Successfully Assessing Veterans for Housing

Recording Veteran Status in the HMIS Profile
HMIS must recognize Veteran status for people who have served in the US Military to be matched to Veteran funded housing programs.

- **When creating a new record**, answer the question in the *Client Profile* section under *Client Record* that asks if the person served in the United States Military.
- **For people with an HMIS record/ID**, please update the *Client Profile* tab under *Client Record* if this was not completed or says NO for a person who served in the US Military.
  - This applies to people with any length of service in any branch of the military and any discharge status.

**CE Standardized Housing Assessment Veteran Tips**
The CE Standardized Housing Assessment includes a Military Service Details section. The questions here record information related to eligibility for VA funded housing programs. These questions are answered by participant self-report.

- The VA’s definition of Veteran is available by using a mouse to hover over the question, *Are you a US Military Veteran?*
  - The primary difference between the HUD definition and the VA definition is whether the Veteran served in a branch of the active military.
  - Veterans do not always know the exact details of their service and often do not have their discharge paperwork with them. That is perfectly acceptable.
The Offer of Permanent Housing should be made to all Veterans.

- Skilled Assessors ask, ‘would you like to be referred to a housing provider for assistance with looking for and moving in to your own place?’
- Select ‘Add’, which will bring up a pop up box.
- For the question that asks about the Type of Intervention Offered, select ‘Other: assessment needs to be completed’.
- Record whether the Veteran accepts or declines the offer, then select Save.

Other simply means that the Veteran will be matched a housing intervention based on availability and eligibility.

Housing for Veterans
Veterans who are eligible for VA funded housing programs are matched to housing within 2-3 business days. This could be to a rapid rehousing program called Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) or a permanent supportive housing program called HUD Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), or a non-VA funded housing program.