

North Dakota By Name List Procedure

A by-name list is a list of homeless veterans in our community. This list is populated through information from outreach, HMIS, shelters, VA-funded programs including GPD providers, and any other providers in your community who may work with veterans experiencing homelessness. The list is updated regularly to ensure it has the most up-to-date information on veterans in your community.

The list is informed by all significant partners in the effort to serve Veterans experiencing homelessness, including the CoC, local VA Medical Center, VA funded providers, shelters, outreach workers, and additional community partners, such as food programs and law enforcement. The list is currently managed via spreadsheet, but will be populated by HMIS when possible. In North Dakota, CAPND, the SSVF provider is the “holder” of the list and is responsible for adding information provided by other partners and bringing the list to the weekly veteran-focused meetings.

By-Name List Process

1. The master list committee will meet weekly via conference call, facilitated by the ND SSVF program. The community partners that will be invited, include but aren't limited to emergency shelters, homeless service providers, Project Hart, VA Homeless Outreach, etc.
2. The ND SSVF Program will work with the local shelters and VA outreach to ensure all homeless Veterans are identified, and entered onto the list. Outreach will be done to locate and meet with homeless Veterans, including the library, social clubs, shelters, etc.
3. The by-name list must identify all homeless Veterans, including those who are in unsheltered and sheltered locations, regardless of funding source.
4. All attendees to the meeting are responsible for providing names to the master list. By providing the name, the referring party agrees that a ROI is in place, and on file at their agency. The ROI and entry information is available online at www.capnd.org.
5. All attendees are responsible for providing information to document offers of housing and housing placement every 14 days (excluding Project Hart participants).
6. Non-VA Eligible Veterans are SSVF's responsibility to ensure housing has been offered and documented, with assistance from community partners. SSVF case managers will also offer housing to Veterans who are VA eligible, but will share the responsibility of offering housing and documenting with VA outreach teams.
 - a. If a Veteran on the active list can no longer be located after repeated attempts for 90 days or more, the status of that Veteran can be changed from “active” to “missing”. If the Veteran is located at a later date and is still experiencing homelessness, the date of the most recent contact would become the new date of identification.
 - b. If it is determined that an individual on the active list is not a Veteran, that individual should be removed from the active list, but should be included on a non-Veteran specific active list.
 - c. Veterans who have entered any permanent housing destination do not need to be included on the active list or should have that outcome noted on the active list.

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Community Action Partnership of North Dakota have adopted a vision of what it means to end all homelessness:

The community is able to ensure that the homeless episode is a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.

Criteria for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness

1. The community has identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness.

The community has used coordinated outreach, multiple data sources, and other methods, to identify, and engage all Veterans experiencing homelessness, including unsheltered and sheltered Veterans. For these purposes, a "Veteran" is any person who served on active duty in the armed forces, regardless of how long they served or the type of discharge they received.

2. The community provides shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it.

While ending Veteran homelessness is primarily about the community's capacity to connect Veterans to permanent housing, the community also has the capacity to immediately offer and provide some form of shelter (i.e., emergency shelter, bridge or transitional housing, other temporary settings) to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the community who wants it, while assisting the Veteran to swiftly achieve permanent housing. Access to shelter is not contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, lack of criminal record, or other unnecessary conditions.

3. The community provides service-intensive transitional housing only in limited instances.

When transitional housing is provided to a Veteran, priority is placed on using it as a short-term option while working on a permanent housing solution. The community provides longer-term service-intensive transitional housing only when Veterans are offered a choice of a permanent housing intervention, including HUD-VASH, SSVF, or similar assistance, but instead choose to enter a transitional housing program to receive specialized services, such as recovery supports, prior to moving into permanent housing.

4. The community has capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing.

The community has identified a permanent housing intervention for all Veterans known to be experiencing homelessness, including those Veterans who have chosen to enter transitional housing, and are able to assist Veterans to move into their permanent housing quickly and without barriers to entry, using Housing First principles and practices.

5. The community has resources, plans, partnerships, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future.

The community is routinely using multiple data sources and conducting comprehensive outreach and engagement efforts to identify and assist homeless and at-risk Veterans and to understand where Veterans are entering the system; The community has an adequate level of resources and the capacity to provide appropriate services that will, whenever possible, prevent homelessness for at-risk Veterans; and the community has an adequate level of resources to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing and to promote the long-term housing stability of all Veterans.

Benchmarks for Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness

Chronic and long-term homelessness among Veterans has been ended.

The community has no Veterans experiencing chronic or long-term homelessness, with the rare exceptions of:

1. Any Veteran who has been identified and offered an available permanent housing intervention, but who has not yet accepted;
2. Any Veteran who has been offered an available permanent housing intervention but has declined and instead chosen to enter a transitional housing program in order to appropriately address a clinical need
3. Any Veteran that has accepted a permanent housing intervention but is still actively in the process of identifying, securing, or moving into a unit. It is important to note that this exemption expires 90 days after acceptance of the permanent housing intervention.

The community continues to outreach to any Veterans experiencing long-term homelessness that has not yet accepted an offer of a permanent housing intervention, and continues to offer an available permanent housing intervention to those Veterans at least once every two weeks.

Veterans have quick access to permanent housing.

The community has a system in place to connect Veterans experiencing homelessness to permanent housing in an average of 90 days or less, measured from the day they are identified as experiencing homelessness to the day they enter permanent housing

The community has sufficient permanent housing capacity.

The number of Veterans exiting homelessness and moving into permanent housing is greater than or equal to the number of Veterans entering homelessness.

The community is committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances.

The number of Veterans experiencing homelessness who enter service-intensive transitional housing is significantly less than the number of Veterans entering homelessness.

Strategies to End Veteran Homelessness

Identify and Be Accountable to all Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

We can only solve Veteran homelessness if we are able to locate and identify every Veteran or Veteran family in need of assistance, and track their progress from initial engagement to housing placement in real time. By tracking person-level data, communities can better monitor progress and hold themselves accountable to housing outcomes.

Conduct Coordinated Outreach and Engagement Efforts

Persistent, coordinated, and creative outreach efforts are vitally important to the ability to not only identify, but engage, Veterans experiencing homelessness and to link them to the housing and services interventions available in your community. That involves:

- Ensuring that outreach efforts are comprehensive—covering a full geographic area and the multiple settings within it—and coordinated across all teams and providers

- Sharing information across outreach teams and sites, and in coordination with other systems, including law enforcement, hospitals and emergency departments, prisons and jails, libraries, and job centers Partnering with Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) and Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) grantees, who can improve care coordination and optimize resources
- Partnering with law enforcement, prisons, jails, and hospitals to conduct both in-reach and outreach to reduce the cycle between homelessness and criminal justice system involvement

These efforts should seek to reach and connect with all people who are unsheltered within your community, including people living in encampments or tent cities, as well as people in institutional settings, such as jails and hospitals. All outreach should be person-centered and emphasize building rapport and trust as a means of helping people obtain housing with appropriate services.