

2013 PA Regional Homeless Assistance Process

Unsheltered Point-in-Time Count of the Homeless

January 30, 2013

Excerpt of Veteran's Section of Booklet

Who counts as a "veteran"?

HUD and the VA have set a federal goal of ending veteran's homelessness by 2015. As part of this effort, HUD requires that we report the number of veterans counted during the point-in-time count. For the purposes of the count, a veteran is defined as someone who:

- a) served in the U.S. Armed Forces; or
- b) activated, into active duty, as a member of the National Guard or as a Reservist

Who can I partner with to better identify and count homeless veterans during the unsheltered point-in-time count?

- Engage the local VA Medical Center (VAMC) and other Veterans outpatient facility staff who provide services to homeless veterans or work on homeless issues to help plan and implement the count. Knowledgeable, experienced staff can help with the following:¹
 - Preparing for the count: VA Medical Centers have homeless coordinators and outreach workers who regularly interact with homeless veterans. These workers are knowledgeable about the locations where unsheltered homeless veterans live, sleep, and congregate and can identify the places that must be included in the unsheltered count. If you are conducting a service-based count, these individuals can also help to identify all VA-funded medical centers that should be involved, such as Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), Vet Centers, and Women Vet Programs.
 - Assist during the count: VAMC staff, including the Homeless Veteran Coordinators and outreach workers, as well as the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs staff can form special teams to canvass encampments and other remote areas that may not have been included in previous counts. Their relationships with clients could also help homeless veterans feel more comfortable providing information.

¹ *Guidance for Counting Veterans During 2011 Point-in-Time Counts of Homeless People*, <http://www.hudhre.info/documents/2011PITVetGuidance.pdf>

- Recruit homeless or formerly homeless veterans to volunteer for the unsheltered count. In addition to bringing awareness of known locations, they may have more success in engaging homeless veterans during the count.
- Identifying and engage Veterans organizations. In your community, there may be several different types of VA offices or agencies serving veterans. The participation of these agencies is key to ensuring that all homeless veterans are identified through the point-in-time count.
- In some communities, Veterans organizations have donated tents, sleeping bags, tarps, backpacks, and/or other supplies that are then provided to unsheltered individuals identified during the unsheltered count.

How do I identify the Veteran contacts in my community?

Below are several agencies that may be serving veterans in your community:

- **Housing and/or service providers** in your community with programs serving homeless veterans. See Appendix F for a list of programs, by county.
- **Homeless Veterans Coordinators** located at the VA Medical Center.
- **VA-funded service centers** – VA Medical Centers, Outpatient Clinics, Community Based Outpatient Clinics, Vet Centers. Appendix F includes a list of programs, by county or visit <http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?State=PA&dnum=ALL>
- **County Veterans Affairs Directors** through the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs –
http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/county_directors_for_veterans_affairs/11384
- **Local Veteran Services Organizations.** This may include:
 - **American Legion** - http://www.members.legion.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?webapp=MYLEPOST+webtrn=wr_dsplcr+ml=LANSAXHTML+part=TAL+lang=ENG
 - **Disabled American Veterans** - <https://www.davmembers.org/Membership/Wayspring/ExternalHelpFrame.aspx?/membership/%28shauz155rkfxuyrrpwohpp55%29/maintainmember/external/chapterproximitylookupexternal.aspx>
 - **AMVETS** - <http://amvetspa.com/department-directory/>
 - **Paralyzed Veterans of America** - <http://www.pva.org/site/c.ajlRK9NJLcJ2E/b.6469113/k.8B2D/Pennsylvania.htm>
 - **Vietnam Veterans of America** - <http://www.vva.org/chapters.html#PA>
- **Local homeless programs** (e.g. emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing) may be able to identify veterans who were formerly homeless that would be willing to assist with the unsheltered count.

Appendix F: Veteran Contacts for unsheltered count

County	Veteran Facility	Veteran Homeless Program
Armstrong	Armstrong County VA Outpatient Clinic, Ford City, (724) 763-4090	1) Mechling-Shakley Veterans Center (GPD), (724) 545-9016 2) Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (SSVF), (412) 481-8200
Bedford		Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (SSVF), (412) 481-8200
Blair	Altoona VA Medical Center, (877) 626-2500	1) Family Services (HCHV/EH), (814) 943-8164 2) Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (SSVF), (412) 481-8200 3) Blair County Housing Authority (VASH), (814) 943-8164
Bradford	Sayre VA Outpatient Clinic, (570) 888-6803	
Butler	1) Butler VA Medical Center, (800) 362-8262 2) Cranberry Township VA Outpatient Clinic, (724) 741-3131	1) Butler VA Health Care System (VADOM), (724) 285-2439 2) CWT/TR at Butler VAMC, (724) 285-2590 3) Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (SSVF), (412) 481-8200 4) Butler County Housing Authority (VASH), (724) 287-6797
Cambria	VA Outpatient Clinic, Johnstown, (814) 266-8696	Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (SSVF), (412) 481-8200
Carbon		Lehigh Valley CIL (SSVF), (610) 770-9781
Centre	State College Community Based Outpatient Clinic, (814) 867-5415	
Clarion	Clarion County VA Outpatient Clinic, Foxburg, (724) 659-5601	
Clearfield	1) DuBois Vet Center, (814) 372-2095 2) VA Outpatient Clinic, DuBois, (814) 375-6817	1) Tomorrow's Hope (HCHV/EH), (814) 672-5485 2) Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (SSVF), (412) 481-8200
Columbia	Columbia County Outpatient Clinic, Berwick, (570) 759-0351	Orangeville Manor (HCHV/RT), (570) 824-3521
Crawford	Crawford County Primary Care Clinic, Meadville, (866) 962-3210	
Cumberland	1) Intake Site At Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle 2) Intake Site At New Cumberland Defense Distribution Center 3) Camp Hill VA Outpatient Clinic, (717) 730-9782	YWCA of Greater Harrisburg (GPD), (717) 234-7931
Fayette	Fayette County Community Based Outpatient Clinic, Uniontown, (724) 439-4990	Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (SSVF), (412) 481-8200

Huntingdon		Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (SSVF), (412) 481-8200
Indiana		1) Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (SSVF), (412) 481-8200 2) Housing Authority of Indiana County (VASH), (724) 463-4730
Lawrence	Lawrence County VA Outpatient Clinic, New Castle, (724) 598-6080	Lawrence County Housing Authority (VASH), (724) 656-5106
Lebanon	Lebanon VA Medical Center, (717) 272-6621	1) YWCA of Greater Harrisburg (GPD), (717) 234-7931 2) Transitional Residence Control at Lebanon VAMC (CWT/TR), (717) 272-6621 3) Lebanon County Housing Authority (VASH), (717) 673-5463
Lehigh	Allentown VA Outpatient Clinic, (610) 776-4304	1) Lehigh Valley CIL (SSVF), (610) 770-9781 2) Allentown Housing Authority (VASH), (570) 824-3521
Lycoming	1) Williamsport Vet Center, (570) 327-5281 2) Williamsport Outpatient Clinic, (570) 322-4791	
McKean	McKean County Primary Care Clinic, Bradford, (814) 368-3019	
Mercer	Mercer County VA Outpatient Clinic, Hermitage, (724) 346-1569	
Monroe	Tobyhanna Army Depot, (570) 615-8341	Lehigh Valley CIL (SSVF), (610) 770-9781
Northampton	Northampton County Outpatient Clinic, Bangor, (610) 599-0127	1) Victory House of Lehigh Valley (GPD) 2) Lehigh Valley CIL (SSVF), (610) 770-9781
Perry		YWCA of Greater Harrisburg (GPD)
Schuylkill	1) Frackville VA Outpatient Clinic, (570) 874-4289 2) Pottsville VA Outpatient Clinic, (570) 621-4115	Opportunity House in Reading, PA (SSVF), (610) 374-4696
Somerset		Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (SSVF), (412) 481-8200
Venango	Venango County VA Clinic, Franklin, (866) 962-3260	
Warren	Warren Community Based Outpatient Clinic, Warren, (866) 682-3250	
Washington	Washington County Community Based Outpatient Clinic, (724) 250-7790	Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (SSVF), (412) 481-8200
Westmoreland	Westmoreland County Community Based Outpatient Clinic, Greensburg, (724) 216-0317	Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (SSVF), (412) 481-8200

Housing program acronyms

- HCHV/EH = Health Care for Homeless Veterans, Community Contract Emergency Housing

- HCHV/RT = Health Care for Homeless Veterans, Community Contract Residential Treatment Program
- VADOM = VA Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment - Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans
- GPD = VA Grant and Per Diem Programs
- CWT/TR = VA Compensated Work Therapy - Transitional Residence
- SSVF = Supportive Services Veteran Families Programs
- VASH = HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Programs