



October 2023

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

Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups for Veterans, commonly called 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.

2022 CHALENG Results

- In 2022, 4,403 individuals completed a CHALENG Participant survey. This included 1,992 homeless Veterans and 2,411 providers (e.g., VA staff, state and public officials, community leaders, and volunteers).
- Seven of the top ten *unmet* needs were the same according to Veteran responses and provider responses: Housing for Veterans who need to register as sex offenders and legal assistance in six areas: family law, credit issues/debt collection, child support, expungement of a criminal record, outstanding warrants and fines, and tax issues.
- Eight of the top ten *met* needs were also the same according to Veteran and provider responses: medical services, case management, food, clothing, mental health services, substance abuse treatment, eye care and glasses, and emergency/immediate shelter.
- Consistent with 2021 data and the previous 20 years of CHALENG data, 2022 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 2022 Survey Results Summary

CHALENG Participant Survey

A. CHALENG Participant Survey: Participation

Total number of participants: 4,403

	Veteran	VA staff	Other federal, state, and local government	Community-based homeless provider	Interested community member
Respondent	45%	30%	9%	10%	7%

B. CHALENG Homeless Veteran Participant Demographics

	Male Veterans	Female Veterans	Transgender, Nonbinary, or other gender Veterans
Gender	90%	9%	2%

	Less than 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Age	1%	5%	13%	14%	37%	31%

	Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	Hispanic/Latino	Don't Know
Ethnicity	73%	7%	19%

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African-American	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	White	Don't Know
Race	9%	1%	32%	1%	53%	4%

	Literally Homeless	Emergency Housing	Transitional Housing	Permanent Subsidized Housing	Unsubsidized Housing
Living situation	19%	4%	27%	31%	19%



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

Top Ten Highest Unmet Needs, Veteran responses

Rank	Highest Unmet Needs: Veteran responses	Mean Score
1	Legal assistance for credit issues/debt collection	1.94
2	Legal assistance to expunge a criminal record	2.01
3	Family law (i.e., divorce, child custody)	2.11
4	Legal assistance for child support issues	2.19
5	Discharge upgrade appeals	2.21
6	Legal assistance for outstanding warrants and fines	2.22
7	Legal assistance to help restore a driver's license	2.24
8	Domestic violence/protection orders	2.25
9	Tax issues	2.26
10	Registered sex offender housing	2.33

Top Ten Highest Met Needs, Veteran responses

Rank	Highest Met Needs: Veteran responses	Mean Score
1	Medical services	3.58
2	Personal hygiene (shower, haircut, etc)	3.54
3	Case management	3.47
4	Food	3.39
5	Substance abuse treatment	3.35
6	Services for emotional or psychiatric problems	3.34
7	Clothing	3.26
8	Eye care and glasses	3.24
9	Health and wellness	3.24
10	Emergency/immediate shelter	3.24



D. Ranking of Veteran Need, Provider responses (One to four scale, where one equals unmet and four equals met)

Top Ten Highest Unmet Needs, Provider responses

Rank	Highest Unmet Needs: Provider responses	Mean Score
1	Registered sex offender housing	2.23
2	Child care	2.44
3	Family law (i.e., divorce, child custody)	2.48
4	Legal assistance for credit issues/debt collection	2.52
5	Legal assistance for child support issues	2.53
6	Tax issues	2.55
7	Legal assistance to expunge a criminal record	2.55
8	Dental care	2.62
9	Financial guardianship	2.62
10	Legal assistance for outstanding warrants and fines	2.66

Top Ten Highest Met Needs, Provider responses

Rank	Highest Met Needs: Provider responses	Mean Score
1	Medical services	3.46
2	Case management	3.35
3	Food	3.34
4	HIV/AIDS testing and treatment	3.30
5	Clothing	3.26
6	Services for emotional or psychiatric problems	3.20
7	Substance abuse treatment	3.16
8	Eye care and glasses	3.15
9	Emergency/immediate shelter	3.14
10	VA disability/pension	3.13