

Built for Zero Messaging

June 2022

What is Built for Zero?

Jeffco Built for Zero (BFZ) is data-driven initiative focused on reducing the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness in Jeffco. The goal for 2022 is to reduce this number by 15%.

Data Collection

Central to this work is creating a real-time, person-specific data (by-name lists) to ensure every homeless Veteran is identified and then swiftly connected with housing. We have many housing opportunities dedicated for Veterans, however it's up to us all to ensure Veterans are quickly identified, engaged and connected with housing.

How can Eligibility support this initiative?

When you encounter a Veteran (regardless of discharge status) experiencing homelessness, whether this is during an interview, in our lobby, or at another time, follow these steps.

1. **Is the Veteran literally homeless?** Literally homeless means the person is sleeping outside, in a vehicle, in shelter/transitional housing/vouchered at motel (not self-pay) or other place not meant for human habitation. If yes, proceed.
2. **Ask the Veteran for verbal consent to share their information with the VA:** Ask the Veteran if they would like to explore potential VA housing resources they may qualify for. If yes, ask for verbal consent to share their name, contact information, & SSN with a designated VA staff who will assess their eligibility and contact them about housing. If verbal consent is granted, proceed.
3. **Send the Veteran's information via encrypted email to Lauren Lapinski,** Coordinated Entry Specialist at VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System. **Send the following information to Lauren at Lauren.Lapinski@va.gov.** Lauren will connect with the Jefferson County Homeless Coordination team regarding all submissions.
 - a. **Customer's name**
 - b. **Customer's contact information (email and/or phone [if available] OR information for CAD project liaison Amy Roberts at aroberts@jeffco.us. If you are including Amy's information, please only put it in the body of the email and do not copy her.)**
 - c. **Full SSN**

Thank you for your support of this important Jefferson County initiative!