

Zero: 2016

from Community Solutions

25 Cities Communities— Integration with Zero: 2016

As a community participating in the 25 Cities Initiative, you are currently executing a strategy aimed at accelerating and aligning your efforts towards ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 and chronic homelessness by 2016. As you are aware, the effort seeks to accomplish this goal through a three-pronged approach:

1. Working with each community to build and/or strengthen the elements of a Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement System for identifying, assessing, and matching homeless Veterans and chronically homeless Americans to the most appropriate housing support interventions.
2. Working with each community to strengthen and integrate the data systems it uses to coordinate its efforts to end Veteran and chronic homelessness.
3. Working with each community to further integrate the work and assets of the VA on homelessness with overall efforts to end Veteran and chronic homelessness in the community.

As such, we invite you to bypass the standard application process and affirm your community's participation in Zero: 2016, a rigorous national follow-on to the 100,000 Homes Campaign designed to help you get to zero as quickly as possible! In doing so, you will further align your 25 Cities initiative work with reaching the goals of ending Veteran and chronic homelessness and to the more specific threshold criteria we believe it will take to get there. The good news is that many of the threshold criteria will be met through the support being provided through the 25 Cities Initiative. The additional specific threshold criteria is listed below, and includes committing to transparent reporting and using aggregate housing placement data on a monthly basis, setting specific goals around resource optimization for chronic and Veteran populations, and considering the integration of a Common Assessment Tool into your January 2015 Point in Time Count.

As you affirm your commitment to Zero: 2016 - we affirm our commitment to helping you get to zero on time. The Zero: 2016 team from Community Solutions commits to you that we will do everything in our power to support you to reach your goals, including providing a scope of

support that exceeds what is currently provided to you as part of the 25 Cities Initiative. As we work with you to determine optimal strategies, our team is finalizing plans to leverage our partnerships, strategically deploy our internal capacity, and ensure that our work together with you has the most robust and positive impact possible, nationwide.

(Read more about the Zero: 2016 Team's Commitment to You at <http://cmtysolutions.org/zero2016/appendixa>)

Should you choose not to participate in Zero: 2016, you will still receive the support provided by the 25 Cities Management Team (Community Solutions, Rapid Results Institute, and Atlas Research) in reaching the systems development and improvement goals you have initiated (CAHP System), including support in customizing and using the PMCP (if selected) and the Gaps Analysis Tool which includes your communities' Take Down Target, and deepening integration with local VA assets.

Zero: 2016: Integration with Other Initiatives

We are designing Zero: 2016 to be a strong, community-owned implementation tool to meet the goals shared by many initiatives that your community may be a part of. In addition to the 25 Cities Initiative, your community may be participating in Dedicating Opportunities to End Homelessness (DOHE) and the Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. For example, in close partnership with HUD, VA and USICH, we believe it is possible to help Mayor's Challenge communities who also choose to participate in Zero: 2016 to leverage additional support in breaking down local silos and leveraging mainstream resources (two goals of the Mayor's Challenge and two of the main drivers for Zero: 2016). Where possible, we will work with our federal partners from HUD, the VA, and USICH to integrate our approach, expectations, and activities for communities participating in the initiatives mentioned.

25 Cities Memorandum of Action to Participate in Zero: 2016

By agreeing to the following, you affirm your participation in Zero: 2016:

We, the 25 Cities Leadership Team for the community of _____ (please list your community) affirm our participation in Zero: 2016 and the following participation criteria:

Zero: 2016 Threshold Criteria

1. Our community commits to ending Veteran homelessness by December 31, 2015 (or sooner, by _____) and to ending chronic homelessness for individuals by December 31, 2016 (or sooner by _____).
2. We commit to using a common definition and measurements for what it means to get to zero on Veterans and on chronic homelessness.
 - a. **Coming Soon!** In an effort to stay closely aligned with the forthcoming federal definitions around ending Veterans and chronic homelessness, we are currently getting feedback from our federal partners to finalize the Zero: 2016 community level definition of functional zero. We expect to be able to share this with you by the first week in September. See [Appendix B: Definitions: Take Down Target and Zero](#)
3. We are able and willing to report aggregate housing placements of all chronically homeless individuals and homeless Veterans housed across the CoC on a consistent monthly basis (this includes placements by CoC and non-CoC funded programs for Veteran and chronic populations). We understand that, in order to participate in Zero: 2016, we must report on a monthly basis and that if we do not submit a report for two consecutive months, we will have opted ourselves out of Zero: 2016.
4. We agree to have our aggregate (i.e., not client-level) monthly housing placement data shared publicly (e.g., on the Zero: 2016 webpage).
5. We have established, or are willing to establish, in partnership with Community Solutions, a Take Down Target for Veterans and chronically homeless individuals. See [Appendix B: Definitions: Take Down Target and Zero](#)

6. We have adopted, or will adopt, an evidence-informed Common Assessment Tool that triages households into recommended housing intervention categories (e.g., Supportive Housing, Rapid Rehousing, etc.) and prioritizes persons based on need/acuity. See [Appendix C: Minimum Requirements of a Common Assessment Tool](#)
7. We commit to optimizing our housing and service interventions, based on the needs/acuity indicated for those assessed by the Common Assessment Tool.
8. We will strongly consider integrating our Common Assessment Tool into our January 2015 Point in Time Count to achieve the dual goals of compliance with important federal measurement requirements and the collection of actionable, real time, by-name data to help us house those we count. We understand that this integration is recommended, but not required. If we already have a system in place to develop a prioritized, by-name, continuously updated list of those experiencing homelessness in our community, we will note and describe that in our application.
9. We will bring joy and our unique genius to this national effort and demonstrate that it is possible to end Veteran and chronic homelessness.
10. We are excited to contribute actively to the Zero: 2016 national peer support network, to ensure we can rapidly spread ideas and solutions to other communities.
11. We commit to working with Community Solutions and/or its partners throughout the Zero: 2016 effort.

The following members of the 25 Cities Leadership Team in our community, by signing this Memorandum of Action, affirm our community's commitment to the basic criteria and agreements of Zero: 2016, as specified above and as explained in the Appendices.

Signature Instruction: Please include signatures from your local Leadership Team, the group of individuals guiding your 25 Cities efforts and making key policy and funding decisions associated with the initiatives goals.

At minimum, this should include the following:

- *Continuum of Care Leadership: Name, Title, Agency. (In the rare circumstance that multiple CoCs are included in your community's effort to end chronic and Veterans homelessness, please include signatures from each CoC representative).*

- *Public Housing Authority Executive Director and/or other PHA Senior Leader: Name, Title, Agency. (If multiple PHAs are include in your community's effort to end chronic and Veteran's homelessness, please include signatures from Senior leaders of the key PHAs engaged in the effort)*
- *VAMC Director and/or Senior Level VAMC Staff Person for Homeless Program(s): Name, Title, Agency. (If multiple VAMCs are include in your community's effort to end Veteran's homelessness, please include signatures from Senior leaders of the VAMCs engaged in the effort)*

This may also include:

- *Additional Key Leaders (e.g., lead for local initiative to end homelessness, lead from local mental or behavioral health department) selected as part of your Leadership Team: Name, Title, Agency*

Additionally, please select a Reporting Lead for your Community, the point of contact for monthly housing placement reports and other data needs

Name **(Reporting Lead)**

Title

Agency or Organization

Name

Title

Agency or Organization

Name

Title

Agency or Organization

Name

Title

Agency or Organization

[Signatures continue on next page...]

Name

Title

Agency or Organization

Name

Title

Agency or Organization