

**Technical Assistance Collaborative/ Abt Associates
Veterans Assessment/Planning Initiative – Phoenix
Project Outline**

- I. **Purpose:** To work with HUD, VA and Community Stakeholders to conduct a 1-day planning meeting resulting in an action plan to better coordinate and integrate housing and services for “at risk” and homeless Veterans within the Continuum of Care.
- II. **Audience:** The TAC/ Abt Team will work with the CoC Leadership and the VA to identify the stakeholders in which to engage for both the needs assessment as well as the Planning Session. Target audience and topics may change throughout the day to ensure focus on relevant topics for each jurisdiction and to include stakeholders most efficiently and appropriately.

Below is a recommended list Stakeholders to include within this effort:

- VA Homeless Coordinator
- VASH Coordinator (VA, PHA, HUD)
- SSVF Provider
- CoC Chairperson and/or CoC Coordinator
- HUD FO Representative
- HMIS Administrator/Vendor
- Key Homeless Veterans Service Providers
- Veterans Provider/Advocates

III. **Evaluation of Current Conditions:** The TAC/Abt Team will conduct an environmental scan of current housing and services for “at risk” and homeless Veterans focusing on a gaps analysis of services, access inefficiencies, and opportunities to improve utilization, integration, and coordination of these specialized programming within the Continuum of Care.

Special attention will be directed to the following focus areas:

1. Veterans centralized assessment and referral to inform the program design of the VA’s Community Resource and Referral Center;
2. Prevention strategies for veteran; and
3. HMIS participation for VA/homeless veterans programs.

The TAC/Abt Team will also review available HIC and PIT data, VASH leasing rates and status of VA Grant and Per Diem Programming.

- IV. **Stakeholder Interviews:** The TAC/Abt Team will conduct interviews via phone prior to the on-site planning session. The discussions with key stakeholders will focus on existing housing opportunities and services for homeless Veterans, opportunities to coordinate services better. It is expected to conduct stakeholder interviews during the month of June.
- V. **Proposed Planning Session Outline:**

The TAC/Abt Team plans to conduct the on-site planning session during the month of July.

1. Introduction/Presentation of Information (80 min./10 min. Break)
 - a. HMIS
 - b. Environmental Scan Initial Findings
2. Topic Area Discussions (Facilitated by TAC/Abt Staff Member) (60-90 minutes)

Topic Areas (identified in collaboration with CoC and VA Leadership)

- Gaps Analysis/Develop Strategies to Improve
- Veterans centralized assessment and referral
- Prevention strategies for veteran
- HMIS participation for VA/homeless veterans programs

3. Next Steps/Wrap Up Session (Larger Group) – 60 minutes
 - Report back from Small Groups
 - Identify Action Steps

VI. Proposed Timeline Template

Topic	Time	Audience	Learning Objective
HMIS Participation Expectations	90 minutes (w/ 10 min. break)	VASH, SSVF, GPD program providers and other VA staff as appropriate	Clarify HMIS participation expectations for VA programs
Environmental Scan Report Out	90 minutes (w/ 10 min. break)	CoC providers and staff, VA providers	Participants develop common understanding of issues and challenges facing CoC and VA operations and coordination
Topic Area Planning Session (Small Groups): - Veterans centralized assessment and referral - Prevention strategies for veteran - HMIS participation for VA/homeless veterans programs	60-90 minutes	Varies	Participants will identify coordination barriers/ potential action steps to improve integration/access. Training and TA materials to be presented as appropriate.
Next Steps/Wrap up	60 minutes	All	Facilitated discussion to review action steps from small groups and prioritizes/ sequences next steps.