Bringing Veterans Home

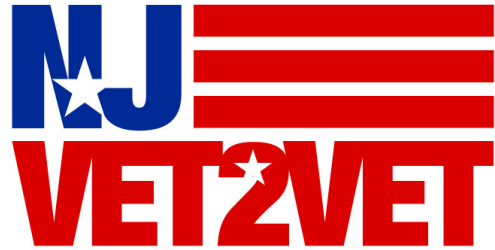**High-level Overview for State Partners**

Date: March 12, 2025

Office of Homelessness Prevention (OHP)
Department of Community Affairs
Prepared by: TJ/MC
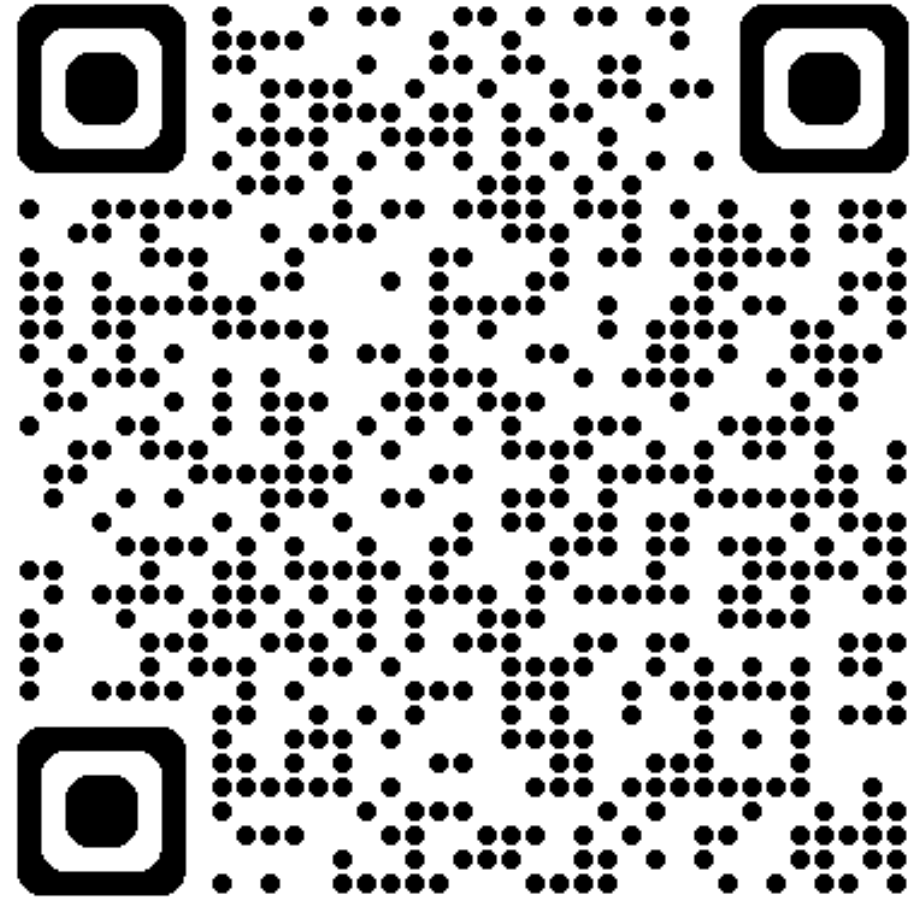
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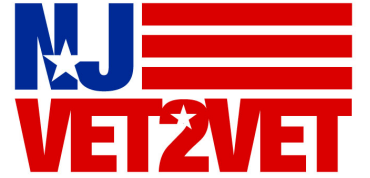

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BRINGING VETERANS HOME

Bringing Vets Home: Overview

Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) – FY24

1. The Big Four

2. Overcoming Systemic Challenges

3. Resourcing and Operations

4. Timelines and Critical Path

Bringing Vets Home: The Big Four

Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) – FY24

1. What is the population we are serving?

2. What are the intended outcomes?

3. Who will lead and facilitate the effort?

4. How will the population access help?

<u>Bringing Vets Home: The Big Four</u>

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.

Bringing Vets Home: The Big Four

Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) – FY24

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**.

* This is unique to New Jersey's effort.

Bringing Vets Home: The Big Four

Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) – FY24

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.

Bringing Vets Home: The Big Four

Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) – FY24

4. How will people request help?

a. ***Existing Coordinated Entry systems, Department of Veterans Affairs, NJ Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, Vet2Vet, 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 Affair's BVH Referral Form, powered by SimplyGov.

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 Affair's BVH Web Referral Form, powered by SimplyGov.

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.

Bringing Vets Home: The Big Four

Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) – FY24

4. How will people request help? (con't)

c. *Self-referral:* Veterans and service members experiencing homelessness can self-refer to the initiative using the Department of Community Affair's BVH Web Referral Form, powered by SimplyGov, 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.

Bringing Vets Home: Overcoming Challenges

Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) – FY24

- **Fragmented Systems:** The creation of a **statewide By-Name List (BNL)** and **six regional coordination hubs** addresses the previous challenges with coordinating services across different jurisdictions and systems (CoC, VISN, state departments, and county lines/governments).

- **Access Barriers:** The multiple access points being established (four methods of referral) suggest there may have been historical difficulties for veterans accessing services. The new system allows for:
  - **Provider referrals**
  - **Community partner referrals (e.g., VFW, church, synagogue)**
  - **Self-referrals**
  - **Direct street outreach**

- **Coverage Gaps:** The program expands eligibility beyond federal definitions to include:
  - Veterans meeting federal definitions
  - Veterans meeting state statutory definitions
  - Service members/reservists and National Guard members who don't meet traditional definitions

# Bringing Vets Home: Overcoming Challenges

Bringing Veterans Home (BVH) – FY24

- **Landlord Engagement:** A dedicated team of landlord engagement staff with private/public partnerships and cultivation activities removes the onus of housing location from a person in crisis to the system of support.

- **Housing Production**: The "all-in" strategy is intended to bring veteran serving organization and allies into the conversation and access to the housing production programs of the state. The creation of new, affordable units with veteran prioritization will enhance and sustain the surge response over the next two years and into the next decade.

1.1 Current Program Landscape

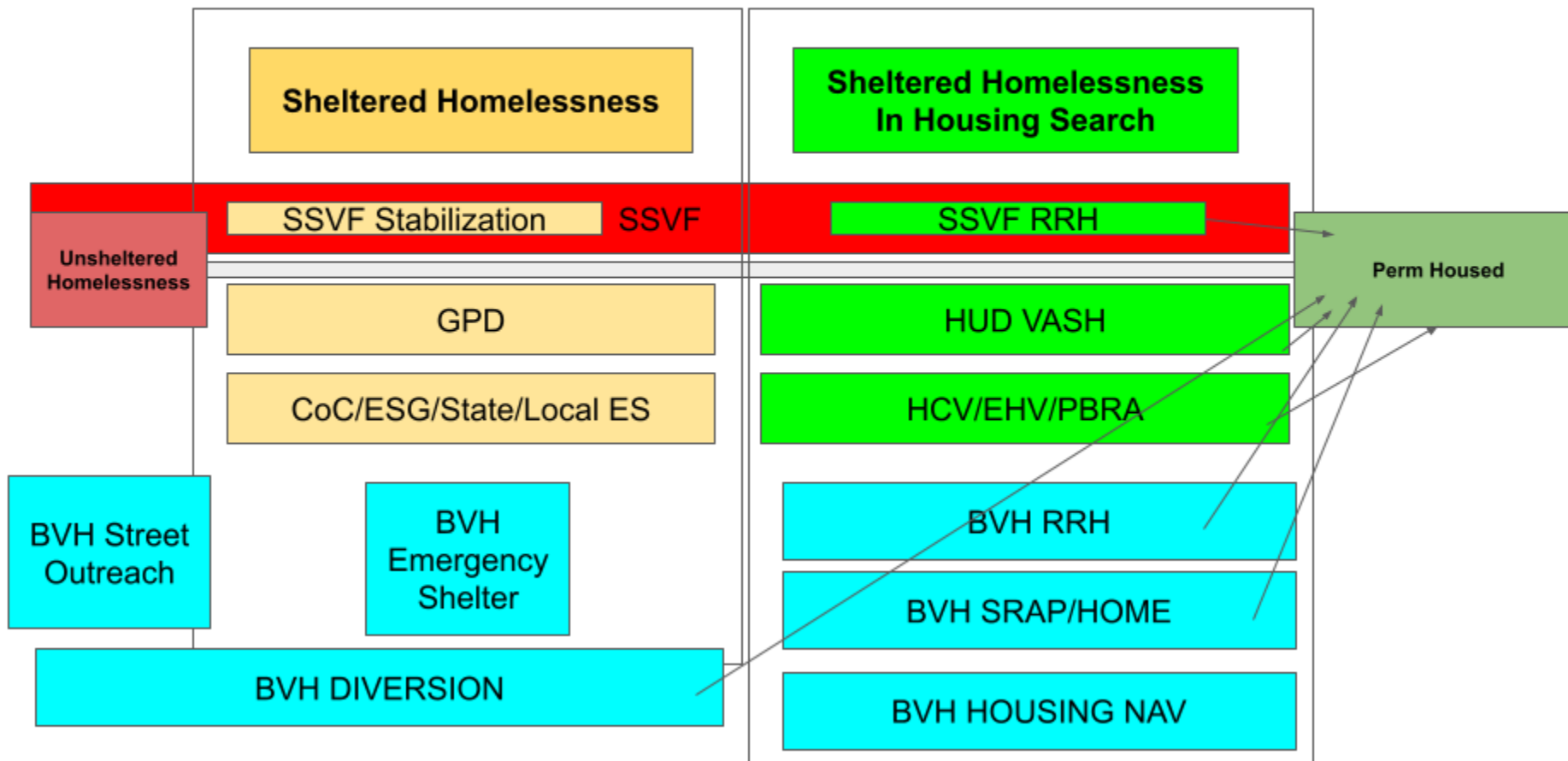*Housing Pipeline and Access – BVH – FY24*

Current System in NJ
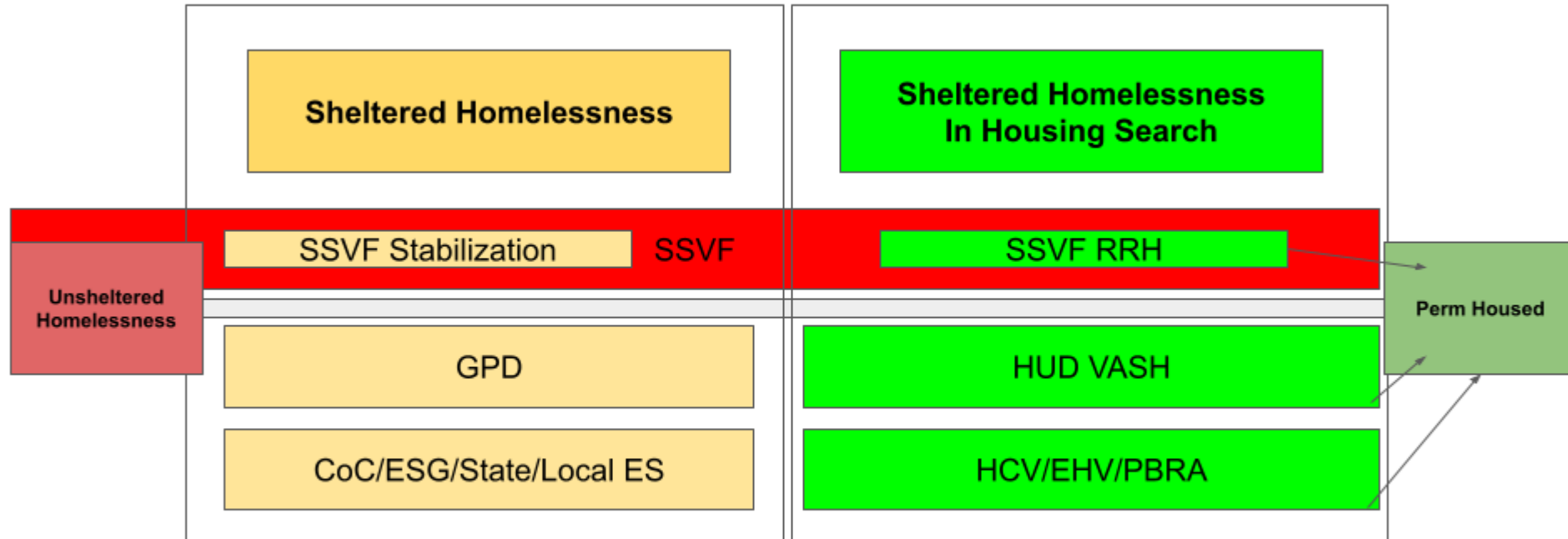
Assumptions: SSVF/GPD/Existing System keeps throughput at current levels. Projections below will most likely facilitate enhanced housing outcomes due to system bandwidth, coordination, and economies of scale, however, the projections below assume static year-over-year impact of the existing system.

1.2 Program Landscape w/ BVH Enhancements

Housing Pipeline and Access – BVH – FY24

Assumptions: SSVF/GPD/Existing System keeps throughput at current levels. Projections below will most likely facilitate enhanced housing outcomes due to system bandwidth, coordination, and economies of scale, however, the projections below assume static year-over-year impact of the existing system.

1.2 Program Landscape w/ BVH Regions

Housing Pipeline and Access – BVH – FY24

Bringing Vets Home: Service Regions

Regions: 1. Gateway Region (Bergen, Hudson, Passaic) 2. Metro Region (Essex, Union) 3. Highlands Region (Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, Warren) 4. Coastal Region (Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean) 5. Shoreline Region (Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Salem) 6. Riverline Region (Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Mercer)

Map: OHPI/mjc • Source: OHPI/DCA • Created with Datawrapper
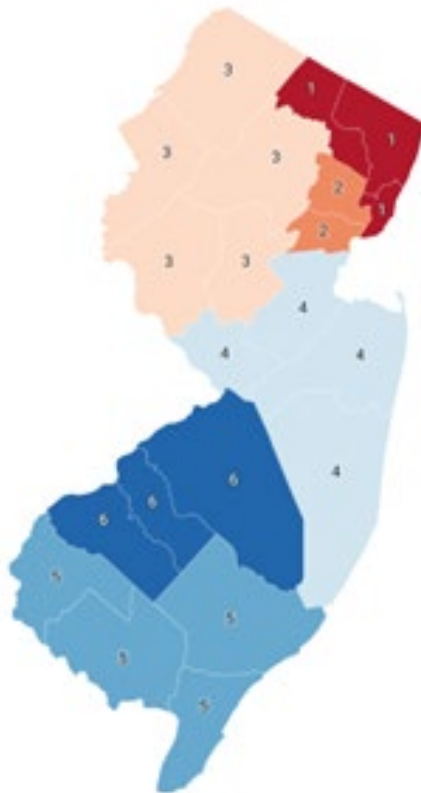
County	BVH Region	HUD CoC	VA VISN
ATLANTIC	5	NJ-500 - Atlantic City & County CoC	4
BERGEN	1	NJ-501 - Bergen County CoC	3
BURLINGTON	6	NJ-502 - Burlington County CoC	4
CAMDEN	6	NJ-503 - Camden City/Camden Cumberland Gloucester Cape May Counties CoC	4
CAPE MAY	5	NJ-503 - Camden City/Camden Cumberland Gloucester Cape May Counties CoC	4
CUMBERLAND	5	NJ-503 - Camden City/Camden Cumberland Gloucester Cape May Counties CoC	4
ESSEX	2	NJ-504 - Newark/Essex County CoC	3
GLOUCESTER	6	NJ-503 - Camden City/Camden Cumberland Gloucester Cape May Counties CoC	4
HUDSON	1	NJ-506 - Jersey City/Bayonne/Hudson County CoC	3
HUNTERDON	3	NJ-516 - Warren Sussex Hunterdon Counties CoC	3
MERCER	4	NJ-514 - Trenton/Mercer County CoC	3
MIDDLESEX	4	NJ-507 - New Brunswick/Middlesex County CoC	3
MONMOUTH	4	NJ-508 - Monmouth County CoC	3
MORRIS	3	NJ-509 - Morris County CoC	3
OCEAN	4	NJ-510 - Lakewood Township/Ocean County CoC	3
PASSAIC	1	NJ-511 - Paterson/Passaic County CoC	3
SALEM	5	NJ-512 - Salem County CoC	4
SOMERSET	3	NJ-513 - Somerset County CoC	3
SUSSEX	3	NJ-516 - Warren Sussex Hunterdon Counties CoC	3
UNION	2	NJ-515 - Elizabeth/Union County CoC	3
WARREN	3	NJ-516 - Warren Sussex Hunterdon Counties CoC	3

2.4 Combined Programs' Impact Projection - SRAP/HOME/VASH & RRH

BVH – FY24

Combined Impact Projection:
1. Voucher Programs: 1,139 veterans
2. Rapid Rehousing: 904 veterans

Total Projected Veterans Housed: 2,043 veterans

Total Projected Monthly Average Housing Capacity at Full Throttle: 85 veterans housed per month

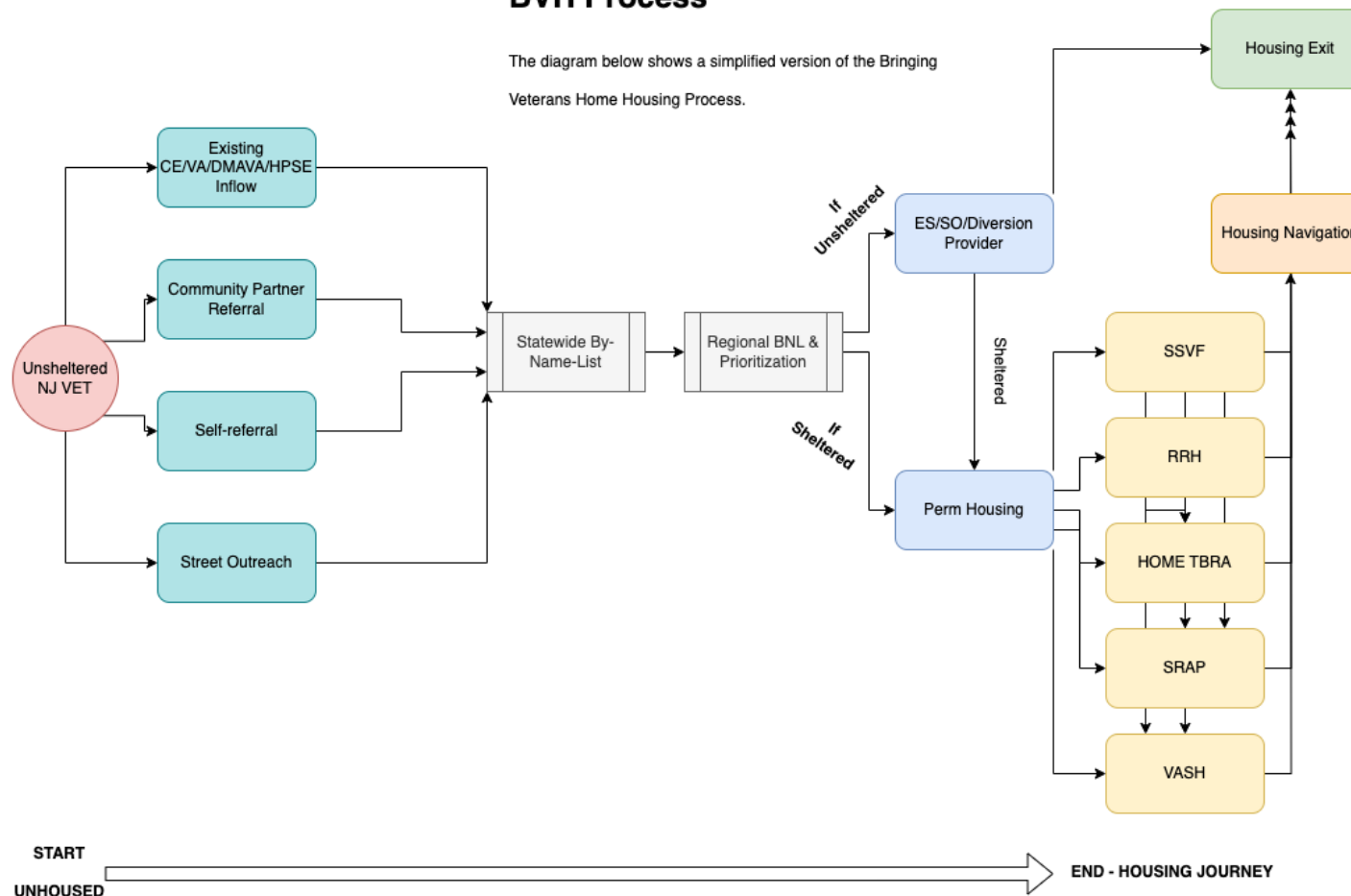**Variance to meet Functional Zero goal**: +10 (10 more veterans housed per month than current inflow + 20% increase)
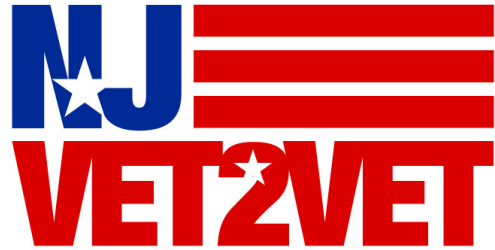
Consumer Journey: BVH – High Level

BVH – FY24

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Questions?