



Introduction to Next Step VRC and the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program

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January 2019



VRC Overview

VRC Locations:

- **California (10)**
 - Chico, Napa, Monterey, Santa Rosa, Eureka, Menlo Park, Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Redding, Vallejo
- **Nevada (2)**
 - Carson City, Reno
- **Arizona (3)**
 - Flagstaff, Prescott, Bullhead City





About the SSVF Program

- VRC works directly with veterans to help them obtain sustainable housing through financial assistance.
- VRC provides case management services and education and employment assistance.
- Also have services for veterans that are at risk of losing their housing (e.g. utility, rental arrears).
- Host San Mateo County VSO weekly.



Program Goals

- The goal of the program is to promote **housing stability** through interventions that are focused on *homeless prevention* or *rapid rehousing*.
- In order to qualify for assistance, a low-income, veteran household must either be at risk of becoming homeless or be literally homeless.



Homeless Prevention

- Homeless Prevention assistance is provided to households that are *at risk* of losing their housing.
- The household would become literally homeless *but for* our assistance.



Rapid Re-housing (RRHP)

- Rapid Re-housing Programs use interventions designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and transition to permanent housing.
- The 3 goals of rapid re-housing are to:
 1. Identify housing
 2. Provide rent and move-in financial assistance
 3. Offer case management and related services



Housing First

The program embraces the Housing First approach.

Key ideas include:

- A homeless individual or household's first and primary need is to obtain stable housing. Other issues impacting the household can and should be addressed as housing is obtained.
- Housing is not contingent on compliance with support services (e.g. testing clean, attending support groups).
- Housing should be provided quickly.
- Wraparound services are provided after housing has been obtained to help the household remain stably housed.



Key Principles

- Case Managers use the following principle to guide their interventions:

“The right service, at the right time, using the right amount of assistance.”
- Households are provided with the least amount of assistance required to help them obtain, or maintain, housing stability.
- The SSVF program emphasizes timely crisis response and client choice.



Program Eligibility

1. Veteran Family:

- Family (with or without dependent children) in which the head of the household or the spouse of the head of household is a veteran or single veteran.

2. Very Low Income:

- Less than 50% of area median income (as adjusted).

3. Current Housing Situation:

- Facing eviction
- Currently homeless
- Unstably housed



Veterans Served 2018

VRC served veterans in both San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

- Overall, we served 121 households and distributed over \$150K with 91.72% of households exiting our program in stable housing.
- **San Mateo County:** we served 32 veteran households and distributed more than \$25K in housing assistance.
 - 10 homeless prevention and 22 rapid rehousing clients.
- **Goal for 2019:** serve 255 households and distribute \$380K in housing assistance.



Thank You!

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Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or anyone on my team!



San Mateo County
Veterans' Commission

Planning for Impact

1/10/2019

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Veterans' Commission
SMC Vision 2025

- * **Healthy Community** - Our neighborhoods are safe and provide residents with access to quality health care and seamless services.
- * **Prosperous Community** - Our economic strategy fosters innovation in all sectors, creates jobs, builds community and educational opportunities for all residents.
- * **Livable Community** - Our growth occurs near transit, promotes affordable, livable connected communities.
- * **Environmentally Conscious Community** - Our natural resources are preserved through environmental stewardship, reducing our carbon emissions, and using energy, water and land more efficiently.
- * **Collaborative Community** - Our leaders forge partnerships, promote regional solutions, with informed and engaged residents, and approach issues with fiscal accountability and concern for future impacts.

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Veterans' Commission Elements of a Strategic Plan

- Environmental scan
- Vision, mission, values
- Goals and strategies
- Implementation
- Monitoring and updating

Veterans' Commission Strategic Plan

- Defines a 2-3 year framework for the Commission's activities within the context of SMC's Vision 2025
- Is implemented through annual work plans
- Is a commitment to ongoing planning, implementing, evaluating and updating

Veterans' Commission Proposed Timeline for Strategic Planning

- Initiate planning – February 2019
- Vision, Mission, Values
- Goals and strategies
- Approach to Monitoring/Review
- Adoption of Plan – May 2019

Veterans' Commission *External Scanning*

Identifies opportunities and threats outside the control of the Commission

- Beyond SMC
- Within SMC

Veterans' Commission *Internal Scanning*

Identifies strengths/resources of Commissioners and prior accomplishments that will contribute to the success of the Commission's work

Veterans' Commission #1 - Option for Planning Process

One extra Commission meeting and two extended regular meetings – More full Commission Involvement

- January 2019: **Regular meeting** - Determine approach and timeline and appoint planning Work Group
- February 2019: **Extra Commission meeting** for work in small groups: Values, Vision, Mission
- March 2019: **Extended Regular meeting** to draft Goals and Objectives
 - April 2019: Work group compiles draft strategic plan for adoption in May
- May 2019: **Extended Regular meeting** - Adopt Strategic Plan and begin work plan

Veterans' Commission #2 - Option for Planning Process

Two extended regular meetings, work group meets in Feb and April - option relies more on work group

- January 2019: **Full Commission:** Determine approach and timeline, appoint Work Group
 - February 2019: **Work Group** confirms Mission, completes External and Internal Scan
- March 2019: **Full Commission at extended meeting** – Receive report on scanning and identify strategic goals and strategies
 - April 2019: **Work Group** agrees on how to evaluate progress and prepares draft plan for Commission Review
- May: **Full Commission at extended meeting** to review/approve draft strategic plan and begin work plan

Veterans' Commission Work Plan for 2019 – Implements Strategic Plan

- Develop actionable goals for one year
- Measurable objectives
- Organize for action
- Measure success

Veterans' Commission

- Role of a facilitator in planning
- Commission participation
- Keeping the plan relevant and actionable

Veterans' Commission Proposed Group Agreements

- Speak respectfully
- Speak one at a time
- Participate as fully as possible
- Allow the facilitator to guide the process
- * Other suggestions...