ALWAYS EVOLVING

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
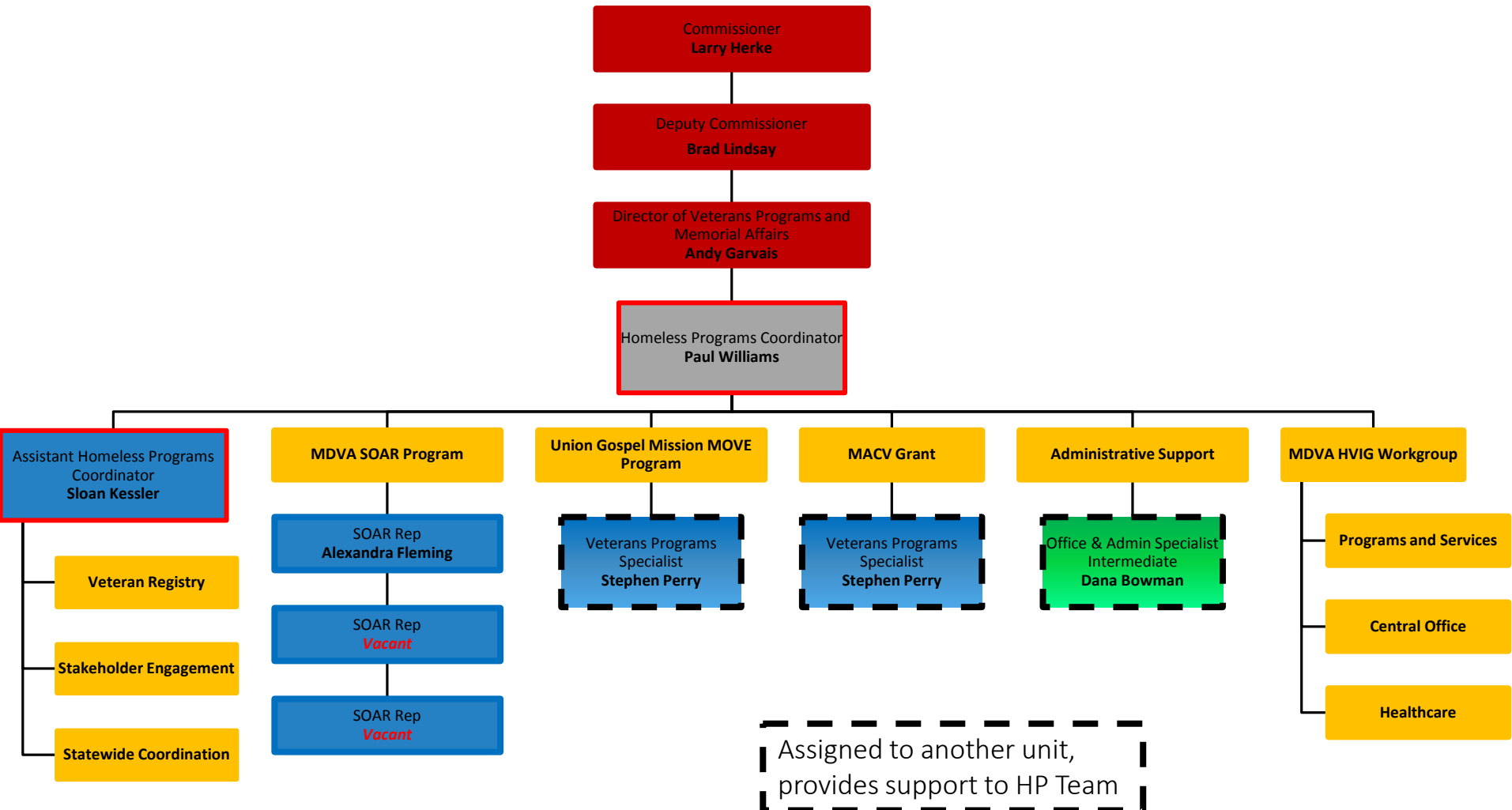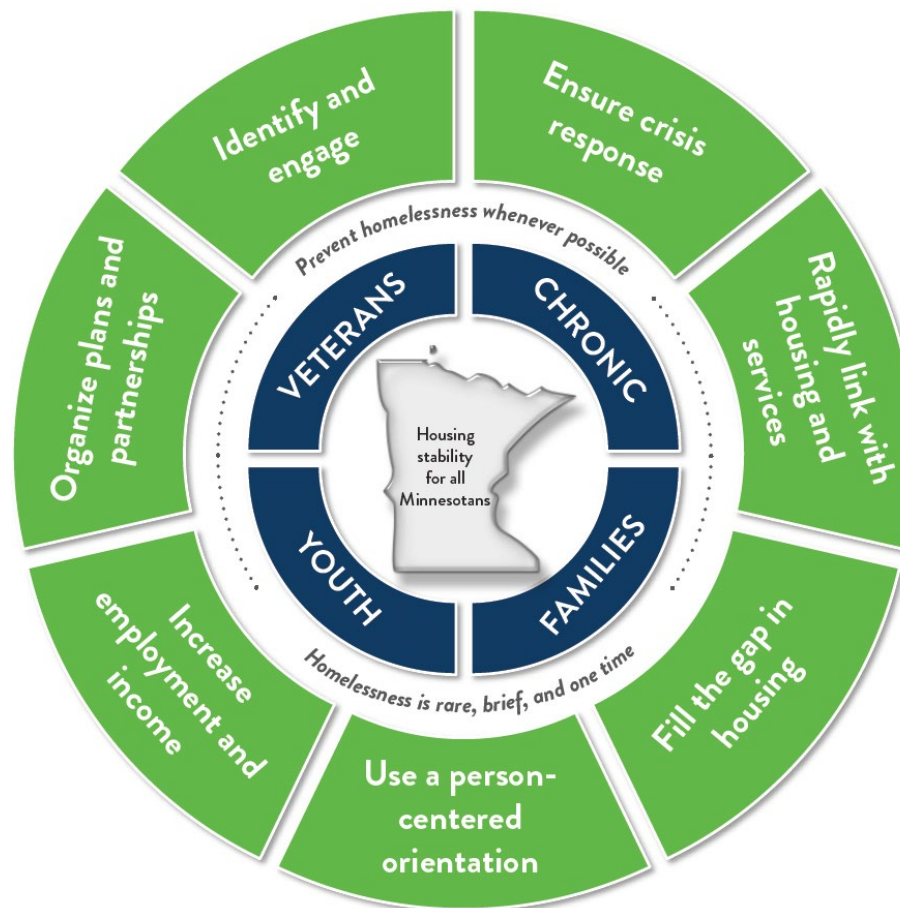
Homeless Programs Org Structure

State's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH)

Participating Agencies and Organizations

Department of Corrections

Department of Education

Department of Employment and Economic Development

Department of Health

Department of Human Rights

Department of Human Services

Department of Public Safety

Department of Transportation

Department of Veterans Affairs

Governor's Office

Metropolitan Council

Minnesota Housing

Office of Higher Education

HEADING HOME TOGETHER

Minnesota's 2018-2020 Action Plan
to Prevent and End Homelessness

Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OtPEH)

Participating Agencies

Department of Education

Department of Human Services

Department of Veterans Affairs

Minnesota Housing

Action Team → Senior Leadership Team → Council

Homeless Veteran Registry

➢Forming strong partnerships across the entire state with a myriad of different organizations and individuals

➢Created and maintain a Homeless Veterans Registry (by name list)

➢Prior to the Registry
  ➢Homeless Veterans were being identified by multiple agencies leading to an inability to accurately identify inflow
  ➢There wasn't a good way to track our success rate – at a community level
    ➢ Unknown amount of overlap between Veterans being served by multiple providers

➢Meetings are designed so that every Veteran on the Registry receives 2-3 minutes of discussion

➢Ultimate plan of these meetings:
To ensure that EVERY Veteran on the Registry has a community provider that is following up/assisting with a housing plan.

Homeless Veteran Registry

> Expanding list of partners attending Registry Meetings

- Accend Services
- All HRA, CDA, PHA, and other Minnesota County, City, or Tribal Housing Authorities
- All Minnesota County, City, or Tribal Human Service Office, Public Health Office, and **Veteran Services Officers**
- Beyond the Yellow Ribbon
- Bi-CAP
- Canvas Health
- CAPSH
- Churches United
- **Catholic Charities**
- Christian Cupboard Emergency Food Shelf
- CHUM
- Damiano Center
- Eagles Healing Nest
- Family Pathways
- Fargo-Moorhead Dorothy Day House of Hospitality
- Friends in Need
- Grace House Homeless Shelter
- Hearth Connections
- Heartland Community Action Agency
- Home and Away Ministries, Inc.
- Horizon Community Health Board
- House of Charity
- Institute for Community Alliances, for the Minnesota Homeless Management Information System
- Kootasca Community Action
- Listening House

- Lakes and Pines CAC
- **Lutheran Social Services**
- **Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans**
- Northwest Technical College for LinkVet, the Veterans Linkage Line
- Our Savior's Housing
- People Incorporated
- Prairie Five Community Action
- New Life Center
- Radias Health
- Stepping Stone Emergency Housing
- St. Andrews
- **St. Stephen's Human Services**
- **The Salvation Army**
- SEMCAC Community Action Agency
- Simpson Housing Services
- Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council
- Tri-CAP
- **Union Gospel Mission**
- **U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs**
- Valley Outreach
- Volunteers of America / AMICUS
- West Central Minnesota Communities Action
- Western Community Action

Homeless Veteran Registry:
Registry 2.0

➢ Second version of the Homeless Veteran Registry

➢ Improvement to existing functionality to increase performance and improve user experience with the HVR "Landing Page" and Housing Team Meeting forms

➢ Implementation of client-side SharePoint development tool to support existing functionality within the Homeless Veteran Registry platform

➢ Implementation of business analytics tool to create an external facing dashboard of aggregated data

➢ We have started ramping up the project this week and working closely (Agile mindset) with MN.IT to complete the Registry 2.0 project

➢ We expect an April 2019 release for the Registry 2.0

Stakeholder Engagement:
Built For Zero.

➤Built For Zero is a national change effort working to help a core group of committed communities end Veteran and chronic homelessness.

➤The Hennepin Team (including MDVA, VA, and MACV) are utilizing a new community coach who has experiencing ending homelessness in the Los Angeles area and is familiar with the complexities of homelessness in large metropolitan areas.

➤Tracking progress against monthly goals

➤Accelerating the spread of proven strategies

Built For Zero.
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Stakeholder Engagement:
Veteran Core Collaborative

➢ Partnership collaboration between MDVA, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MAC-V), and the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs

➢Key players working in sync to end Veteran homelessness in Minnesota

➢Monthly check-ins, support, and brainstorming for a more efficient and effective use of resources

Stakeholder Engagement: 1-On-1 with Continuums of Care

➤MDVA has been meeting with CoCs which have yet to declare and end to Veteran homelessness
- ➤Updating them on current Registry numbers within their CoC
- ➤Identifying barriers to ending Veteran homelessness
- ➤Strategizing solutions for overcoming barriers

➤For CoCs that are close to reaching the federal benchmarks for declaring, MDVA works closely with these CoCs to prepare their submission of evidence to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
- ➤Southeast CoC (20 counties)

MDVA Veteran SOAR Program

➢Launched on March 31, 2016 with key partners (DHS and SSA)

➢A Program designed to help MN Veterans who are homeless or at-risk and have a severe impairment apply for Social Security Disability benefits

➢Why?
 ➢The path to recovery is challenging when basic needs are unmet
 ➢SSI/SSDI application process is complicated
 ➢There is a disconnect between the experience of homelessness and the disability application process

➢SOAR Representatives help Veterans navigate application process
 ➢Forms
 ➢Dates and deadlines
 ➢Maintain contact

MDVA Veteran SOAR Program

➤ **Benefits to Veterans:**

➤ Sustained income: Veterans can receive Social Security Disability in conjunction with—or as an alternative to—VA disability benefits

➤ Health insurance: Veterans can use the Medicaid and Medicare health benefits that come with SSI/SSDI to suplement VA health services
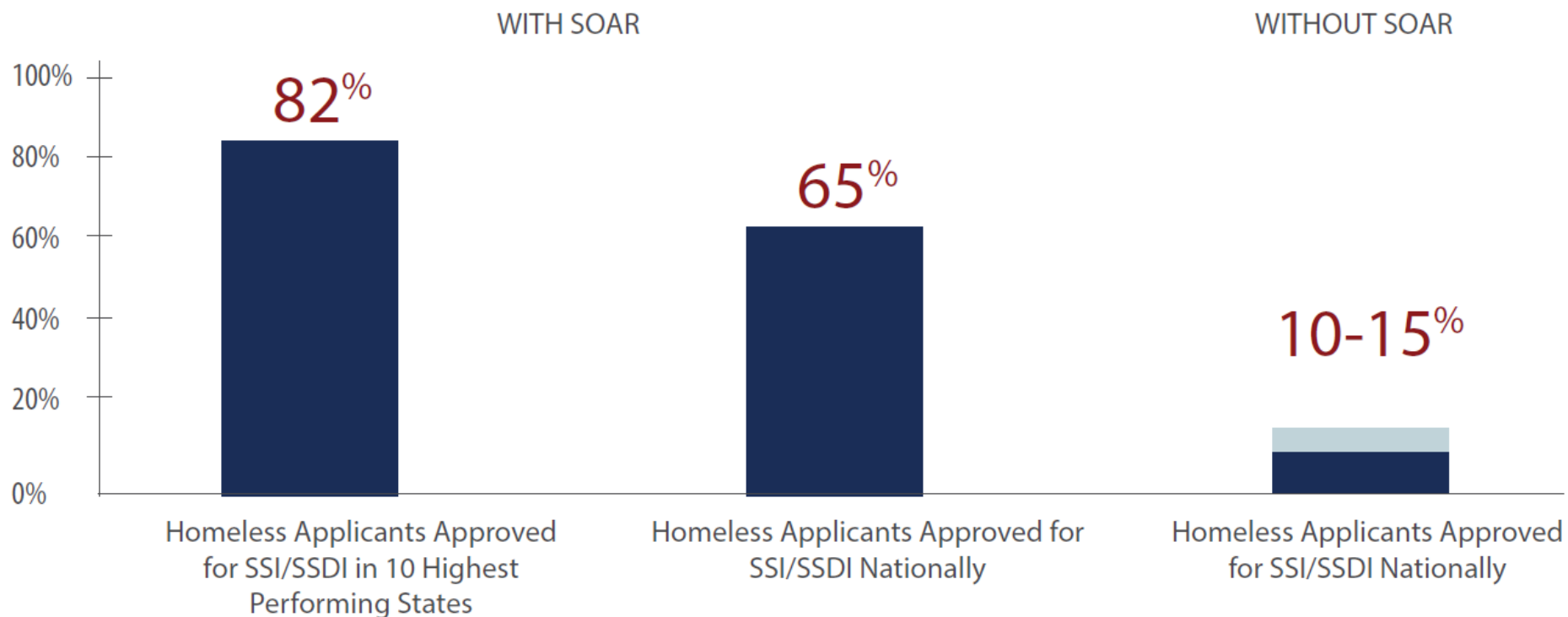
➤ **Benefits to State:**

➤ Reduced reliability on state funded assistance

➤ Economic impact in state and local communities

➤ Increases ability for individuals to remain or enter into community living
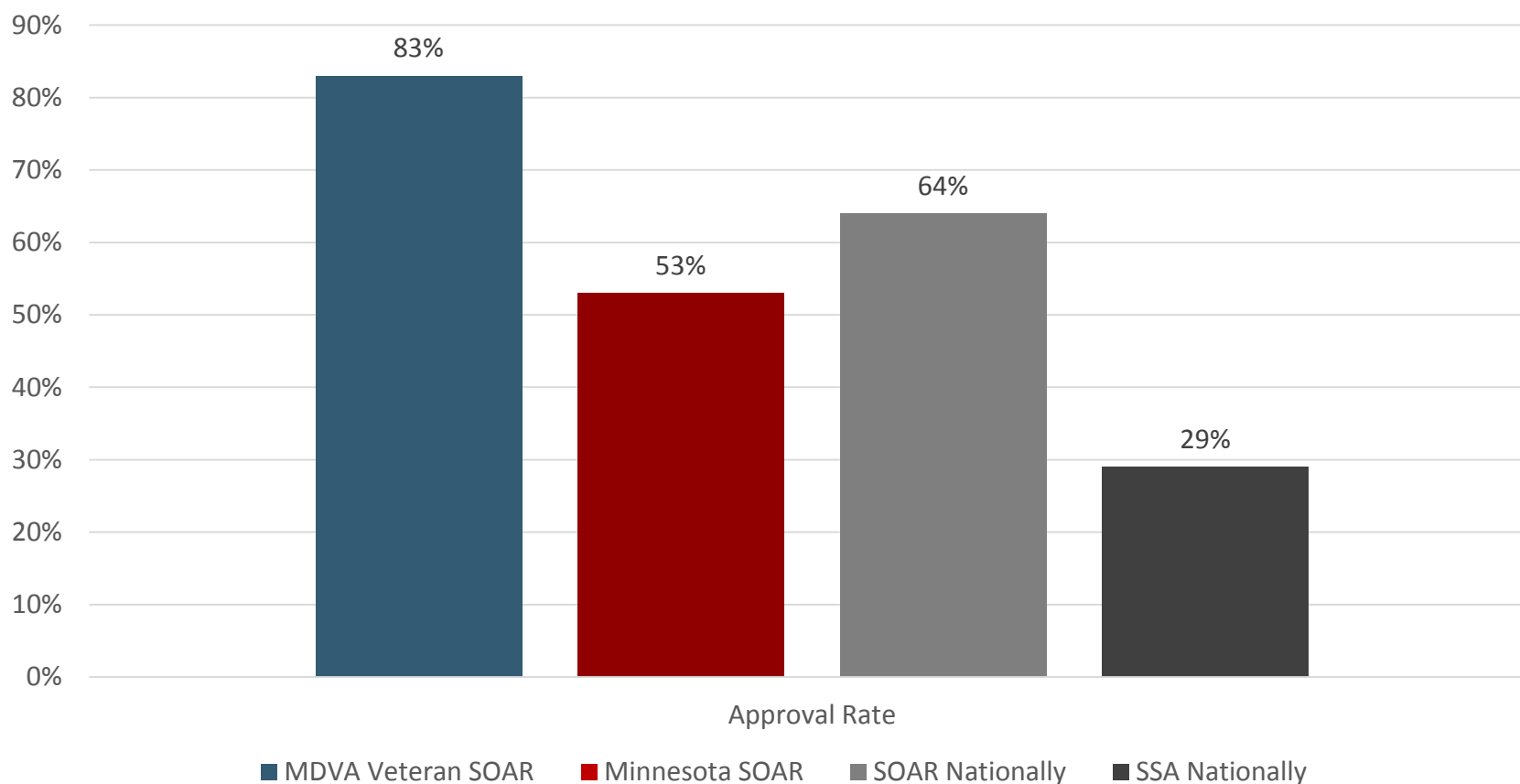
MDVA Veteran SOAR Program

WITH SOAR — WITHOUT SOAR

- 82% — Homeless Applicants Approved for SSI/SSDI in 10 Highest Performing States
- 65% — Homeless Applicants Approved for SSI/SSDI Nationally
- 10-15% — Homeless Applicants Approved for SSI/SSDI Nationally

(www.va.gov/homeless/docs/VA_SOAR_Guide.pdf, 2016)

Homeless Programs:
Outcomes
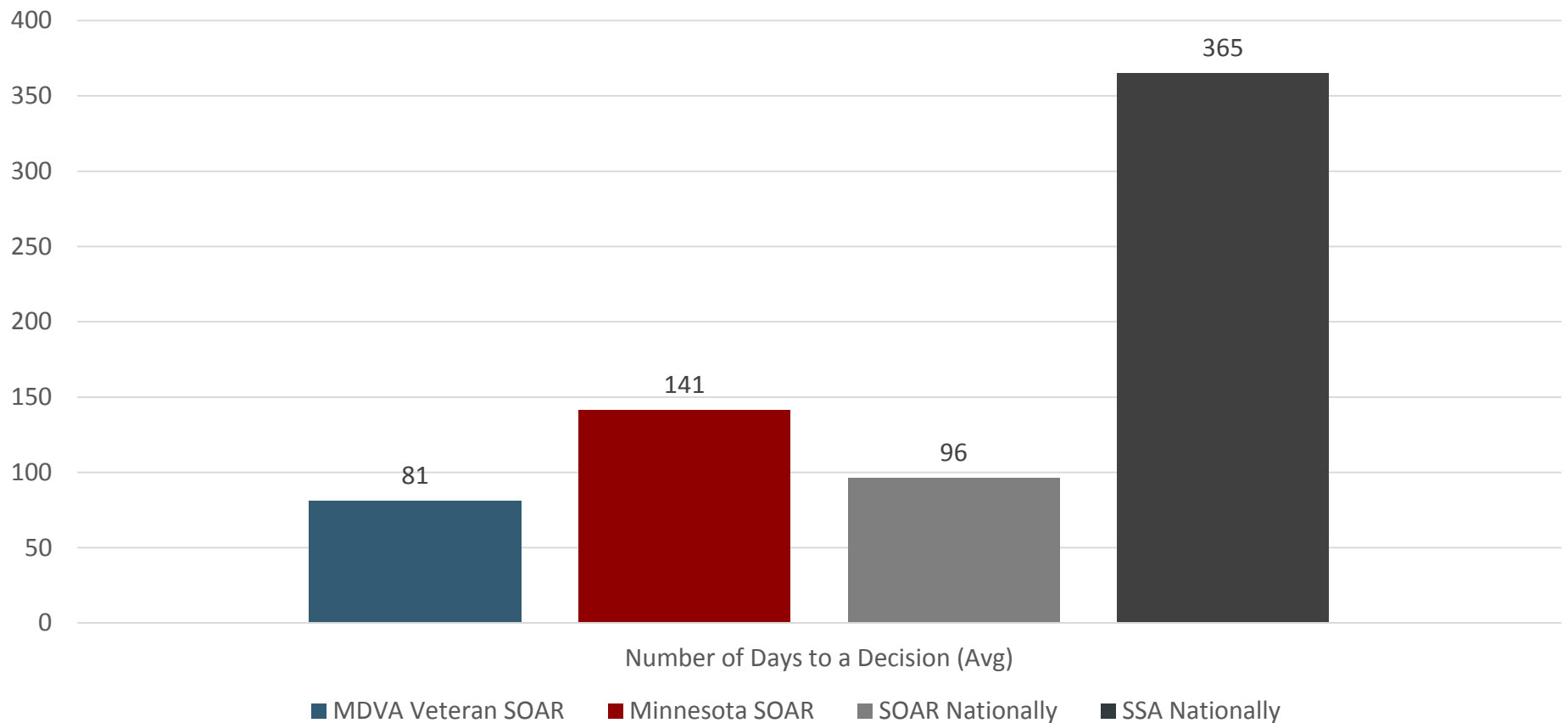
Counties with MDVA SOAR Applications: 30 Counties
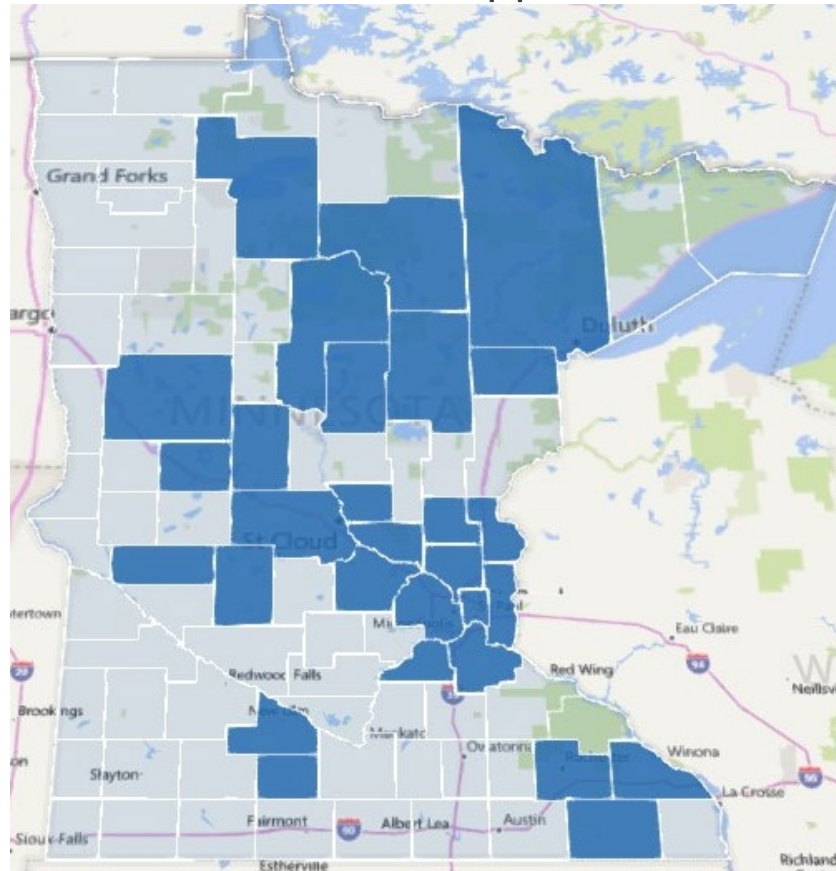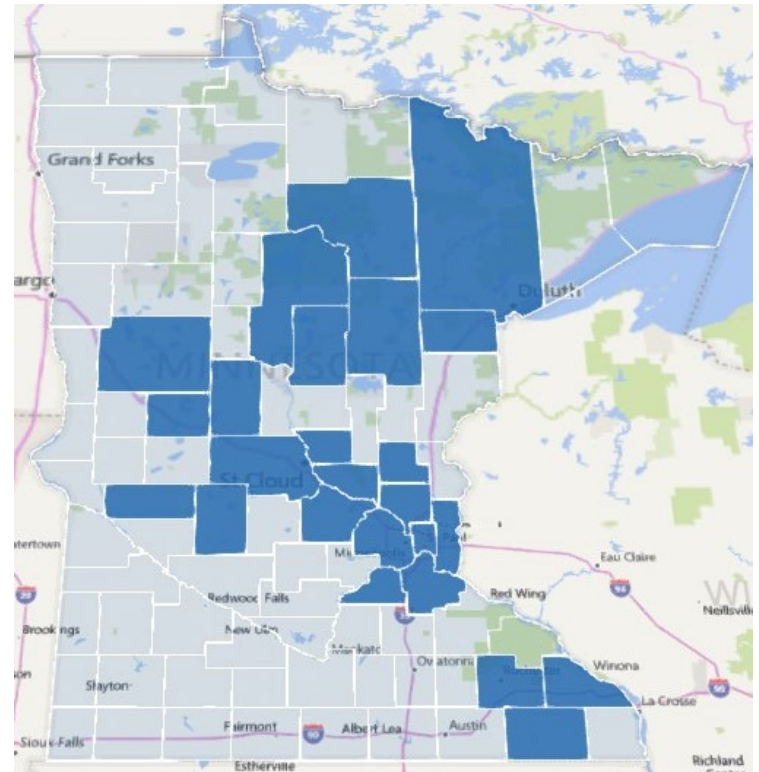
Homeless Programs:
Outcomes

Counties with MDVA SOAR Approvals to Date (Blue)

2016: 10 Counties   2018: 26 counties
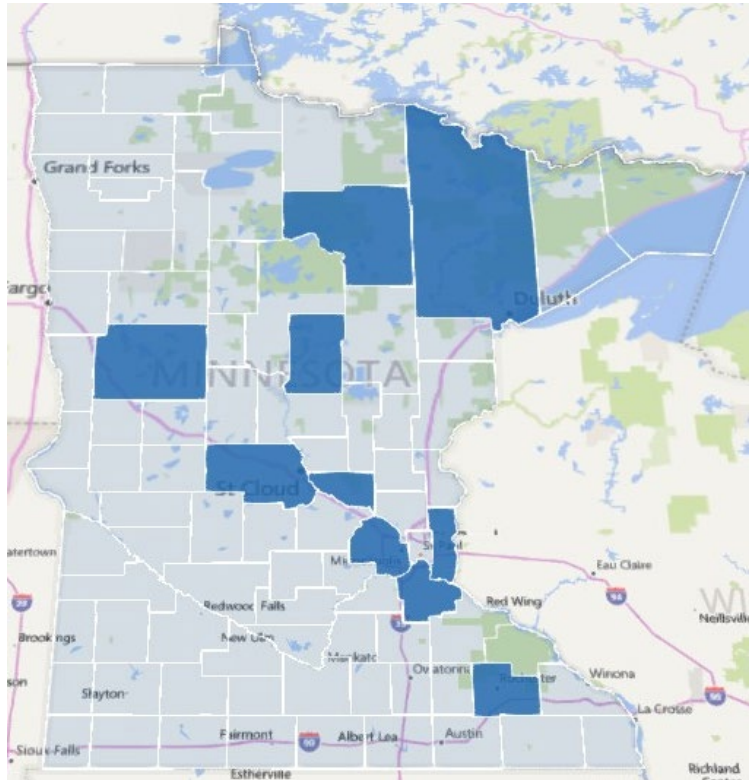
Homeless Programs:
Outcomes

Federal Dollars Received to Veterans because of Veteran SOAR

$1.257M/annually

Social Security Back Payments Received by Veterans because of Veteran SOAR

$272,831+

Homeless Programs:
Outcomes

➤ As a state, we have stably housed over **1,668** previously homeless Veterans since the Registry kicked off in December 2014

➤ Since 2010, there has been a 53.3% reduction in homelessness among Veterans in Minnesota compared to a 48.9% reduction nationally (2010-2018 PIT Count Data).

Homeless Programs:
Outcomes

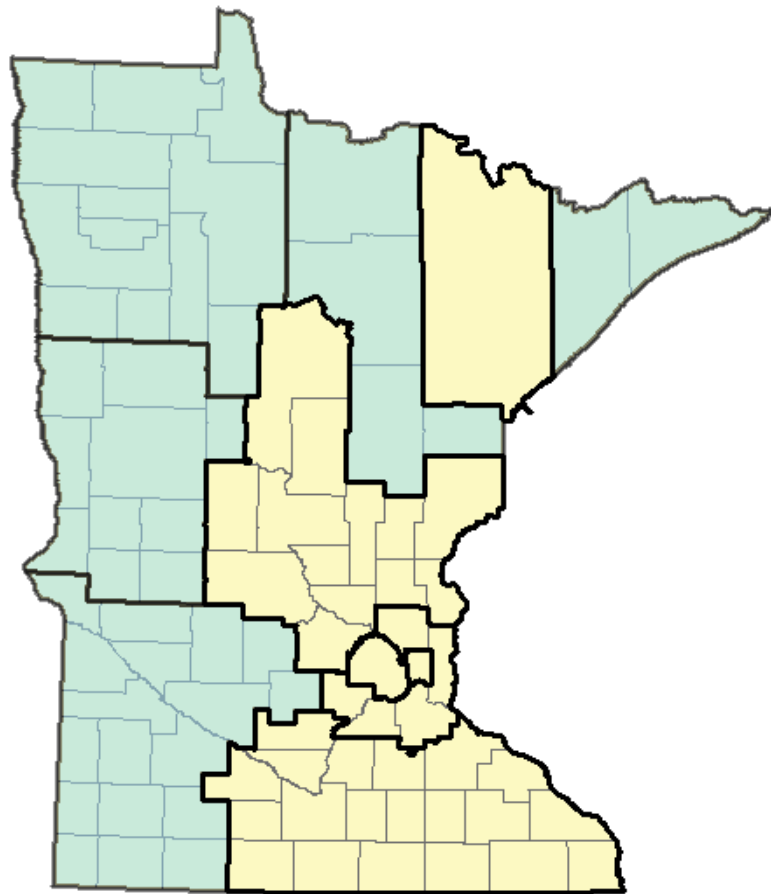# Veterans Point-in-Time Count and Milestones

551
595
525
644
449
309
349
317
297
279
281
301

Hennepin County in *Positive Outliers* report on places making the best progress

Heading Home **plan calls to end homelessness on a Veteran-by-Veteran basis**

First CoC (SW MN) confirmed by Federal government to meet criteria and benchmarks

Mayors Challenge launched

SSVF surge grant

100,000 Homes campaign launched to increase each community's monthly housing rate

Local prioritization of HUD-VASH for most vulnerable

MDVA Launches MOVE Program

Opening Doors launched

Veteran Registry launched

WC, NW CoCs confirmed

NE CoC confirmed

2007   2008   2009   2010   2011   2012   2013   2014   2015   2016   2017   2018

Minnesota
Department of Veterans Affairs

SOAR
Connecting Veterans
with Social Security Benefits
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Current Figures on Homeless Veterans

Homeless Veteran Registry:

Last Updated: 1/25/19

Hennepin CoC		Northwest CoC		Southeast CoC	
Not Reviewed:	81	Not Reviewed:	1	Not Reviewed:	2
Housing Plan:	49	Housing Plan:	0	Housing Plan:	0
Total	130	Total	1	Total	2

Ramsey CoC		St. Louis CoC		West Central CoC	
Not Reviewed:	43	Not Reviewed:	11	Not Reviewed:	1
Housing Plan:	4	Housing Plan:	3	Housing Plan:	0
Total	47	Total	14	Total	1

SMAC CoC		Northeast CoC	
Not Reviewed:	12	Not Reviewed:	3
Housing Plan:	4	Housing Plan:	0
Total	16	Total	3

| Central CoC		Southwest CoC	
Not Reviewed:	16	Not Reviewed:	1
Housing Plan:	5	Housing Plan:	0
Total	21	Total	1

Grand Total: 236

NOTE: The CoCs highlighted in GREEN have declared an end to Veteran Homelessness and have systems in place to assist Veterans experiencing homelessness so that an episode of homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. Additionally, the NOT REVIEWED status includes those in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Unsheltered/Outdoors.

Veterans Housed vs. Identified

Statewide Veterans Identified and Housed (No APB)

Year	Avg. Mo. Identified	Avg. Mo. Housed
2016	34	33.9
2017	29.8	35.6
2018	28	27.5
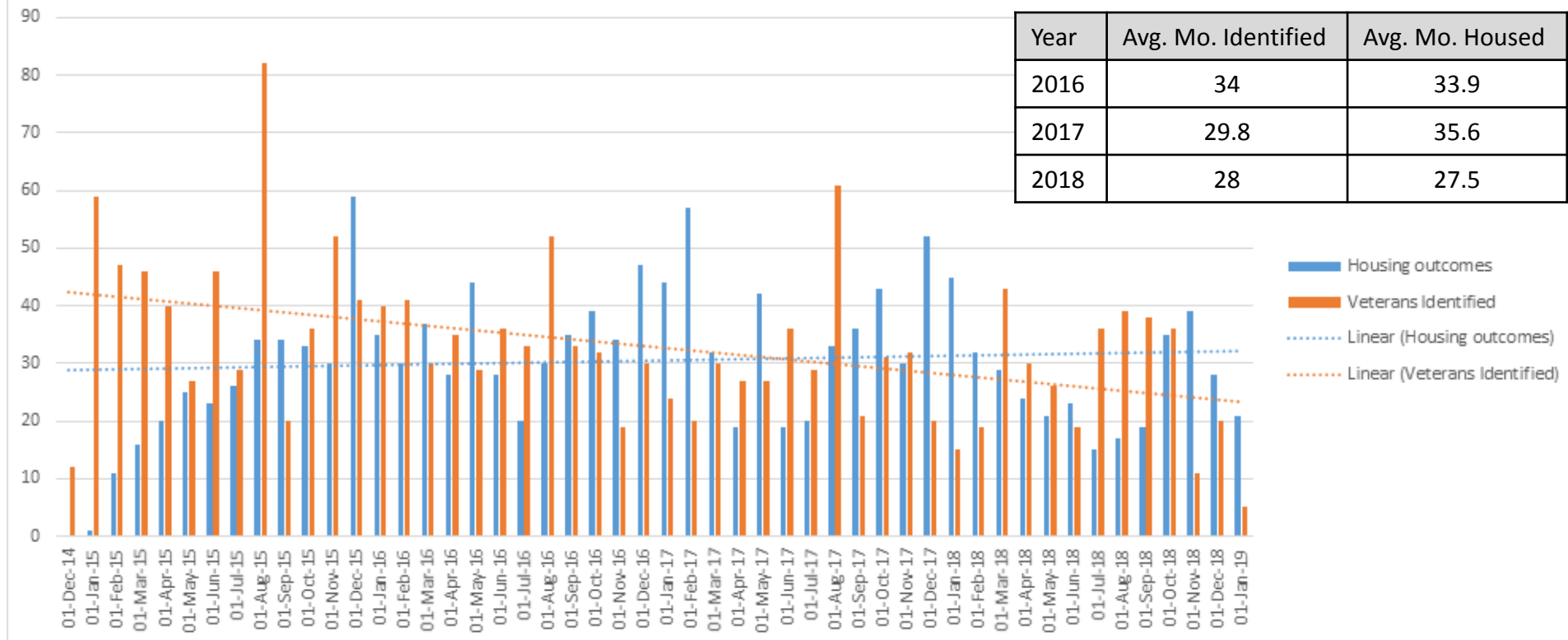
Top Barriers for Remaining Veterans

1. Availability of Housing Units:
    1. Rental vacancy rate
    2. Increasing rent amounts (sometimes over what subsidies can pay)
    3. Stricter screening criteria
    4. New developments not aligned with what the homeless population needs
2. High Barrier Veterans:
    1. Substance use disorders, mental health, criminal history, and poor rental history
    2. Case Manager/Street Outreach Worker high caseloads
    3. Supportive services are not seamless: Do we need "Safe Havens"?
3. Landlord Engagement/Support:
    1. 24/7 support, one phone number, one person
    2. Risk mitigation funds
    3. Need to engage better/more with landlords, property managers, developers, and local elected officials

Legislative Opportunities

1. **GOVERNMENT DATA PRACTICES ACT, Minn. Stat. § 13 (2018):** Classifying data regarding homeless individuals as an urgent and emergent issue related to housing as a subcategory of current government data practice law would greatly enhance our ability to ensure that every homeless individual is being identified. Additionally, it would reduce overlap in services and improve our confidence in data surrounding homeless individuals across the state. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs adopted a similar rule change in 2018—Routine Use 30—to allow information related to homelessness to be shared across agencies and partners resulting in increased coordination of homelessness response systems nationwide.

2. **Engage with Minnesota Housing and the State Director to Prevent and End Homelessness on opportunities for more affordable housing:** Minnesota needs more housing, especially at lower-income levels, in a market that is primarily private.