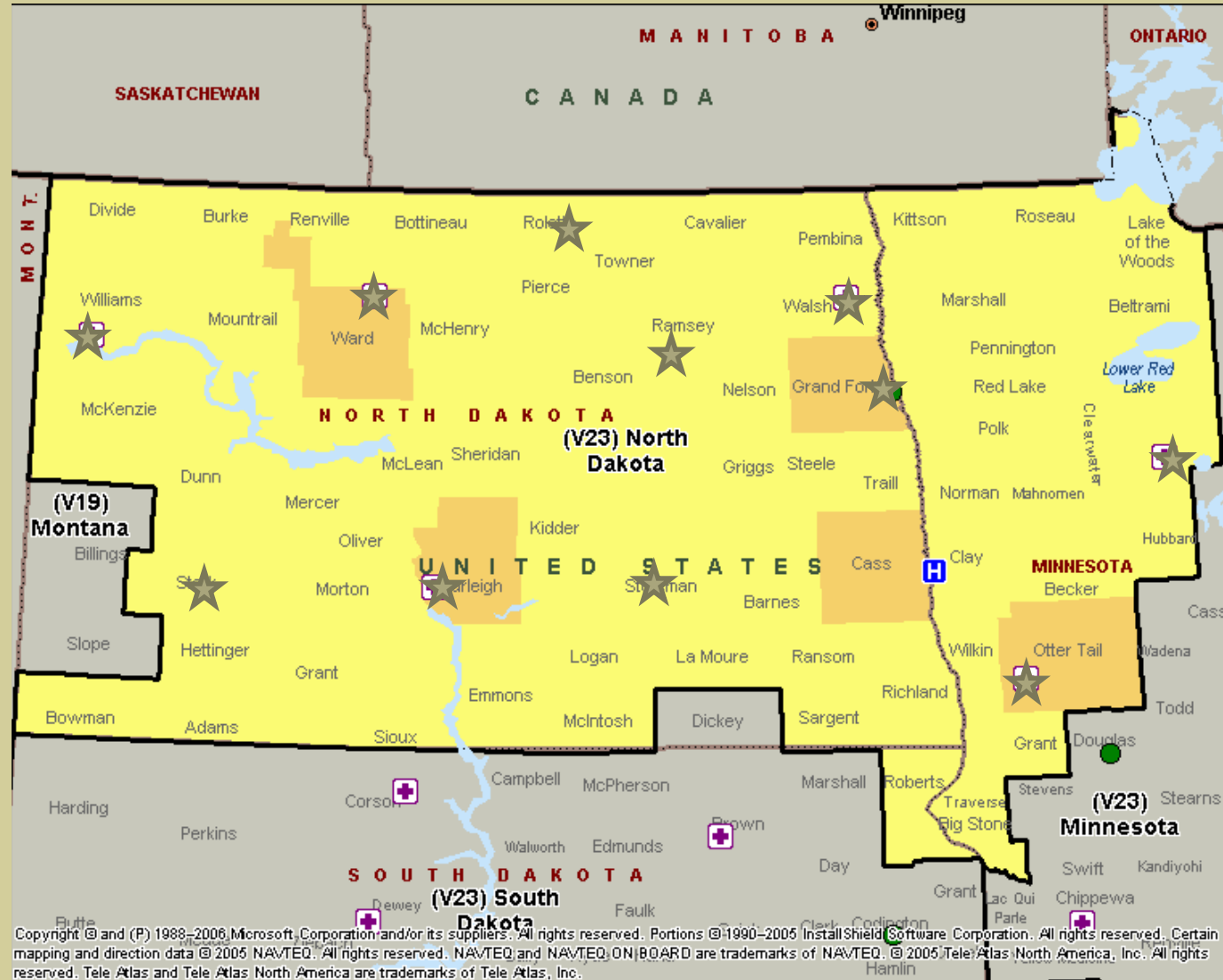


Ending Veteran  
Homelessness in North  
Dakota in 2017

# Fargo VA HCS Catchment Area

CBOC Locations



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# What is Functional Zero?

1. Homeless Veteran is identified by any service organization, crisis line, outreach, etc.
2. Eligible and placed on the tracking list/Master List.
3. (Not eligible Veterans referred to non-VA housing options and still have housing priority).
4. Offered immediate emergency shelter (within 24 hours).
5. Offered permanent housing option within 14 days, and again every 14 days after that.
6. Housed within 90 days of Veteran accepting the permanent housing offer, or issuance of HUD-VASH voucher.
7. Veteran on “safety net” for at least six months after housing placement -or- Veteran perpetually assisted through VASH.

# The Impact of Housing First and Harm Reduction Models on Ending Veteran Homelessness:

1. Housing First: No requirement for sobriety, treatment or other conditions before housing.
2. Harm Reduction: Encouraging decreased use or abuse of coping mechanisms, not requiring total abstinence as part of recovery.

They make all the difference in the world!

# Collaboration

- Goal achieved through coordinated leadership of the FM Homeless Coalition, ND State Homeless Coalition, and CoC Coordinators working cohesively with VA and many, many other agencies.
- CARES: the Statewide plan for coordinated entry into housing programs
- Bismarck, Fargo, and Moorhead Mayors sign on for the Mayor's Challenge
- Frequent meetings, summits, calls, etc. to coordinate efforts, troubleshoot, keep goals aligned

# Coordinated Goal

- Quickly and thoroughly identify Veterans experiencing homelessness throughout the state.
- Provide Veterans with safe, interim housing when necessary.
- Assist Veterans with obtaining permanent housing with appropriate supports within 90 days.

# Unified Team

- Fargo VA Healthcare System
- State/Local Housing Authorities
- ND State CoC, MN CoCs
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fargo Field Office
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Grantees (CAP & MAC-V)
- North Dakota Coalition of Homeless Persons
- Fargo/Moorhead Coalition for Homeless Persons
- North Dakota Department of Veterans' Affairs
- North Dakota Department of Corrections
- North Dakota Job Service/Department of Labor
- Community organizations (Grant Per Diem program, Housing Authorities, Faith-based programs, 501 3c organizations )

# Outreach

- Coordinated Street Outreach
- Referral sheets and eligibility access
- Referral protocol
- Weekly “Master List” Reports
- Weekly Master List Coordination Calls
- Streamlined SPDAT intakes

## Hard-to-Engage protocol for

### (a) Veterans whom outreach staff is unable to find:

*At least 4 attempts over two months, switching agencies when appropriate.*

### (b) Veterans who refuse services:

*At least four attempts over two months, switching agencies when appropriate.*

Moved to “Hard to Engage” list with *at least* quarterly attempts



# Identification

Ensure system is capturing all Veteran data:

- Universal coverage in ND HMIS for all veteran providers.
- Integrating ND VA data in HMIS
- SSVF/VA reporting, track additional information.
- Reliable veteran status field - cast widest possible net - for all homeless providers in HMIS.

# Tracking

- Outreach report and centralized outreach list
- Housing reports
- VA read-only HMIS access; reports use HMIS IDs only
- By-ID lists categorized by outcome; actionable, but shows big picture
- Statewide Report

## Weekly reports:

- Comprehensive excel sheet
- Outreach list
- SSVF ML reports
- SSVF outreach reports
- VA outreach report
- VA interim housing report
- VA PH report
- GPD Liaison PH reports
- GPD PH reports
- HUD-VASH PH reports (weekly too)
- Ineligible report

# Permanent Housing

- Housing First
- Prioritizing Veterans for appropriate supports/programs (SPDAT)
- HUD-VASH massive expansion
- Coordination on hard-to-house cases
- Consistent and coordinated landlord outreach
- Security Deposit Program
- Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund

# Transitional Housing

- 36 traditional GPD beds plus, Bridge Housing, Hospital to Housed, Low Demand
- GPD setting new expectations, Low admission barriers
- Permanent Housing Plan at initial engagement
- Rapid referrals and coordination
- GPD liaison aggressively reviews cases at admission and 45 days to ensure veterans are on track for 60-day stays
- Shelter coordination in the same manner

# Results

- *North Dakota will Functionally End Veteran Homelessness in 2017!*
  - Secured permanent housing for 980 veterans (2008- 2016)
  - Average of 48 days from identification as homeless to housing
  - 2017 PIT Update:
    - Only 5 Veterans were identified as unsheltered Statewide
    - 47 Veterans in emergency shelters or transitional housing across the entire state.

# Prevention

- Housing stability
  - employment services, appropriate benefits, timely benefits
- Ramping up SSVF prevention/eviction foreclosure prevention program
- Diversion – incorporating SSVF into training on shelter diversion
- Working closely with Veterans Justice Outreach
- Drop-In Center versus Community Resource and Referral Center
- Internal VA Clinical Screening at least once a year

# Sustainability:

- Maintenance of veteran homelessness system/resources
- Data fully integrated into HMIS (streamlined reports)
- Build new Veteran preference units
- Additional HUD-VASH vouchers
- Renewed focus on employment
- Continued focus on Justice System involvement
- Increased focus on prevention
- Expansion to Tribal Areas

# Contact Information:

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- April Fairfield – ND CHP/CoC
- Carla Solem – MN CoC
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