

VHA's Veterans Homelessness Programs and Initiatives

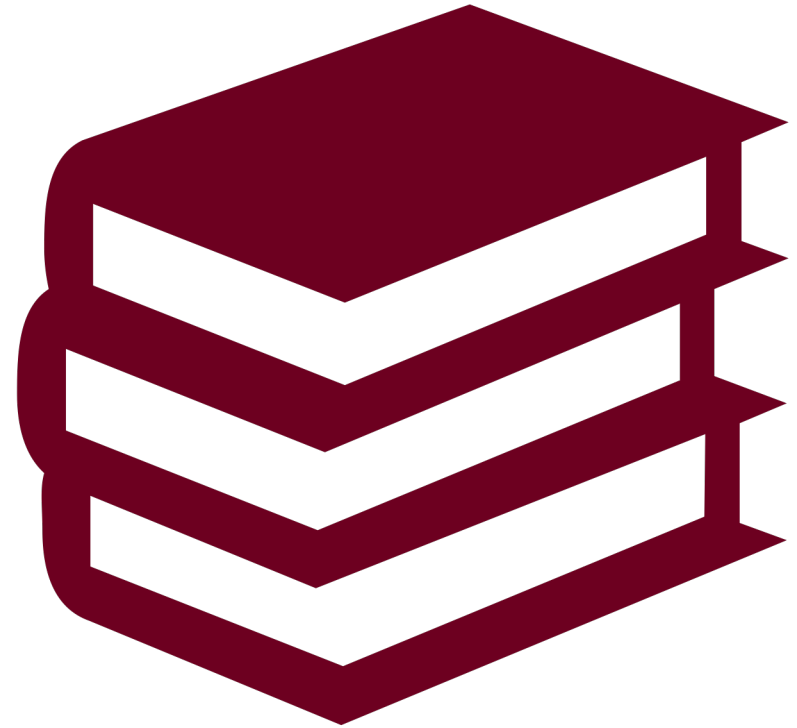
Shawn Liu, LCSW, VHA-CM
Director of Communications
Homeless Programs Office
Veterans Health Administration
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Agenda

- Introductory Concepts
- Progress toward Ending Veteran Homelessness
- VA's 2023 Permanent Housing Goals
- VA's Homelessness Assistance Resources
- How You Can Help
- Staying Engaged and Connected
- Q&A



Introductory Concepts



Definitions: Who is a “Homeless Veteran”?

- **Homeless**¹ – a person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes people whose primary locations are:
 - **Sheltered:** Designated emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens.
 - **Unsheltered:** Public or private places that are not ordinarily designated, or used, as shelter (e.g., streets, vehicles, or parks).
- **Veteran**² – 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.

Risk Factors for Homelessness among Veterans

Individual-level Factors

- Substance Use Disorders
- Lack of Stable Income / Employment
- History of Incarceration
- Lack of Social Support
- Adverse Childhood Events

System-level Factors

- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Lack of Economic Opportunities
- Neighborhood Factors
- Cultural Factors

Four Homelessness Risk Factor Profiles

- Relatively Few Problems
- Substance Use Disorder and a Mental Health Condition
- Substance Use Disorder, Incarceration History, and Poverty
- Disabling Medical Condition

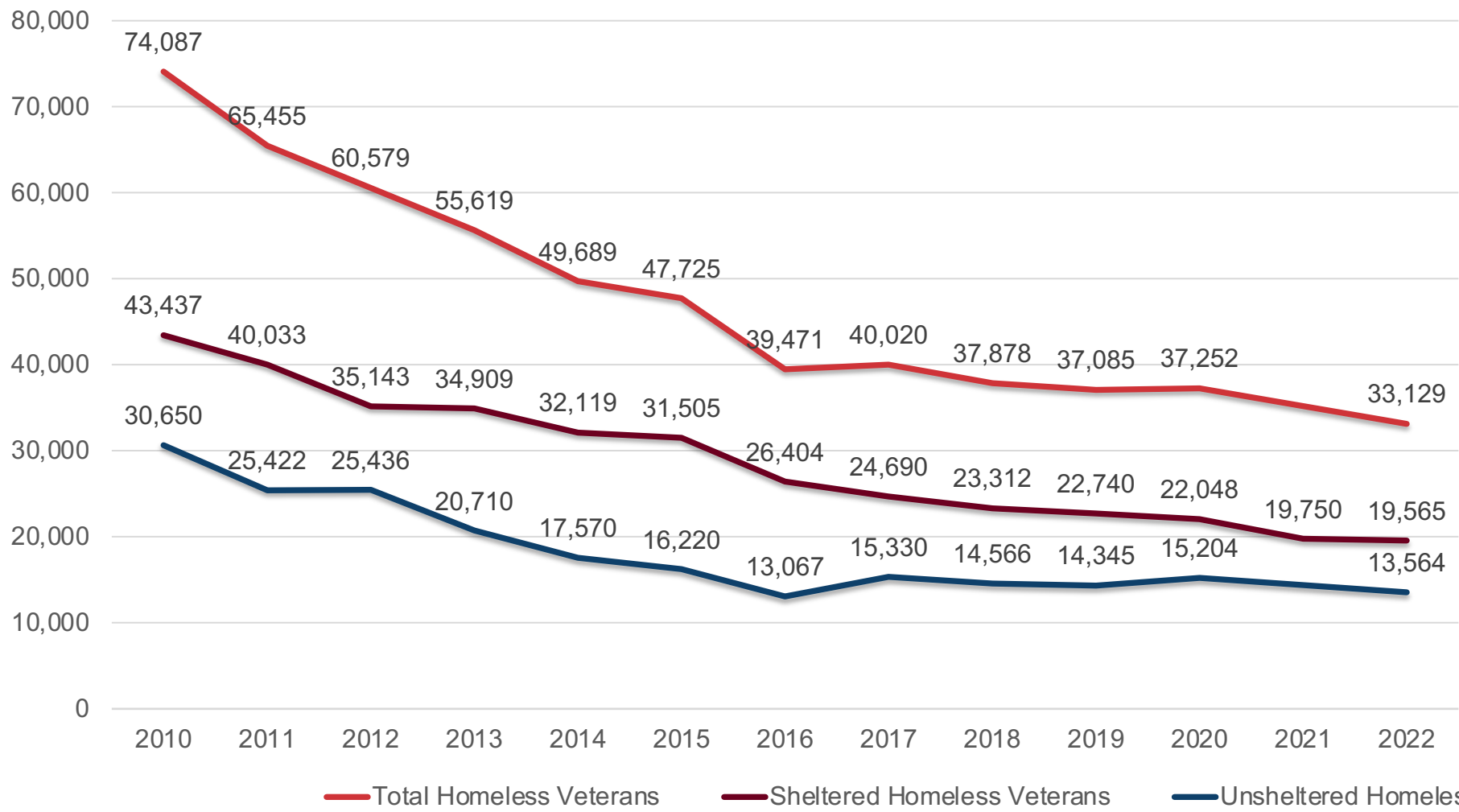


Progress toward Ending Veteran Homelessness



Reduction in Veteran Homelessness

Annual Homeless Assessment Report, Point-in-Time, 2010 – 2022



55.3% Decrease in Homeless Veterans Since 2010

54.9% Decrease in Sheltered Homeless Veterans Since 2010

55.7% Decrease in Unsheltered Homeless Veterans Since 2010

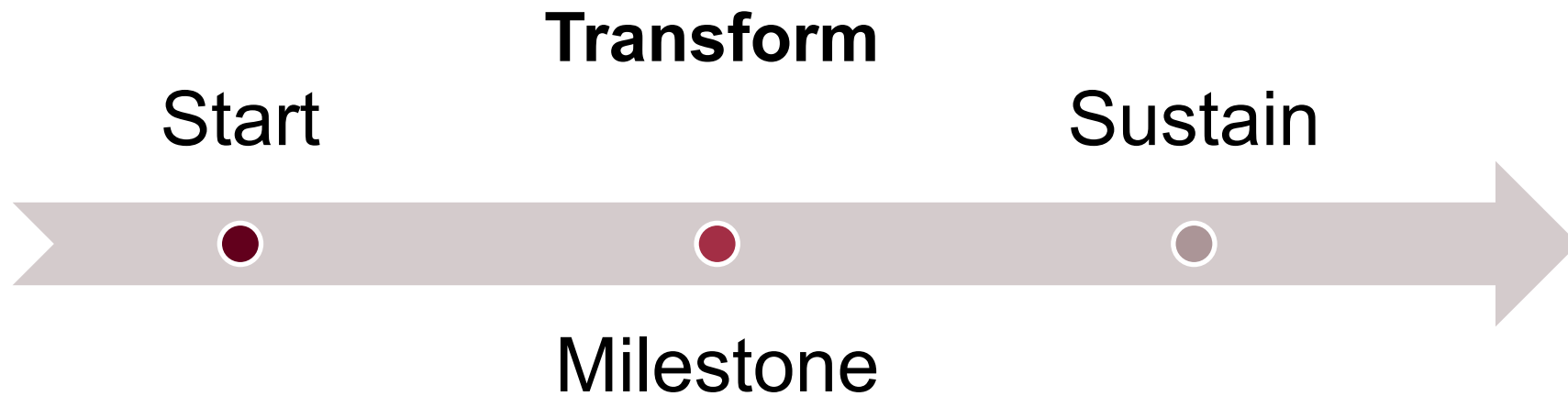


Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, 2010 – 2022



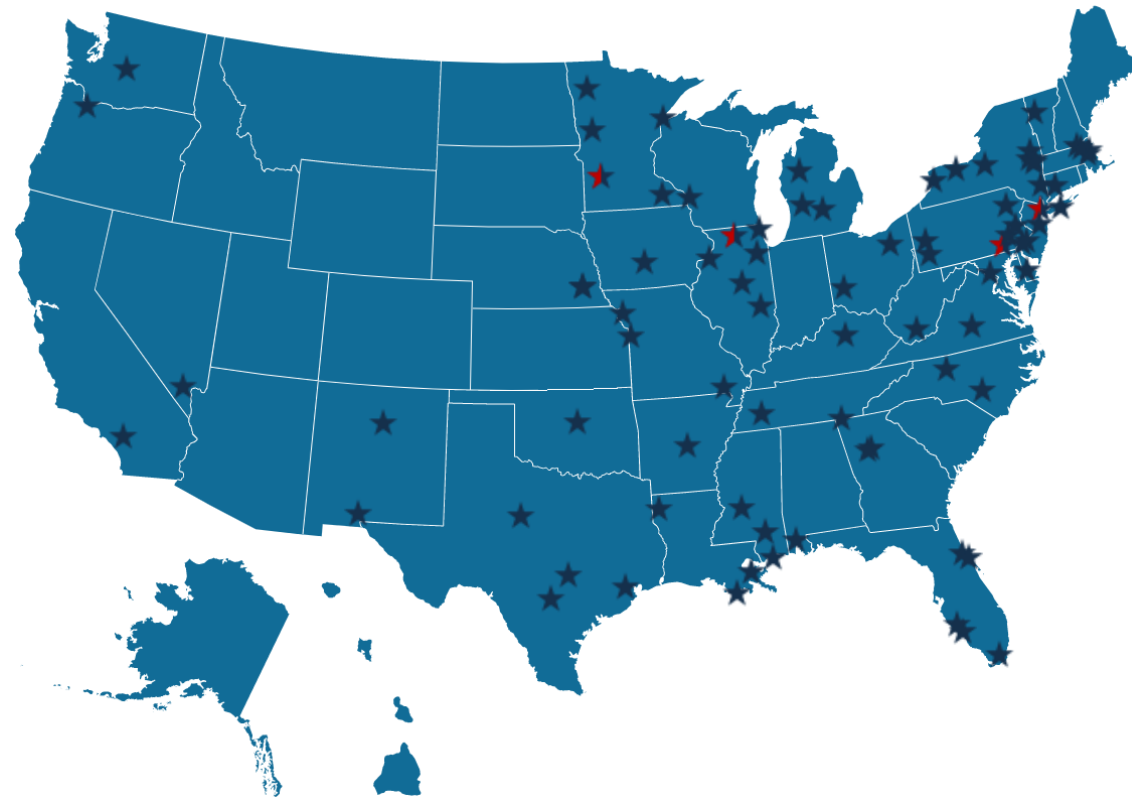
What does Ending Veteran Homelessness Mean?

An end to homelessness does not mean that no one will ever experience a housing crisis again. An end to homelessness means **no one experiences the tragedy and indignity of homelessness—and everyone has a safe, stable, accessible, and affordable home.**



Communities That Have Ended Homelessness

- ★ 83 communities and 3 states have ended Veteran homelessness.
- ★ 4 communities have ended Chronic & Veteran homelessness.



VA's 2023 Homelessness Goals



Choose **VA**

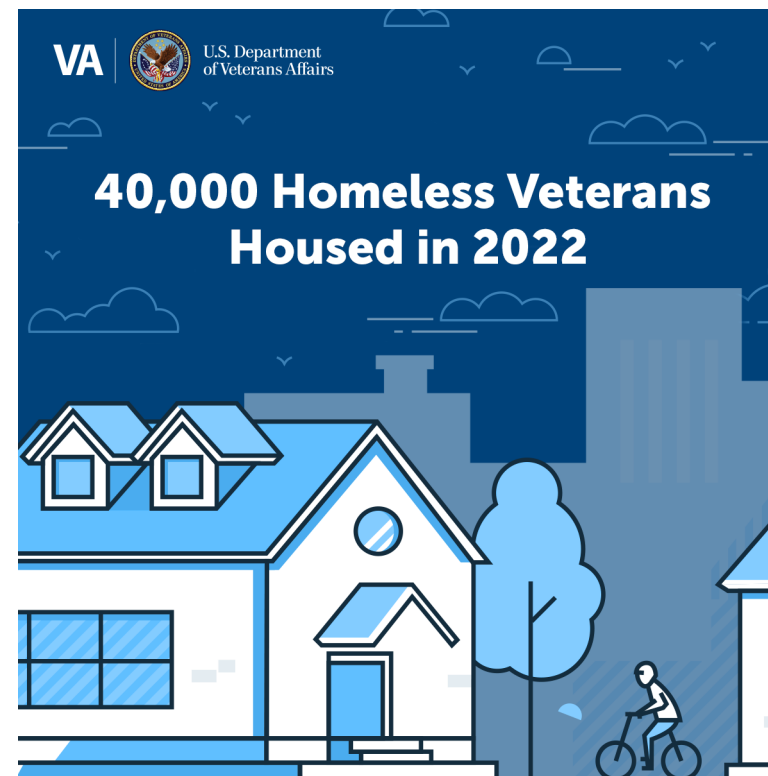
VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Background: VA's Goal to House 38,000 Homeless Veterans in 2022

- Last year, VA set a goal to permanently house 38,000 homeless Veterans in the calendar year (CY) 2022.
- “Permanent housing” includes apartments or houses that Veterans could rent or own, often with a subsidy to help make the housing affordable or reuniting with family and friends.
- **VA housed 40,401 homeless Veterans, exceeding the goal by more than 6%.**
- However, of the 40,401 Veterans housed in 2022, 2,443 returned to homelessness at some point last year.
- Thanks to VA staff and community partners, 86% of those Veterans were rehoused or on a path to rehousing by the end of the year.



Goal 1: Consistency in Permanent Housing

- VA will house at least 38,000 more individual Veterans in CY 2023.

Goal 2: Prevention of Returns to Homelessness

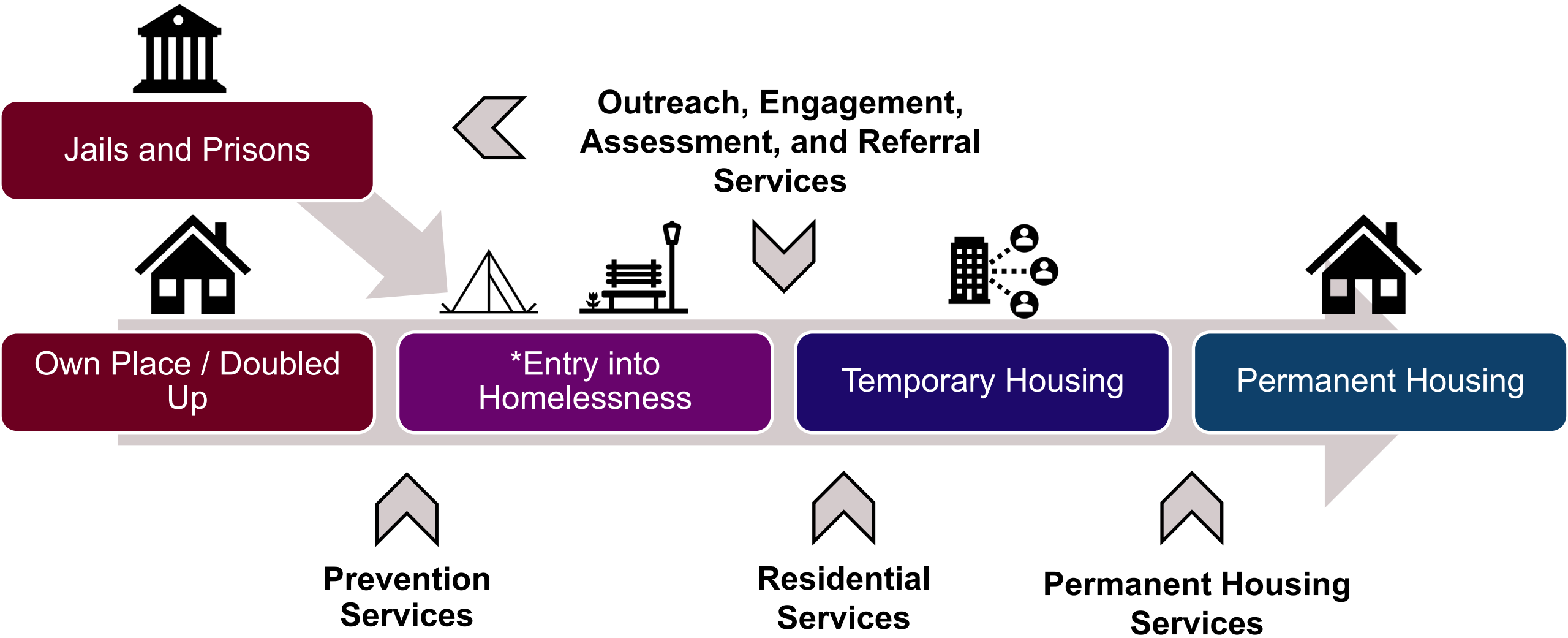
Progress to Date – April 2023

- **Goal 1:** 14,718 Veterans have been permanently housed, representing 38.7% of the goal. **VA is on track to meet this goal by the end of the year.**
- **Goal 2:** 98.0% of the Veterans housed so far have remained in housing. 297 Veterans have returned to homelessness, representing 2.0% of the Veterans housed. Of the Veterans who returned to homelessness, 247 Veterans have been rehoused or placed on a pathway to re-housing, representing 83.2% of Veterans who have returned to homelessness. **VA is closely monitoring progress towards this goal and is actively working to prevent returns to homelessness and reengage with the Veterans who have.**
- **Goal 3:** 13,822 unsheltered Veterans have been engaged, representing 49.4% of the goal. **VA is on track to meet and exceed this goal by the end of the year.**

VA's Homelessness Assistance Resources



The Homeless Service System



VHA Homeless Programs

Homelessness Prevention Services

- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

Outreach, Engagement, Assessment, and Referral Services

- Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Outreach
- Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRRC)
- National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV)
- Justice-involved Veterans
 - Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)
 - Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV)

Residential Services

- HCHV Contract Residential Services (CRS)
- HCHV Low Demand Safe Haven (LDSH)
- Grant and Per-Diem (GPD) Transitional Housing

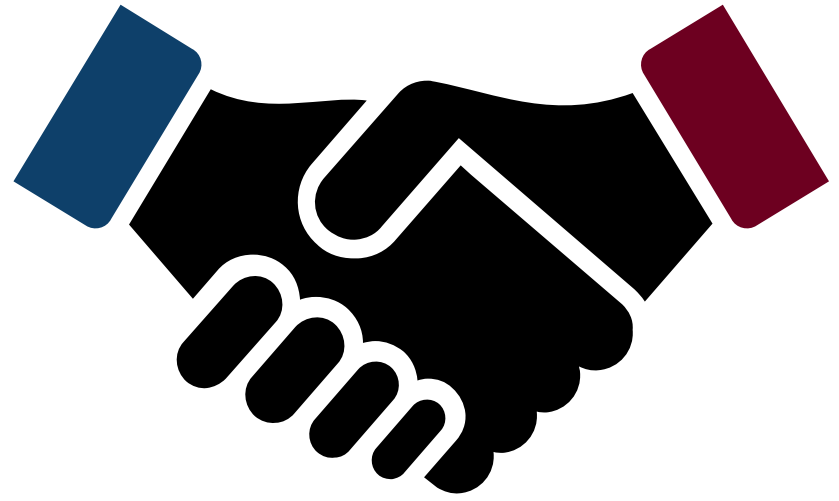
Permanent Housing Services

- Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)

Specialty Services

- Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services (HVCES)
- Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (HPACT)
- Legal Services for Veterans (LSV)

How You Can Help and Staying Connected with Us

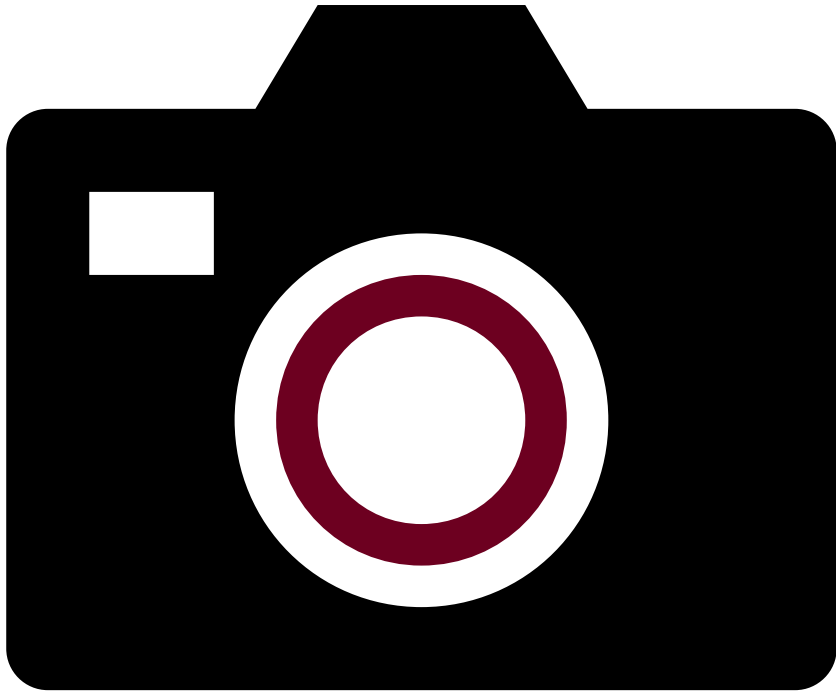


Supporting Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

- Be patient. The Veteran may not have had their basic needs met that day.
- Understand that they may not have reliable means of communication or a physical address to provide.
- Instill hope, but never overpromise.

Picture Time

Take out your smartphone cameras and scan this QR code for links to the following resources:



Get to Know Your VA Homeless Program Staff

To get involved or learn more about how housing, employment, and community collaborations can help end Veteran homelessness, send an email to HomelessVets@va.gov or visit VA's Homeless Veterans website at <https://www.va.gov/homeless/>

Connect Homeless and At-Risk Veterans to VA

Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness—and their family members, friends and supporters—can make the call to or chat online with the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans, where trained counselors are ready to talk confidentially 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



National Call Center
for Homeless Veterans

877-424-3838

va.gov/homeless

Subscribe to the Homeless Programs Monthly Newsletter

The Homeless Programs Office (HPO) newsletter contains news and information about VA's ongoing effort to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans.



Executive Director's Message | Around HPO

COVID-19 Response | Staff Spotlight | Fact of the Month

Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness are strongly encouraged to contact the [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](#) at (877) 4AID-VET (877-424-3838) for assistance.

Message From Monica Diaz, Executive Director, VHA Homeless Programs Office



VETERANS AFFAIRS HAS PROGRAMS FOR VETS

- Each month, the Homeless Programs Newsletter provides readers with news and information about VA's ongoing efforts to prevent and end Veteran homelessness.
- Visit www.va.gov/homeless to subscribe.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs 23

Check Out Our Podcast: Ending Veteran Homelessness

- Each month on the [Ending Veteran Homelessness](#) podcast, we explore all the ways our country is working to ensure that every Veteran has a safe and stable place to call home.
- Now available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and your podcatcher of choice!



Q&A and Discussion



Contact Me

Shawn Liu, LCSW

Director of Communications

VHA Homeless Programs Office

Shawn.Liu@va.gov

