

**National Veterans' Technical Assistance Center (NVTAC)
Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) Community of Practice (CoP)
Homeless System: HVRP Integration Strategies
Thursday, October 26, 2023, 3 – 4 p.m. ET**

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Key Points

- **Introduction**
 - NVTAC reminded attendees that HVRP best practices would be shared during this session. NVTAC encouraged all grantees to utilize best practices that may improve their service delivery. Before implementing a practice discussed during this session, grantees must review their award statement of work and contact their Grant Officer's Technical Representative (GOTR) to determine if it is an allowable cost or activity or requires an amendment to their approved plan.
- **Common Systems Overview**
 - Key Partners
 - Continuums of Care (CoC)
 - CoCs are community-wide systems working collaboratively toward ending homelessness. Within CoCs are various homelessness providers, including housing programs.
 - The Coordinated Entry System (CES) is a system-wide approach that coordinates access to housing and homeless services. CES ensures equitable access, assessments, and referrals for individuals and families experiencing a housing crisis. Housing resources are typically limited, and CES prioritizes these resources based on the level of need and vulnerability. Being prioritized for a housing placement is not guaranteed but is a valuable resource, particularly for individuals and families with multiple barriers to housing.
 - For HVRP grant recipients, joining CoC workgroups or veteran-related standing meetings is a great way to initiate and build partnerships with local providers.
 - [Non-CoC housing providers](#)
 - For individuals or families experiencing homelessness who do not have multiple barriers or would not be prioritized through the CoC, non-CoC housing providers are an additional option. HVRP grant recipients should connect with local housing providers to develop an ongoing partnership and referral source for veterans.

- Conducting a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis
 - SWOT analyses can provide a manageable starting point for complex problems and a streamlined approach to answer the following questions for a given system:
 - **Strengths:** What does the identified system do well or best?
 - **Weaknesses:** What can be improved in that system?
 - **Opportunities:** What are the gaps in service, and how can your HVRP and the system in question overlap to fill in those gaps?
 - **Threats:** What are the causes for concern?
- **Discussion Questions**
 - **Question:** What partnership tips can you share that have been helpful for your program?
 - **Response:** Initial contact is important, but success comes from follow-up and continued engagement.
 - **Response:** Inviting partners, such as American Job Centers (AJC), on-site to provide services to veteran participants.
 - **Question:** What is your experience with successfully integrating these systems?
 - **Response:** It was challenging to integrate during COVID-19, but if you are resilient and place veterans into employment, partners will continue to refer veterans to your HVRP.
- **Resources**
 - [NVTAC website](#)
 - [CoC Information](#)
 - [United Way 211](#)
 - [SSVF](#)
 - [Healthcare for Homeless Veterans](#)
 - [VA CRRC Information](#)
 - [Veterans Treatment Court](#)

Conclusion

HVRP grant recipients and the veterans they serve benefit from strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with local and national agencies. Maintaining partnerships with various organizations long-term leads to additional referrals for HVRP and opportunities to refer veterans to programs providing services that HVRP does not. For more partnership information, please visit the [Community Partners](#) and [Resources](#) pages on the NVTAC website.

You can review the presentation slides through the following link: [NVTAC October 2023 CoP](#)