



VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

KATHRYN MONET

NATIONAL COALITION FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

HOMELESSNESS ON ANY GIVEN NIGHT



- 37,085 homeless veterans
- 98% counted as individuals
- 8.9% women
- 33% African American (vs 12% in veteran population)
- ↓ 50 % since 2010
- ↓ 2 % since 2018
- 3 states and 81 communities have achieved the federal benchmarks & criteria for veteran homelessness

* Note – Point-in-time count data is not a perfect count of all homeless individuals, but it is the best year over year estimate the government can produce.

CHALLENGES



- Need more focus on how to serve overrepresented, growing, and underserved subpopulations such as Black, Latino, Native, women, transgender, and aging veterans
- Need to create more synergy between developers and ecosystem of homeless service providers
- Need more affordable housing
- Need to get backlog of HUD-VASH vouchers deployed
- Need to reimagine shelter configuration in light of what we know about disease transmission and support resources that make that feasible for providers

LEGISLATIVE OPPORTUNITIES



- DELIVER Act HR 7105
 - Expands HUD-VASH to OTH veterans;
 - Creates a VA grant program to expand homeless veteran access to legal services;
 - Increases shelter reimbursement rate to 3x current rate during pandemic and 1.15x current rate post-pandemic, allows for shelter reimbursement for minor dependents, and reimbursements for HMIS fees;
 - Allows VA to use CARES funding for food and to increase telehealth and communications access;
 - Requires VA to contract for HUD-VASH case management where there are protracted vacancies.
- GRACE Act S 4910 – waives recapture, recovery & match requirements on GPD capital grants issued with CARES funding to remove barriers that would prevent providers from utilizing them

NEW ADMINISTRATION OPPORTUNITIES



- Overturn Executive Orders: (Mixed Status Rule, Equal Access Rule, Antiracism training)
- Restore ending veteran homelessness to a top priority at VA
- Thoughtful guidance re: COVID testing protocols in permanent supportive housing and transitional housing
- Waive recapture & recovery restrictions on GPD capital grant recipients to support decreasing congregate space
- Focus on revamping HUD-VASH program & getting vouchers released to communities

VETERAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Many communities are working to end veteran homelessness and some have designated funding to support
- Partnering with those working on veteran homelessness, including at VA, will help to get a scope for need and to identify service partners
- Anyone can advocate for dedicated housing funding, from veteran set-asides in LIHTC QAP to designated county or state funds to support veteran affordable housing.