

Ending Veteran Homelessness: An Introduction to Veteran Homelessness

Part 1: What is Veteran Homelessness?

Definitions: Who is a “Homeless Veteran”?

- For the purposes of eligibility for VA homeless programs, [a person is considered homeless if they:](#)
 - **Category 1:** Lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, such as those living in **emergency shelters, transitional housing, or places not meant for habitation, or**
 - **Category 2:** Are an individual or family who will **imminently lose their primary nighttime residence** (within 14 days), provided that no subsequent housing has been identified and the individual/family lacks support networks or resources needed to obtain housing, **or**
 - **Category 3:** Are an unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or a family with children and youth who **qualify under other Federal statutes**, such as the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, have not had a lease or ownership interest in a housing unit in the last 60 or more days, have had two or more moves in the last 60 days, and who are likely to continue to be unstably housed because of disability or multiple barriers to employment, **or**
 - **Category 4:** Are an individual or family who **is fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence**, has no other residence, and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.



Definitions: Who is a “Homeless Veteran”?

- *For the purposes of achieving an effective end to Veteran homelessness, a person is considered a Veteran if they:*
 - Are an adult who served on **active duty in the United States armed forces**, including persons who served on active duty from the military reserves or the National Guard, **regardless of how long they served or the type of discharge they received.**
- This definition is intentionally broader than VA Health Care eligibility or eligibility for specific VA Homeless Programs.

Why Do Veterans Become Homeless?

Individual-level Risk Factors

- Mental Illness
- Substance Use Disorders
- Lack of Stable Income or Employment
- History of Incarceration
- Lack of Social Support
- Adverse Childhood Events

System-level Risk Factors

- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Lack of Economic Opportunities
- High Crime Neighborhoods
- Cultural Factors

Why Do Women Veterans Become Homeless?

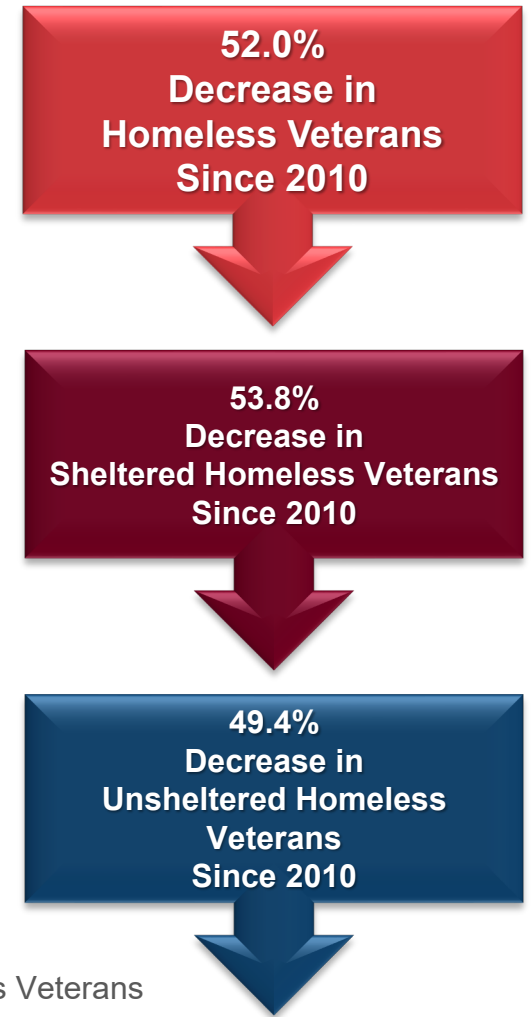
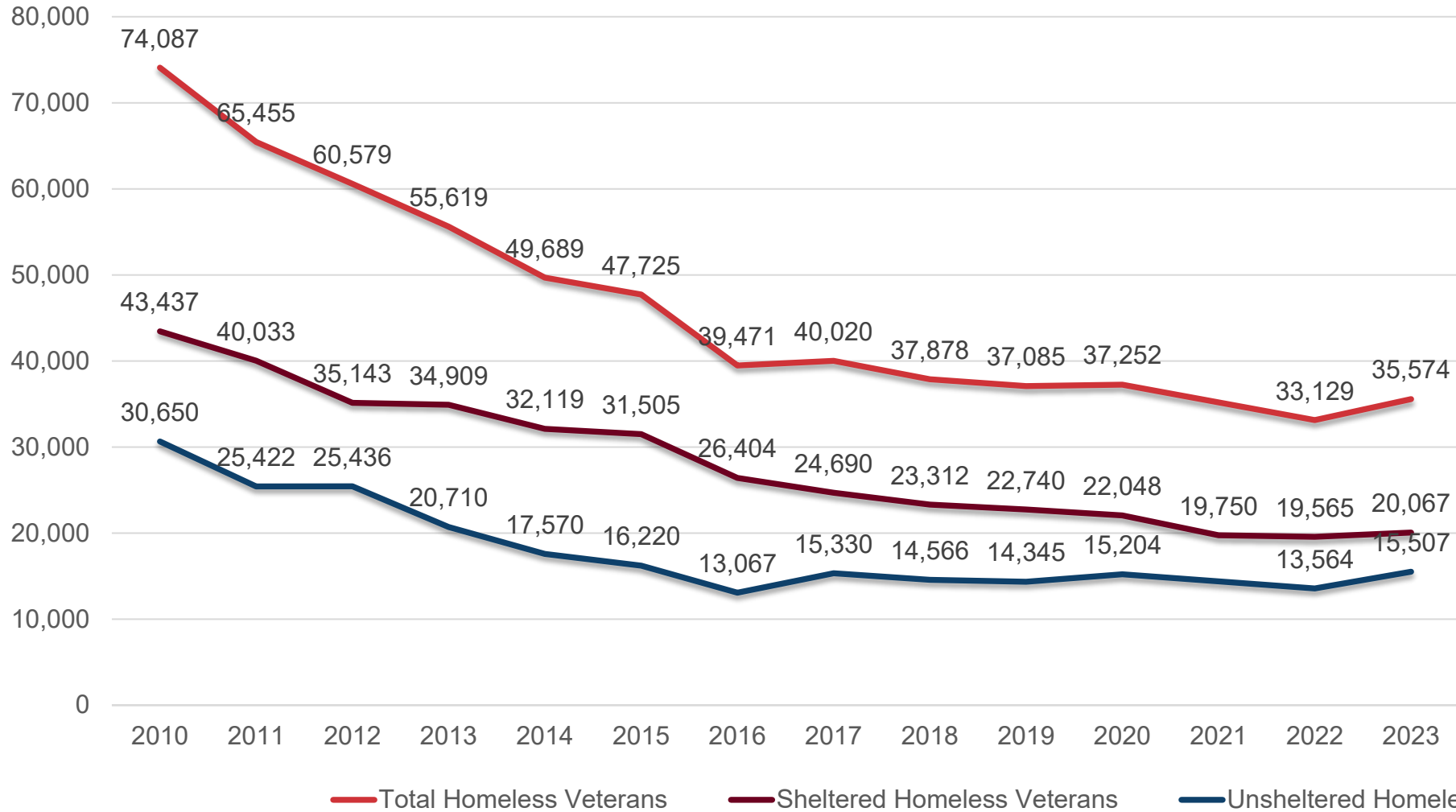
Individual-level Risk Factors

- Military Sexual Trauma
- Lack of Stable Income or Employment
- Physical Disabilities or Chronic Health Conditions
- Anxiety or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders

System-level Risk Factors

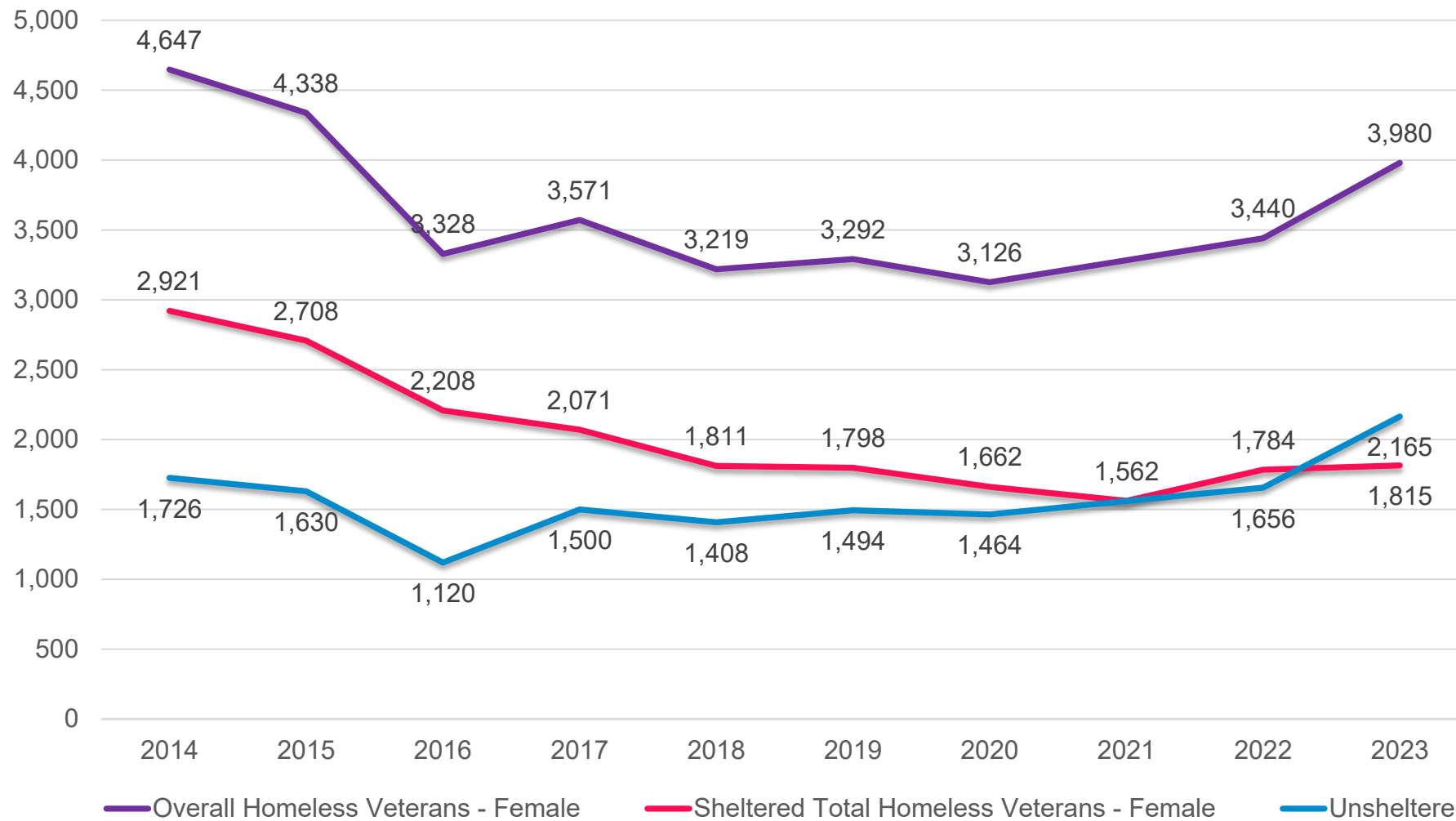
- Lack of Affordable Housing
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- High Crime Neighborhoods
- Cultural Factors

Reduction in Veteran Homelessness: 2010 - 2023



Reduction in Women Veteran Homelessness

Annual Homeless Assessment Report, Point-in-Time, 2014 – 2023



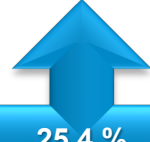
**14.4%
Decrease in
Homeless Women Veterans
Since 2014**



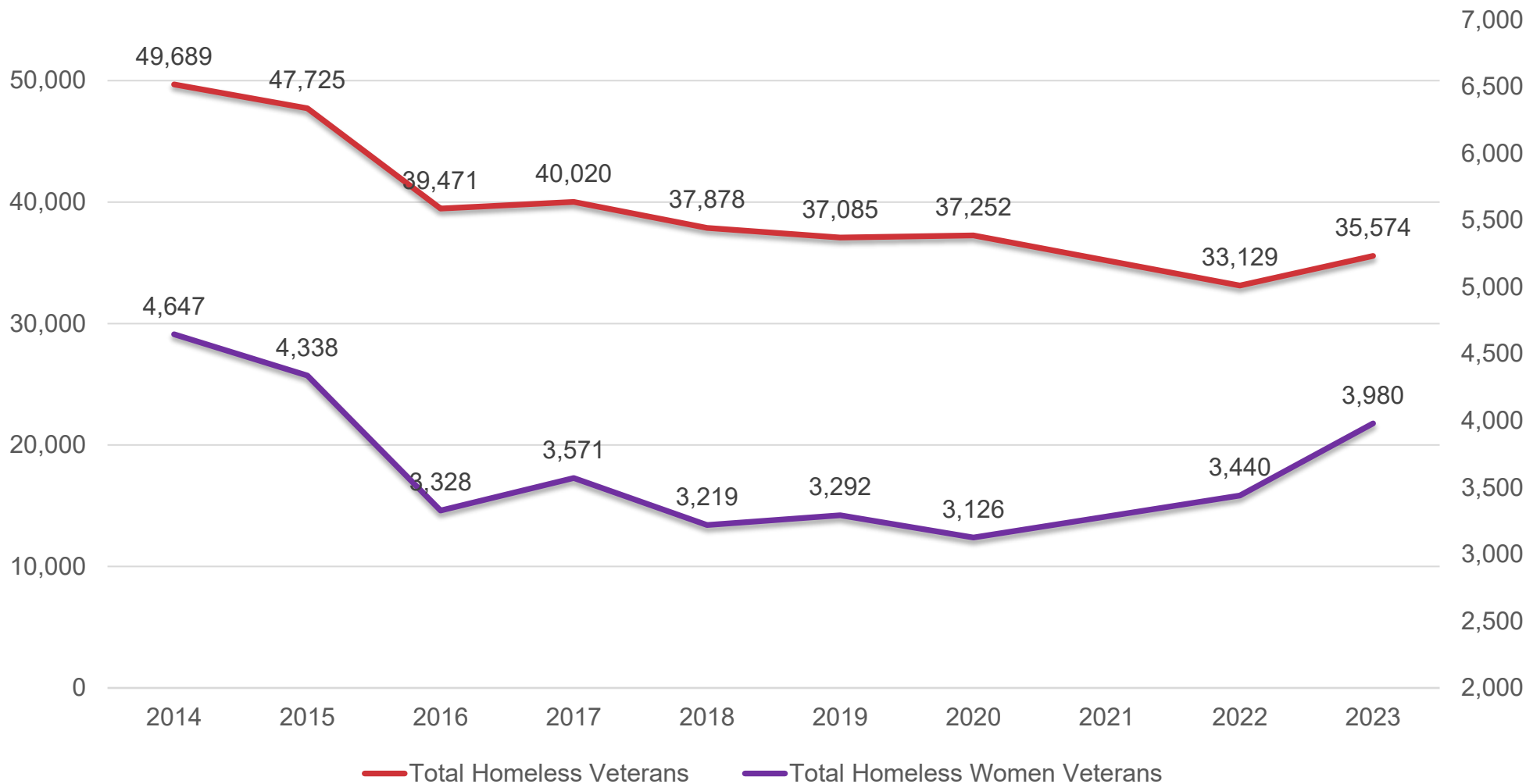
**37.9%
Decrease in
Sheltered Women Veterans
Since 2014**



**25.4%
Increase in
Unsheltered Women Veterans
Since 2014**



All Homeless Veterans Compared to Homeless Women Veterans Annual Homeless Assessment Report, Point-in-Time, 2014 – 2023

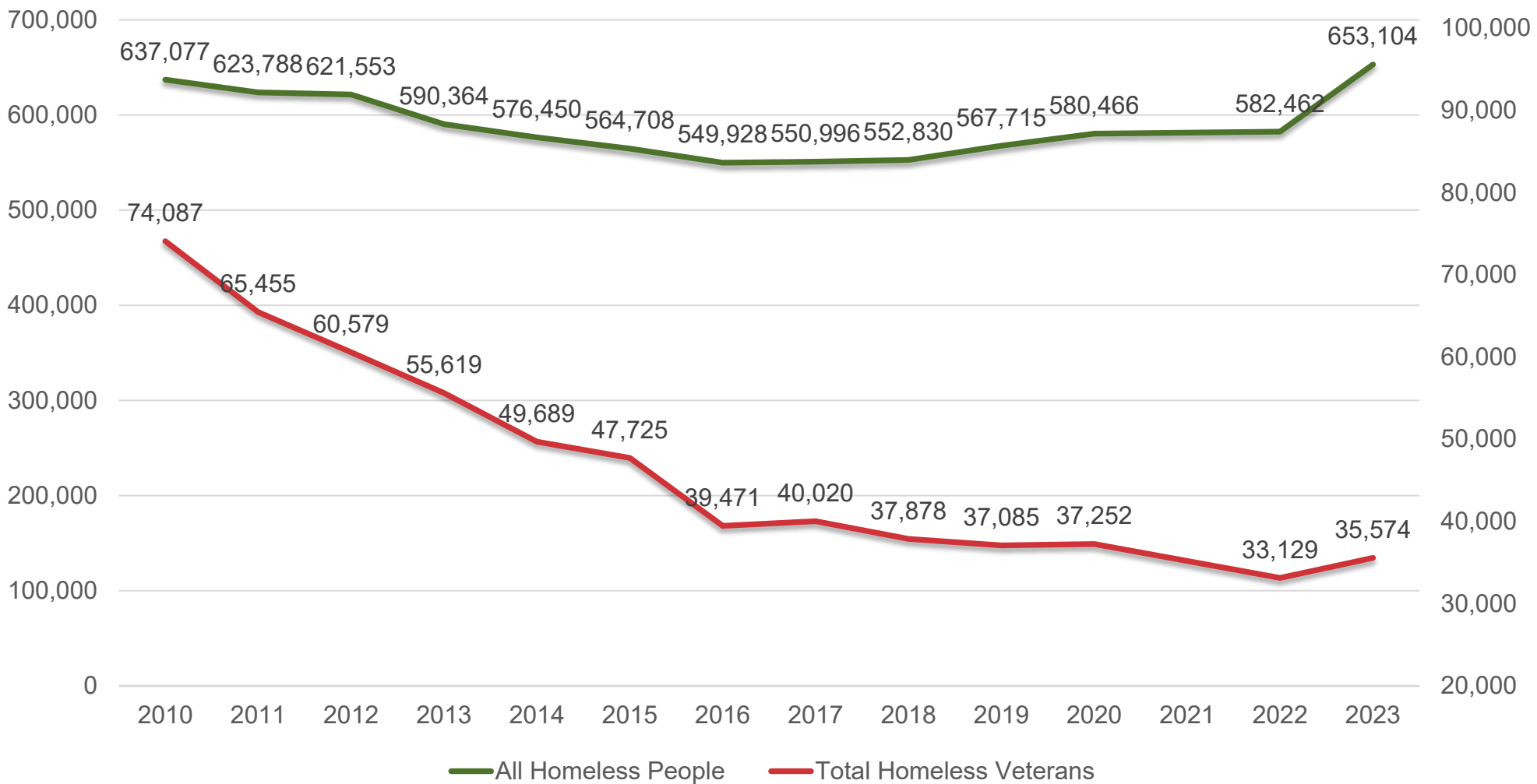


**26.9%
Decrease in
Homeless Veterans
Since 2014**

**14.4%
Decrease in
Homeless Women
Veterans Since 2014**

Homeless Veterans Compared to All Homeless People

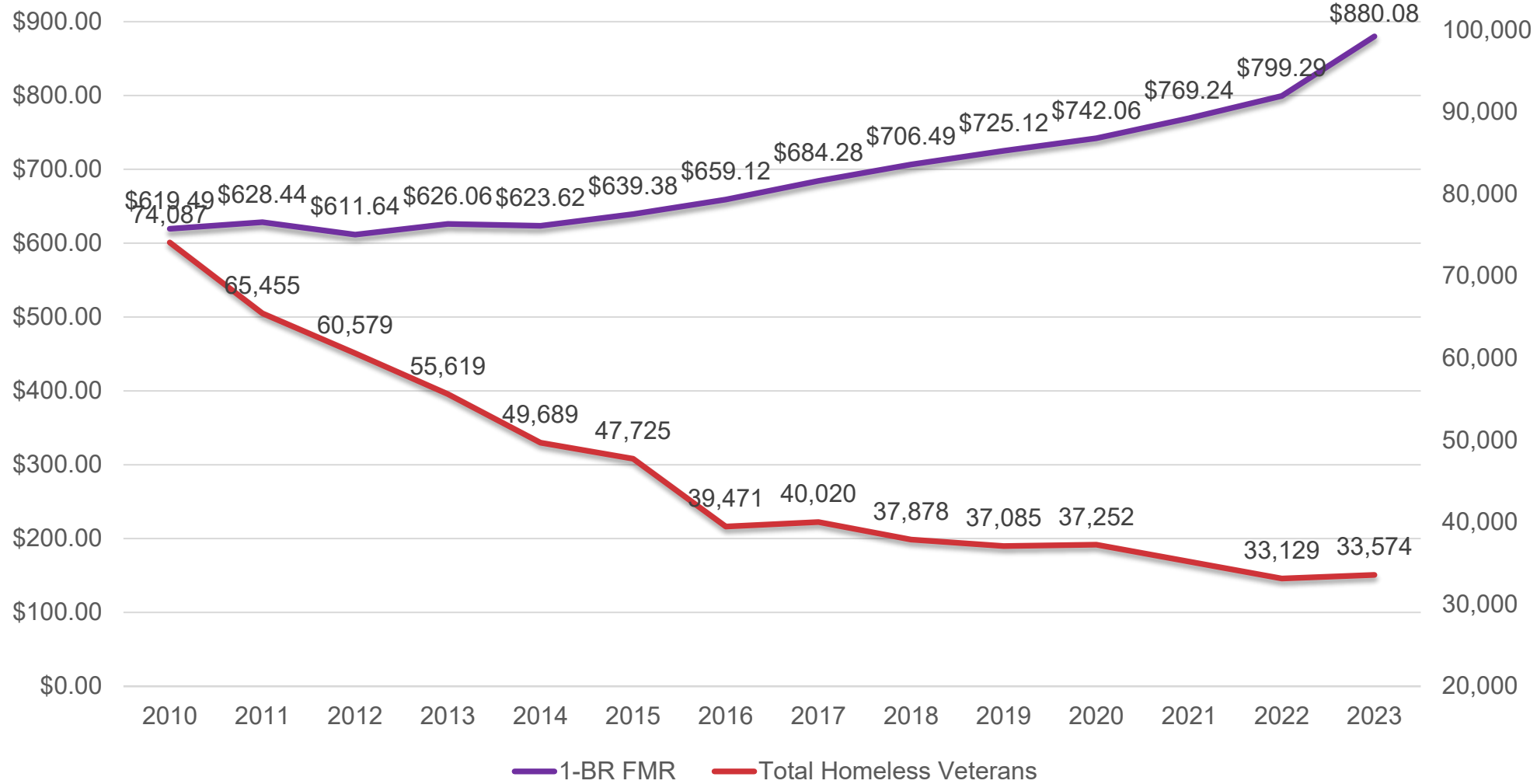
Annual Homeless Assessment Report, Point-in-Time, 2010 – 2023



2.5% Increase in All Homeless People Since 2010

52.0% Decrease in Homeless Veterans Since 2010

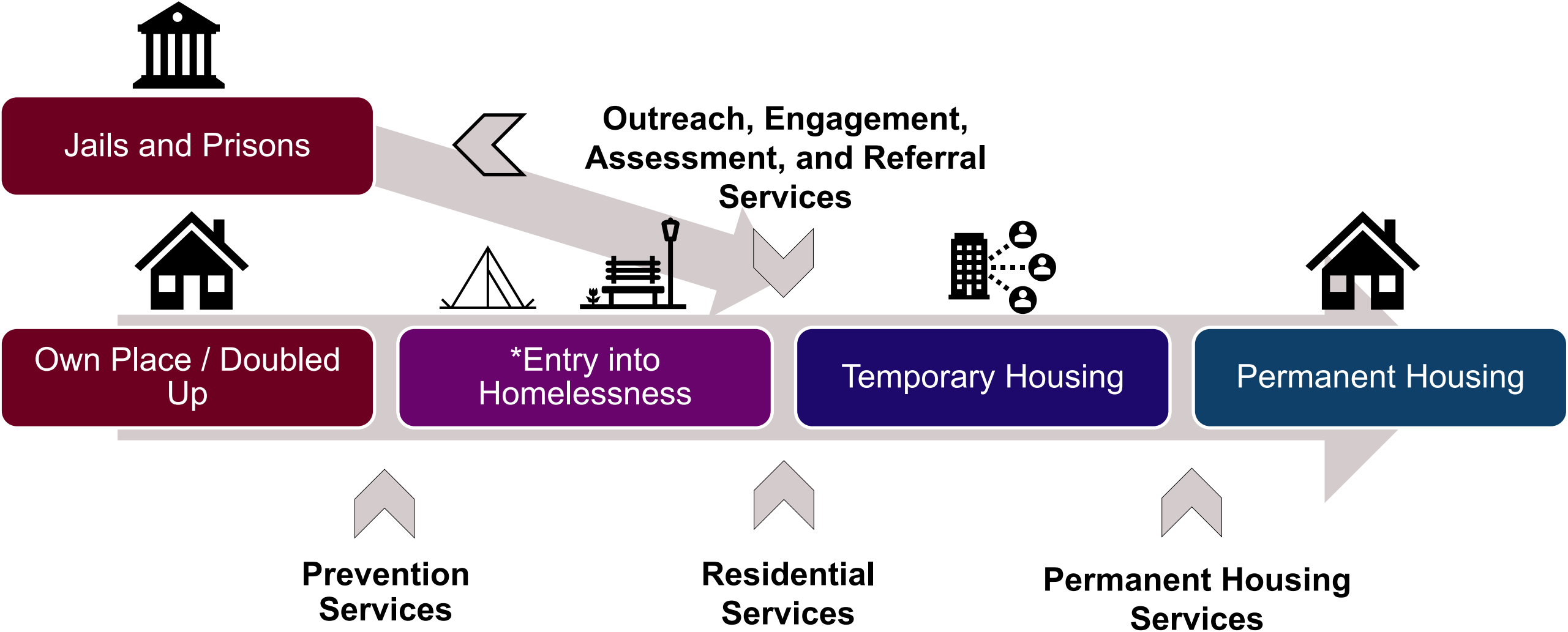
Homeless Veterans Compared to Average HUD Fair Market Rents (FMR) for 1-Bedroom Units, 2010 – 2023



42.1% Increase in Average FMR Since 2010

52.0% Decrease in Homeless Veterans Since 2010

The Homeless Service System



*Shelter, outreach engagements a drop-in center, VA, a coordinated entry access point, wherever people are most likely to present asking for help.

VHA Homeless Programs

Homelessness Prevention Services

- [Supportive Services for Veteran Families \(SSVF\)](#)

Outreach, Engagement, Assessment, and Referral Services

- [Health Care for Homeless Veterans \(HCHV\) Outreach](#)
- [Community Resource and Referral Center \(CRRC\)](#)
- [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans \(NCCHV\)](#)
- Justice-involved Veterans
 - [Veterans Justice Outreach \(VJO\)](#)
 - [Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans \(HCRV\)](#)

Residential Services

- [HCHV Contract Residential Services \(CRS\)](#)
- [HCHV Low Demand Safe Haven \(LDSH\)](#)
- [Grant and Per-Diem \(GPD\) Transitional Housing](#)

Permanent Housing Services

- [Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing \(HUD-VASH\)](#)
- [Supportive Services for Veteran Families \(SSVF\)](#)

Specialty Services

- [Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services \(HVCES\)](#)
- [Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams \(HPACT\)](#)
- [Legal Services for Veterans \(LSV\)](#)

Supporting Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

- Be patient. The Veteran may not have had their basic needs met that day.
- Understand that they may not have reliable means of communication or a physical address to provide.
- Instill hope, but never overpromise.

Get to Know Your VA Homeless Program Staff

To get involved or learn more about how housing, employment, and community collaborations can help end Veteran homelessness, send an email to HomelessVets@va.gov or visit VA's Homeless Veterans website at <https://www.va.gov/homeless/>

Connect Homeless and At-Risk Veterans to VA

Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness—and their family members, friends, and supporters—can make the call to or chat online with the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans, where trained counselors are ready to talk confidentially 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



National Call Center
for Homeless Veterans

877-424-3838

va.gov/homeless

Opportunities for Making an Impact



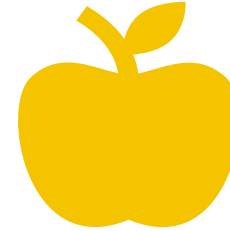
Training



Furniture



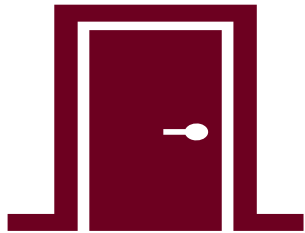
Move-in
Essentials



Food



Transportation



Housing
Assistance



Stable Income



Increased Access

[Find your local VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement Office.](#)

Volunteer at a Stand Down

- Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events during which VA staff and volunteers provide food, clothing, and health screenings to homeless and at-risk Veterans.
- In addition, Veterans also receive referrals for health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment, mental health counseling, and other essential services.
- For more information: [Upcoming Stand Down events](#)



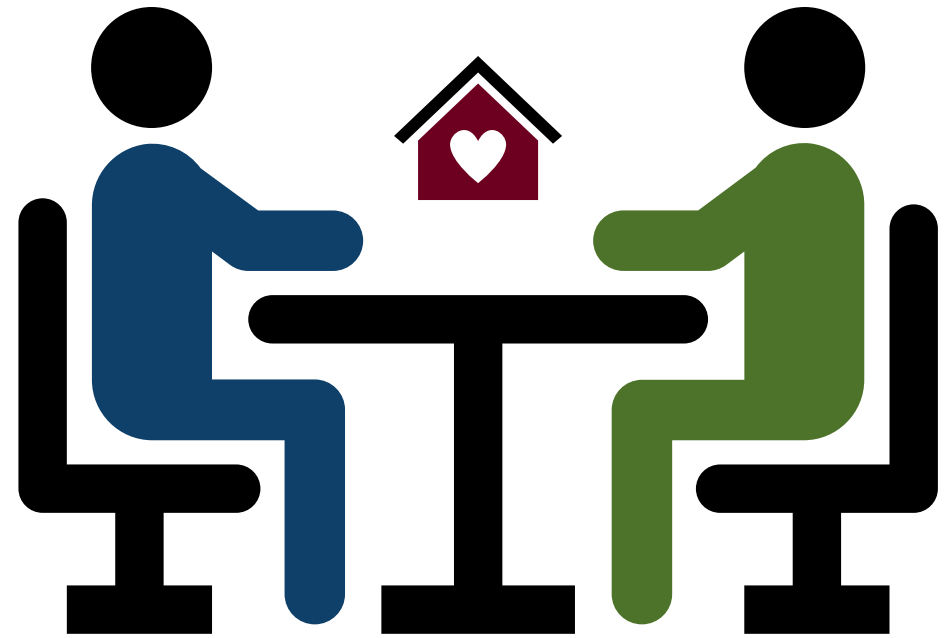
Rent to Veterans

- Landlords have a unique opportunity to give back to those who have served.
- Benefits of renting to Veterans:
 - Reliable income.
 - Support from VA.
 - Serve those who have served.
- Visit our [Landlords page](#) to learn more.



Not a Landlord but Still Want To Help House Veterans?

- If you're not a landlord with rental units but still want to help end Veteran homelessness, there are still opportunities for you.
- To learn more about how VA partners with organizations to provide various housing options for Veterans, read [So, You Wanna House Homeless Veterans.](#)
- It provides an overview of four VA homeless programs that can support those ready and willing to help house homeless Veterans.



Hire Veterans

- Steady employment is a critical protective factor against homelessness, provides financial stability, and helps prevent substance use.
- Jobs can also help Veterans find a renewed sense of purpose in civilian life and feel more connected to their community, both critical factors in preventing suicide.
- If you are a business owner interested in providing employment opportunities or services to Veterans, contact your [local VA Community Employment Coordinator](#) to learn more.

