

Hi 25 Cities Leaders,

Bottom Line Up Front [BLUF]: Due to recent requests from several cities, we are opening a window for 25 Cities communities to join Zero: 2016. If you are interested, follow steps below by April 17.

END BLUF

We are honored to have the opportunity to work so closely with you as part of the 25 Cities Effort. As the target date to end veteran homelessness approaches, our commitment to helping your community build and implement the systems and structure needed to end homelessness remains steadfast. In order to further enhance our support for your efforts, we would once again like to extend an invitation to join Zero:2016.

Through the 25 Cities Effort, you are already executing a strategy aimed at accelerating and aligning your efforts to end veteran and chronic homeless in your community. As part of this strategy, you are taking critical steps toward creating a system built for zero, including:

- Establishing your own, unique Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) System for identifying, assessing, and matching people experiencing homelessness to the most appropriate housing support interventions
- Strengthening and integrating the data tools needed to coordinate a CAHP System
- Leveraging and integrating VA assets with your local efforts to end veteran and chronic homelessness

Both the Zero: 2016 and 25 Cities Effort Teams are committed to doing everything in our power to support you in reaching these goals. 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 with you has the most robust impact possible.

By joining Zero: 2016, you will receive:

- Increased access to subject matter experts
- Quick access to bright spots - best practices from high performing communities
- Enhanced support for your community to generate increased capacity and capability to make and sustain large scale change.
- Trainings on using data for quality improvement
- Intensive Change Agent and Leadership training
- Opportunities to learn, face-to-face, with other Zero: 2016 leaders
- Communications support and guidance to help you share the impact of your work
- Ability to leverage the benefits of being part of a national movement

Your community is already meeting many of the threshold criteria required to be part of Zero: 2016. In order to join Zero: 2016, please review the attached pledge with your 25 Cities Leadership Team and/or Community Design Team. If your community wants to take the pledge and join Zero: 2016, please email your coach with this intention and include the pledge by Friday, April 17th. Your 25 Cities coach will also be your Zero: 2016 coach. Signatures aren't necessary, but please do attach the pledge with the contact information for the Data Guru (person responsible for reporting each month) and lead Community Organizer (the person we will communicate with regularly about Zero: 2016).

Should you choose not to participate in Zero: 2016, your decision will not impact the support you already receive through 25 Cities. You will still receive the support provided by your 25 Cities coach and the 25 Cities Management Team (Community Solutions, Rapid Results Institute, and Atlas Research) in ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015, reaching the systems development and improvement goals you have initiated, and deepening integration with local VA assets.

Warmly,

Beth Sandor

Director, Zero: 2016

Community Solutions

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