

Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) Briefing

Bringing Veterans Home: Program Introduction

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NJ Department Military and Veteran Affairs

Prepared by: Nelson Gonzalez

Bringing Vets Home: The Big Four

Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) – FY24

1. What is the population we are serving?

- a. **Persons experiencing homelessness in New Jersey meeting the federal definition of Veteran eligible for homelessness services**
- b. **Persons experiencing homelessness in New Jersey meeting the state statutory definition of Veteran.**
- c. **Service members (reservists) and National Guard members that, while not meeting the federal or state statutory definition of Veteran for homelessness services, are experiencing homelessness in the State of New Jersey. ***

** This is unique to New Jersey's effort.*

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2. What are the intended outcomes of the effort?

- a. **The first intended outcome*** of the BVH process is that the State of New Jersey reaches an **effective end to veteran homelessness***, meaning that, for the population identified above across the entirety of the state, fewer BVH eligible persons are experiencing homelessness in the state than can be routinely housed in one month (30 days).
- b. **The second intended outcome*** of the BVH effort is that homelessness for veterans and service members in our state **is rare and brief**. This means that we will be enhancing, not replacing, the existing ecosystem of care to more rapidly achieve housing stabilization and **ensuring that all BVH veterans have a defined and accessible pathway to permanent housing**.

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3. Who will provide care and direct the effort?

- a. The BVH effort will be led through the state's **Office of Homelessness Prevention** via a dedicated data and project management team, in partnership with the **Department of Military and Veteran Affairs**. Similarly, the existing ecosystem of care (e.g., Grant-Per-Diem [GPD] programs, Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF) programs, Vets Haven @ DMAVA, HUD-VASH programs) will be enhanced with additional BVH diversion, rapid rehousing, street outreach, emergency sheltering, and permanent housing voucher programs (SRAP & HOME) in order to generate the surge capacity necessary to realize an **effective end to veteran homelessness*** within two years.
- b. Additionally, a portion of BVH program funds will be leveraged to enhance the data infrastructure of the state's Continuums-of-Care and coordination around veteran homelessness through the establishment of **six (6) regional hubs** (using the new BVH programmatic grantees) that will accelerate housing outcomes and case coordination across CoC, VISN, and county lines. This will standardize a homeless veterans access to housing and will accelerate exits from homelessness with dedicated task ownership and system behavior change.

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4. How will people request help?

- a. Existing Coordinated Entry systems, Department of Veterans Affairs, NJ Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, and housing providers:* providers in the state's existing Homelessness Prevention and Services Ecosystem (to include NJ 211) will be able to electronically send a secure referral for BVH services through the NJ Homelessness Management Information System (NJ HMIS) and/or through the Department of Community Affairs's BVH Referral Form, powered by SimpliGov.
- b. Community partners and members of the public:* persons not affiliated with the agencies outlined above (e.g., a social worker in an emergency department) will be able to submit a referral for services through the Department of Community Affairs's BVH Web Referral Form, powered by SimpliGov.

Additionally, for the first time **veteran service organizations** throughout the state will be formally looped into the fight against unsheltered veteran homelessness, with BVH street outreach and emergency sheltering providers directly connected for rapid response.

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4. How will people request help?

c. Self-referral: Veterans and service members experiencing homelessness can self-refer to the initiative using the Department of Community Affairs's BVH Web Referral Form, powered by SimpliGov, calling the state's existing homelessness hotline (NJ 211), or through visiting any housing or homelessness services provider affiliated with the VA, DMAVA, DCA, or that is a member of the state's 16 Continuums-of-Care.

d. Street Outreach contact: for veterans living in encampments or unsheltered conditions without access to resources, transportation, or other means, BVH Rural and Suburban Street Outreach teams will engage directly with this population and facilitate direct placement to emergency and permanent housing placements, without an intermediary.

Questions?

Email:

Nelson.Gonzalez@dmava.nj.gov

Cell #: (609) 649-5331