



Clark County

Veterans Resource Committee



2012 Strategic Plan

Clark County Veterans Resource Committee Strategic Plan

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Introduction

In 2009, board members of the Clark County Veterans' Resource Committee (CCVRC) conducted a formal process to identify and adopt strategic community and organizational directions for their Veterans related priorities for years 2009 through 2012. Participating in a series of educational briefings highlighting the needs and issues facing our growing county Veterans' population, members of the CCVRC completed the process by voting on a list of potential action areas reflecting their multi-meeting discussions.

In February 2012, The CCVRC Strategic Plan Committee met to review the 2009 Strategic Plan and priorities and discuss ways to update the plan in preparation for the Request for Proposal process that will begin this summer.

The committee gathered data from several sources to get a sense of the most needed services in the community. Data from the Clark County Survey of Needs was collected as well as information from the Veterans Administration survey. The committee reviewed the number of veterans served by programs that were funded in previous years by the Veterans Assistance Fund.

They also collected data for veterans served by other programs in 2011 as indicated by the Clark County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This database is used by 30 different homeless program providers and collects demographics on clients including age and veteran status. It also tracks the types of services accessed within the county. However, HMIS is not used by all service providers in the County that serve veterans. It is only used by homeless service providers.

The Committee also carefully considered the effect of the drawdown of war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan and looked at how current programs were serving different age and gender groups of veterans. This information was then compared to census information regarding veteran population characteristics of Clark County.

Clark County Veteran Demographics

The table below is from the 2008-2010 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates. Supporting documentation on code lists, subject definitions, data accuracy, and statistical testing can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Data and Documentation section.

Sample size and data quality measures (including coverage rates, allocation rates, and response rates) can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Methodology section.

Subject	Total Estimate	Veterans Estimate
Civilian population 18 years and over	308,019	36,370
PERIOD OF SERVICE*		
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) veterans	(X)	8.2%
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001) veterans	(X)	17.2%
Vietnam era veterans	(X)	36.8%
Korean War veterans	(X)	9.4%
World War II veterans	(X)	9.8%
SEX		
Male	48.6%	92.9%
Female	51.4%	7.1%
AGE		
18 to 34 years	28.9%	7.4%
35 to 54 years	39.4%	28.1%
55 to 64 years	16.5%	27.8%
65 to 74 years	8.7%	19.9%
75 years and over	6.5%	16.8%
RACE AND HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN		
White	88.6%	94.0%
Black or African American	1.9%	2.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.6%	0.6%
Asian	4.0%	0.8%
Two or more races	2.6%	1.4%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5.8%	3.3%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	85.0%	91.3%

*The categories under period of service are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Veterans may have served in more than one period.

Clark County Veteran Demographics continued

Subject	Total Estimate	Veterans Estimate
MEDIAN INCOME IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (In 2010 INFLATION-ADJUSTED Dollars)		
Civilian population 18 years and over with income	29,806	40,140
Male	(X)	40,760
Female	(X)	32,571
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Civilian population 25 years and over	273,253	36,084
Less than high school graduate	9.1%	4.7%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	26.5%	23.7%
Some college or associate's degree	39.1%	46.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	25.2%	24.7%
EMPLOYMENT STATUS		
Civilian population 18 to 64 years	261,095	23,026
Labor force participation rate	78.4%	79.1%
Civilian labor force 18 to 64 years	204,604	18,203
Unemployment rate	10.6%	9.0%
POVERTY STATUS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS		
Civilian population 18 years and over	306,324	36,118
Below poverty in the past 12 months	9.8%	4.9%
DISABILITY STATUS		
Civilian population 18 years and over	306,324	36,118
With any disability	14.8%	23.9%

Although the numbers indicate that veterans have a higher educational attainment and greater median income, they also have an increased percentage of the population with a disability.

Clark County Veteran Demographics continued

Gender Comparison Clark County 2010 Census and Clark County Veterans Served through Homeless Providers in 2011

Chart 1: Gender Distribution
American Communities Survey Census 2008 - 2010 – 36,370 Veterans

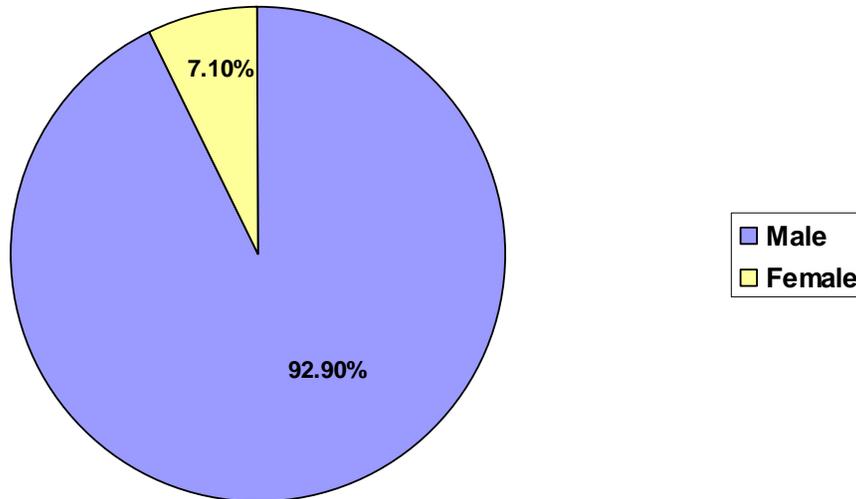
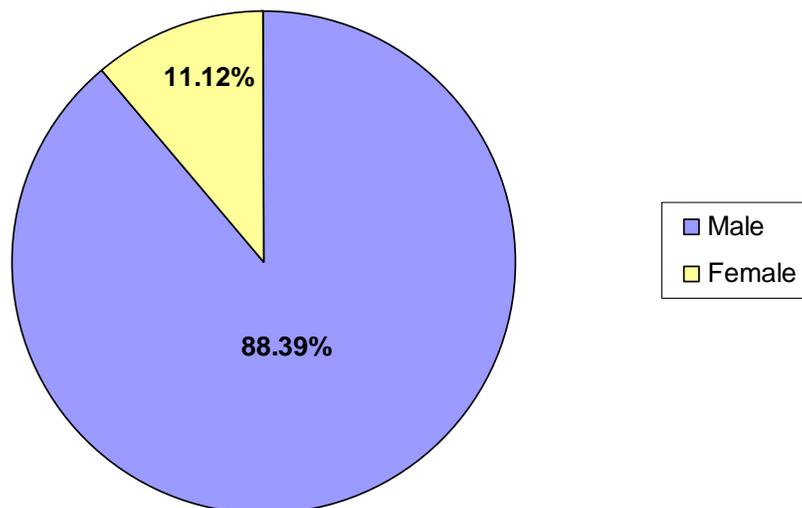


Chart 2: Gender Distribution
Clark County Homeless Management Information System Veterans Served 2011 – 827 Veterans



Clark County Veteran Demographics continued

Age Comparison Clark County 2010 Census and Clark County Veterans Served through Homeless Providers in 2011

Chart 3: Age Distribution
American Communities Survey Census 2008 - 2010 – 36,370 Veterans

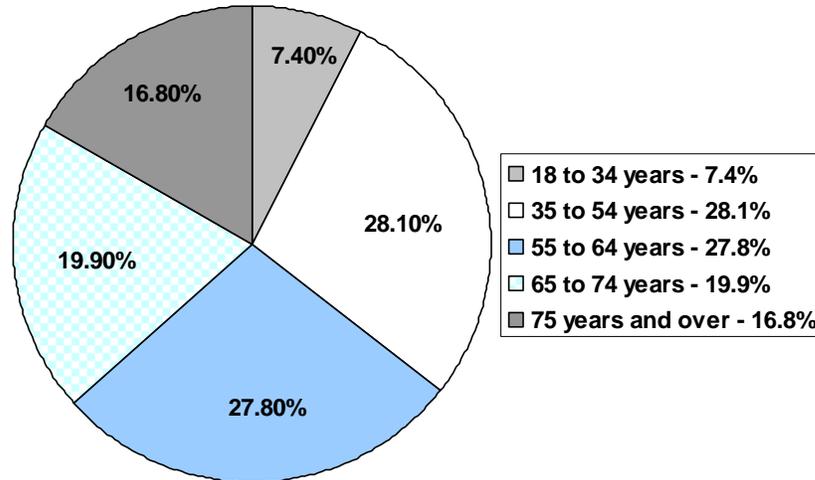
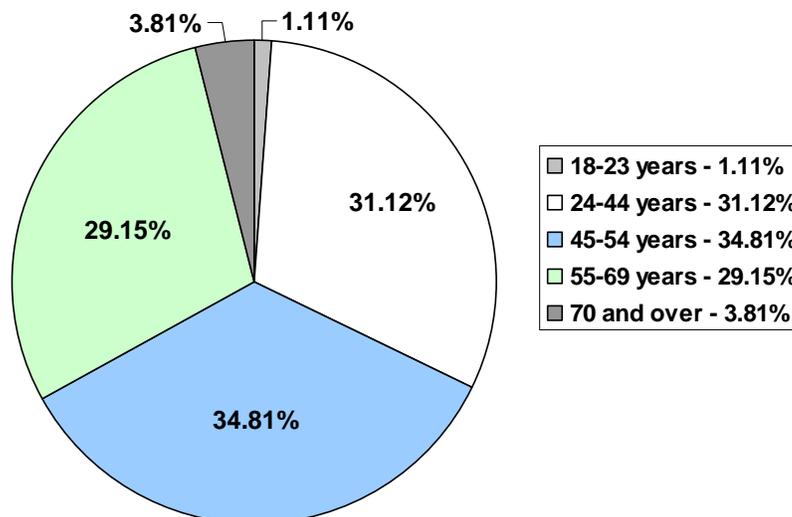


Chart 4: Age Distribution
Homeless Management Information System Veterans Served 2011 – 827 Veterans



Please note that the pie charts do not use the same age ranges. The census collects age information in a different array than HMIS does. However, it appears that the ages of veterans served approximately represent the percentages of veterans in Clark County, with the exception of those 70 and older. This data may indicate further outreach needs to happen to get services to the older veterans.

Clark County Veteran Needs

Each year the Veterans Administration publishes a CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups) report summarizing the results of annual surveys of local Veterans, VA staff and community participants such as local government, service providers, formerly and currently homeless Veterans. The following three tables are taken from the 2010 VA CHALENG report for the Portland VA Medical Center campus, which includes the Vancouver VA hospital. Data was collected in the summer/fall of 2010.

Top Needs Identified by Homeless Veterans

(1=Need Unmet, 5= Need Met: the lower the number, the higher the degree of need)

Dental Care	2.06
Permanent Housing	2.35
Legal Child Support	2.76
Welfare Payments	2.78
Financial Guardian	2.78
Incarcerated Veterans	2.8
Child Care	2.86
Job Placement	2.87
Family Reconciliation	2.87
Job Training	2.91
Elder Healthcare	2.92
Credit Counseling	2.95
Discharge Upgrade	2.97
Legal Warrants/Fines	3.03
Transportation	3.06
Family Counseling	3.07
Education	3.07
SSI/SSD Process	3.08
Drop-in Center	3.1
Driver's License	3.14
Emergency Shelter	3.15
VA Disability/Pension	3.15
Money Management	3.15

There are 42 categories of need for participants to rank. This table indicates the services that represent the highest degree of need as indicated by 54 homeless veterans who responded to this survey through the Portland VA Homeless Veteran Coordinator. Needs identified in bold represent services that are currently being funded with VAF programs.

Clark County Veteran Needs continued

Top Needs Identified by Veteran Service Providers

(1=Need Unmet, 5= Need Met: the lower the number, the higher the degree of need)

Child Care	1.89
Dental Care	2.05
Emergency Shelter	2.1
Financial Guardian	2.15
Family Reconciliation	2.16
Credit Counseling	2.26
Legal Warrants/Fines	2.27
Family Counseling	2.28
Legal Child Support	2.35
Welfare Payments	2.38
SSI/SSD Process	2.39
Education	2.45
Glasses	2.45
Driver's License	2.47
Money Management	2.5
Permanent Housing	2.55
Transitional Housing	2.55
Drop-in Center	2.56
Transportation	2.59
Help Getting ID/Documents	2.7
Social Network	2.71

A total of 44 providers, both VA and non-VA responded to this survey, ranking what they saw as the highest needs for homeless veterans in the Portland/Vancouver area. This Survey is completed by federal, state, county, city, non-profit and for-profit agency representatives, as well as local VA staff and homeless Veterans themselves. Needs identified in bold represent services currently being funded with VAF programs.

Clark County Veteran Needs continued

The table below is not veteran specific. Clark County Department of Community Services Community Action Program conducts a biennial Survey of Needs to better understand and adapt to changing client needs, community conditions, financial support and public expectations while maintaining a steady focus on eliminating poverty through programs funded as a result of planning. The current survey was distributed in September 2010 to a number of local nonprofits and at various community events. The County received 595 responses through early October 2010. Of these 595 responses, 65 self-identified as veteran.

Top Needs Identified by Clark County Residents

(Scale of 1 – 10: The higher the number, the higher the degree of need)

Food	7.6
Dental Care	6.7
Medical Services	6.2
Job Placement	5.8
Clothing	5.8
Permanent Housing	5.5
Medication Help	5.4
Drop-in Center	5
Transportation	5

Needs identified in bold represent services currently being funded with VAF programs.

Clark County Veteran Needs continued

Services Provided to Veterans in Clark County

Homeless Management Information System in 2011

The numbers presented below are duplicated service counts. The total number of unduplicated veterans served in Clark County in 2011 was 827. The HMIS database tracks over 50 different service categories and these were collapsed into the eight different categories shown below. For example, transitional housing, motel vouchers, housing counseling and emergency shelter are all categorized under "Housing and homeless support programs." Any services listed in HMIS that are currently being provided under the Policies and Procedures for the Veterans Assistance Fund are listed under Emergency "safety net" assistance.

Since this table most specifically represents both Clark County and homeless or indigent veterans, this is the data that will dictate the priority of services for funding through the Veterans Assistance Fund. Programs that are able to provide more than one type of service may be given preference.

Service	HMIS #
Emergency "safety net" assistance	1,470
Housing and homeless support programs	351
Case management in conjunction with other assistance	228
Benefits outreach and eligibility determination	193
Education and employment support programs	190
Resources and referrals	98
Substance abuse / chemical dependency treatment	85
Legal / criminal justice services	29

Services identified in bold represent programs that are currently being funded with VAF.

Clark County Veterans Resource Committee Purpose

Taken from current VRC Bylaws

1. To develop programs or procedures consistent with the welfare of indigent and suffering veterans and eligible family members of those veterans.
2. To serve as an Advisory Board on Veterans needs in accordance with guidelines, Clark County Codes, and RCWs relating to Veterans Relief to the Clark County Legislature.
3. To provide a venue by which each nationally recognized Veterans organization and Veterans from the community at large, may request representation on the Clark County Veterans Resource Committee.
4. To promote awareness of the CCVRC and its purpose throughout Clark County.
5. To provide policy guidance and advice to Clark County regarding all services funded by the Veterans Assistance Fund.

Values and Guiding Principles

As developed through the 2009 Strategic Plan process

1. Maximize existing resources and funding;
2. Ensure that public funds are spent wisely and with positive impacts;
3. Promote actions that are a “hand up, not a hand out” to advance veterans recovery, stability, self-reliance and dignity;
4. Advance demonstrated best practices and promising approaches; and
5. Increase the committee’s formal communications, influence and collaborations with community leaders and providers as well as other funders.

Goals for Veterans Resource Committee

As developed through the 2009 Strategic Plan process

1. *Advance* the development and implementation of practices that have been demonstrated to increase veteran’s access to services, benefits and providers;
2. *Identify* potential community partners and promote collaborations to maximize or secure new resources benefiting Clark County’s veterans; and
3. *Increase* the CCVRC and community’s knowledge of returning veteran’s issues as well as the supporting services, benefits and programs.

Critical Success Factors

Based on priorities from 2009 Strategic Plan

VRC Member Priorities	Critical Success Factor
Maximize existing resources and funding.	Programs that show a high benefit for cost per veteran served.
Ensure that public funds are spent wisely and with positive impacts.	Increase referrals to services/treatment at VA and other community providers.
Promote actions that are a “hand up, not a hand out” to advance veterans recovery, stability, self-reliance and dignity.	Increase benefit and/or treatment access to improve veteran self-sufficiency. Increase case management services to provide stability.
Advance demonstrated best practices and promising approaches.	Remain open to new ideas and research other community’s veteran program successes.
Increase the committee’s formal communications, influence and collaborations with community leaders and providers as well as other funders.	Enhance board and community knowledge of veterans’ issues and resources through presentations.

Priorities for the Veterans Community

State law and local code regulate how Veterans Assistance Fund can be used. The priorities for the Veterans Assistance Fund are based on needs currently being met in the community as identified by 2011 HMIS veterans report.

Priority	Category	Strategy	Action Steps	Goal
1	Safety Net	Emergency Assistance	Fund a program to meet the needs of indigent veterans as allowed by the VAF Policies and Procedures	Reduce impact of immediate financial strain on households by providing funds to meet basic needs and overcome financial crisis
			Continue annual veterans stand down event	Annual event provides resources, basic needs and meals to veterans
2	Housing	Housing and Homeless Support Programs	Support Transitional or Permanent Housing for veterans in Clark County	Improve veteran stability by providing housing
			Coordinate housing for individuals participating in employment, training or treatment programs,	Ensure veterans can complete programs they are participating in by maintaining stable housing
3	Empowerment, Income and Outreach	Case Management	Provide case management in conjunction with other services	Improve outcomes for veterans through assessment, planning, facilitation, care coordination, evaluation, and advocacy
		Benefits Outreach and Eligibility Determination	Identify veterans who are not receiving SSI or VA benefits	Assess all veterans served by safety net services for eligibility for benefits
			Require SOAR certification for veteran service providers to assist with SSI/SSDI benefits and expedite VA benefits	Notify providers when training is available, create contract deliverables to ensure certification
			Support Service Officer to assist veterans with VA benefit claims	
		Education and Employment Support Programs	Include employment and educational resources at the Stand Down	50% of veterans receive employment information at stand down
			Ensure those who are eligible for employment or education services are enrolled	75% enrolled in employment program find work
		Support WorkSource veteran employment fairs	Distribute information regarding dates and times for employment fairs	
Resources and Referrals	Continue one-stop center for veteran resources and information	Veterans and community know where to turn for veteran resources		

Priorities for the Veterans Community continued

Priority	Category	Strategy	Action Steps	Goal
4	Interventions	Substance Abuse Treatment	Refer veterans seeking treatment to VA SATP	
		Legal/Criminal Justice Services	Sustain Veterans Incarcerated Program and Veterans Therapeutic Court	Help veterans in justice system rehabilitate and stabilize in community
5	Communication and Outreach	Community Education and Outreach	Advise key leaders on recommendations and funding requirements	Share information and build relationships
			Create annual report of services provided with VAF support	Distribute report to VRC members, posts, community and leaders
			Update VRC and website with relevant veteran information and articles as available	Increase community knowledge of veteran issues
			Hear updates from current providers and presentations from new programs at monthly VRC meetings	Presentations provided at 8 monthly VRC meetings per year