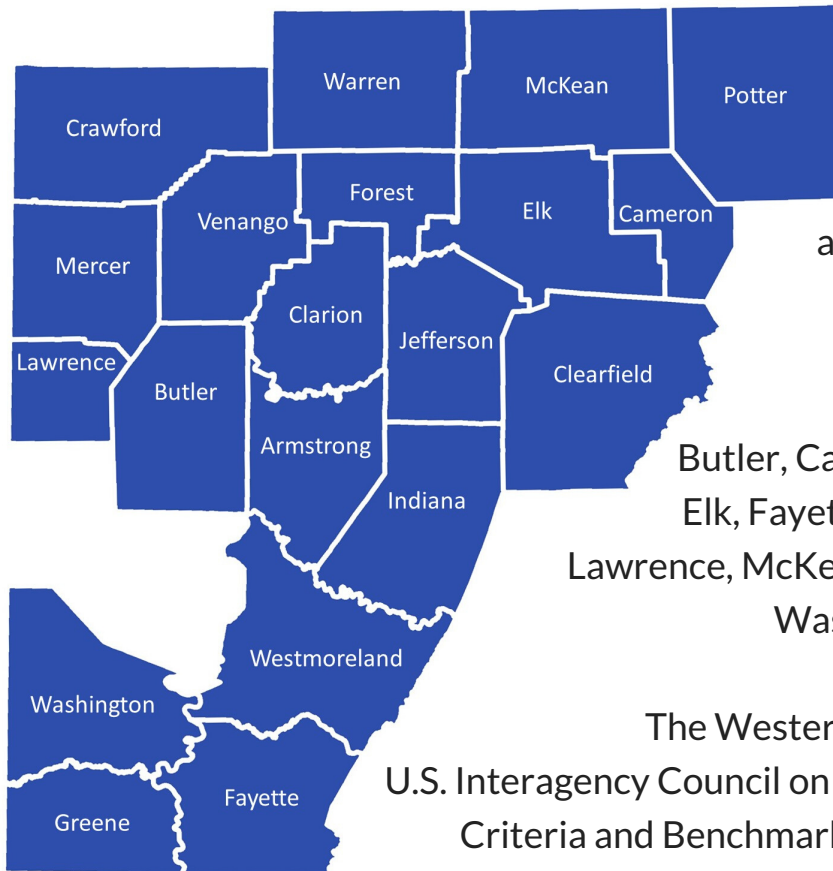




WESTERN PA: A SYSTEM BUILT TO PREVENT & END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS



One by One, the Western PA Continuum of Care, is a group of organizations and individuals working together to coordinate activities, advance systems change and expand resources to prevent and end homelessness across 20 counties in Western PA, including: Armstrong, Butler, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

The Western PA CoC has been designated by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness as meeting the federal Criteria and Benchmarks for Ending Veterans Homelessness.

Meeting the federal Criteria and Benchmarks means that a robust network of veteran and homeless service providers and stakeholders has worked collaboratively to achieve the following:

- Whenever a Veteran experiences homelessness, we identify them quickly and house the veteran in less than 90 days on average.
- We have identified veterans experiencing chronic and long-term homelessness and have worked to house these veterans.
- We currently have enough housing and service resources available in our community to assist any veteran experiencing homelessness.
- We provide long-term housing resources to veterans and do not rely on short-term housing interventions except when the veteran needs specialized services.

For more information about the Western PA CoC's work to end Veterans homelessness, contact Kathy Presnar at Lawrence County Community Action Partnership, kpresnar@lccap.org, 724.658.7258, x1213



WESTERN PA: A SYSTEM BUILT TO PREVENT & END VETERAN HOMELESSNESS



KEY PARTNERSHIPS

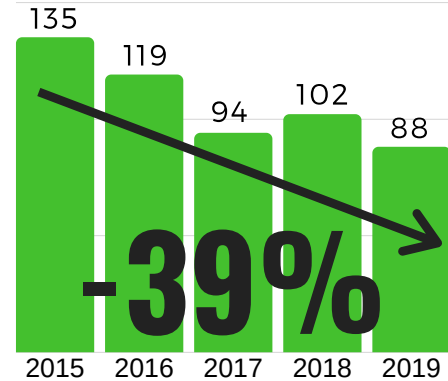
Ending homelessness requires ongoing collaboration among stakeholders and a systemic response.

Key partners in the effort to address homelessness among veterans in the Western PA CoC include:

- Federal agencies: U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs, the region's five VA Medical Centers (Butler, Pittsburgh, Erie, Altoona, Bath), U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
- State agencies: Departments of Community and Economic Development and Military and Veterans Affairs
- Veteran services providers: Supportive Services for Veteran Families providers, Grant per Diem providers, other VA-funded providers, local Veterans groups & foundations
- Homeless services, housing and community services providers in the Western PA CoC

DATA SHOW OUR PROGRESS

WESTERN PA COC 2015-2019 POINT IN TIME COUNT DATA



Our collaborative efforts have led to a 39% reduction in the number of veterans experiencing homelessness counted during a single night in January each year for the Point in Time Count. Most veterans counted were being served in VA-funded shelters or transitional housing programs and were receiving ongoing outreach to address service needs and/or identify permanent housing.

A SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM HONORING VETERAN CHOICE

We know that additional veterans experiencing homelessness will continue to be identified in our community. Our system is built to ensure homelessness experienced by veterans is rare, brief and occurs one-time. Our network of providers works together to:



- Quickly identify any veteran experiencing homelessness in the community
- Assess the housing and service needs of that veteran
- Identify eligible housing and service options and present information to the veteran so they can make an informed decision about what will work for them
- Assist and provide support to the veteran in moving in and maintaining permanent housing

