

# Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiative

Chicago, Illinois, USA

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**Project Description:** This is a city-wide initiative was designed to address systemic barriers in Chicago that prevented homeless veterans from getting housed in an efficient manner.

**Distinguishing Features:** This program implemented a system framework that coordinates services and resources to efficiently process housing needs in Chicago. This framework allows organizations to work together and share information in a centralized databased.

## Population Served: Homeless Veterans

2018 Program Report: [www.allchicago.org/sites/allchicago.org/files/EVHI.pdf](http://www.allchicago.org/sites/allchicago.org/files/EVHI.pdf)

Chicago Office of Veterans Affairs Report: [www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/fss/veterans/policy-advocacy-initiatives/evhi.html](http://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/fss/veterans/policy-advocacy-initiatives/evhi.html)

## SUMMARY

The Ending Veteran Homelessness Initiative (EVHI) is a major Collaboratory effort by local, regional, and federal organizations to address homelessness among Veterans in Chicago. It is a data-driven process that works to streamline housing and resources between multiple community organizations to maximize output. The initiative is defined by a centralized database and by-name list that matches veterans with the appropriate organization, and ensures they find and maintain housing. A notable part of this effort was political cooperation. The City of Chicago and the Office of the Mayor backed this project, and reinforced community support. As a result of this city-wide cooperation, Chicago has reduced homelessness among veterans by 28% since the initiative started in December 2015. They also reduced the average length of time between identification and housing by 66 days between December 27, 2017 and March 27, 2018.

## EVHI Teams

To manage this endeavor, the EVHI is divided into three teams: The Leadership Team, The Community Team, and The Outreach Team.

<b>The Leadership Team</b>	<b>Funders and system-level coordinators that focus on decision making and resource allocation.</b> <i>City of Chicago Mayors Office, Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services, All Chicago, and representatives from The Community Team, and Services for Veteran Families.</i>
<b>The Community Team</b>	<b>Implements strategies, monitors program and system efficacy, and provides critical feedback.</b> <i>Emergency shelters, landlords, transitional &amp; supportive housing programs, and outreach groups.</i>
<b>The System Integration Team</b>	<b>Manages the by-name list, problem solves, and ensures every veteran is housed appropriately</b> System Navigation Team: Helps veterans through the housing process <i>Featherfist, Volunteers of America Illinois, Northside Housing</i>  Outreach Team: connects with individuals experiencing homelessness in the city/assesses veterans <i>VA Community Resource and Referral Center</i>

## CONNECTED ORGANIZATIONS

A Safe Haven  
All Chicago  
Center for Changing Lives  
Center for Housing and Health  
Chicago Housing Authority  
Christian Community Health Center  
City of Chicago  
Cornerstone Community Outreach  
CSH  
Featherfist  
Franciscan Outreach Association  
Heartland Health Outreach  
Heartland Human Care Services  
Housing Opportunities for Women  
HRDI  
Interfaith Housing Development Corporation  
Inner Voice  
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center  
La Casa Norte  
Matthew House  
Mercy Housing  
Northside Housing & Supportive Services  
Olive Branch  
Pacific Garden Mission  
Partners in Community Building  
Primo Center  
Renaissance Social Services  
Safer Foundation  
Salvation Army  
Sarah's Circle  
Thresholds  
The Boulevard of Chicago  
The Renaissance Collaborative  
Urbanite Veteran Program  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Volunteers of America