

## 2014 Annual Update

# GREATER VIRGINIA PENINSULA HOMELESSNESS CONSORTIUM

[WWW.VAPENINSULAHOMELESS.ORG](http://WWW.VAPENINSULAHOMELESS.ORG)

*The mission of the Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium is to develop, sustain and coordinate a comprehensive continuum of care for citizens at risk of or experiencing homelessness.*

The Greater Virginia Peninsula Homelessness Consortium (GVPHC) is a coalition of public and private organizations that maintains a current and viable process to address quality of life issues and provide services and resources to the most vulnerable households and individuals across the six (6) jurisdictions of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg, and the counties of James City and York.

The Virginia Peninsula Mayors and Chairs Commission on Homelessness (COH), comprised of members appointed from each of the six jurisdictions, collaboratively addresses the issue of homelessness within the region. In 2009, the Commission, with support from the GVPHC and local community stakeholders, successfully developed and adopted a Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

In April 2013, the GVPHC hosted a community-wide Strategic Planning and Ten-Year Plan Review. Utilizing the objectives identified under the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness, members of the community worked to assess service gaps and align the regional and national plans.

### OPENING DOORS: FEDERAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS

- **Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 5 years**
- **Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 5 years**
- **Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth and children in 10 years**
- **Set a path to end all types of homelessness**

### FINISH THE JOB OF ENDING CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS IN 5 YEARS

155 beds have been created through the annual Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) award of project funding since the GVPHC's first award in 1999. The region also hosts a 22-bed Safe Haven, as well as an 88-bed Single Room Occupancy (SRO) program, two of the first programs of their kind in Virginia. The 2014 Housing Inventory Chart identified 524 year round permanent supportive housing beds,

including 261 permanent supportive housing beds designated for chronically homeless (CH) persons.

**524** PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING BEDS (PSH)  
**261** CHRONIC HOMELESS (CH) DESIGNATED BEDS

The Program Monitoring Committee works with the Hampton Newport News Community Services Board, LINK of Hampton Roads, ACCESS AIDS, Department of Veterans Affairs and Warwick SRO to further efforts to identify and address the specific needs of the chronic homeless, including the review of those persons currently housed using CoC funds, to transition highly successful persons into permanent housing, thus freeing up beds for more CH individuals. The CH are always prioritized for any turnover within the PSH units of these agencies.

### PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS IN 5 YEARS

The GVPHC has a strong, collaborative partnership with the various Veteran organizations working closely to coordinate programs and identify veterans for permanent supportive housing through HUD-Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) programs, rapid rehousing and prevention through the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF,) and Grant Per Diem Programs. The 2014 Housing Inventory Chart identified 281 HUD-VASH vouchers in use by veteran households on the Peninsula. In July 2013, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced the award of \$1.5 Million in grants across Hampton Roads, including the award of \$261,295 in SSVF funding to the Office of Human Affairs (OHA). Since the program's start in December 2013, the OHA has assisted 99 veteran households with prevention and rapid re-housing assistance.

**281** HUD-VASH VOUCHERS

**99** VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTED WITH SSVF

The Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board manages the Region 5 Greater Hampton Roads Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP), a program charged with facilitating services for veterans and their families, with a special emphasis on those affected by stress related conditions or traumatic brain injuries. From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, Region 5 served 334 new veterans, including 29 re-entry clients and 37

chronic homeless veterans across Hampton Roads, the Northern Neck and the Eastern Shore.

## 334 VETERAN HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

### REGION 5, VIRGINIA WOUNDED WARRIOR PROGRAM

Other programs within the region that serve veterans include: Malachi House (transitional housing); Disabled American Veterans (supportive services and Stand Down events); Virginia Employment Commission (employment) and LINK of Hampton Roads (hospice).

## PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS FOR FAMILIES, YOUTH AND CHILDREN IN 10 YEARS

The GVPHC prioritizes homeless households with dependent children and utilizes prevention and re-housing funds to prevent evictions and rapidly return households to permanent housing whenever possible. From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, the GVPHC Homeless Prevention Program assisted 131 families with prevention assistance.

## 131 FAMILIES AVOIDED HOMELESSNESS

Outreach workers are instructed to immediately notify the appropriate jurisdiction when an unsheltered household with dependent children is identified to ensure that the household is promptly assessed for housing and services. GVPHC providers worked to quickly house and stabilize homeless families through Rapid Re-Housing assistance.

## \$335,283 2013-2014 FUNDING AWARDED FOR RAPID RE-HOUSING

## 261 PROPOSED HOUSEHOLDS SERVED THROUGH RAPID RE-HOUSING IN THE NEXT OPERATING YEAR.

In 2014, the GVPHC strengthened its commitment to Rapid Re-Housing with the partial reallocation of Transitions, Next Step Transitional Housing Program—funded by the HUD, HOME DV (Housing Options Minimize the Effect of Domestic Violence). Transitions newly awarded \$73,988 for the HOME-DV project, which helps eligible survivors quickly find new housing as they work toward a safe and healthy future. Additionally, the GVPHC secured \$261,295 in Rapid Re-Housing funding under the 2014-2016 Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VSHP) to advance the Consortium's efforts to reduce the length of homelessness and promote housing stability.

The region also hosts a Hampton Roads LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) Center, a program that utilizes a community of volunteers and professionals to achieve its goals of promoting LGBT health and human rights, while providing a safe space for area LGBT youth. The Center provides direct program services to the many facets of the LGBT community, including men, women, youth, seniors, families, transgender community members and their families, and those struggling with HIV. 1,756 people accessed services at the Center, of which 83 received 503 hours of mental health counselling.

1,756 PEOPLE ACCESSED SERVICES AT THE LGBT CENTER

83 PEOPLE RECEIVED

503 HOURS OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

## SET A PATH TO END ALL TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS

The GVPHC created the Service Coordination and Assessment Network (SCAAN) in 2008 to better address the needs of the homeless and promote exits to permanent housing. Representatives from an array of essential housing and service providers meet bi-weekly to coordinate the housing and service needs for homeless clients. Members of SCAAN also approve and monitor all applications for rapid re-housing assistance.



## HOUSING CRISIS HOTLINE

(866)750-4431

The GVPHC launched the GVPHC Housing Crisis Hotline in 2014. The telephone-based centralized intake and assessment for persons experiencing a housing crisis will afford persons the ability to call one toll-free number to request assistance across the six jurisdictions, making client contact possible irrespective of geography. The Hotline will serve as the point of entry for all homeless services, enhance the quality of client screening and assessment, better administer shelter diversion strategies, and target program assistance to where it can be most effective.

### For More Information, please contact:

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