

Zero:2016

Montgomery County

What is Zero:2016?

- ▶ Zero:2016 is a movement of 71 communities across the country that working to end Veteran homelessness by the close of 2015 and end chronic homelessness at the end of 2017.
- ▶ Aligns with Federal government targets on ending Veteran homelessness and chronic homelessness for individuals
- ▶ The national effort supports participants in optimizing local resources, tracking progress against monthly housing goals, and accelerating the spread of proven strategies.
- ▶ Montgomery County is the only Maryland community that the national campaign selected to participate in this effort.

Regional Collaboration

- ▶ In March 2015, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, and District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser committed to a regional coordinating council on homelessness.
- ▶ This effort is charged with developing and implementing an actionable plan to work towards permanently ending homelessness in the Washington metropolitan area, with a particularly focus on Veteran homelessness.
- ▶ The collaboration across jurisdictional lines is crucial because the people we are seeking to serve are often already connected through multiple programs throughout the area.

Zero:2016 Definitions

- ▶ For this campaign:
 - a Veteran is any individual experiencing homelessness who has served on active duty in the United States Military, regardless of discharge status.
 - A chronically homeless person is anyone who meets the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's definition, which is an individual or family with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for a year or more or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

The Approach

- ▶ Know everyone in your community experiencing homelessness by name
- ▶ Collect by-name data in the form of an organized and prioritized list.
- ▶ Identify the most efficient, least intensive form of housing intervention necessary to house everyone on the list
- ▶ Continuously update the list based on as close to real-time information as possible

Knowing the people is important!

- ▶ The process of getting people housed is most effective if you know the names and as much information as possible about all the individuals and families who are homeless.
- ▶ In Montgomery County, we have compiled a Master List of all persons that have been identified as Veterans. This list has been pulled together using:
 - data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
 - a chart created for the monthly Housing Prioritization Committee (HPC) meetings, and
 - Results of the January 2015 Point-in-Time (PIT) survey.

As part of the ongoing effort to verify the names and information, we will continue to engage with referring agencies and other stakeholders.

Our team meets regularly to update all information and track all placements into housing.

Must set a Realistic Target Number of Housing Placements Needed

- ▶ To create a sustainable system of homeless services, the targeted number of housing placements needs to account for those persons who are currently homeless as well as those who are expected to become homeless during the course of the year. For the Veterans 2016 effort, the VA and Community Solutions have developed a “multiplier” based on the PIT numbers.
- ▶ Using the multiplier and the available data, the Montgomery County Zero:2016 team is estimating that we need 56 placements before the end of this year to meet our goal.

Housing Resources Available and Aligning Needs

- ▶ To be most efficient with housing placements, existing Federal and local resources must be best targeted based on the need of the individual.
- ▶ For the Veterans effort, based on National Statistics and Local Experience, the Montgomery County Zero:2016 team is estimating that the following types of placements will meet the current and expected need to house Veterans that are or will be homeless in 2015:
 - 7 – VASH (PSH)
 - 12 – other PSH (not VASH eligible)
 - 14 – Rapid Re-Housing
 - 14 – Other Residential/Rental Assistance
 - 9 – Expected to self resolve

Next Steps in Montgomery County

- ▶ Continue to Update and Review List
- ▶ Work to identify currently available housing resources
- ▶ Work to identify potential new housing resources and new partners

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