



April 2024

Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG)

Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups for Veterans, commonly referred to as Project CHALENG, was launched in 1994 to bring together providers, advocates, Veterans and other concerned citizens to identify the needs of homeless Veterans and work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action.

Project CHALENG includes a CHALENG survey in which participants rate the needs of homeless Veterans in their local communities. The results of the CHALENG survey are used each year to identify unmet needs and encourage new partnership development to meet those needs. Information from CHALENG on Veterans' unmet needs has assisted VA in developing new services for Veterans. In addition, community organizations use CHALENG data in grant applications to support services for homeless Veterans; grant applications are for VA and other funders, which maximizes community participation in serving homeless Veterans.

2023 CHALENG Results

- In 2023, 5,717 individuals completed a CHALENG Participant survey. This included 2,530 Veterans who have experienced homelessness and 3,187 providers (VA staff, state and public officials, community leaders and volunteers).
- The top ten *unmet* needs were: housing for Veterans who need to register as sex offenders, childcare and legal assistance in eight areas: credit issues/debt collection, expunging a criminal record, family law, tax issues, child support issues, outstanding warrants and fines, discharge upgrade appeals and financial guardianship.
- The top ten *met* needs were medical services, case management, food, personal hygiene, HIV/AIDS testing and treatment, mental health services, substance use treatment, eye care and glasses, clothing and emergency/immediate shelter.
- Consistent with 2022 data and the previous 20 years of CHALENG data, 2023's data related to unmet needs are primarily services that VA cannot provide directly. This underscores the importance of collaboration to meet the needs of homeless Veterans to successfully end Veteran homelessness.



CHALENG 2023 Survey Results Summary

A. CHALENG Participant Survey: Participation

Total number of participants: 5,717

	Veteran	VA staff	Other federal, state and local government	Community-based homeless provider	Interested community member
Respondent	44%	28%	9%	10%	8%

B. CHALENG Homeless Veteran Participant Demographics

	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	Transgender, nonbinary or other gender Veterans
Gender	87%	12%	1%

	Less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Age	1%	5%	12%	15%	35%	33%

	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	Hispanic/Latino	Don't know
Ethnicity	74%	8%	19%

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	White	Don't know
Race	10%	1%	40%	1%	43%	4%

	Literally homeless	Emergency housing	Transitional housing	Permanent subsidized housing	Unsubsidized housing
Living situation	17%	4%	26%	32%	22%



C. Ranking of Veteran Need, All responses (One to four scale, with one equals unmet and four equals met)

Top Ten Highest Unmet Needs

Rank	Highest Unmet Needs: All responses	Mean Score
1	Housing for Registered Sex Offenders	2.16
2	Legal Assistance for Credit Issues/Debt Collection	2.28
3	Legal Assistance to Expunge a Criminal Record	2.32
4	Family Law (i.e., divorce, child custody)	2.35
5	Child Care	2.36
6	Tax Issues	2.39
7	Legal Assistance for Child Support Issues	2.41
8	Legal Assistance for Outstanding Warrants and Fines	2.46
9	Discharge Upgrade Appeals	2.51
10	Financial Guardianship	2.52

Top Ten Highest Met Needs

Rank	Highest Met Needs: All responses	Mean Score
1	Medical Services	3.48
2	Case Management	3.38
3	Food	3.30
4	Personal Hygiene (shower, haircut)	3.27
5	HIV/AIDS Testing and Treatment	3.22
6	Services for Emotional or Psychiatric Problems	3.22
7	Substance Abuse Treatment	3.21
8	Eye Care and Glasses	3.19
9	Clothing	3.18
10	Emergency/Immediate Shelter	3.16