

## Reduce the Average Length of Homelessness

Goal Leader: Neal Rackleff

Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development

Theme: Income Security; Health; Education, Training, Employment and Social Services

# Overview

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## Goal Statement

- HUD aims to more quickly help Americans who become homeless to ensure such experiences are brief and non-recurring. We will coordinate with local communities, business, and philanthropies to target homeless resources and other mainstream housing resources at the most vulnerable populations. HUD will reduce the average length of homelessness in communities by an average of three days by the end of FY 2019.

## Challenge

- Today's housing affordability crisis creates a more difficult environment for people experiencing homelessness to get back into housing. This is especially true in some West Coast communities, which have experienced an increase in unsheltered homelessness.
- Rural communities face greater barriers to access when combating homelessness, including large and dispersed geographic regions to serve. Continuum of Care (CoC) program requirements and eligible activities can often be inflexible to rural community needs.

## Opportunity

- HUD will support technical assistance (TA) and explore regulatory and legislative fixes to allow communities to customize their solutions to ending homelessness. HUD will use strategies learned from the more than 60 communities that have effectively ended veteran homelessness to target CoC and other HUD-assisted housing resources to those with the highest need.

# Leadership

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## Core Team:

Neal Rackleff, Assistant Secretary  
Community Planning and Development

Jemine Bryon, Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Community Planning and Development

Norm Suchar, Director  
Community Planning and Development Office of Special Needs Assistance

# Goal Structure & Strategies (1 of 2)

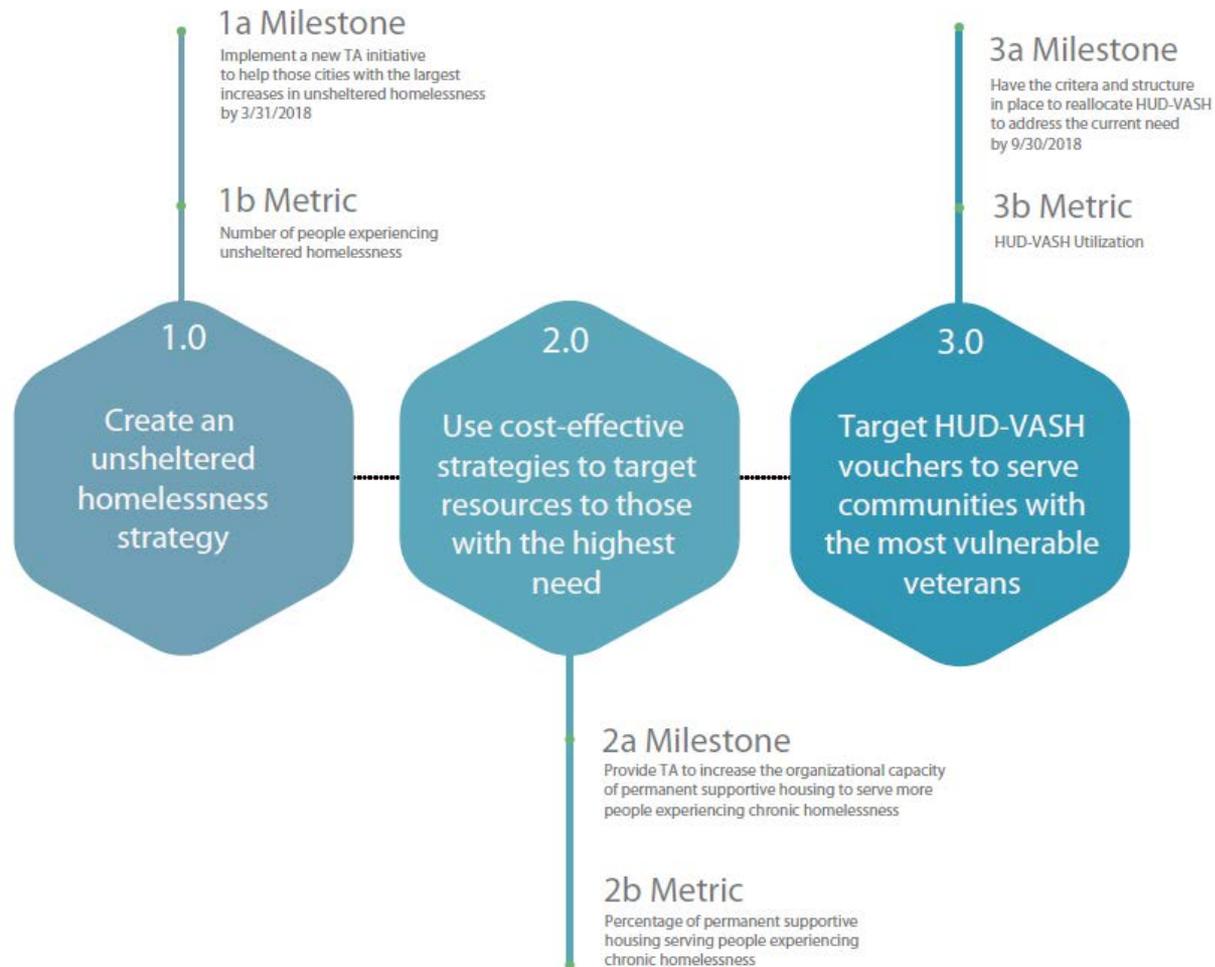
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The proof exists that we can end homelessness. To date, more than 60 communities and three states have declared an effective end to veteran homelessness; three communities have ended chronic homelessness. HUD will push to continue this movement by applying lessons learned from the work on veteran homelessness, and best practices from local communities that are rolling out innovative, cost-effective solutions on a national scale. Knowledge will be shared across communities through several targeted TA efforts, each customized to serve the target community and population.

# Goal Structure & Strategies (2 of 2)

## Reduce Average Length of Homelessness

Reduce the national average length of homelessness by an average of three days by the end of FY 2019



# Summary of Progress – FY18 Q2

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The technical assistance initiatives outlined in the 2018 Annual Performance Plan (APP) are proceeding, in one case with implementation occurring in phases. Community selection commenced during FY18 Q2 with community onboarding anticipated to occur throughout the late spring and early summer.

The CoC system performance measures pertaining to the average length of homelessness (see slide 11) will be available at the end of June 2018 for publication in a future update.

# Key Milestones

Create an unsheltered homelessness strategy that targets technical assistance and other resources to communities that have had large increases in unsheltered homelessness.

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Comments
Implement a new technical assistance initiative to help those cities with the largest increases in unsheltered homelessness.*	3/31/2018	Complete*	Y	This TA initiative will be implemented in stages. Phased community on-boarding has begun and will continue over several months.
Publish Notice for Further Comment on the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Interim Rule.	5/31/2018	On track	N	
Publish Emergency Solutions Grants Rule.	12/31/2018	On track	N	

\*Milestone should have read "Begin implementation of" rather than the less specific "Implement". Pursuant to updated reporting guidance, milestone changes must be announced in the previous quarter. Text will be updated in Q3.

# Key Milestones

Implement cost-effective strategies across Continuum of Care (CoC) and other HUD-assisted housing resources that target resources to those with the highest need.

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Comments
Provide targeted community technical assistance to implement initiatives for households moving from permanent supportive housing to other subsidized rental assistance. Further analysis of the roll-out will be shared to determine the potential expansion of these efforts.	7/1/2018	On track	N	

# Key Milestones

Build capacity in rural communities to coordinate services and increase access for persons experiencing homelessness.

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Comments
Consolidate many functions in the CoC Program Competition to reduce burden on applicants.	5/31/2018	On track	N	

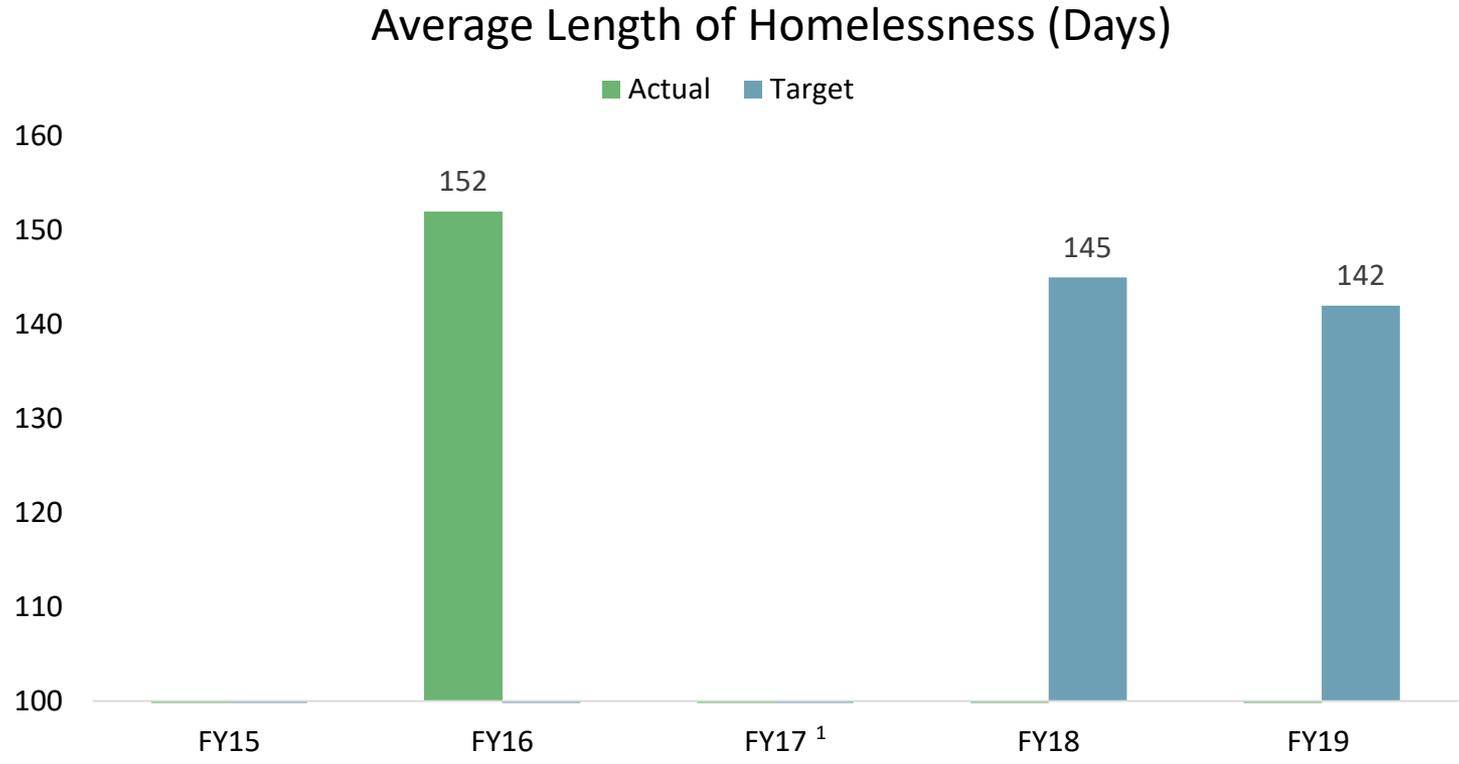
# Key Milestones

Target HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) to the most vulnerable veterans experiencing homelessness.

Milestone Summary				
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Comments
Have criteria and structure in place to reallocate HUD-VASH vouchers to meet current needs among veterans.	9/1/2018	On track	N	

# Key Indicators – Average Length of Homelessness

*This measure tracks the national average length of homelessness in CoCs. This represents the weighted average across approximately 400 CoCs for all projects within their community.*



<sup>1</sup> System Performance Measures are submitted by CoCs to HUD each April on the last complete fiscal year, and then must go through a validation process. Thus, FY 2017 actuals will be available in late June 2018.

# Data Accuracy and Reliability

## Length of homelessness

- Description: Average length of time persons experience homelessness. At this time, only persons experiencing sheltered homelessness are included in this measure; future data submissions will include persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness as well.
- Data source: Data collected in each Continuum of Care's (CoC's) Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS). Data is reported as "System Performance Measures" into the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX).
- Calculation method: Each CoC is required to collect data and report to HUD annually on specific system performance measures. These measures are based on a set of programming specifications HUD provided to communities to ensure consistency: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4483/system-performance-measures-tools/>.
- Data quality (limitations/advantages of the data): Data is relatively comprehensive as CoCs must report data regardless of funding source. The data is limited by how many projects report their data in Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and how accurate their data quality is. HUD requires each CoC to track null and missing value information as well as other data quality concerns. The rates of data quality issues per each response element that impacts the system performance measures is submitted to HUD at the time that the measures are submitted. HUD reviews this and includes the data quality piece in its larger evaluation of the system performance measures.
- Validation, verification, and improvement of measure: HUD includes the System Performance Measures in its annual CoC Program Competition, along with data quality and HMIS bed coverage information. This creates incentives to have accurate data as well as to show improved outcomes. Because this process is relatively new (only 2 reporting cycles to date with system performance measures), HUD knows there are data quality concerns, both with the data entered into HMIS as well as with the reporting features of the CoCs' HMIS. HUD will continue to include this as a scoring factor and will incorporate it into more reporting requirements. HUD will provide more resources to improve data quality. HUD provided programming specifications to ensure consistency and will provide more resources to help CoCs test the accuracy of their systems to pull the data.

# Additional Information

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## Contributing Programs

Organizations:

- HUD Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs
- HUD Office of Public and Indian Housing
- HUD Office of Multifamily Housing Programs
- US Interagency Council on Homelessness
- US Department of Veteran Affairs

HUD Program Activities:

- Continuum of Care Program
- Emergency Solutions Grants
- HUD-VA Supportive Housing
- Public Housing
- Housing Choice Vouchers
- Multifamily Housing Programs

## Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations

HUD works closely with local communities through the CoC program to support tailored programs that best meet a community's needs.