	1	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Panola	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	4	East Texas Council of Governments	North East Texas Homelessness Consortium (NET)	Longview, Texarkana	1
Parmer	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	3	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Pecos	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	3	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Polk	TX	TX BoS	N	N	Y	17	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Potter	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	68	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Presidio	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	4	Rio Grande Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Rains	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	3	East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Randall	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	116	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Reagan	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	2	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition (CVHPC)	18th Region	1
Real	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	2	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	None	18th Region	1
Reeves	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	3	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Refugio	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	Y	4	Coastal Bend Council of Governments	None	Victoria	1
Roberts	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	0	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Rockwall	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	97	North Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Runnels	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	3	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Rusk	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	1	East Texas Council of Governments	North East Texas Homelessness Consortium (NET)	Longview, Texarkana	1
Sabine	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	3	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
San Augustine	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	1	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
San Jacinto	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	79	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
San Patricio	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	4	Coastal Bend Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
San Saba	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Schleicher	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	1	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition (CVHPC)	18th Region	1
Scurry	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Shackelford	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	2	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Shelby	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	5	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Sherman	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	1	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Somervell	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	1	North Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Starr	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	4	South Texas Development Council	None	18th Region	1
Sterling	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	1	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition (CVHPC)	18th Region	1
Stonewall	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	1	West Central Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Sutton	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	2	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition (CVHPC)	18th Region	1
Swisher	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	1	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Taylor	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	Y	116	West Central Texas Council of Governments	West Texas Homeless Network (WTHN)	Abilene	3
Terrell	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	0	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Terry	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	2	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1
Tom Green	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	Y	69	Concho Valley Council of Governments	Concho Valley Homeless Planning Coalition (CVHPC)	18th Region	1

County Name	State Abbr.	CoC	SSVF Funding (y/n)	TCV Grant Funding (y/n)	PIT (y/n)	PIT Count	Council of Government	LHC	CE Region Name	EVH Stage
Trinity	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	17	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Tyler	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	4	Deep East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Upshur	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	25	East Texas Council of Governments	North East Texas Homelessness Consortium (NET)	Longview, Texarkana	1
Upton	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	2	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Uvalde	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	5	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	None	18th Region	1
Val Verde	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	49	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	None	18th Region	1
Van Zandt	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	3	East Texas Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Walker	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	18	Houston-Galveston Area Council	None	18th Region	1
Waller	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	Y	1	Houston-Galveston Area Council	None	18th Region	1
Ward	TX	TX BoS	N	N	N	3	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Washington	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	49	Brazos Valley Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Webb	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	Y	304	South Texas Development Council	Laredo Homeless Coalition	Laredo	3
Wharton	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	25	Houston-Galveston Area Council	None	18th Region	1
Wheeler	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	3	Panhandle Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Willacy	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	4	Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council	Cameron County Homeless Coalition	18th Region	1
Williamson	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	Y	12	Capital Area Council of Governments	Williamson County Homeless Coalition	18th Region	1
Wilson	TX	TX BoS	Y	Y	N	17	Alamo Area Council of Governments	None	18th Region	1
Winkler	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	1	Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission	None	18th Region	1
Wood	TX	TX BoS	N	Y	N	26	East Texas Council of Governments	None	Mount Pleasant	1
Yoakum	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	1	South Plains Association of Governments	South Plains Homeless Consortium (SPHC)	18th Region	1
Zapata	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	17	South Texas Development Council	None	18th Region	1
Zavala	TX	TX BoS	Y	N	N	3	Middle Rio Grande Development Council	None	18th Region	1

ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Communities all over the state of Texas have taken on challenges, often referred to as Mayor's Challenges or 100 Day challenges, to end veteran homelessness. These type of challenges engage and mobilize entire communities and bring people, organizations and civil servants together to accomplish a common goal- ending veteran homelessness.

FIRST STEPS

To get started with a challenge to end veteran homelessness in your community, reach out to other homeless service providers in your area. Start a Local Homeless Coalition (LHC) and prioritize the housing of veterans in your community by creating a Master List.

MASTER LISTS

Master (or by-name) lists help communities keep track of identified veterans experiencing homelessness in their communities. Creating a list and meeting regularly with community partners to discuss direct action to house individuals on the list has proven to be a successful tool to ending veteran homelessness.

USICH TOOL

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) developed a benchmark & criteria tool to assess whether your community has ended homelessness. These benchmarks and criteria help communities track and gauge their process in ending veteran homelessness.

TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

As the Continuum of Care (CoC) for the Balance of State (BoS), the Texas Homeless Network (THN) has many resources to help you end veteran homelessness. From Coordinated Entry and HMIS trainings to LHC support, we are here to help your community reach its goals.

For more information email marliza@thn.org

Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and its member agencies have adopted a vision through the federal strategic plan of what it means to end all homelessness, ensuring that it is a rare, brief, and one-time experience. USICH, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have also developed specific criteria and benchmarks for ending Veteran homelessness in order to help guide communities as they take action to achieve the goal.

Communities that believe they have met the criteria and benchmarks can seek confirmation of their achievement through a formal interagency process by first contacting one of their local federal representatives at HUD, USICH, or VA for guidance on submitting all of the necessary information and data.

Information in this Document

The information within this document is organized into the following sections:

- Purpose of the Criteria and Benchmarks
- Criteria
- Benchmarks
- Specifications
- Quick Guide to Grant and Per Diem
- Definitions

These criteria and benchmarks have been updated to reflect what we've learned over three years of reviewing and confirming communities and to ensure clearer communication of some of the expectations and intentions. The updates primarily focus on:

- Consolidating information, specifications, and clarifications to make it easier for people 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.

Definitions for the following terms are provided below: chronically homeless; long-term homelessness; permanent housing destination; permanent housing intervention (including what an offer of a permanent housing intervention entails); transitional housing (GPD models, differentiating bridge housing, service-intensive transitional housing, and transitional housing appropriately addressing a clinical need); low barrier shelter; and Veteran.

These tools may also be helpful:

- [Questions to Assess Whether Your Community Has Ended Veteran Homelessness](#)
- [Case studies](#) from successful communities
- [Master List Template and Benchmark Generation Tool](#), developed by HUD and its partners, to help you manage your active list and calculate the benchmarks

Purpose of the Criteria and Benchmarks

Criteria and benchmarks work together to provide an ongoing assessment of a community's response to homelessness. While the criteria focus on describing essential elements and accomplishments of the community's response, benchmarks serve as important indicators of whether and how effectively that system is working on an ongoing basis. Together, these criteria and benchmarks are intended to help communities drive down the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness to as close to zero as possible, while building systems that support long-term, lasting solutions that can effectively and efficiently respond to future needs.

As we work with communities to apply these criteria and benchmarks, we consider the data and information holistically. For example, it may be possible for a community's data to indicate it achieved all of the benchmarks, while other information indicates that the expectations of the criteria haven't been met. Or the benchmarks may indicate that a community's system is working efficiently, but that system has not been working long enough to have fully achieved the goal.

We will continue to review and evaluate the effectiveness of these criteria and benchmarks as more communities seek federal confirmation and go on to do the hard work of sustaining an end to Veteran homelessness. We encourage you to review these [strategies to support sustained success](#) as your community pursues and achieves the goal of ending Veteran homelessness and as you pursue an end to homelessness for other populations.

Criteria for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness

1. The community has identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness.

The community has used coordinated outreach, multiple data sources, and other methods, to identify, enumerate, and engage all Veterans experiencing homelessness, including Veterans who experience chronic homelessness and Veterans who are unsheltered, as well as Veterans in shelters, Grant and Per Diem programs, other VA residential programs, other transitional housing programs, etc. For these purposes, a "Veteran" is any person who served on active duty in the armed forces, regardless of how long they served or the type of discharge they received.

2. The community provides shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it.

While ending Veteran homelessness is primarily about the community's capacity to connect Veterans to permanent housing, the community also has the capacity to immediately offer and provide some form of shelter (i.e., emergency shelter, bridge or transitional housing, other temporary settings) to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the community who wants it, while assisting the Veteran to swiftly achieve permanent housing. Access to shelter is not contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, lack of criminal record, or other unnecessary conditions.

3. The community provides service-intensive transitional housing only in limited instances.

When transitional housing is provided to a Veteran, priority is placed on using it as a short-term option while working on a permanent housing solution. That may include: 1) using it as bridge housing for Veterans who are provided with permanent housing assistance but will need a place to stay while a unit is located, or 2) providing Veterans with a place to stay while they attempt to quickly find a permanent housing option for themselves. The community provides longer-term service-intensive transitional housing (i.e., transitional housing not being used for the purposes just described) only when Veterans are offered a choice of a permanent housing intervention, including HUD-VASH, SSVF, or similar assistance, but instead choose to enter a transitional housing program to receive specialized services, such as recovery supports, prior to moving into permanent housing. Further, Veterans who choose to enter 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.

4. The community has capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing.

The community has identified a permanent housing intervention for all Veterans known to be experiencing homelessness, including those Veterans who have chosen to enter transitional housing, and are able to assist Veterans to move into their permanent housing quickly and without barriers to entry, using Housing First principles and practices.

5. The community has resources, plans, partnerships, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future.

The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place for identifying and addressing the housing and services needs of: 1) Veterans entering or returning to homelessness, and 2) Veterans at risk of homelessness. That means:

   a) The community is routinely using multiple data sources and conducting comprehensive outreach and engagement efforts to identify and assist homeless and at-risk Veterans and to understand where Veterans are entering the system.

   b) The community has an adequate level of resources and the capacity to provide appropriate services that will, whenever possible, prevent homelessness for at-risk Veterans.

   c) The community has an adequate level of resources and appropriate plans and services in place to continue to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing and to promote the long-term housing stability of all Veterans who have entered permanent housing.

Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness

Communities should use a variety of information and data to assess whether they have achieved an end to Veteran homelessness, including their current active list of Veterans experiencing homelessness and the data necessary to calculate the following four benchmarks. Taken together, that information and data indicate how well a community's system is working to ensure that Veteran homelessness is a rare, brief, and one-time experience. In reviewing progress against these benchmarks, communities should use the specifications in the

section below. Communities should also document any special circumstances in their local context that should be considered during review.

While these benchmarks provide important indicators of whether and how effectively a community's system is working, they are not the only data or information we will review as part of the federal confirmation process. Meeting the benchmarks does not guarantee that a community will be confirmed as achieving the goal of ending Veteran homelessness if other data or information indicates that the goal has not yet been met.

For example, we closely review the number of Veterans reported as experiencing homelessness at the time of submission to assess if the community's system has been working effectively and efficiently for long enough to have reduced that number of Veterans in proportion to the community's inflow of new Veterans experiencing homelessness and the exits to permanent housing the community is generating.

In assessing progress against these benchmarks, and in submitting information for federal review and confirmation, data should be gathered and provided for the most recent 90-day period for which complete and accurate data is available. Communities are also strongly encouraged to regularly review such data against these benchmarks into the future, to ensure that the progress and effectiveness of local efforts are being sustained.

A. Chronic and long-term homelessness among Veterans has been ended.

The community has no Veterans experiencing chronic or long-term homelessness, with the rare exceptions of:

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;

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, such as treatment and services for homeless Veterans with substance use disorders or other mental health disorders, Safe Haven-like services for chronically homeless Veterans, or recuperative care for homeless Veterans post-hospitalization. Unless otherwise indicated, chronically homeless and long-term homeless Veterans entering GPD-SITH programs are assumed to be doing so to accomplish a clinical need. Note: Veterans who have chosen to enter GPD-SITH programs to access generalized case management or job training are not included within this exempted group. Federal agencies will not be asking for detailed or personalized information regarding such exemptions, such as official confirmation of clinical needs.

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. It is important to note that Veterans are included within this exception only for the first 90 days after acceptance of the permanent housing intervention. The community continues to outreach to any Veterans experiencing long-term homelessness that have not yet accepted an offer of a permanent housing intervention and continues to offer an available permanent housing intervention to those Veterans at least once every two weeks.

The community should be prepared to discuss the current status of Veterans in the exemption categories.

Note: For the purposes of this benchmark, the time a Veteran spends in transitional housing is included in the calculation of whether that Veteran is experiencing long-term homelessness.

B. Veterans have quick access to permanent housing.

The community has a system in place to connect Veterans experiencing homelessness to permanent housing in an average of 90 days or less, measured from the day they are identified as experiencing homelessness to the day they enter permanent housing (with the exceptions described below). The calculation of this average should include all Veterans who entered permanent housing in the past three months, with two rare exceptions:

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

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.

Note: Communities seeking federal confirmation can document any special circumstances in their local context, such as their local housing market, that should be considered in review of their achievement of this benchmark. However, communities should do everything possible to streamline the delivery of housing assistance and housing search processes to make this timeframe as short as possible. For example, some communities have reduced their community-wide average to as short as 30 days. As communities continue to innovate and improve the delivery of housing assistance, we will continue to review the timeframe used for this benchmark.

C. The community has sufficient permanent housing capacity.

The number of Veterans exiting homelessness and moving into permanent housing is greater than or equal to the number of Veterans entering homelessness.

Note: In cases where the community has very small numbers of Veterans experiencing homelessness, the number of Veterans entering homelessness may, at times, temporarily exceed the number of Veterans placed into permanent housing. Even in these cases, however, the long-term trend must still be consistent with reducing or preventing increases in the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness.

D. The community is committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances.

The number of Veterans experiencing homelessness who enter service-intensive transitional housing is significantly less than the number of Veterans entering homelessness.

Specifications for Calculating Benchmarks

The following specifications were designed to help communities calculate their performance against the benchmarks using their local data and information. To apply these specifications, communities must have comprehensive data systems and processes for keeping track of Veterans identified as experiencing homelessness and for documenting exits from homelessness, typically captured through an "active," "by-name," or "master" list.

Requirements for Active Lists

Your community's active list must identify all homeless Veterans, including those who are in unsheltered and sheltered locations (i.e., transitional housing, emergency shelter, and Safe Haven), regardless of funding source. Veterans who have entered any permanent housing destination do not need to be included on the active list or should have that outcome noted on the active list. The community must be able to demonstrate that the list has input from or is informed by all significant partners in the effort to serve Veterans experiencing homelessness, including the CoC, local VA Medical Center, VA-funded providers, shelters, outreach workers, and additional community partners, such as food programs and law enforcement. The list may be populated by other data sources, such as HOMES, HMIS, or other comparable databases.

This Master List Template and Benchmark Generation Tool, developed by HUD and its partners, is available for your community to use to manage your active list and calculate the benchmarks.

Maintaining your active list

- Updates should be conducted at least monthly to ensure information is current.

- If a Veteran on the active list can no longer be located after repeated attempts for 90 days or more, the status of that Veteran can be changed from "active" to "missing" for purposes of calculating these benchmarks. If the Veteran is located at a later date and is still experiencing homelessness, the date of the most recent contact would become the new date of identification.

- If it is determined that an individual on the active list is not a Veteran, that individual should be removed from the active list and not included in data and calculations for these criteria and benchmarks but should be included on a non-Veteran-specific active list.

Information and data you need to calculate benchmarks

1. **[Number of Veterans on active list]**

2. **[Number of Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness on active list]**

3. **[Number of Veterans experiencing long-term homelessness on active list]**

4. **[Date of identification]** of each homeless Veteran. That is, the date of initial contact with a homeless Veteran in any program, including street outreach, emergency shelter, transitional housing, Safe Haven, VA Medical Center, or at any other point of entry in the homelessness system. This date includes Veterans who are experiencing homelessness for the first time and those who may be re-entering homelessness after having exited for at least 90 days.

5. **[Date of documented offer of a permanent housing intervention]** The information regarding the documented offer should also include the type of permanent housing intervention offered (e.g., HUD-VASH, RRH, PSH, other subsidy).

6. **[Date of acceptance]** or **[date of decline]** of offer of a permanent housing intervention. In the specific case of Veterans who have previously declined an offer of a permanent housing intervention but who subsequently accept such an offer, the **[date of acceptance]** of the offer serves as the **[date of identification]** for these Veterans.

7. **[Date of move-in to permanent housing destination]**

8. **[Date of move-in to TH, by type of TH]**

9. **[Yes or No, entering TH in order to appropriately address a clinical need]**

10. **[Date of removal from active list for other reasons]** The date that an individual was removed from the active list for reasons other than moving into permanent housing.

Benchmark A: Specification to measure whether long-term and chronic homelessness among Veterans has been ended.

Unit of Measurement: Number of Veterans experiencing long-term and chronic homelessness in the CoC's geographic area

Contributing Programs: All projects administering emergency shelter, transitional housing, supportive housing, SSVF, HUD-VASH, street outreach, and permanent housing funded by CoC, local, state, or federal programs

Data Source: Active List

Target: Zero Veterans experiencing long-term and chronic homelessness

Measurement Period: Continuous 90-day period preceding benchmark measurement (for example, June 1-August 31, 2018)

Calculation: [Number of Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness on active list]

PLUS + [Number of Veterans experiencing long-term homelessness on active list]

MINUS - [Exempted Group 1]

MINUS - [Exempted Group 2]

MINUS - [Exempted Group 3]

EQUALS = Zero (0)

Exempted Group 1: Those Veterans experiencing either chronic or long-term homelessness who have been identified and offered a permanent housing intervention within the last two weeks but who have not yet accepted. Communities are responsible for ensuring that these Veterans are continually engaged and receive a documented offer of permanent housing at least every 14 days.

Exempted Group 2: Those Veterans experiencing either chronic or long-term homelessness 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. Veterans who have chosen to enter transitional housing programs in order to access generalized case management or job training are not included within this exempted group. (Note: Federal agencies will <u>not</u> be asking for detailed or personalized information regarding such exemptions, such as official confirmation of clinical needs.)

Exempted Group 3: Those Veterans who have accepted a permanent housing intervention but who are still actively in the process of identifying, securing, or moving into a unit. Veterans who have been actively in the process of identifying, securing, or moving into a unit for more than 90 days are not included within this exempted group.

Note: The number of Veterans experiencing long-term or chronic homelessness is expected to be low even including those Veterans within these exempted groups.

Benchmark B: Specification to measure whether Veterans have quick access to permanent housing.

Unit of Measurement:	Community-wide average time from date of identification of homeless Veterans in the CoC's geographic area to date they move in to a permanent housing destination
Contributing Programs:	All projects administering emergency shelter, transitional housing, supportive housing, SSVF, HUD-VASH, street outreach, and permanent housing funded by CoC, local, state, or federal programs
Data Source:	Active List
Target:	Community-wide average time from the date Veterans are identified as experiencing homelessness in the CoC's geographic area to the date they move in to a permanent housing destination is 90 days or less
Measurement Period:	Continuous 90-day period preceding benchmark measurement (for example, June 1-August 31, 2018)

Calculation:

> [Total number of days for all non-exempted Veterans from identification to move-in to permanent housing]
> DIVIDED BY / [Total # of non-exempted Veterans]
> IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 90 days

Exempted Group 1: Those Veterans who were identified and offered a permanent housing intervention over the 90-day measurement period but did not initially accept the offer. For these Veterans, the calculation of the average should only include the number of days from when they accepted the intervention until they moved into housing. Communities are responsible for ensuring that these Veterans are continually engaged and receive a documented offer of permanent housing at least every 14 days.

Exempted Group 2: Those Veterans who have been offered an available permanent housing intervention but declined and have instead chosen to enter service-intensive transitional housing, whether to address a clinical need or not. Veterans who choose to enter 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.

NOTE: A Veteran who is already in service-intensive transitional housing but is then offered a permanent housing intervention does not fall within Exempted Group 2. Veterans who are in a transitional housing bed/unit operating as bridge housing are also not included within this exempted group.

Benchmark C: Specification to measure whether the community has sufficient permanent housing capacity.

Unit of Measurement:	Ratio of move-ins to permanent housing destinations to number of Veterans becoming homeless
Contributing Programs:	All projects administering emergency shelter, transitional housing, supportive housing, SSVF, HUD-VASH, street outreach, and permanent housing funded by CoC, local, state, or federal programs. Note: There are no exempted groups for calculating this benchmark, therefore Veterans staying within any type of program are included within the calculation.
Data Source:	Active List
Target:	Total number of Veterans moving into permanent housing destinations is greater than the total number of newly identified homeless Veterans
Measurement Period:	Continuous 90-day period preceding benchmark measurement (for example, June 1-August 31, 2018)

Calculation:

Total number of Veterans moving into permanent housing destinations over 90-day measurement period	$\geq$ IS GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO	Total number of newly identified homeless Veterans within the 90-day measurement period

Benchmark D: Specification to measure whether the community is committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances.

Unit of Measurement:	Ratio of Veterans entering service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans becoming homeless
Contributing Programs:	All projects administering emergency shelter, transitional housing, supportive housing, SSVF, HUD-VASH, street outreach, and permanent housing funded by CoC, local, state, or federal programs. Note: There are no exempted groups for calculating this benchmark, therefore Veterans staying within any type of program are included within the calculation, and such Veterans are included regardless of when they were offered permanent housing.
Data Source:	Active List

Target: Total number of Veterans entering service-intensive transitional housing is less than the total number of newly identified homeless Veterans within the measurement period

Measurement Period: Continuous 90-day period preceding benchmark measurement (for example, June 1-August 31, 2018)

Calculation:

Total number of Veterans entering service-intensive transitional housing within the 90-day measurement period	< IS SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN	Total number of newly identified homeless Veterans within 90-day measurement period

Quick Guide: Grant and Per Diem and the Criteria and Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness

The criteria and benchmarks above distinguish between two kinds of GPD transitional housing: bridge housing (BH) and service-intensive transitional housing (SITH). For the purposes of the criteria and benchmarks:

- GPD-Low Demand, GPD-Hospital-to-Housing, GPD-Clinical Treatment, and GPD-Service Intensive programs are considered SITH.
- GPD-Bridge Housing programs are considered BH.

Mapping GPD Models to the Criteria and Benchmarks

In order to be confirmed as having achieved the goal of ending Veteran homelessness, communities must be able to demonstrate that they meet the requirements of all four benchmarks. Veterans in some extremely limited circumstances fall within exempted groups that are not included within the calculation of Benchmarks A and B, including:

- Group 1: Veterans experiencing either chronic or long-term homelessness who have been identified and offered a permanent housing intervention within the last two weeks but who have not yet accepted.
- Group 2: Veterans who have been offered an available permanent housing intervention but declined and have instead chosen to enter the transitional housing program.
- Group 3: Veterans who have been offered and accepted a permanent housing intervention prior to entering transitional housing but are not able to immediately enter the permanent housing.

The following grid summarizes the exempted groups that Veterans in a transitional status *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

See pages 7 and 8 for full explanations of which Veterans are included within exempted groups for calculating Benchmarks A and B. See more information about each of the GPD program models on page 13 and 14.

Definitions

Chronically homeless – The definition of "chronically homeless" currently in effect for the CoC program is:

(1) A "homeless individual with a disability," as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:

(i) Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a Safe Haven, or in an emergency shelter; and

(ii) Has been homeless and living as described in paragraph (1)(i) of this definition continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described in paragraph (1)(i). Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute as a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the 12-month total, as long as the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a Safe Haven, or an emergency shelter immediately before entering the institutional care facility.

(2) An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, before entering that facility.

(3) A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraphs (1) or (2) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

Long-term homeless – A homeless Veteran who meets the length of time and stay requirements to qualify as chronically homeless, but:

(1) The Veteran does not need to have a qualifying disability; and

(2) The calculation of 12 months of homelessness includes stays in transitional housing.

Permanent housing destination – Comprises the following response categories as defined in HUD's data standards (data element 3.12):

- Moved from one HOPWA funded project to HOPWA permanent housing (PH)
- Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy
- Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy
- Permanent housing for formerly homeless persons (such as: CoC project; or HUD legacy programs; or HOPWA PH)
- Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy
- Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy
- Rental by client, with GPD Transition-In-Place (TIP) housing subsidy
- Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy
- Staying or living with family, permanent tenure
- Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure

Permanent housing intervention – An intervention which provides access to a safe, stable, and affordable permanent housing destination, which might include a subsidy or other form of rental assistance, with appropriate services and supports. Interventions can include HUD-VASH, SSVF, and CoC program-funded rapid re-housing (where rental assistance is included), CoC program-funded permanent supportive housing, Housing Choice Voucher (HCV), access to an affordable housing unit, or other form of permanent housing subsidy or rental assistance.

- **GPD-Transition in Place** – These programs are considered permanent housing destinations.

- **Offer of permanent housing intervention** – An offer of an intervention in which the intervention is available at the time the offer is made. For example, a Veteran is offered the option of being issued a HUD-VASH voucher or getting access to a SSVF subsidy right away and can begin the housing search process to secure a unit. In instances in which the Veteran is being offered a tenant-based subsidy, it means that the tenant-based subsidy is available to be issued and the Veteran can immediately be enrolled in the program. It does <u>not</u> mean that the Veteran is offered a specific unit to rent with that subsidy. In instances in which the Veteran is being offered an option to enter a subsidized or affordable unit, an offer does mean that the Veteran is being offered the opportunity to enter such a unit right away. An offer is not, for example, placement on a waiting list for an affordable unit or a subsidy program, or enrollment in a HUD-VASH program without an available voucher that can be issued right away. Offers must be documented through a transparent, coordinated process within the homelessness service system so that a refusal of permanent housing intervention or a choice to enter service-intensive transitional housing is easily verifiable.

Transitional housing – Transitional housing provides time-limited housing and services to Veterans. There are several different kinds of transitional housing programs and they are funded by a variety of sources, including VA's GPD program and HUD's CoC program. This document refers to three distinct scenarios for providing transitional housing described below. To ensure that communities are quickly housing Veterans and supporting Veterans' choices, some stays in transitional housing may be exempted from benchmark calculations.

- **Bridge Housing (GPD-BH)** – GPD-BH is transitional housing used as a short-term stay when a Veteran has been offered and accepted a permanent housing intervention but is not able to immediately enter the permanent housing. It is generally provided for up to 90 days. Veterans within such programs or beds are included within calculations of all the benchmarks.

- **Service-intensive transitional housing** – Transitional housing not being used as bridge housing, in which Veterans are actively working to achieve permanent housing while they engage in clinically appropriate or other transitional housing services, such as generalized case management or job training services. Veterans who have been offered an available permanent housing intervention but have declined and instead chosen to enter a service-intensive transitional housing program are exempted from Benchmark B.

  - o **Transitional housing appropriately addressing a clinical need** – A subset of service-intensive transitional housing in which Veterans are receiving targeted treatment and services for specific clinical needs, such as treatment and services for homeless Veterans with substance use disorders or other mental health disorders, Safe Haven-like services for chronically homeless Veterans, or

recuperative care for homeless Veterans post-hospitalization. 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 and B.

The following GPD bed types are considered service-intensive transitional housing:

- **Low Demand (GPD-LD)** – GPD-LD housing programs utilize a harm reduction framework to accommodate chronically homeless Veterans who were either unsuccessful in traditional housing programs, or did not participate in them, due to treatment participation and sobriety requirements for admission to and/or continued stay in the programs.

- **Hospital-to-Housing (GPD-HH)** – GPD-HH provides both proactive clinical follow-up care and housing case management seamlessly for homeless Veterans following an inpatient stay or emergency department visit. Veterans considered for the GPD-HH program would otherwise be discharged to the streets, an emergency shelter, or have longer inpatient stays.

- **Clinical Treatment (GPD-CT)** – GPD-CT provides clinically focused treatment in conjunction with services effective in helping homeless Veterans secure permanent housing and increase income through benefits and/or employment. Although the programming and services have a strong clinical focus, permanent housing and increased income are a required outcome of the program.

- **Service Intensive (GPD-SI)** – GPD-SI provides transitional housing and a milieu of services that facilitate individual stabilization and movement to permanent housing as rapidly as clinically appropriate.

Veteran – An adult who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, including persons who served on active duty from the military reserves or the National Guard. For the purposes of these criteria, a Veteran is any person who served in the armed forces, regardless of how long they served or the type of discharge they received.

Date: **11/15/2018**

To: Interagency Review Team

From: Abilene, Texas

Re: Confirming End to Veteran Homelessness

CONTACT INFORMATION

1. **Mayor or other jurisdictional leader name**: Mayor Anthony Williams

   Phone: 325-676-6205 Email: Anthony.Williams@abilenetx.gov

2. **Mailing address for Mayor or other jurisdictional leader*:**

   Mayor Anthony Williams
   Mailing
   PO Box 60
   Abilene, TX, 79604
   *If the community is confirmed, a confirmation letter will be mailed to this address.

3. **If there are questions about the information provided below, who should we contact?**

   John Meier | WCTRF-SSVF Program Manager | 325-864-4791 | jmeier@westcentraltexas.org

4. **Upon completion of review, who should be notified of the result?**

   Sophia Checa | COC Director | 512-861-6286 | sophia@thn.org
   Michael Batterton | VA Medical Center Director | 432-263-7361 x7165 | Michael.Batterton@va.gov
   Gene Reed | AHA Chief Executive Officer | 325-660-1846 | gene.reed@abileneha.org
   John Meier | WCTRF-SSVF Program Manager | 325-864-4791 | jmeier@westcentraltexas.org

SUMMARY

5. **Please provide a brief overview of when you achieved your goal, who is leading the effort, key strategies, key partners, and any other points of interest.**

   The goal was reached November 15th, 2018. The current effort is being led by local homeless coalition West Texas Homeless Network that includes community partners from Veterans Administration programs and non-Veteran programs. Abilene has been a Housing First community since West Central Texas Regional Foundation was awarded Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant in 2012. West Texas Homeless Network has been working with Continuum Of Care for Texas Balance of State, Texas Homeless Network and Community Solutions Built For Zero initiative since January 2018 to drive systems change with emphasis on continuous improvement projects. Through

this partnership West Texas Homeless Network has developed a quality By Name List for Veterans, and now working with Community Solutions to get to Functional Zero for homeless Veterans.

6. **In addition to the jurisdictional leader, has the information in this template been reviewed and endorsed by key community partners, including the VA Medical Center Director, the Continuum of Care, the Public Housing Authority Director and any other strategic planning bodies overseeing an end to homelessness in your community?**

    ☒YES ☐NO

7. **Is your community participating in any technical assistance, such as Built for Zero, Vets@Home, or SSVF TA?**

    ☒YES ☐NO

DATA COVERAGE AND QUALITY

8. **Does your community have an active or "by-name" list of Veterans experiencing homelessness?**

    ☒YES ☐NO

    If YES, please describe:

    - Who uses the list and how. Local Coordinated Entry, WCTRF-SSVF, VA HUD-VASH, to identify and plan
    - How often the list is updated. Bi-monthly
    - How many days the community waits to change a Veteran's status to missing when he/she can no longer be located or contacted. 90 days after identification if no verifiable interaction with outreach or community agency

    If NO, please describe how you keep track of Veterans experiencing homelessness.

    Click here to enter text.

9. **Your data should be comprehensive. That is, it should include all Veterans experiencing homelessness, including those who are in unsheltered and sheltered locations (i.e., transitional housing, emergency shelter, and safe haven), and including those identified through coordinated entry, periodic canvassing and outreach efforts, at a VA Medical Center, or any other point in the homelessness entry system. Is your data comprehensive?**

    ☒YES ☐NO

10. **Are there any programs in your community that are not accounted for in your data?**

    ☐YES ☒NO

    If *YES*, please list the names of the programs and their size (i.e., #units/beds):

    Click here to enter text.

11. **As of** November 15, 2018**, how many Veterans are experiencing homelessness in your community? 7**

Of those Veterans currently experiencing homelessness, how many are:
- Unsheltered: **6**
- Sheltered: **1**
  - In emergency shelter: **1**
  - In service-intensive transitional housing: **0**
  - In bridge housing: **0**
  - In safe haven: **0**

12. **How many Veterans were identified in your Point-in-Time count?**

2014: Sheltered: 3   Unsheltered: 1
2015: Sheltered: 5   Unsheltered: 0
2016: Sheltered: 2   Unsheltered: 6
2017: Sheltered: 8   Unsheltered: 9

If follow-up counts were conducted more recently than January 2017, list both the date of the count and the # of Veterans identified in that follow up:

January 25, 2018: Sheltered: 2   Unsheltered: 11

CRITERIA

For more information, download the criteria, benchmarks and specifications.

Criteria 1a: Has your community identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness?

☒YES ☐NO

Please describe how your community uses outreach, multiple data sources, and other methods, to identify, enumerate, and engage all Veterans experiencing homelessness, including Veterans who are unsheltered, as well as Veterans in shelters, Grant and Per Diem programs, other VA residential programs, other transitional housing programs, etc.

The city of Abilene has Coordinated Entry, Home Again West Texas through the West Texas Homeless Network. Coordinated Entry has allowed for a community driven outreach plan that covers identified hot spots for homelessness and over seventy five percent of geographic area. West Texas Homeless Network utilizes many data sources with the initial data source being Homeless Management Information System, verifying Veteran details through Homeless Operations Management and Evaluation System, and local 211 Basic Need Network Data System. All data sources and outreach efforts are collected and utilized to populate Master List Template and Benchmark Generation Tool. Abilene does not have Grant and Per Diem programs or other VA residential programs. Home Again West Texas includes other transitional housing programs.

Criteria 1b: When your community identifies Veterans, do you include all Veterans?

- Do you include all people who served in the armed forces, regardless of how long they served or the type of discharge they received? ☒YES ☐NO

- Do you include both Veterans that meet the definition of chronic homelessness and Veterans that are experiencing homelessness but do not meet the definition of chronic homelessness? ☒YES ☐NO

Comments: Click here to enter text.

Criteria 2: Does your community provide shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it?

☒YES ☐NO

Please describe the community's plan and capacity to immediately offer some form of shelter (i.e., emergency shelter, bridge or transitional housing, or other temporary settings) to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the community who wants it, while assisting the Veteran to swiftly achieve permanent housing. Include how your community ensures that shelter is not contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, criminal records, or other unnecessary conditions.

Abilene's Coordinated Entry, Home Again West Texas has effective strategies in place to quickly identify homeless Veterans. There are currently two Emergency Shelters available, Salvation Army with higher conditions to enter and Abilene Hope Haven's Bridge 2 Home offering minimal conditions. Two grants can provide emergency shelter if Veteran is unable to enter either Shelter, West Central Texas Regional Foundation Supportive Services for Veteran Families and Central Texas Opportunities Housing For Texas Heroes. There is also Texas Department of Family and Protective Services for those that meet state program guidelines.

Criteria 3: Does your community only provide service-intensive transitional housing in limited instances?

☒YES ☐NO

When transitional housing is provided to a Veteran, priority is placed on using it as a short-term option while working on a permanent housing solution. That may include: 1) using it as bridge housing for Veterans who are provided with permanent housing assistance but will need a place to stay while a unit is located, or 2) providing Veterans with a place to stay while they attempt to quickly find a permanent housing option for themselves. The community provides longer-term service-intensive transitional housing (i.e., transitional housing not being used for the purposes just described) only when Veterans are offered a choice of a permanent housing intervention, including HUD-VASH, SSVF, or similar assistance, but instead choose to enter a transitional housing program to receive specialized services, such as recovery supports, prior to moving into permanent housing.

In instances when transitional housing is provided to a Veteran, please describe how your community prioritizes the use of transitional housing as a short-term bridge to permanent housing. Include details about how Veterans are offered service-intensive transitional housing only when they indicate a preference for it, prior to moving to a permanent housing destination.

Abilene does not have service-intensive transitional housing option

4

Criteria 4: Does your community have the capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing?

☒YES ☐NO

Please describe how your community has identified permanent housing for all Veterans known to be experiencing homelessness, including those Veterans who have chosen to enter transitional housing, and how your system is able to assist Veterans to move into their permanent housing quickly and without barriers to entry, using Housing First principles and practices.

West Texas Homeless Network has a shared landlord listing for community programs currently providing rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing that emphasizes client choice. Coordinated Entry, Home Again West Texas is developed Crises Intervention system that can quickly move Veterans to a Crises Response. West Texas Homelessness Network and Home Again West Texas provides assistance to secure and retain permanent housing that is not contingent on sobriety, treatment, employment, or income.

Criteria 5: Does your community have the resources, plans, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future?

☒YES ☐NO

Please describe the resources, plans, and system capacity your community has in place to end homelessness for any Veteran should they become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future.

- How does the community have an adequate level of resources and the capacity to provide appropriate services that will, whenever possible, prevent homelessness for at-risk Veterans? Abilene currently has two grants that can provide prevention services for at-risk Veterans, West Central Regional Foundation Supportive Services for Veteran Families and Central Texas Opportunities Housing For Texas Heroes. West Texas Homeless Network and Home Again West Texas is always looking to identify gaps in community homeless services and available funding avenues that may be able to fill those gaps.

- How does the community have an adequate level of resources and appropriate plans and services in place to promote the long-term housing stability of all Veterans who have entered permanent housing? Abilene currently has two short term housing assistance programs for Veterans through West Central Texas Regional Foundation Supportive Services for Veteran Families and Central Texas Opportunities Housing For Texas Heroes. Veterans that are identified needing longer term services are able to utilize Abilene Housing Authority Mainstream Voucher Program with vouchers available Homeless or At risk of becoming homeless with disability in household 18 – 61 years of age, Housing Choice Vouchers with Homeless preference, and Housing and Urban Development Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Vouchers.

Are there other important details about the community response—including best practices that could be shared with others—that were not addressed by the questions above?

☐YES ☒NO

If *YES*, Click here to enter text.

BENCHMARKS

When calculating the benchmarks, please use the most recently available 90-day period. Please use the same 90-day period for all benchmarks.

A. Have you ended long-term and chronic homelessness among Veterans in your community, with the rare exemptions listed below?

NOTE: For the purposes of this benchmark, the time a Veteran spends in transitional housing is included in the calculation of whether that Veteran is experiencing long-term homelessness, as defined in the criteria and benchmarks.

Total Long-Term and Chronically Homeless Veterans	Number of Veterans experiencing either chronic or long-term homelessness who are not in permanent housing	1
Exempted Group One	Number of Veterans experiencing either chronic or long-term homelessness who have been offered a permanent housing intervention at least once every two weeks, but who have not yet accepted housing. Communities are responsible for ensuring that these Veterans are continually engaged and receive a documented offer of permanent housing at least every 14 days.	1
Exempted Group Two	Number of Veterans experiencing either chronic or long-term homelessness 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. Veterans who have chosen to enter transitional housing programs in order to access generalized case management or job training are not included within this exempted group. (Note: Federal agencies will not be asking for detailed or personalized information regarding such exemptions, such as official confirmation of clinical needs.)	0
Exempted Group Three	Number of Veterans experiencing either chronic or long-term homelessness who have accepted a permanent housing intervention but who are still actively in the process of identifying, securing, or moving into a unit. Veterans who have been actively in the process of identifying, securing, or moving into a unit for more than 90 days are not included within this exempted group.	0
Total Chronically Homeless Veterans - Total Number of Veterans in Groups One and Two =		0

Does this number equal zero?
⊠YES ☐NO

Comments: Click here to enter text.

B. Do Veterans have quick access to permanent housing and have a system in place to connect Veterans experiencing homelessness to permanent housing in an average of 90 days or less, measured from the day they are identified as experiencing homelessness to the day they enter permanent housing?

NOTE: The calculation of this average should include all Veterans who entered permanent housing in the past three months, with two rare exemptions listed below. A Veteran who is already in service-intensive transitional housing and is then offered a permanent housing intervention cannot be exempted from this benchmark. Likewise, a Veteran who is in a transitional housing bed/unit operating as bridge housing cannot be exempted.

Total Number of Days	Total number of days it takes for all Veterans who become homeless to enter permanent housing • **Do NOT include** people who were offered a permanent housing intervention but chose to enter a service-intensive transitional housing project prior to entering a permanent housing destination. • For any Veteran who was identified and offered a permanent housing intervention, but did not initially accept the offer, include only the time from when they accepted the intervention until they moved into housing.	673
Total Number of Veterans	Total number of Veterans who accessed permanent housing • **Do NOT include** people who were offered a permanent housing intervention but chose to enter a service-intensive transitional housing project prior to entering a permanent housing destination	21
Total Number of Days ÷ by Total Number of Veterans =		32.05

If *LONGER THAN 90 DAYS*, please describe the factors in your community leading to longer lengths of stay, and what measures your community has taken to streamline the delivery of housing assistance to make this timeframe as short as possible: Click here to enter text.

C. Does the community have sufficient permanent housing capacity?

NOTE: In cases where the community has very small numbers of Veterans experiencing homelessness, the number of Veterans entering homelessness may, at times, temporarily exceed the number of Veterans placed into permanent housing. Even in these cases, however, the long-term trend must still be consistent with reducing or preventing increases in the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness.

Number of Exits to Permanent Housing	Within the 90-day period starting 8/17/2018 and ending 11/15/2018, the total number of Veterans exiting homelessness to permanent housing	**21**
Number of Veterans Entering Homelessness	*Within that same 90-day period,* the total number of newly Identified homeless Veterans	**19**

Is the number of Veterans exiting homelessness and moving into permanent housing **GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO** the number of newly identified homeless Veterans? ☒YES ☐NO

Comments: Click here to enter text.

D. Is the community committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances?

Number of Veterans Entering Service-Intensive Transitional Housing	Within the 90-day period starting 8/17/2018 and ending 11/15/2018, the total number of Veterans entering service-intensive transitional housing	0
Total Number of Veterans Entering Homelessness	Within the same 90-day period, the total number of newly identified homeless Veterans	0

Is the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness who enter service-intensive transitional housing **SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN** the number of newly identified homeless Veterans?

☒YES ☐NO

Comments: Abilene does not have service-intensive transitional housing option

Texas Balance of State CoC - Abilene

Community Leads: John Meier and Katherine Bisson

Community Organizer: Michelle Parish, Community Foundation of Abilene

CoC Lead: Tiffany Hart and Sophia Checa

Jurisdictional Executive: Mayor Anthony Williams

VA Representative: Nicki Starkey

PHA Lead: Abilene Housing Authority

Built for Zero Coach: Dawn Moskowitz

BFZ Onsite Coach: Eddie Turner/Caitlin Bayer

Attended BFZ Learning Sessions: February, June, October 2018

Built For Zero.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Texas Balance of State CoC - Abilene

Built For Zero.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Built for Zero Communities

Welcome to our Newest Communities!

● Built For Zero Collaboratives

● Communities that have reached Functional Zero

Minneapolis/Hennepin County
La Crosse
Waukegan/North Chicago/Lake County
Madison/Dane County
Flint/Genesee County
*Chittenden County
New Hampshire
Springfield
Pontiac/Royal Oak/Oakland County
Rockford/Winnebago, Boone Counties
Detroit
Cook County
Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County
Bergen County
Rhode Island Statewide
Newark/Essex County
Middlesex County
Omaha/Council Bluffs
Lancaster City & County
Baltimore
Provo/Mountainland
Metro Denver
Montgomery County
Arlington County
Greater Kansas City
St. Louis
*Fairfax County
District of Columbia
*Placer & Nevada Counties
Sacramento City & County
Columbia-Boone County/Missouri Balance of State
*Western VA
Charlottesville
Richmond/Henrico, Chesterfield, Hanover Counties
Marin County
Richmond/Contra Costa County
*VA BOS - Waynesboro
Roanoke City & County/Salem
*VA BOS - Petersburg
Fresno/Madera County
Tulsa City & County/Broken Arrow
Virginia Balance of State
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City & County
Las Vegas/Clark County
Fayetteville/Northwest Arkansas
Tennessee Valley
Winston Salem/Forsyth County
Guilford County
Bakersfield/Kern County
Oklahoma City
Nashville/Davidson County
Riverside City & County
Norman/Cleveland County
Chattanooga/Southeast Tennessee
Charlotte/Mecklenberg
Maricopa Regional
Atlanta
Tucson/Pima County
Texas Balance of State Denton
Jackson/Rankin, Madison Counties
*El Paso
Texas Balance of State Abilene
Tallahassee/Leon County
Honolulu
Gulf Port/Gulf Coast Regional
Jacksonville-Duval, Clay Counties
Ft Myers/Cape Coral/Lee County
West Palm Beach/Palm Beach County

Progress to Date

Texas BoS CoC Abilene will make 9!

8 COMMUNITIES ENDED VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

3 COMMUNITIES ENDED CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

33 COMMUNITIES HAVE ACHIEVED A MEASURABLE REDUCTION

64 COMMUNITIES HAVE ACHIEVED QUALITY REAL-TIME DATA ON HOMELESSNESS

60% FUNCTIONAL ZERO PROOF POINTS SUSTAINING GOAL
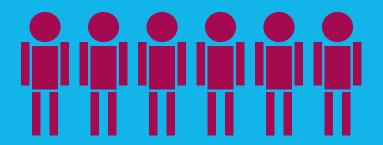
98,200 TOTAL PEOPLE HOUSED

Built for Zero communities use the Built for Zero standard for ending veteran homelessness, a single measure that provides a higher, more measurable bar than the federal criteria and benchmarks. We eagerly support communities in meeting the criteria and benchmarks on their way to the BfZ standard.

Functional Zero for Veterans

Texas Balance of State - Abilene has met their functional zero threshold of less than g!

Actively Homeless Veterans < 6-Mth Avg. Housing Placement Rate

TEXAS BOS- ABILENE BY-NAME, REAL-TIME DATA

Defining a Quality By-Name List

Texas Balance of State - Abilene has met all of the quality and reliability thresholds.

FULL COVERAGE
- All agencies and programs are represented
- List includes people sleeping in shelters and on the streets

PERSON-LEVEL DATA
- Each person has an entry that includes their name, history, health and housing needs
- Each person can be followed through the system

RELIABILITY
- Data balances month over month, just like your checkbook

REGULAR UPDATES
- List is updated monthly, at a minimum
- As people's housing status changes, so do their list entries

Qualitatively Assessing your list

Texas Balance of State – Abilene reached a perfect score on the veterans scorecard in April 2018 successfully meeting the framework below to produce their veterans by-name list. This ensures that Abilene has reached quality data to measure improvements over time.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & COVERAGE	POLICIES & PROCEDURES	DATA INFRASTRUCTURE
1. Tracking all homeless individuals	2. Inactive policy	3. Tracking homeless status
4. Outreach coverage	8. Tracking without full assessment	6. Unique identifier
5. Providers reporting data		7. Tracking newly identified people
9. Including veterans experiencing chronic homelessness		10. Tracking returns to system

Texas Balance of State CoC - Abilene Engines for Veteran
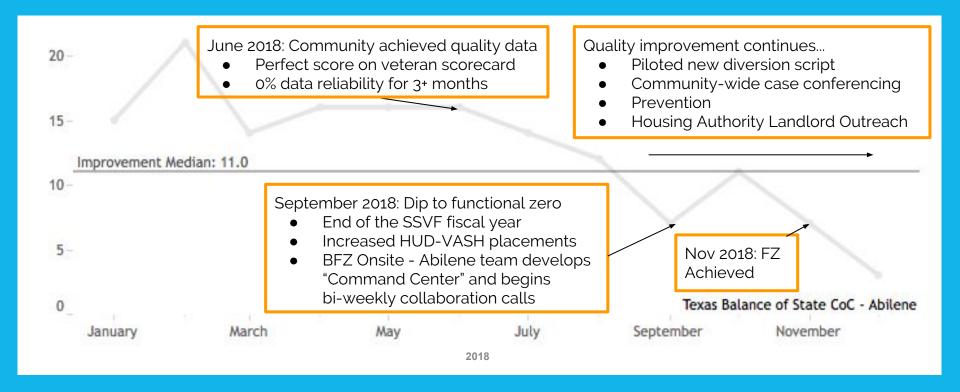
	Actively Homeless Number	3 Mo Outflow Total	3 Mo Inflow Total	3 Mo Data Reliability
December 2018	3	27	23	0%

| Month, Year of Month	Actively Homeless Number	Housing Placements	Moved To Inactive Number	No Longer Meets Population Criteria	Newly Identified Number	Returned To Active List From Housing N..	Returned To Active List From Inactive N..	Net Change	Monthly DR along Table (Down)
December 2018	3.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	-4.00	0%
November 2018	7.00	8.00	1.00	0.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	-4.00	0%
October 2018	11.00	5.00	1.00	0.00	9.00	1.00	0.00	4.00	0%
September 2018	7.00	5.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	-5.00	0%
August 2018	12.00	15.00	0.00	1.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	-2.00	0%
July 2018	14.00	7.00	1.00	0.00	4.00	2.00	0.00	-2.00	0%
June 2018	16.00	7.00	1.00	2.00	4.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0%
May 2018	16.00	7.00	0.00	1.00	6.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0%
April 2018	16.00	7.00	2.00	1.00	8.00	4.00	0.00	2.00	0%
March 2018	14.00	17.00	0.00	1.00	8.00	3.00	0.00	-7.00	0%
February 2018	21.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	9.00	3.00	0.00	6.00	0%
January 2018	15.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	4.00	0.00	5.00	
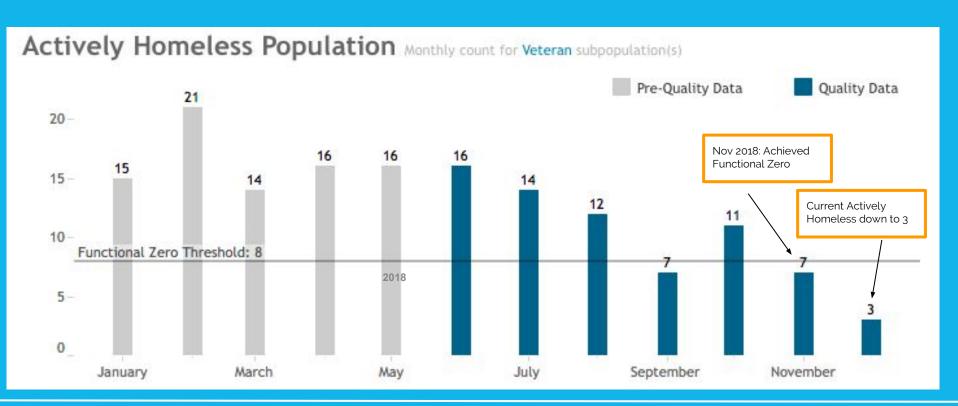
Data Reliability
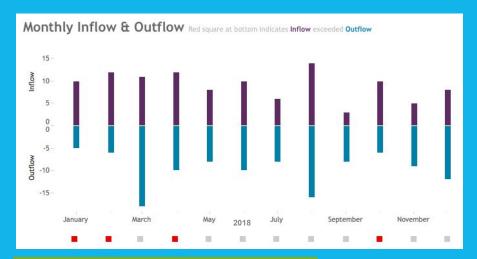
Data for Texas BoS Abilene is perfectly balanced (0% data reliability) meaning that changes in actively homeless numbers are accounted for in inflow and outflow. This signals that data management practices are robust and efficient and that data is being tracked in a consistent manner.

Texas BOS - Abilene: Actively Homeless - Monthly Veteran Data

June 2018: Community achieved quality data
- Perfect score on veteran scorecard
- 0% data reliability for 3+ months

Quality improvement continues...
- Piloted new diversion script
- Community-wide case conferencing
- Prevention
- Housing Authority Landlord Outreach

Improvement Median: 11.0

September 2018: Dip to functional zero
- End of the SSVF fiscal year
- Increased HUD-VASH placements
- BFZ Onsite - Abilene team develops "Command Center" and begins bi-weekly collaboration calls

Nov 2018: FZ Achieved

Texas Balance of State CoC - Abilene

2018

Built For Zero.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Texas BOS - Abilene: Actively Homeless - Monthly Veteran Count

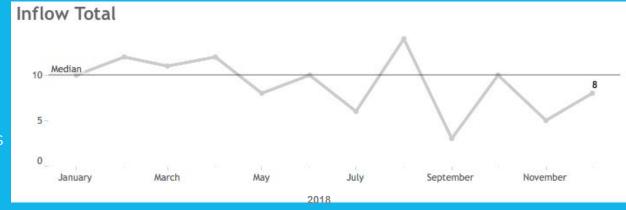Monthly Inflow & Outflow — Red square at bottom indicates **Inflow** exceeded **Outflow**
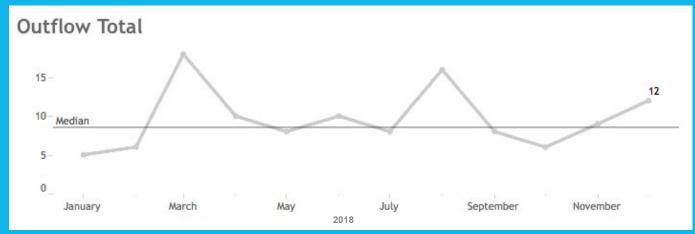
Texas BOS - Abilene: Upstream Strategies:
- Implemented a new script and process for diversion
- 2-1-1 included as part of Coordinated Entry
- Improved outreach coverage for the BNL by integrating with CE outreach efforts
- Exploring prevention program
- Analyzing returns from housed

Texas BOS - Abilene: Downstream Strategies:
- Brought BNL to CE case conferencing meetings
- Landlord outreach/unit coordination with PHA
- PHA implemented a homeless preference
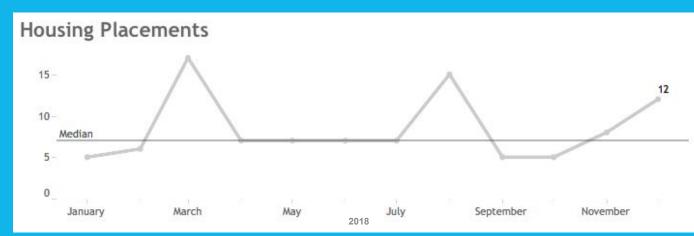- "Command Center" bi-weekly collaboration calls

Inflow Total

Outflow Total

Notes on inactivity policy/or other outflow:
- Often there is a significant lag between HUD-VASH issuance and lease up

Notes on housing placements:
- Coordination with PHA and landlord outreach with ADRC

Housing Placements

Texas BOS-Abilene: Timeline in Brief

2015
- Began keeping a BNL . Changed with the USICH format (1st format released).

2017
- New CoC Program-funded RRH grant in operation, increased focus on housing in the community
- Oct- Began planning for 100-Day Challenge to implement Coordinated Entry

2018
- Jan-May- Abilene held a 100-Day challenge to house 50 of their most vulnerable neighbors
  - Implemented Coordinated Entry
- Feb- Texas Balance of State CoC - Abilene joined Built for Zero, Set baseline score for veteran scorecard, implemented Inactive policy
- April - Reached perfect score on scorecard!
- June - Reached 3-month data reliability!
- July - Built for Zero - Last mile conference call - leadership team began targeting FZ
- Aug- Reached functional zero threshold for the first time!
- Sept- Built for Zero Onsite meeting to build will and prioritize projects.
- Oct 23 - Launch 100-day Mayor's Challenge to reach Functional Zero by 1/31/19
- Nov- Confirmed as reaching functional zero, applied for USICH recognition

Looking Forward
- Shift to chronic
- Focus on sustaining FZ for veterans, prevention and diversion.

Texas BOS - Abilene: Sustaining Functional Zero

Texas BOS - Abilene: Possible Barriers to Sustaining

- Reliance on PHA voucher dedication and maintaining SSVF funding at level
- HUD-VASH staff turnover and housing retention (preventing returns)
- Interim staff and timing for filling positions (PHA + HUD-VASH)
- Maintaining "Command Center" multi-agency leadership and momentum to sustain once certified for FZ + USICH
- Funding for prevention (applying for spring 2019) and continuous improvement of diversion to reduce returns from housed and monthly inflow
- Need to ensure accurate and timely status updates on BNL to respond quickly to any changes in inflow or outflow.
- Balancing continued focus on veterans, while increasing focus on chronic

Texas BOS - Abilene: Community Strengths

- Community persistence, focus and commitment - as reflected in the two 100-day Veteran sprint campaigns completed within the year.
- Active, engaged PHA
- Driven, committed leadership that were allowed time to pursue community-wide directives
- Community-wide involvement and experience in pursuing common goals
- Veteran-minded community
- High BfZ involvement
- High CoC Support
- Laser-focus on data
- Bias toward action
- Deep understanding of community systems

Key milestones toward ending homelessness!

Texas Balance of State - Abilene has met the key milestones to achieve Functional Zero for Veterans, and is ready to sustain and expand to Chronic!

Build the will among community leaders and develop a shared aim ✓

Achieve a **real-time, by-name list** of people experiencing homelessness ✓

Drive **monthly reductions** in your actively homeless number ✓

Achieve a **measurable zero** in your community ✓

Solidify a **system** to sustain zero and expand to other populations ⭐

Texas BOS - Abilene: Media Coverage

- [Abilene's Top 10 Positive Stories of 2018](#) 12/28/18 (Big Country)

- [Mayor's Challenge: 13 Veterans Housed](#) 12/14/18 (Fox West Texas)

- [100 Day Challenge Houses 18 Homeless Veterans](#) 11/29/18 (Big Country)

- [#Abilanthropy Story: James and His New Home](#) 11/26/18 (Community Foundation of Abilene)

- More coverage on [West Texas Homeless Network Facebook](#)