



## HEALTH CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM

REACHING OUT TO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS

# GOALS

- ▶ Provide statistical data on the number of homeless veterans - national to local level
- ▶ Explore factors that contribute to homelessness among veterans
- ▶ What programs are in place to address veteran's homelessness
- ▶ Explore what services are still needed to address homelessness among the veteran population

## OVERVIEW OF HOMELESS VETERANS

- ▶ 23 % of the homeless population are veterans
- ▶ 33% of the male homeless population are veterans
- ▶ 47% served Vietnam-era
- ▶ 17% served post-Vietnam
- ▶ 15% served pre-Vietnam
- ▶ 67% served three or more years
- ▶ 33% were stationed in war zone
- ▶ 25% have used VA homeless services
- ▶ 85% completed high school/GED, compared to 56% of non veterans

# OVERVIEW OF HOMELESS VETERANS

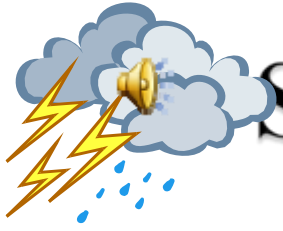
- 89% received an honorable discharge
- 79% reside in central cities
- 16% reside in suburban areas
- 5% reside in rural areas
- 76% experience alcohol, drug or mental health problems
- 46% are white males, compared to 34% of non-veterans
- 46% are age 45 or older, compared to 20% non-veterans

# INCARCERATED VETERANS STATISTICS

- In January 2000, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released a special report on incarcerated veterans. The following are highlights of the report, [“Veterans in Prison or Jail”](#)
- Over 225,000 veterans were held in U.S. prisons or jails in 1998.
- Among adult males in 1998, there were 937 incarcerated veterans per 100,000 veteran residents.
- 1 in every 6 incarcerated veterans was not honorably discharged from the military.
- About 20% of veterans in prison reported seeing combat duty during their military service.
- In 1998, an estimated 56,500 Vietnam war-era veterans and 18,500 Persian Gulf War veterans were held in state and federal prisons.

# INCARCERATED VETERANS STATISTICS

- ▶ Nearly 60% of incarcerated veterans had served in the Army
- ▶ Among state prisoners, over half (53%) of veterans were white non-Hispanics, compared to nearly a third (31%) of non-veterans; among federal prisoners, the percentage of veterans who were white (50%) was nearly double that of non-veterans
- ▶ Among state prisoners, the median age of veterans was 10 years older than that of other prison and jail inmates.
- ▶ Among state prisoners, veterans (32%) were about 3 times more likely than non-veteran (11%) to have attended college



# Storm Cloud of Homelessness

Alcohol abuse

Physical Sickness

Anger

Legal Issues

Poor Hygiene

Poor Vision

No Housing or Shelter

No employment skills

No transportation

Inability to take medications

Mental illness (untreated)

Drug Abuse

Loneliness

Hopelessness

Unemployment

Dental Pain

Evictions

No money

Poor employment history

Hunger

No place to store medications( insulin)

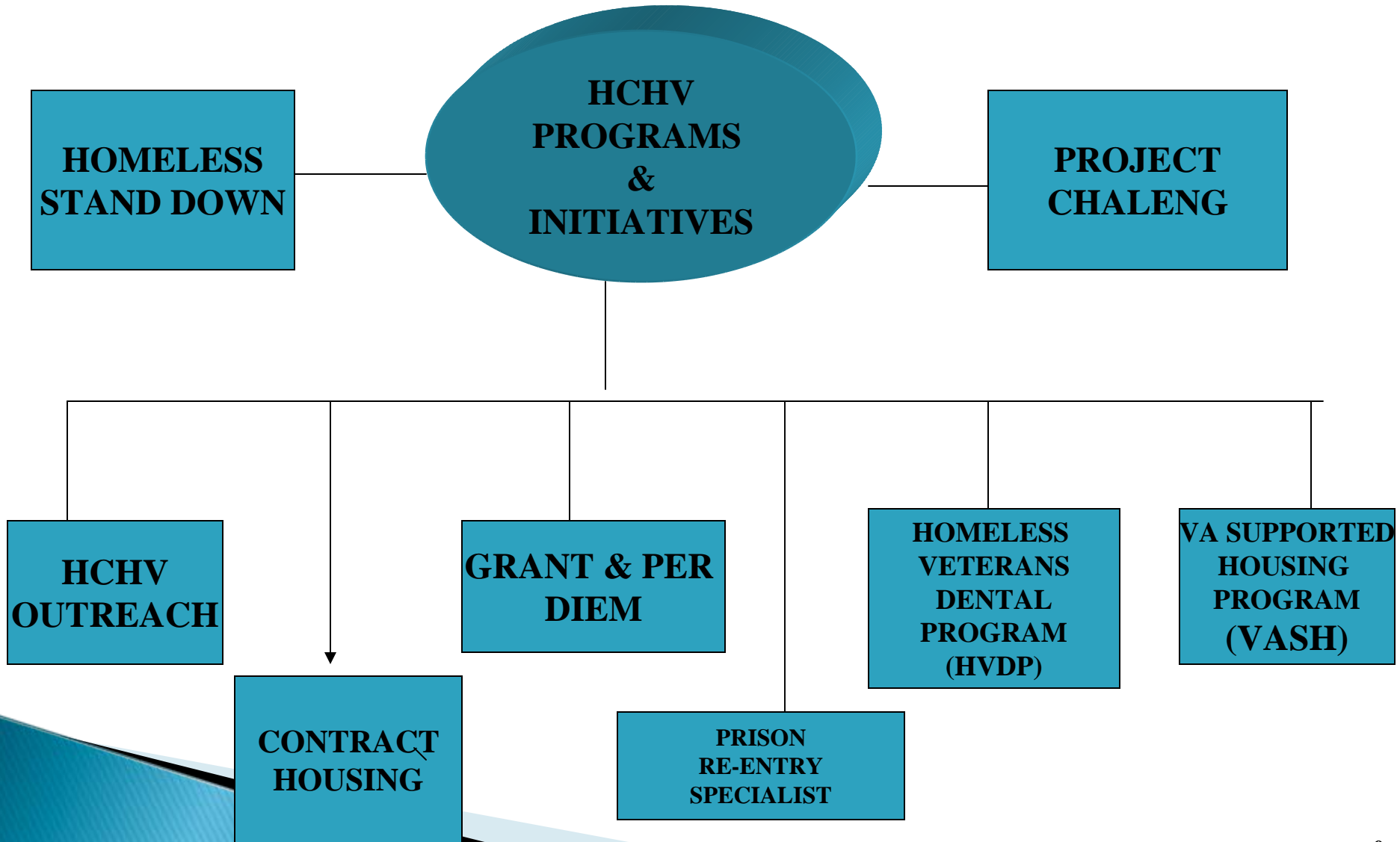
Domestic abuse

# FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

- ▶ Mental Illness
- ▶ Substance abuse
- ▶ Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- ▶ Lack of job skills
- ▶ Economic situation
- ▶ Physical disabilities
- ▶ Divorce
- ▶ Job loss



# HEALTH CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM



# HOMELESS STAND DOWN

- ▶ Stand Downs are collaborative community events, coordinated among local VAs, other government agencies, and community agencies who serve the homeless
- ▶ Stand down is an effective tool used in reaching out to homeless veterans in order to link them to community and VA services on site
- ▶ Stand down utilizes a “hand up” not a “hand out” philosophy

# Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups **CHALENG**

- ▶ In 1994 the VA launched Project CHALENG
- ▶ Guiding principle behind Project CHALENG is that no single agency can provide the full spectrum of services required to help homeless veterans become productive members of society
- ▶ At each local VA, there is a POC

## PROJECT CHALLENGE

- ▶ Assess the needs of homeless veterans living in the area, focusing on health care, education and training, employment, shelter, counseling and outreach
- ▶ Develop a list of all homeless services in the local area
- ▶ Encourage the development of coordinated services

## PROJECT CHALENG (con't)

- ▶ Each year project CHALENG publishes a report summarizing the results of annual surveys of both local VA staff and community participants (Continuum of care committee, homeless providers, local government, formerly and currently homeless veterans.)

# HCHV SERVICES

- ▶ Outreach: identify, make contact with, engage and establish therapeutic relationships with homeless veterans
- ▶ Health Care: meet the veterans' acute medical, psychiatric, and substance abuse treatment needs to restore health
- ▶ Case management: assist veterans to take advantage of available services
- ▶ Residential treatment: treat the causes and/or the effects of homelessness through a structured living environment that utilizes a specific and individualized course and plan of treatment

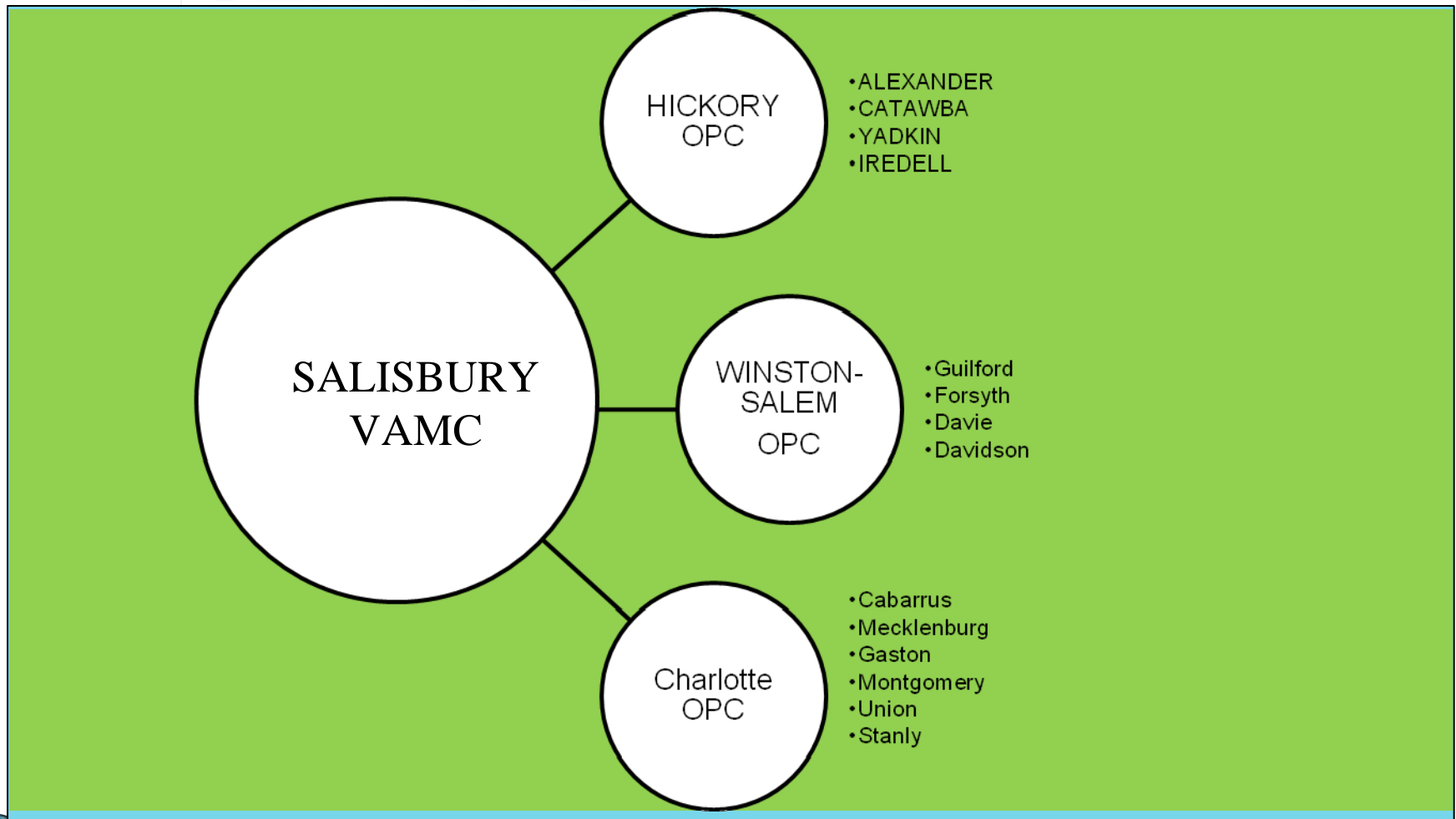
# Shelter Outreach

- ▶ Outreach is at the core of our mission
- ▶ Workers seek out veterans by visiting the missions, shelters and soup kitchens
- ▶ HCHV helps veterans access health care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, transitional housing, and VA benefits
- ▶ Outreach requires that VA build relationships with community providers

# HCHV OUTREACH COUNTIES

- ▶ Forsyth
- ▶ Davidson
- ▶ Davie
- ▶ Yadkin
- ▶ Montgomery
- ▶ Mecklenburg
- ▶ Cabarrus
- ▶ Guilford
- ▶ Gaston
- ▶ Union
- ▶ Stanly
- ▶ Rowan
- ▶ Montgomery
- ▶ Catawba

# HCHV OUTREACH SERVICES



# Shelter Outreach Sites Throughout the Piedmont



Winston-Salem, NC

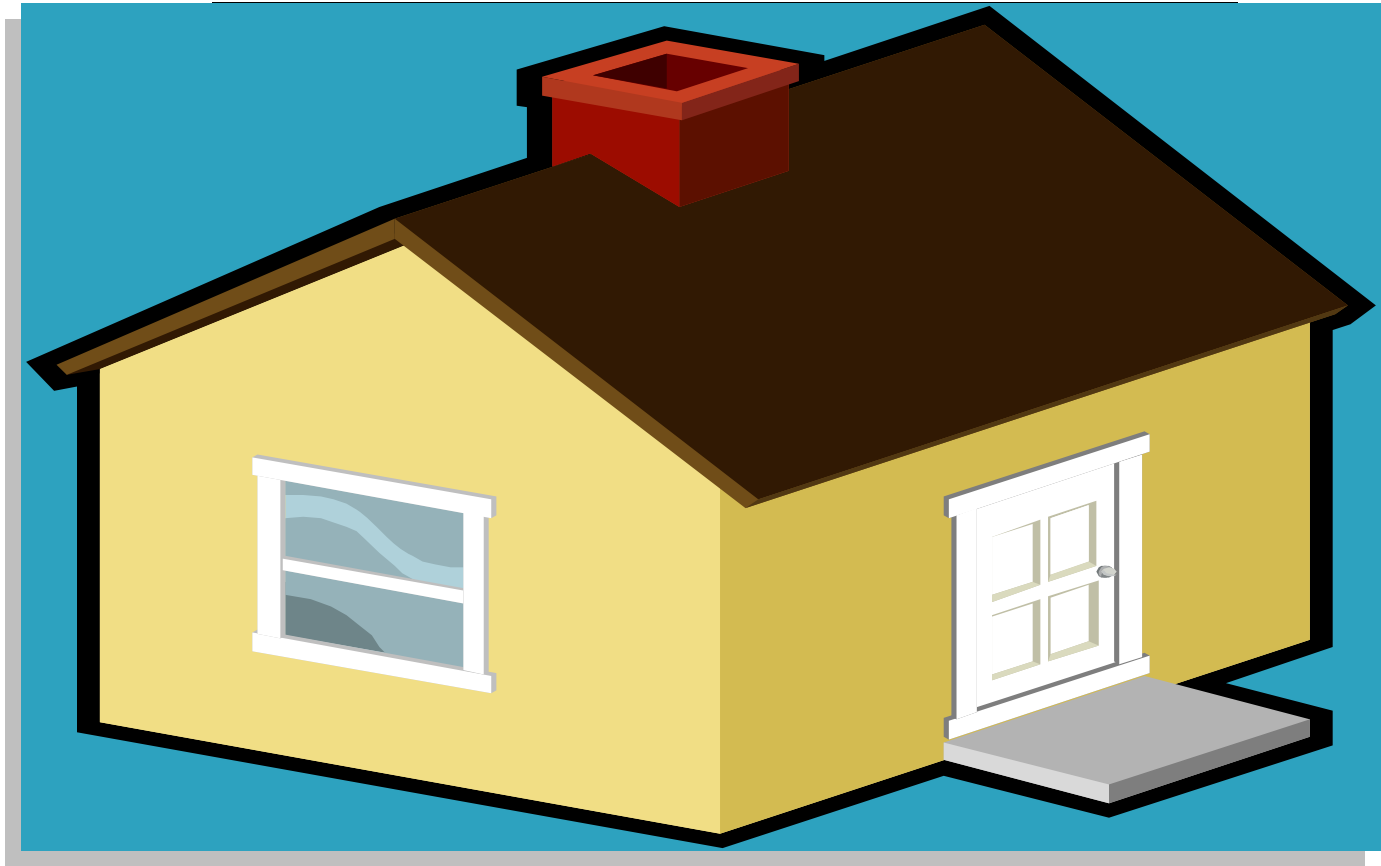
# ROWAN HELPING MINISTRY SALISBURY, NC



# GREENSBORO URBAN MINISTRY



# HOUSING PROGRAMS



# HCHV/Grant Per Diem Program

- ▶ This program is made possible through community partnerships designed to provide transition housing for homeless veterans
- ▶ PL 107-95 in 2001 required the VA to assist public or non profit organizations in establishing new programs, by awarding grants through a competitive process, for up to 65 percent of the cost of acquiring, renovating, or constructing facilities; or to purchase vans
- ▶ It authorizes VA to provide per diem payments to grant recipients that provide supportive services and/or supportive housing for homeless veterans

# SERVICES OFFERED THROUGH GPD

Case management and supportive services to address:

- ▶ Vocational skills
- ▶ Sobriety maintenance
- ▶ Money management
- ▶ Mental health treatment
- ▶ Medication management
- ▶ Life skills training
- ▶ Health care
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Nutritional needs

# GPD PROGRAMS

- ▶ HCHV has partnerships with 5 different structured housing programs in the Salisbury, Greensboro, High Point, Dallas and Charlotte communities.

# GPD RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

## Family Forum:

- ▶ Charlotte, NC
- ▶ Accommodates up to 32 veterans
- ▶ Veterans with Mental and Physical disabilities

## Arthur Cassell :

- ▶ High Point, NC
- ▶ Accommodates up to 6 veterans
- ▶ Accommodate veterans who are dual diagnoses

# GPD RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

## Vet Safety Net:

- ▶ High Point, NC
- ▶ Accommodates up to 12 veterans
- ▶ Veterans with Substance Abuse Disorders

## The Servant Center:

- ▶ Greensboro, NC
- ▶ Accommodates up to 21 veterans
- ▶ Veterans who are disabled

# GPD RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES



## Faith Farm (Lutheran Family Services)

- ▶ Dallas, NC
- ▶ Accommodates 7 female veterans
- ▶ 7 beds transitional housing facility
- ▶ Dual Diagnoses

# HCHV CONTRACT HOUSING

## Charlottesville Manor

- ▶ Charlotte, NC
- ▶ Accommodates up to 4 veterans
- ▶ Chronic Mental Illness

## Chestnut Hill

- ▶ Salisbury, NC
- ▶ Accommodate up to 7 veterans
- ▶ Substance Abuse Diagnosis

# VA SUPPORTED HOUSING PROGRAM (HUD-VASH)

- ▶ HUD-VASH is a collaborative partnership between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- ▶ Provides placement for up to 35 clients in housing utilizing section 8 vouchers
- ▶ Long term case management with supportive services
- ▶ Independent living
- ▶ HUD VASH Program is located within Salisbury, Charlotte, Greensboro and Winston Salem communities.

# HOMELESS VETERANS DENTAL PROGRAM (HVDP)

HVDP is designed to address the dental needs of homeless veterans that may impact their ability to obtain employment, compromise their nutritional needs or appearance, or cause them pain



# HVDP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- ▶ Veterans must be enrolled in The Grant Per Diem Program
- ▶ Must be an eligible veteran with an honorable or general discharge
- ▶ Veterans must have completed 60 days in residential program

# Dignity Memorial Homeless Veterans Burial Program

- ▶ Provides dignified burial services for eligible homeless or indigent veterans to ensure they receive the honors in death that their service in life merited.
- ▶ Partnership between McEwen Funeral Home, Mecklenburg County Coroner Office, Department of Veterans Benefit, VA Cemetery and Health Care for Homeless Veterans.
- ▶ Program is for homeless or indigent veterans who have no family to claim them are identified and provide them with a decent military burial.

# What services are needed?

Based on the 2009 CHALENG report the top 5 unmet needs in this area:

- ▶ Permanent supportive housing
- ▶ Transitional Housing
- ▶ Jobs
- ▶ Shelter beds
- ▶ Vocational assistance

# HEALTH CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM

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