Built For Zero

A NATIONAL EFFORT TO HELP A GROUP OF COMMITTED U.S. COMMUNITIES END CHRONIC AND VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS works nationally to help communities end homelessness, both by improving local housing efforts and by working in communities of concentrated poverty to change the conditions that make people vulnerable to future homelessness. Our Built For Zero initiative is a national effort of more than 70 communities working to end chronic and veteran homelessness.
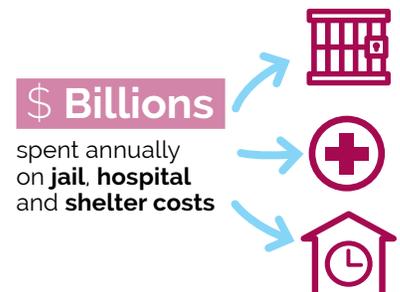
THE CHALLENGE

CURRENT NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

roughly
85.000
chronically homeless Americans

roughly
40.000
homeless **veterans**

$ Billions
spent annually on **jail**, **hospital** and **shelter costs**

OUR METHOD

- Helping communities **adopt proven best practices**, **deploy existing resources** more efficiently, and **use real-time data** to improve performance
- Implementing transparent data and performance management for **real-time improvement**
- **Engaging leadership** from the government, private and philanthropic sectors in securing new resources for communities and removing policy roadblocks
- **Connecting communities to one another** through an online platform for innovation, knowledge capture and group problem solving

SUCCESSES

- Nine communities so far have **ended veteran homelessness**: Rockford, IL; Arlington, VA; Montgomery County, MD; Fort Myers, FL; Gulfport, MS, Riverside, CA, Norman, OK, Bergen County, NJ, and Abilene, TX.
- Three communities have **ended chronic homelessness**: Bergen County, NJ, Lancaster, PA, and Rockford, IL
- More than **65,227 veterans** and **38,583 chronically homeless Americans housed** by participating communities since January 2015
- 64 communities have the **real time data** they need to end veteran and chronic homelessness
- 38 communities **reducing their by-name** list for (at least) one population

Built for Zero's progress is made possible by our committed partners:

"Across the country, nearly 40,000 veterans will experience homelessness tonight. This is both extremely heartbreaking and completely unacceptable. We are in the business of helping people realize the dream of homeownership, and we understand the tremendous value of a place to call your own. Together with Community Solutions and local partners, we will ensure that veterans are placed into permanent supportive housing, building the foundation they need to create permanent change."
— Jay Farner, Chief Executive Officer of Quicken Loans

"With its Built for Zero initiative, Community Solutions has put together the right ingredients to achieve an audacious goal. They are supporting local partnerships that bring together all the government agencies and community partners that serve individuals and families facing homelessness – smartly using technology to identify needs at the individual level, as well as opportunities and insights to change how systems operate as a whole. The rigor and intentionality of their approach will yield lessons for us all those working to achieve impact at scale."
— Jeff Edmondson, Executive Director of Community Mobilization at Ballmer Group

"The Home Depot Foundation has been a proud partner of Community Solutions since 2011, and while we have since seen veteran homelessness decrease by more than 50 percent, there is more work to be done. The Home Depot Foundation is committed to ending veteran homelessness, and we believe it is important to give back to those who have sacrificed so much for our country. Built for Zero provides a holistic solution to the issue of veteran homelessness and empowers communities to create strategies to solve for this challenge."
— Erica Headlee, Manager, Programs and Partnerships, The Home Depot Foundation

"Kaiser Permanente is investing in efforts to reduce homelessness and housing insecurity because there is a proven link between housing and health. Addressing affordable housing and homelessness is crucial to Kaiser Permanente's mission to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve, and to advance the economic, social and environmental conditions for health."
— Bernard J. Tyson, Chairman and CEO of Kaiser Permanente

"Community Solutions has been a pioneer in the use of data to empower decision-makers and make an end to homelessness possible. Scaling this program and helping eliminate veteran and chronic homelessness in an additional 50 communities, we have an opportunity to help change the national conversation and show that this is a challenge that we can overcome within our lifetime."
— Neal Myrick, Global Head of Tableau Foundation

"Cities are more resilient when every resident has access to safe, affordable housing. Built for Zero shows the power of using real-time data and coordinated services to address these issues and tackle homelessness in cities across the country."
— Colleen Briggs, Head of Community Innovation, JPMorgan Chase & Co