

Housing Insecurity Project Discussion:
4/2/25, 12-1pm

Participants:

Gregory Allen	Ann Annis	James Bender	Kevin Bohnsack	Parker Brisbee
Kevin Brooks	Chad Brown	Kimberly (Casey) Coon	Paul Dery	Randy Evans
Melissa Flowers	Katie Graham	Ariel Hawthorne	Eric Hufnagel	Adam LaVigne
Matthew Leach	Tammy Lemmer	Frank Lombard	Kathleen Oberst	Dean Sienko
Jeremy Suttles	Lucas VanEtten	Renee Verbeke	Jim Yates	

Overview:

The goal of the brainstorming session was to identify specific projects that could benefit from additional support in achieving their objective(s). Emphasis was placed on existing initiatives, recognizing their potential for more immediate and efficient impact(s)- though new project ideas were also welcomed. Meeting participants were invited to express interest in serving as for Chair or Co-Chairs involvement as specific projects move forward. The staff of the Core Team is available to provide administrative supports as requested.

Key Repeated Themes:

- Strong need for landlord education and risk mitigation incentives.
- Urgent need to protect and expand financial literacy education for veterans.
- Healthcare enrollment should be a primary, automatic step in helping any homeless veteran
- Long-term supportive housing must be the focus — not just transitional or emergency housing.
- Data-driven advocacy showing housing stability reduces healthcare costs is critical.
- Focus needs to stay on the veteran's individual needs ("veteran-centered" strategy)

Next Steps:

- Let us know if you have suggestions for potential collaborators in the event we inadvertently omitted current initiatives.
- Contact the admin team at ihp.vhwc@msu.edu if you would like to serve as Chair or Co-Chair for any of the specific opportunities.
- Review and respond to project specific workplan drafts as they are published.
- Participate in project specific touch-base meetings as they are scheduled.

Major Challenges Identified	Current Initiatives and Programs	Identified Needs	VHWC Contribution Opportunities
<p>Housing stock shortage of affordable and accessible housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elderly and/or disabled considerations <p>Distinct types of housing solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of long-term supportive housing solutions Most efforts focus on transitional, short-term housing. Chronic homelessness turnover, requiring ongoing, consistent case management. Inconsistent healthcare enrollment connections; veterans not consistently linked to VA healthcare services. 	<p>Continuum of Care (CoC) network</p> <p>Veteran Navigators linking to resources</p> <p>Existing resources in place to support veterans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholic Charities Veterans Village (under construction in Flint). Timber Creek Project (supporting justice-involved veterans). Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) for low-income seniors. Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency veteran housing counseling services. LAVC & MVAA Grants (\$250,000 each for veteran housing stabilization). HUD-VASH Expansion to non-healthcare-eligible veterans. VA Medical Foster Home Programs (each VA facility has one). 	<p>Expand Housing Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentivize assisted living and community residential care homes to accept vouchers. Local ordinance and zoning issues Medical Foster Homes <p>Promote Person-Centered Options Counseling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch soon through Disability Networks. Offer comprehensive consultations addressing full life circumstances. <p>Increase Healthcare Enrollment Efforts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make enrolling veterans into VA healthcare and benefits part of every housing conversation. <p>Use ROI and Data-Driven Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show how stable housing reduces taxpayer healthcare costs. Pull from National Alliance to End 	<p>Collaborate with Local Continuums of Care (CoCs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build direct connections with county and regional homelessness response networks <p>Long-Term Solutions Over Quick Fixes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on creating sustainable, permanent housing — not just emergency shelter solutions. Show policymakers how stable housing saves money in healthcare and reduces turnover costs (ROI).

Major Challenges Identified	Current Initiatives and Programs	Identified Needs	VHWC Contribution Opportunities
		Homelessness and VA data.	
Financial instability among veterans, need for widespread education on budgeting, debt management, and savings.	Existing resources in place to support veterans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veteran Navigators – Michigan Directory • County-based Veteran Service Officers (MVAA) • Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency Homebuyer/renter education materials • 	Expand Financial Literacy Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus areas: budgeting basics, debt snowball strategy, building emergency savings. 	Boost Practical Financial Planning Referrals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budgeting help, debt management, building savings. Focus on Whole Health for Veterans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framing care strategies around mental, financial, and physical well-being.
Landlord reluctance to accept housing vouchers, especially for veterans with substance use histories or justice involvement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High turnover costs and maintenance fears among landlords, discouraging them from renting to at-risk veterans. 	Continuum of Care (CoC) network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlord information and strategy briefs with supporting written and video materials 	Host Regional Landlord Education Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach benefits of renting to veterans. • Highlight landlord incentives (risk mitigation funds, 2x rent offers). • Promote the "housing first" model and strong case management supports. 	Support Landlord Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person and virtual events tailored by geographic region. • Showcase available landlord incentives and support systems.