



May 2018

Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG)

Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups for Veterans, commonly referred to as Project CHALENG was launched in 1994 to bring together providers, advocates, Veterans and other concerned citizens to identify the needs of homeless Veterans and work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action.

Project CHALENG has two components: a CHALENG survey, in which participants rate the needs of homeless Veterans in their local communities, and CHALENG meetings, which encourage partnership development between VA and community service providers. The results of the CHALENG survey are used each year to identify unmet needs and encourage new partnership development to meet those needs.

The legislation guiding this initiative is contained in Public Laws 102-405, 103-446 and 105-114.

Over the years CHALENG has helped build thousands of relationships between VA and community agencies so they can better serve homeless Veterans locally. Data from CHALENG on Veterans' unmet needs has assisted VA in developing major new services for Veterans such as the Homeless Veteran Dental Program (HVDP), the expansion of the Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, the Veterans Justice Programs and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). In addition community organizations use CHALENG data in grant applications to support services for homeless Veterans; grant applications are for VA, other Federal, local government, and community foundation dollars, which maximizes community participation in serving homeless Veterans.

2017 CHALENG Survey Participation

- In 2017, 4,520 individuals completed a CHALENG Participant survey. This included 2,436 homeless Veterans and 1,595 providers and other stakeholders (VA staff, state and public officials, community leaders, volunteers).
- Thirteen percent of the homeless Veteran survey participants were women. Fifty percent of all homeless Veteran participants were between the ages of 45-60 with another 27 percent 61 or older. Forty-nine percent were non-White; seven percent identified their ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino.



- There were 1,595 provider and other stakeholder participants. Of these, 47 percent were VA staff, one percent were other Federal employees, 39 percent were state/local official or community providers, and 13 percent were interested members of the community.

Top Homeless Veteran Needs Identified in 2017 CHALENG Survey

- Nine of the top ten *unmet* needs were the same for male and female Veterans: housing for registered sex offenders, child care, dental care, legal assistance in three separate areas (outstanding warrants and fines, child support issues, and restoring a driver's license) family reconciliation assistance, credit counseling, and financial guardianship. One need that were in the top ten unmet for male Veterans (but not female Veterans) was legal assistance to prevent eviction/foreclosure. Conversely, discharge upgrade was one need on the female Veterans' top ten unmet list, but not on the male Veterans' top ten unmet needs list.
- Eight of the top ten *met* needs were also the same for male and female Veterans: medical services, testing and treatment in three separate areas (TB, Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS), case management, services for emotional or psychiatric problems, clothing, and food. Two needs that were in the top ten met for male Veterans (but not female Veterans) were emergency/immediate shelter and assisted living for the elderly. Conversely, substance abuse treatment and VA disability/pension were on the female Veterans' top ten met list only.
- Consistency across time: for male Veterans, nine of the top ten *unmet* needs were the same in 2016 and 2017. Nine of the top ten *unmet* needs for female Veterans were also the same.
- Similarly, seven and nine of the top ten *met* needs for male and female Veterans respectively were the same between 2016 and 2017.
- Consistent with 2016 data and with the previous 16 years of CHALENG data, met needs primarily reflect services that Veterans Health Administration (VHA) can provide directly, and unmet needs are primarily services that require community partnership to meet. This consistency underscores the importance of collaboration between federal, state, local, and community partners to meet the needs of homeless Veterans to successfully end homelessness.



CHALENG 2017 Survey Results Summary

CHALENG Participant Survey

A. CHALENG Participant Survey: Participation

Total number of participants: 4,031

- **Homeless Veteran participants: 2,436**
 - homeless Veteran male participants: 2,123
 - homeless Veteran female participants: 313
- **Provider and other stakeholder participants: 1,595**
 - VA Staff: 741
 - Other Federal staff: 23
 - State/local government agency, or community based homeless provider: 626
 - Interested member of the community: 205

B. CHALENG Homeless Veteran Participant Demographics

	Male Veterans	Female Veterans
Gender	87.2%	12.8%

Age	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	All Veterans
Less than 25	.7%	1.3%	.7%
25-34	8.2%	19.9%	9.7%
35-44	10.9%	18.3%	11.9%
45-60	50.5%	47.3%	50.1%
61+	29.8%	13.2%	27.6%



Ethnicity	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	All Veterans
Non-Hispanic/ Non-Latino	78.3%	83.7%	79.0%
Hispanic/Latino	6.7%	6.2%	6.6%
Don't Know	15.1%	10.0%	14.4%

Race	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	All Veterans
American Indian or Alaskan	8%	10.6%	8.3%
Asian	.3%	.7%	.4%
Black or African American	35.6%	37.3%	35.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	.2%	1.3%	.4%
White	53.4%	48.5%	52.8%
Don't know	2.5%	1.7%	2.4%

Where Veteran was living at time of Survey	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	All Veterans
Literally Homeless (on streets, in shelter, in car, etc)	24.7%	28.8%	25.2%
Emergency Housing	4.2%	3.8%	4.2%
Transitional Housing (Grant and Per Diem housing, community contract housing)	23.7%	10.9%	22.0%
Permanent subsidized housing (HUD-VASH, section 8, etc)	32.4%	29.4%	32.0%
Unsubsidized housing (private apartment/house/condominium)	15.0%	27.2%	16.5%



C. Ranking of Male Veteran Need (One to four scale, with one equals unmet and four equals met)

Top Ten Highest Unmet Needs, Male Veterans

Rank	Male Homeless Veteran Highest Unmet Needs	Mean Score
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.15
2	Child Care	2.35
3	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.55
4	Dental Care	2.56
5	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.58
6	Financial Guardianship	2.60
7	Credit Counseling	2.62
8	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.65
9	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.66
10	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.66

Top Ten Highest Met Needs, Male Veterans

Rank	Male Homeless Veteran Highest Met Needs	Mean Score
1	Medical Services	3.54
2	TB Testing and Treatment	3.44
3	Food	3.38
4	Case Management	3.37
5	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.36
6	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.35
7	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.35
8	Clothing	3.30
9	Emergency/Immediate Shelter	3.24
10	Assisted Living for the Elderly	3.24



D. Ranking of Female Veteran Need (One to four scale, with one equals unmet and four equals met)

Top Ten Highest Unmet Needs, Female Veterans

Rank	Female Homeless Veteran Highest Unmet Needs	Mean Score
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.12
2	Child Care	2.37
3	Dental Care	2.53
4	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.55
5	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.59
6	Credit Counseling	2.59
7	Financial Guardianship	2.60
8	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.64
9	Discharge Upgrade	2.64
10	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.65

Top Ten Highest Met Needs, Female Veterans

Rank	Female Homeless Veteran Highest Met Needs	Mean Score
1	Medical Services	3.51
2	TB Testing and Treatment	3.42
3	Food	3.37
4	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.35
5	Case Management	3.35
6	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.34
7	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.33
8	Clothing	3.28
9	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.19
10	VA Disability/Pension	3.18



E. Ranking of Male Homeless Veteran Needs: Complete List ordered by Highest Unmet to Highest Met (One to four scale, with one equals unmet and four equals met)

Rank	Male Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.15
2	Child Care	2.35
3	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.55
4	Dental Care	2.56
5	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.58
6	Financial Guardianship	2.60
7	Credit Counseling	2.62
8	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.65
9	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.66
10	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.66
11	Discharge Upgrade	2.67
12	Drop In Center and Day Programs	2.69
13	Money Managing	2.74
14	Parent Education	2.76
15	Family and Marital Counseling	2.77
16	Emergency Housing for Families	2.77
17	Social Networking	2.82
18	Financial Assistance to Prevent Eviction or Foreclosure	2.85
19	Prevention	2.90
20	Transportation	2.91
21	Affordable Housing	2.94
22	Spiritual	2.94
23	Basic Services (Phone, Voicemail, Address)	2.95



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Rank	Male Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
24	Welfare Payments	2.96
25	Life Skills Training	2.97
26	Re-Entry Services for Incarcerated Veterans	2.98
27	Goods (Furniture and Housewares) for New Apartment	2.98
28	Elder Healthcare and Resources	3.01
29	Move-In Assistance	3.01
30	Education	3.03
31	Landlord Relations and Tenancy	3.03
32	Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability (SSD)	3.04
33	Utility Assistance	3.06
34	Help Getting Identification and Other Legal Documents	3.06
35	Vocational Rehabilitation	3.06
36	Eye Care and Glasses	3.07
37	Military Sexual Trauma	3.10
38	Job Training	3.10
39	Treatment for Dual Diagnosis	3.12
40	Transitional Living Facility and Halfway House	3.13
41	Long-term Permanent Housing	3.13
42	Finding a Job or Getting Employment	3.14
43	Detoxification from Substance	3.14
44	Personal Hygiene (Shower, Haircut, etc.)	3.15
45	Medication Management	3.18
46	Health and Wellness	3.19
47	VA Disability/Pension	3.20
48	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.23
49	Emergency/Immediate Shelter	3.24
50	Assisted Living for the Elderly	3.24
51	Clothing	3.30



Rank	Male Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
52	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.35
53	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.35
54	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.36
55	Case Management	3.37
56	Food	3.38
57	TB Testing and Treatment	3.44
58	Medical Services	3.54

F. Ranking of Female Homeless Veteran Needs: Complete List ordered by Highest Unmet to Highest Met (One to four scale, with one equals unmet and four equals met)

Rank	Female Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
1	Registered Sex Offender Housing	2.12
2	Child Care	2.37
3	Dental Care	2.53
4	Family Reconciliation Assistance	2.55
5	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.59
6	Credit Counseling	2.59
7	Financial Guardianship	2.60
8	Legal Assistance to Help Restore a Driver's License	2.64
9	Discharge Upgrade	2.64
10	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.65
11	Legal Assistance to Prevent Eviction and Foreclosure	2.66
12	Drop In Center and Day Programs	2.67
13	Money Managing	2.73
14	Family and Marital Counseling	2.77
15	Parent Education	2.77
16	Emergency Housing for Families	2.80
17	Social Networking	2.80



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Rank	Female Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
18	Financial Assistance to Prevent Eviction or Foreclosure	2.85
19	Assisted Living for the Elderly	2.85
20	Prevention	2.88
21	Transportation	2.89
22	Affordable Housing	2.89
23	Breastfeeding Information and Supplies	2.91
24	Spiritual	2.93
25	Basic Services (Phone, Voicemail, Address)	2.94
26	Transitional Living Facility and Halfway House	2.95
27	Life Skills Training	2.95
28	Re-Entry Services for Incarcerated Veterans	2.96
29	Goods (Furniture and Housewares) for New Apartment	2.97
30	Welfare Payments	2.98
31	Elder Healthcare and Resources	2.99
32	Move-In Assistance	3.00
33	Landlord Relations and Tenancy	3.01
34	Education	3.02
35	Women's Specific Mental Health Providers	3.03
36	Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability (SSD)	3.04
37	Emergency/Immediate Shelter	3.04
38	Vocational Rehabilitation	3.05
39	Help Getting Identification and Other Legal Documents	3.05
40	Eye Care and Glasses	3.05
41	Gender-Specific Healthcare Provider Availability	3.06
42	Treatment for Dual Diagnosis	3.08



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Rank	Female Homeless Veteran Need	Mean Score
43	Long-term Permanent Housing	3.09
44	Job Training	3.09
45	Domestic Violence Support Services	3.09
46	Military Sexual Trauma	3.11
47	Detoxification from Substance	3.12
48	Finding a Job or Getting Employment	3.13
49	Personal Hygiene (Shower, Haircut, etc.)	3.13
50	OB/GYN Services	3.14
51	Medication Management	3.17
52	Health and Wellness	3.17
53	VA Disability/Pension	3.18
54	Utility Assistance	3.18
55	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.19
56	Clothing	3.28
57	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.33
58	Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment	3.34
59	Case Management	3.35
60	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.35
61	Food	3.37
62	TB Testing and Treatment	3.42
63	Medical Services	3.51