

Office Hours: Permanent Housing Placement National Challenge to House 38,000 Veterans

VHA Homeless Programs Office – November 10, 2022

Engaging and Empowering People with Lived Experience (PLE)

The Importance of Integrating Veteran Voices

- The Veterans that are most impacted by the decision, process, or policy should be part of the process of developing it.
- Specifically, Black people, Indigenous people, people of color (BIPOC), those with lived experience of homelessness, and other marginalized populations should be part of the teams making funding allocation decisions, developing rehousing processes, refining prioritization protocols, and developing policy guidelines.

Strategies to Reimburse Veterans for Their Time

- Vendorization
 - Process and timeline vary from medical center to medical center.
 - Uses 0152 appropriated funds.
- Partnerships with Non-Profit Entities
 - Continuum of Care partners and other non-profits may be able to reimburse Veterans for participation in board activities, focus groups, etc.

Engaging and Empowering People with Lived Experience (PLE) – National Coalition for the Homeless

Overview

- The National Coalition for the Homeless is a national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, activists and advocates, community-based and faith-based service providers, and others committed to a single mission: To end and prevent homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights are respected and protected.

What is Lived Experience?

- Lived experience is defined as “personal knowledge about the world gained through direct, first-hand involvement in everyday events rather than through representations constructed by other people.”
- It is also defined as “the experiences of people on whom a social issue or combination of issues has had a direct impact.”
- PLE = People with Lived Experience

Lived Experience Intelligence (LEI) and Lived Experience Quotient (LEQ)

- LEI: “The particular set of knowledge, skills, and abilities that develops out of life events and occurrences in which one has been engaged, ultimately enhancing insight and perspective.”
- LEQ: “The extent to which one exercises the knowledge, skills, and abilities that one has developed through life events, applying and expressing them in one’s thinking and actions, and using them as an asset.”
 - Jennifer Tardy

People with Lived Experience (PLE)

- Companies & organizations that incorporate people with lived experience are better equipped to:
 - Make more focused, efficient, integrated, culturally appropriate, and sustainable decisions.
 - Offer more focused, efficient, integrated, culturally appropriate, and sustainable services.
 - Create more focused, efficient, integrated, culturally appropriate, and sustainable products.

Compensation

- Compensate individuals with lived experience for every meeting that others are being compensated.
- HUD planning dollars can be utilized at the provider level.
- Do no harm consider the \$600 rule.

Successful Projects Incorporating People with Lived Expertise

- National Healthcare for the Homeless Consumer Advisory Board (NCAB)
- Seattle Lived Experience Group
- Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
- Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP)
- Street Newspapers
- HUD Lived Expertise Committee
- National Coalition for the Homeless

Partnering with People Experiencing Homelessness on All Levels

- 47% of Board of Directors
- 80% of Staff
- Speakers Bureau
- TA Projects
- Peer Support
- LETA Project

Lived Experience Training Academy (LETA) Overview

- Equip people with lived experience of homelessness to embrace leadership roles and transform public policy to be more inclusive.
- LETA core topics include:
 - Technology Literacy

- Wellness and Self-Care
- History of Homelessness
- Communication
- Financial Literacy
- Organizing and Advocacy

Resources

- [VA Press Release: New data shows 11% decline in Veteran homelessness since 2020](#)
- [Peer Support Specialists' Unique Contribution to Veterans' Health](#)
- [Community Veterans Engagement Boards](#)
- [National Coalition for the Homeless](#)
- [HUD Video: Lived Expertise](#)
- [HUD Resource: Paying People with Lived Experience and Expertise](#)