

# Justice Involved Veterans Program: *An Approach to Mitigating Incarceration Through Addressing Homelessness*

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)

*Supporting and guiding Veterans through parole/probation requirements and connecting with housing, employment, benefits, and legal services, to increase the probability of successfully reintegrating into society.*



# Learning Objectives

1. Learn briefly about MACV's Justice Involved Veterans Program
2. Learn how homelessness can lead to reincarceration and ways to mitigate this
3. Discuss current statistics, trends, and costs related to incarceration



# Program Mission Statement

**Mission:** Overcome justice involvement to achieve housing stability.

**Vision:** Every Veteran experiencing active justice involvement has access to housing.



# MACV Program Services

- **Pre-Release Housing Planning:** Create pre-release plans in coordination with the DOC case managers for Veterans who are expected to be released into housing instability.
- **Post-Release Case Management:** Support Veterans in maintaining compliance with conditions of release and parole, including coordinating and communicating with the parole officer.
- **Internal Case Consulting:** Advise MACV Case management staff as they encounter justice involvement issues with existing clients.



# Program Goals

- Prevent technical violations by assisting Veterans with navigating their conditions of release
- Ensure Veterans have housing options upon release through connection to housing, employment, and legal services
- Reduce long-term and chronic homelessness for Veterans with justice involvement histories



# Common Technical Violations

- Missing required appointments
- Lack of contact with parole officers
- Not registering a physical address
- Failure to pay court fees
- Failure to attend treatment/programming



# How Homelessness Contributes to Technical Violations

- Lack of transportation for required appointments
- Lack of contact with parole officers due to not having cell phones
- Living on the streets and being unable to register an address
- Lack of income or connection to services leading to an inability to pay for required treatment/program fees or electronic monitoring



# How MACV Mitigates Technical Violations and Reincarceration

- Providing Uber transportation to their required legal appointments
- Providing them with cell phones for communication
- Providing them a physical address on their release date
- Paying for required electronic phone monitoring
- Paying any out-of-pocket program/treatment fees





# Community Partner Roles

## Healthcare Re-entry for Veterans (VA):

- GPD Referrals (Salvation Army and 47)
- St. Cloud VA RRTP
- HUDVASH

## Prison Outreach Program (MDVA):

- “Turn off” and “Turn on” VA disability benefits
- Provide information on applying for retirement benefits and discharge upgrades
- Submits VA disability claims

## MACV

- SSVF (Housing, Healthcare Navigation, Legal, Landlord Engagement, Shallow Subsidy)
- HVRP (Employment)
- GPD



# Statistics, Trends, and Costs

- \$41,366/year to keep someone incarcerated in Minnesota
- In 2018, 88% of individuals under supervision in Minnesota were reincarcerated for minor technical violations
- In the last 2 years, MACV has had 3 Veterans become reincarcerated due to a technical violation



# Discussion

1. What barriers and/or challenges do you have in replicating this in your own community? What tools would help you to overcome those challenges with the goal of replicating a similar model?
2. How do you currently help Justice Involved Veterans reduce technical violations in your community?



# Contact Information

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