

GOVERNOR'S WORKING GROUP

ON VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS, AND THEIR FAMILIES



MAKING NORTH CAROLINA THE STATE OF CHOICE FOR VETERANS

OPERATION HOME: Addressing and Ending Veteran Homelessness in North Carolina

Situation:

- On January 29th, 2015, during North Carolina's annual Point-in-Time count of the homeless, 1,092 homeless veterans were counted living on the streets, in shelters, and in transitional housing.
- There are increased resources from the federal government to help end veterans' homelessness especially long and short-term rental assistance and increased service components. Utilizing these and additional resources veteran homelessness has decreased in North Carolina by 23% since 2012.
- A growing number of U.S. mayors and some governors have committed to using public and private resources to end veterans' homelessness in their jurisdiction by the end of 2015 or 2016. In North Carolina, Cumberland and Forsyth Counties, both with Mayor-endorsed plans, have announced their certification by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness as ending veteran homelessness in their respective counties.

Mission: To address and end veterans homelessness in North Carolina in 2016 by taking to scale the successful work already being done across the state. To implement a highly coordinated and resourced network of support that includes elected leadership, key statewide agencies, federal agencies, local and regional service and housing providers, and veteran service organizations.

Mission Defined: The mission will be successful if by 2016 North Carolina has developed a sufficient response system that ensures:

- There are no chronically homeless veterans
- There is a plan, resources, and a timeline for all veterans to access permanent housing who are sheltered but still experiencing homelessness
- There are an adequate level of resources to ensure housing stability
- The State is certified by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness as having ended veteran homelessness

Mission Structure: **OPERATION HOME** is housed within the Governor's Working Group on Veterans, Service Members and their Families. **Operation Home** Task Force is a committee of the Working Group and includes members and non-members. The Taskforce will provide regular monthly updates to the Governor's Working Group. Members will include representatives from the North Carolina Division of Veteran Affairs; The Veterans Administration; North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness; Department of Health and Human Services; Housing and Urban Development/Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH); Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (SSVF); NC Department of Health and Human Services.

Tasks

- Convene a meeting of Grant Per Diem Providers in early 2016
- Help secure engagement by Rapid Results Institute (RRI) for 100 day projects (Boot Camps) for selected areas of the state
- Determine geographical teams and provide leadership and support for team formation
- Provide coordination of and follow-up support of Boot Camps by RRI
- Engage mayors of team areas to provide endorsement and support of teams
- Ensure fidelity to Criteria and Benchmarks guidelines for ending veteran homelessness determined by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Implement participation of veteran service officers and volunteer groups
- Secure additional public and private resources as needed

For more information, contact Terry Allebaugh, Ending Veteran Homelessness Coordinator, North Carolina Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, 919-812-4274 or terry.allebaugh@doa.nc.gov