



1. Executive Summary

- The 50-Day Veteran Focus was designed to accelerate efforts to end veteran homelessness in Sangamon County. A diverse team of stakeholders, including state and local veterans service providers, homeless service providers, and community leaders worked to analyze our current veteran crisis response system, while identifying gaps and areas for improvement. During our time together we developed a visualization of veteran only resources, began work to better collaborate across resources, and compiled recommendations for future progress. The 50-Day Focus initiative ended on Veterans Day 2024.
- **Ultimate goal:** To reach functional zero for veterans experiencing homelessness by 2026.

Functional zero for veteran homelessness

Functional zero for veteran homelessness means that fewer veterans are experiencing homelessness than can be routinely housed in a month, with a minimum threshold of 3 veterans.



FUNCTIONAL ZERO (VETERAN):

**# ACTIVELY
HOMELESS
VETERANS**



**AVERAGE MONTHLY
HOUSING RATE
(MINIMUM 3)**

2. Methodology

- Weekly Stakeholder meetings during 50 day focus.
- Bi-weekly Veterans by names list case conferencing, HCoC Coordinated Entry meetings, HCoC Street outreach meetings.

3. Data

Number of veterans on HCoC By-Names List in October Built for Zero Data

- Total: 35 Veterans were homeless in Sangamon County
- FSR Veteran Transitional Housing : 12 in GPD / 1 in TH
- Street Outreach: 8
- HCoC Emergency Shelter: 14

4. Key Findings

- **Insights:** There are currently several organizations with resources to serve our unhoused veteran community. Often HCoC service providers are unaware of these resource opportunities. Further education and training for Veteran specific service providers and HCoC service providers is necessary to better support veterans across the different systems of support.
- **Successes:** The process helped strengthen and create relationships between entities that previously had not met or were unaware of services available. HUD VASH staff began joining the Street Outreach meetings
- **Barriers:** Staff capacity for VA programs such as HUD VASH, lack of communication between veteran agencies internally and HCoC system, and lack of supportive housing opportunities are key barriers. Data sharing is unnecessarily complicated and our community has an overall lack of access to mental health services and support.

5. Recommendations

- By-Names list used for case conferencing should be the full HCoC Veteran by-names list.
- All veterans should be on the HCoC Coordinated Entry list within 30 days of identification.
- Increase HUD Vash Vouchers and explore partnerships to expand Case Management capacity.
- Implement a Transition in Place (TIP) program in Sangamon County.
- Decrease time between entry and exit in Transitional Housing programs to accelerate progress toward functional zero target of exit within 30 days.
- Increase funding for Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing to decrease the length of time veterans spend on Coordinated Entry.
- IHDA has committed funding to support the Be Neighbors Veterans Community project that would create 18 units of supportive housing for unhoused veterans. If this project were completed and provided permanent housing for homeless veterans on the HCoC Coordinated Entry list, it could have a significant impact on making progress toward functional zero.

6. Next Steps

- Participate in a 100 Day Challenge on Veteran Homelessness with a cohort of Illinois Continuums in 2025 to learn from others that have accomplished functional zero status for veterans and accelerate implementation of best practices locally.
- Create a Process Map of HUD VASH and further improve and revise Veteran Resources Visualization map for services available for veterans experiencing homelessness.
- Implement utilization of full HCoC Veteran BFZ By-Names List for case conferencing efforts and work toward quality data improvements across veteran and HCoC service providers.

Visualization of Veteran Resources

