

Veteran Services Project 2013-2014

Elizabeth Donald
Billings Metro VISTA Project

Veterans Project Goals

- Increase capacity of local veteran service providers
- Secure funding to develop and/or enhance current veteran services
- Increase the number of veterans being served in Billings

Veteran Service Provider Survey

- Created to determine what information should be collected in the veterans survey
- Survey assessed the following:
 - Services
 - Clients
 - Challenges
 - Future projects and/or plans
- Service providers also reported that having a list of services available for veterans would be useful

The background of the central graphic is a waving American flag with 50 stars. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the flag.

Veteran's Resource List

BILLINGS, MT

Point in Time 2014 Survey

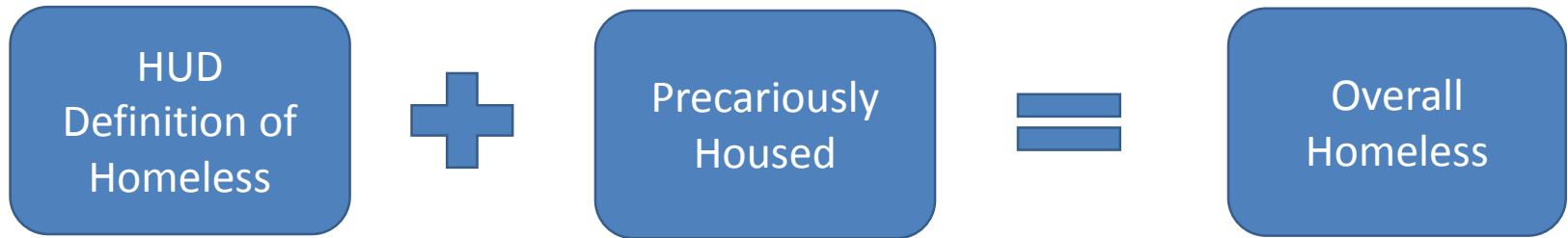
- Approximately 538 homeless people in Billings
- 82 people reported being veterans, which is 15% of the homeless population
- Veterans are 10% of total population in Billings

Veterans Survey 2014



2014 Veterans Survey

- The survey was created to determine what veterans experiencing homelessness and poverty were facing
- 66 responses
- 95% male
- 48% considered overall homeless (HUD definition and precariously housed)
- Conducted at:
 - Billings Community Connect
 - Various service providers in Billings
 - Street level outreach



HUD Definition

- Outside
- Emergency shelter
- Domestic Violence Shelter
- Hotel/Motel paid by voucher
- Transitional housing program

Precariously Housed

- Staying with friends/family on emergency basis, short term
- Staying with friends/family, long term
- Motel/hotel paid by self
- Hospital
- Jail
- Psychiatric facility
- Substance abuse treatment

Housing

- **24** respondents reported housing as their current biggest need
- **46%** of homeless veterans reported sleeping outside or another place not meant for habitation
- **63%** of respondents reported being homeless at least one time in the last three years
- **29%** have been homeless three or more times in the last three years
- **18%** have been homeless for over a year

Transportation

- 40% of respondents reported that they were only able to find transportation sometimes or rarely / never
- When respondents were asked what their current biggest need was transportation was the third biggest need reported

Employment

- 79% of respondents were unemployed
- 21 respondents reported facing obstacles while searching for employment
- Transportation and disabilities were the top obstacles faced while searching for employment

Future steps

B-MVP Veterans Project will seek to address housing, transportation, and employment needs

- A fundraising plan is being developed with hopes to raise funds to provide bus passes to veterans in need of transportation
- B-MVP Veterans Project plans to support local service providers to expand veteran housing assistance
- B-MVP Veterans Project plans to increase veteran employment by supporting local service providers veterans' programs
- Additional veteran services may also be supported to increase service capacity

2014 Veterans Survey Report

- Click [here](#) to view the full report

Prepared by:

Elizabeth Donald

Veteran Services

AmeriCorps Volunteer in Service to America

Billings Metro VISTA Project (MVP)

City of Billings Community Development Division

406-657-8289

vista2@ci.billings.mt.us