## Ending Veteran Homelessness

AN EFFECTIVE END TO VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IN THE
HEART OF TEXAS



Heart of
Texas
Homeless
Coalition
Mission

The mission of the Heart of Texas
Homeless Coalition is to foster
community awareness of the issues of
homelessness and support a network
of services for all homeless individuals
in Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill,
Limestone, and McLennan Counties.



- What does Ending Veteran Homelessness mean?
- Has our community met this criteria?
- What are the next steps in this process?



- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
   (USICH) Criteria and Benchmarks met by the community
- •Community has a comprehensive response that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is RARE, BRIEF, and a ONE-TIME experience.
- An Effective End to Veteran Homelessness



- Identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness
- Provide shelter immediately to any who want it
- Service-intensive transitional housing used only in limited instances
- Have capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move intopermanent housing
- Have resources, plans, partnerships, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future



- A. Chronic and long-term homelessness among Veterans has "ended".
- B. Veterans have quick access to permanent housing (under 90 days).
- C. The community has sufficient permanent housing capacity.
- D. The community is committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances.



- As of May 2020, 78 communities and 3 states have achieved this status
- 4 communities have ended both Chronic and Veteran homelessness
- 4 communities in Texas have ended Veteran homelessness



- This does NOT mean a Veteran will never experience homelessness in our area.
- This is not Functional Zero (a Community Solutions term).
- This does not mean we have reached a finish line but instead a significant location to plant a flag on this journey.



- March 2014: By-Name Master List started
- 2015: Waco joined USICH Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness
- August 2017-April 2018: HUD Technical Assistance on USICH benchmarks for ending Veteran homelessness
- Summer 2018: Heart to Home Coordinated Entry
   System implemented
- February 2020: Work with USICH Regional Coordinator to finalize submission plans



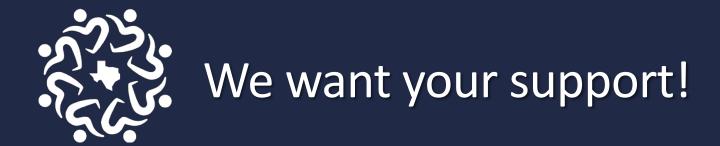
- Newly identified Veterans Experiencing Homelessness: 83
- Average days to housing: 57 days
- •61% (51) moved into permanent housing
- 39% had other exits (i.e. treatment programs, relocated, moved in with friends/family on temporary basis, could not be located, continually declined re-housing services, etc.)



- Demonstrates that those experiencing homelessness who have served our Country are valued by our community
- Confirms the importance of this work toward the collective vision of ending homelessness
- Affirms the quality of work we have been doing including implementation of best practices
- National recognition of our community's efforts



- Submit final Memo to USICH for approval
- Increase homelessness prevention efforts
- Continue efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time
- Public Announcement after approval by USICH



- We want to educate all stakeholders, local leaders, elected officials in our community of our plan for community submission to USICH.
- We want to make sure we have full support of community leaders and elected officials.
- We invite you to be a part of our announcement when we are granted this designation as a community.



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