

# WINTER QUARTERLY MEETING

January 24-25, 2024

Statewide Association of Community and Economic Development Organizations

# AGENDA

- Welcome
- COHHIO Homelessness in Ohio Initiatives from State
- Break
- Veterans Homelessness Programs for Veterans
- Break
- Legislative UpdateOCCD Business Meeting





# Homelessness in Ohio

- 6.9% increase in 2023 compared to 12.1% nationally
- Winding down of pandemic related resources
- Decreased capacity in shelters
- Rent prices increased 24% from 2020-2023

# **OH Overall Homelessness**

#### **Overall Homelessness**





# **OH Family Homelessness**



# **OH Chronic Homelessness**



# **OH Veteran Homelessness**



# OH Unaccompanied Minor Homelessness



# OHIO



In Ohio, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is \$993. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities — without paying more than 30% of income on housing — a household must earn \$3,308 monthly or \$39,702 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into an hourly Housing Wage of: \$19.09 PER HOUR STATE HOUSING WAGE

76<br/>Work Hours Per Week At<br/>Minimum Wage To Afford a 2-Bedroom<br/>Rental Home (at FMR)60<br/>Work Hours Per Week At<br/>Minimum Wage To Afford a 1-Bedroom<br/>Rental Home (at FMR)1.91.5

Number of Full-Time Jobs At Minimum Wage To Afford a 2-Bedroom Rental Home (at FMR)

Number of Full-Time Jobs At Minimum Wage To Afford a 1-Bedroom Rental Home (at FMR)

# 2023 OHIO HOUSING PROFILE



#### -270,399 Shortage of rental homes

affordable and available for extremely low income renters

# \$26,500

Maximum income of 4-person extremely low income households (state level)



Annual household income needed to afford a two-bedroom rental home at HUD's Fair Market Rent.



Percent of extremely low income renter households with severe cost burden

#### AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE HOMES PER 100 RENTER HOUSEHOLDS



Source: 2021 ACS PUMS.

# Rent is Still Rising



# **Evictions are Rising**



Source: Ohio Supreme Court





# **Questions?**

Amy Riegel Executive Director amyriegel@cohhio.org



# 15-Minute Break Next Session begins at 10:15 a.m.

January 24, 2024

Statewide Association of Community and Economic Development Organizations



# **Veteran Pathways**

Challenges and Solutions for Veterans experiencing homelessness in Central Ohio

Carl Landry, LISW-S Community Outreach Division (COD) Coordinator, Columbus VA



# **Objectives of Presentation**

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• Review the challenges Veterans and VA is facing related to issue of homelessness.

• Solutions for Veteran who are housing insecure or unhoused

# What is Homelessness?

#### Literal Homelessness

 individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes a subset for an individual who resided in an emergency shelter or a place not meant for human habitation and who is exiting an institution where he or she temporarily resided;

#### **Imminently Homeless**

 individuals and families who will imminently lose (within 14 days) their primary nighttime residence;

# What is Homelessness?

#### Unaccompanied Youth

 unaccompanied youth and families with children and youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statutes who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition

#### Fleeing Domestic Violence

 individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member

# What is Chronic Homelessness?

# 

Physical, mental or emotional impairment, including impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, PTSD, brain injury or a chronic physical illness that:
Is expected to be

- long-continuing or of indefinite duration; **and**
- Substantially impedes the person's ability to live independently; and
   Could be improved by

more suitable housing

# Literally Homeless

•Lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter

# •Homeless for at Long Term Homelessness least 12 months or •4 separate occasions in the last 3 years

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

# Who is a Veteran?

#### Veteran

• A Veteran, as it relates to Homeless Veteran, means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, regardless of length of service, and who was discharged or released therefrom. i.e., "One Day of Active Service"

### Limitations and Exclusions from Services

- Some services are limited to length of service restrictions
- Excludes a person who received a dishonorable discharge from the Armed Forces or was discharged or dismissed from the Armed Forces by reason of the sentence of a general court-martial.
- National Guard and Reserves are excluded unless called into service by Executive Order

# How Big is Homelessness Among Veterans? 2023 Point in Time Data

35,574	<ul> <li>veterans were experiencing homelessness in the U.S., approximately seven percent (6.6%) of all adults experiencing homelessness</li> </ul>
22 of every 10,000	• For Veterans in the United States, 22 of 10,000 were experiencing homelessness. It is somewhat more common for veterans to experience homelessness than for all people in the United States (20 people out of every 10,000).
98%	<ul> <li>Nearly all veterans were experiencing homelessness as individuals.</li> </ul>
30%	• (10,533 veterans) had chronic patterns of homelessness.
56%	• Just over half of all veterans experiencing homelessness were staying in sheltered locations (56% or 20,067 veterans). This is higher than the share of all individuals experiencing homelessness who were sheltered, 49 percent.

# How Big is Homelessness Among Veterans? 2023 Point in Time Data



# How Big is Homelessness Among Veterans?

Exhibit 5-1: PIT Estimates of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by Sheltered Status, 2009-2023



# How Big is Homelessness Among Veterans?

#### 5.2 Estimates of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by State

#### WA ME, 123 -1,684 VT,122 MT 207 ND 27 MN 336 OR 1,575 -NH,100 -MA,545 ID 182 SD 58 335 -RI,100 1.098 WY 90 484 -CT, 165 IA 128 NJ, 454 NE 132 826 NV 1,094 IL 523 OH 623 -DE, 79 IN UT 181 MD, 291 CO 1,022 DC,218 KS 199 MO 569 386 CA 10,589 417 Percent of All People NC,77 TN,759 **Experiencing Homelessness** OK 288 AZ 932 AR 205 NM 256 SC 393 that are Veterans MS GA AL 0-5 61 291 701 TX 2,036 6-10 LA 249 AK 119 11-15 16 and over FL 2,558 HI 317

#### Exhibit 5-5: Estimates of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness by State, 2023

# How Big is Homelessness Among Veterans?

Franklin County Veteran PIT



VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

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# Which Veterans Experience Homelessness? (Demographics)

#### Exhibit 5-4: Demographic Characteristics of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness, 2023

	All Veterans		Sheltered Veterans		Unsheltered Veterans		
	#	%	#	%	#	%	
All Veterans	35,574	100%	20,067	100%	15,507	100%	
Gender				•			
Female	3,980	11.2%	1,815	9.0%	2,165	14.0%	
Male	31,231	87.8%	18,148	90.4%	13,083	84.4%	
Transgender	173	0.5%	74	0.4%	99	0.6%	
A Gender that is not Singularly 'Female' or							
'Male'	161	0.5%	21	0.1%	140	0.9%	
Questioning	29	0.1%	9	0.0%	20	0.1%	
Ethnicity		-		-		-	
Non-Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	30,885	86.8%	18,235	90.9%	12,650	81.6%	
Hispanic/Latin(a)(o)(x)	4,689	13.2%	1,832	9.1%	2,857	18.4%	
Race							
American Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous	1,269	3.6%	461	2.3%	808	5.2%	
Asian or Asian American	608	1.7%	183	0.9%	425	2.7%	
Black, African American, or African	11,136	31.3%	7,203	35.9%	3,933	25.4%	
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	427	1.2%	169	0.8%	258	1.7%	
White	20,287	57.0%	11,343	56.5%	8,944	57.7%	
Multiple Races	1,847	5.2%	708	3.5%	1,139	7.3%	

## Which Veterans Experience Homelessness? CY 2020 Veterans Comparison Columbus vs. Nation

#### **Racial Distribution**



All Veterans Homeless Veterans VHA Homeless Veterans

Which Veterans Experience Homelessness? Columbus in Franklin County FY 23



# Which Veterans Experience Homelessness? (Demographics)

- About 90% of Veterans experiencing homelessness are men
- Nationally, 58% of Veteran experiencing homeless identify as white followed by African American at 31%. Consistent with sheltered and unsheltered.
- Minorities tend to be overrepresented in Veteran homelessness
  - In Franklin county, over 50% of Veterans experiencing homelessness are African American.

# **Homeless Veteran Population Trend**

# Percentage of Homeless Veterans by Age Cohort Columbus VA



**—**41-65 **—**66-85

# Why do Veterans become Homeless?

#### Confluence of *Structural Factors* and Individual Vulnerabilities



# Why do Veterans become Homeless?

#### Confluence of Structural Factors and Individual Vulnerabilities



# Why do Veterans become Homeless?

#### Confluence of Structural Factors and Individual Vulnerabilities With Low Natural Supports


### What is the Impact (or Cost) of Experiencing Homelessness?



### What are the Typical Challenges of Being Homeless



### What are the Typical Challenges of Being Homeless?

Meeting survival needs daily including safe sleeping Challenges of navigating the system designed to help them Need for electronic communication as part of the pathway out Long delays and poor communication-Verification of status "in process"communication not always available

### What are the Characteristics of Unsheltered Homelessness Veterans?

#### Characteristics Associated with Unsheltered Status Among Veterans

 Among a group of 5406 Veterans experiencing homelessness, 9% (8.9%) reported >=7 nights of unsheltered over 6 months.

Risk of experiencing unsheltered homelessness

- 0-1 factor increased to 2%
- 2-3 factors increased to 8.4%
- 4-11 factors increased to 24.2%

### What are the Characteristics of Unsheltered Homelessness Veterans?

#### **Individual Characteristics**



### What are the Characteristics of Unsheltered Homelessness Veterans?

#### **System Characteristics**







#### Poor shelter access

 ratio of shelter beds to homeless population based on the Point-in-Time count for their community

#### <u>Warmer</u> <u>temperatures</u>

 Cold weather, defined as having average January nighttime temperatures below 30 degrees Fahrenheit

#### Higher rents

### Additional Reasons Why a Veteran May Experience Unsheltered Homelessness

#### **Additional Factors Related to Unsheltered Homelessness**

- The Veteran may have a partner and the shelter would separate them.
- May have a non-service animal or pet.
- May have a shelter ban or considered ineligible
  - Discharged for rules violation
  - Unable to meet basic self care needs
  - May have a sex offense



VA Interventions to Address Homelessness

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

#### Healthcare for Homeless Veteran (HCHV)

- HCHV Outreach
  - Offers outreach, case management and residential treatment services to help Veterans transition from living on the street or in institutions to stable housing situations
- VA Contract Emergency Housing VA Contract Residential Services
  - Provide 56 beds of emergency housing via contracts with Volunteers of America and Lutheran Social Services for Veterans with VA Healthcare eligibility. Referrals are managed through the Franklin County Coordinated Access process (614-274-7000)
- Grant & Per Diem Transitional Housing
  - State, local and tribal governments and nonprofits receive capital grants and per diem payments to develop and operate transitional housing and/or service centers for Veterans who are homeless. We currently have five GPD units in Licking County operated by Licking County Coalition for Housing.

#### **Rapid Rehousing and Prevention**

- Supportive Services for Veteran Families
  - <u>Prevention Assistance</u>-For very low-income Veterans, SSVF provides case management and supportive services to prevent the imminent loss of a Veteran's home
  - <u>Rapid Rehousing</u>-Rapidly re-house Veterans and their families who are homeless and might remain homeless without this assistance.
  - <u>Shallow Subsidy</u>-Time limited financial assistance to augment payments for rent.
- Local SSVF Partners include:
  - VOA Veteran & Families First SSVF
  - Faith Mission SSVF
  - Licking County Coalition for Housing

#### **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)**

- <u>HUD VASH (417 Vouchers locally)</u>
  - HUD VASH is a collaborative program between HUD and VA combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help Veterans who are homeless and their families find and sustain permanent housing
  - HUD provides rental assistance vouchers for privately owned housing to Veterans who are experiencing homelessness. VA case managers may connect these Veterans with support services
  - HUD-VASH enrolls the largest number and largest percentage of Veterans who have experienced long-term or repeated homelessness
- The Common's at Livingston (85-100 units)
  - Partnership between National Church Residence and VA Healthcare for Homeless Case management
  - Projected based permanent supportive housing. Part of the Rebuilding Lives Continuum, National Church Residents provides property management and VA provides supportive services to residents.

#### **Justice Involved Services**

- <u>Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) & Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV)</u>
  - VJO aims to prevent homelessness by helping justice-involved Veterans who have mental health or substance use issues access needed VA clinical services.
  - HCRV specialists work with Veterans to ease their transition from prison back into the community.
- Services
  - VJO provides direct outreach, assessment and case management for Veterans in local courts and jails and help them navigate the justice system.
  - HCRV specialists meet with incarcerated Veterans before they're released and assist them in planning for reintegration into the community by accessing VA and community services as well as housing and employment opportunities.

#### **VA Employment Services**

- <u>Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services</u>-Community Employment Coordinators (CECs) boost employment outcomes for Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless through Veteran engagement and developing collaborations with local employers.
- <u>Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)</u>- CWT is comprised of the transitional work and supported employment program, which assists homeless Veterans in returning to competitive employment.

#### **VA Healthcare**

- <u>Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team (HPACT)-HPACT clinics provide a coordinated</u> "medical home" tailored to the needs of homeless Veterans. They integrate clinical care, social services, enhanced access and community coordination.
- <u>Behavioral Healthcare</u>- VA provides a variety of behavioral health counseling and psychiatric interventions designed to meet the unique needs of Veterans using a trauma informed approach. Services include treatments for PTSD; Depression; Suicide Prevention; Military Sexual Trauma; Substance Use Problems; Exposure to Hazardous Materials; and Women's Health needs.
- <u>General and Specialty Healthcare</u> full spectrum of primary and specialty healthcare services including pharmacy.

#### **Veteran Service Organizations**

- <u>Veteran Service Commissions</u>-County funded programs that provide direct financial assistance to Veterans in need as well as assisting Veterans in applying for Veteran Benefits.
- <u>Veteran Service Organizations-(i.e.</u>, The American Legion; Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW); Veterans Care Network) organizations that cater to providing support and resources to Veterans in their community
- <u>Ohio Veterans Homes-Nursing Home Facility offering care for eligible Veterans</u>

### **Contact Information**

#### Carl Landry, LISW-S Community Outreach Division Coordinator

Carl.Landry@va.gov Office: 614-257-5855 Cell: 614-307-0970

### References & Resources

- National VA Homeless Crisis Line 1-877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838)
- VA Homeless Programs
- Department of Veteran Affairs Supportive Service for Veteran Families
- <u>The 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress</u>
- Community Shelter Board-<u>Interactive Data</u>
- <u>Characteristics Associated with Unsheltered Status Among Veterans</u>
- <u>HUD EXCHANGE-</u>CoC Homeless Population and Subpopulations Reports characteristics
- *Emptiness of Our Hands*: 47 Days on the Streets by Phillis Coe-Dai

# SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VETERAN FAMILIES (SSVF)

Washington-Morgan Community Action

## THE GOAL OF SSVF

• The goal of the SSVF Program is to promote housing stability among lowincome Veteran families who reside in or are transitioning to permanent housing.

## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Outreach
- Case management
- Connection to VA benefits and programs
- Connection to public benefits and mainstream community resources
- Temporary financial assistance (TFA)

## ELIGIBILITY

- 1) Member of a "Veteran Family"
  - Either a Veteran or a member of a family in which the head of household (or spouse), is a Veteran.
- 2) "Low-Income" Household
  - Income does not exceed 80% of the area median income
- 3) Occupying Permanent Housing: A Veteran family is considered to be occupying permanent housing if it falls into one of three categories:
  - Is residing in permanent housing and at risk of becoming literally homeless without SSVF assistance
  - Is literally homeless and at risk to remain in this situation but for SSVF assistance
  - Is literally homeless after exiting permanent housing within the previous 90 days to seek other housing that is responsive to the very low-income Veteran family's needs and preferences.

## VETERAN STATUS

- Veteran- A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, or reserves, regardless of length of service, and who was discharged or released therefrom.
- National Guard-Have to have been activated
- Excludes a person who who received a dishonorable discharge
- Anyone with a bad conduct discharge from a General court-martial is ineligible. Anyone with a bad conduct discharge from a Special court-martial is eligible.

## SSVF HOUSING CATEGORIES

- Homeless Prevention (HP)
- Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

## HOMELESS PREVENTION

- Veteran families residing in permanent housing at imminent risk (within 30 days) of losing housing and becoming literally homeless.
- Must meet HP Screening threshold score to receive temporary financial assistance

## RAPID RE-HOUSING

- Veteran families staying in a place not meant for human habitation (car, park, abandoned building, etc.)
- Veteran families staying in a supervised publicly- or privately-operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements
- Exiting an institution where s/he resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution (hospital, treatment facility, jail, etc.)
- Fleeing or attempting to flee a domestic violence situation

## HOUSING FIRST

- A consumer-driven approach that provides immediate access to permanent housing, in addition to flexible, community-based services for people who have experienced homelessness.
- Emerged as an alternative to the linear approach in which people experiencing homelessness were required to first participate in and graduate from short-term residential and treatment programs before obtaining permanent housing.

## TEMPORARY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (TFA)

- Security and utility deposits
- Rent and utility assistance
- Emergency housing assistance
- General housing stability assistance
- Transportation
- Moving Costs
- Child Care
- Shallow Subsidy rental assistance
- Landlord/tenant incentives

## DEPOSITS

- Maximum of one security deposit in a 2-year period
- Maximum of one utility deposit in a 2-year period
- May only be provided if the payment of such assistance will directly allow the participant to obtain permanent housing.

## RENT AND UTILITIES

- Rent and utility assistance limit determined by income
- 0-30% AMI- 9 months in a 12-month period, 12 months in a 2-year period
- 31%-80% AMI- 6 months in a 12-month period, 10 months in a 2-year period
- Shallow Subsidy Rental Assistance- Client pays 50% of their rent, SSVF covers the remaining 50% for up to 24 months with lighter case management.

## EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE (EHA)

- Hotel/Motel stays for clients when there is no shelter and no other option to avoid literal homelessness
- Maximum of one instance in a 2-year period and for a maximum of 60 days

### GENERAL HOUSING STABILITY ASSISTANCE (GHSA)

Four classes of assistance

- Expenses associated with gaining or keeping employment.
  - Uniforms, tools, driver's license fees, license/certification costs, etc.
- Expenses associated with moving into permanent housing.
  - Beds, bedding, basic kitchen utensils, cleaning supplies, etc.
- Expenses necessary for securing appropriate permanent housing.
  - Rental application fees, document acquisition, etc.
- Expenses necessary for a participant's life or safety (\$500 limit).
  - Food, hygiene items, baby formula, diapers, winter clothing, etc.

## TRANSPORTATION

Two Categories

- Tokens, vouchers, etc.
  - Public transportation tokens, vouchers
- Car repairs/maintenance (Maximum of \$1,200 in a 2-year period)
  - Only limited car repairs when no public transportation/other options exist and not making repairs would lead to the client losing housing.

## MOVING COSTS

- Moving costs may include reasonable costs such as:
  - truck rental
  - hiring a moving company
  - short-term storage fees (maximum of 3 months or until the participant is in permanent housing, whichever is shorter)

## CHILD CARE

- SSVF may make payments on behalf of a participant to an "eligible child care provider" providing child care services.
  - An "eligible child care provider" is a provider of child care services for compensation, including a provider of care for a school-age child during nonschool hours, that:
    - (1) is licensed, regulated, registered, or otherwise legally operating under state and local law, and
    - (2) satisfies the state and local requirements applicable to the child care services the provider provides.

## SHALLOW SUBSIDY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

- Recently implemented service where SSVF can pay 50% of the clients rent for a period of up to 24 months
- Targets clients who need more rental assistance but not to the level of HUD and without the clinical case management of HUD-VASH
- Eligibility is not reassessed during the 24 month period, which incentivizes clients to increase income

## LANDLORD INCENTIVES

- Recently implemented assistance to engage new landlords
- Maximum amount is equal to 2 months of rent
- Can be used in conjunction with a double deposit
- Only used if necessary for more rapid housing placement
- Only for clients entering a new lease of at least 1 year
#### TENANT INCENTIVES

- Focus on clients who otherwise would not be willing to enter housing without the incentive.
- Available only after move-in from literal homelessness for leases of at least 1year
- Maximum amount is \$1,000.00
- In addition to, and more flexible than, traditional General Housing Assistance (GHA)
- Items for consideration include: appliances, furniture, electronic equipment, recreational items, educational items, hobby materials, etc.

#### HEALTH CARE NAVIGATION

- The core function of all health care navigators is to assess and address potential and existing barriers to access care and completing the care needed to improve the veteran's health.
- Complete monthly meetings to address identified barriers
- Facilitate access to care
- Reduce barriers
- Coordination of care
- Patient education/advocate

#### STAFF SERGEANT PARKER GORDON FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM (SSG FOX)

- Outreach to identify those at risk of suicide
- Baseline mental health screening for risk (required of all grantees for participants ages 18+)
- Education on suicide risk and prevention to families and communities
- Case management services
- Assistance obtaining VA Benefits for eligible individuals and their families
- Assistance with obtaining and coordinating other benefits provided by the federal government, a state or local government, or an eligible entity

#### (CONTINUED)

- Assistance with emergent needs relating to health care services, transportation services, legal services to assist the eligible individual with issues that may contribute to the risk of suicide, and child care
- Other services necessary for improving the mental health status and wellbeing and reducing the suicide risk of eligible individuals and their families as VA determines appropriate

Washington-Morgan Community Action Cody Morrow SSVF Lead Case Manager (740) 373-3745 ext. 306 cmorrow@wmcap.org



# **15-Minute Break Next Session begins at** 11:30 a.m.

January 24, 2024

Statewide Association of Community and Economic Development Organizations



### Legislative Update

January 24, 2024



### **Business Meeting**

January 24, 2024

Statewide Association of Community and Economic Development Organizations

# **OCCD BUSINESS MEETING**

•Call to Order Membership Dues Committee Reports Membership Sessions & Training State Programs – Nikki Reese Legislative Finance

# **OCCD BUSINESS MEETING**

#### Opportunity for Engagement

#### OCCD Standing Committees

- Membership
- Sessions & Training Programs
- State Programs
- Legislative
- Finance

If you are interested in participating in one of the committees, please contact Patricia Richards at office @occd.org

### **OCCD BUSINESS MEETING**

 NCDA Training / NCDA Region 5 Conference / **Spring Meeting**  CDBG Professional Certification November Networking Conference OCCD Foundation – Lucie McMahon Adjournment



# Thank you for attending the OCCD Winter Quarterly Meeting Day 1