Income Initiatives
Meet the Team
cfthincome@homelesshouston.org

• Stefanie Quintela, Director Strategic Planning (Programs)
• Omar Martinez, Manager Income Programs
• Rand Chaqmaqchee, Associate Income Programs
• Miranda Ramos, Specialist Income Programs
Helping People Experiencing Homelessness Increase and Stabilize their Income is a Primary Goal of the Homeless Response System

• Housing crisis is often the result of a financial crisis
• Employment can improve
  • Quality of Life
  • Mental Health
  • Social Networks
  • Social Inclusion

Income is Important

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The Way Home CoC Coordinated Access

- Integrates housing assessment with income assessment
- Matches people experiencing homelessness to:
  - SSI/SSDI Outreach and Recovery Program (SOAR) if unable to work due to diagnosed disability
    - HMIS add to SOAR Waitlist
  - Employment programs if unemployed or under employed
    - HMIS Referral to Houston Launch Pad (Add HVRP Referral) Veterans Only
    - HMIS Referral to Workforce Solutions (Add WFS Referral)
  - Coming Soon American GI Forum (Veterans and Non-Veterans)
Diversion/RRH/PSH

- Direct Referral in HMIS:
  - Workforce Solutions
  - CCHP Income Support Program Career and Recovery
  - SOAR – Select Referral to SOAR Counselor and Coalition for the Homeless

- Referrals via email: (cfthincome@homelesshouston.org)
  - Workforce Solutions (DV Referrals)
  - CCHP Income Support Program Career and Recovery (DV Referrals)
  - Shelter to Shutters
  - Workfaith
  - SERJobs
  - MOD Pizza
  - American GI Forum

[Link: Income & Employment (homelesshouston.org)]
Presenter:

- Marcelo Uriegas.
  - US Army Veteran and served in the 3rd Infantry Division, 101st Airborne Division, & the 2nd Infantry Division.
  - Houston Field Site Coordinator.
Presenting points of the

American GI Forum-NVOP’s

Texas Workforce Commission Partnership Program (TWCP):

2. TWCP Staff.
3. Whom we serve.
4. Programs Overview.
5. Services Offered.
6. Documentation for program entry.
7. Site Location(s).
1. Our Program’s Mission Statement:

“To establish and maintain a comprehensive community service agency, with a diversified funding source, that will serve the needs of veterans, their families, and other needy individuals of the community.”
TWC Partnership Program’s Mission Statement:

“Giving “HOPE” to the Homeless & Unemployed.”
2. TWCP Staff:

- Leta Scott.
- Jesse Martinez.
- John-Brandon Pierre.
3. Whom We Serve:

Under the Texas Workforce Commission Partnership Program we serve the following:

- Both Veterans and Texans (that are not a veteran) that are meeting our program eligibility:
  - In a state of being unemployed.
  - In a current state of being Homeless-meeting the HUD definition.
5. Services Offered:

The American GI Forum-National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc, Houston site is prepared to provide “eligible” Homeless Veterans and Non-Veterans with the following face-to-face assistance:

1. Direct Employment Placement.
2. Resume Writing/Development.
3. Interview Skills Assistance.
4. Resource Lab to accommodate job search or job development.
5. Effective supportive services.
6. Supportive Services; Wrap-around services.
7. Personalized Case Management tailored to help clients become self-sufficient.
6. **Program entry documentation needed for Homeless Veterans and Non-Veterans:**

1. County/State/Federal ID Card.
2. Social Security Card.
3. Documentation needed for identifying current housing situation—please call our office and/or contact a staff member for further assistance.
7. Site Locations:

**Headquarters:**
611 N. Flores
San Antonio, TX 78205
(210)354-4892

**Field Sites:**
2600 South Loop West, #610
Houston, TX 77054
Also including sites in the following cities:
Dallas, El Paso, & Ft. Worth areas.
Any Questions?
If there are no questions, thank you & please be sure to refer individuals to our office by giving us a call—a phone screening can be conducted over the phone & a case manager will be able to coordinate an appointment.

*We are following the guidance of CDC and practicing the following:
1. Using hand sanitizer.
2. Never forgetting to washing our hands regularly.

Contact Information:

Houston NVOP Office
2600 South Loop West, #610
713.666.4796
The Houston Launch Pad

The Place To Land A New Life

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program
The Houston Launch Pad was founded in 1998, with over 24 years of extensive experience in assessing homeless veterans, ex-offenders and special needs populations.

Ranked #1 HVRP nationwide by Department of Labor

The Houston Launch Pad has completed eight (8) HVRP grants.

Recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) as a National Exemplary Program for effectiveness

Recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a National Economic Development Enterprise.

The Houston Launch Pad uses a seamless process that provides employment assistance to the homeless veteran population.

The Houston Launch Pad is your direct stop for quick, fast turnaround services.
THLP Eligibility Criteria

- Must have a DD214 (Anything other than dishonorable is accepted)
- State ID/Driver’s License
- Social Security Card
- Willing and Able to Work
- Letter of Homelessness or Self-Attestation
The Process

- Call us at (713) 637-4174
- Intake Specialist will screen to see if eligible for HVRP Program
- Fill out application either online, in-person or call (713) 637-4174 to have application sent via email.
- Intake Specialist will forward application and other paperwork to case managers.
- Case manager will determine participant’s readiness with an Individualized Employment Plan (IEP) that is customizable to the participant.
- Employment Specialist will determine enrollment based on assessment of participant.
- All enrollees will receive guidance through an integrated, effective, and job driven workforce and training system in conjunction with partnerships.
- Classroom training, On-the-job training, Apprenticeships, Skills Training will be available to help with solidifying the participant’s ability to find gainful employment.
- Assistance with job placement
- 365 days of follow-up and supportive services as long as the participant remains in the program and stays in compliance.
We are the home to Apprenticeship Programs that train individuals to become certified logistics technician, general insurance associates, construction craft laborers, and certified custodial technicians.

- Get paid while you train
- Hands on Training
- Federally Recognized
- Improved Job Placement Rates
- Employability Skills
The Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) is a part of the America Rescue Plan.

Eligible veterans participating in VRRAP through an approved Houston Community College (HCC) will receive up to 12 months of tuition and fees and a monthly housing allowance.
On The Job Training Incentives

- Want to become an employer who provides OJT and receive reimbursement?
- Workforce Solutions provides the employer 50% reimbursement for the new hires hourly wages during the duration of training, for up to 400 hours. If combined with a Registered Apprenticeship like The Houston Launch Pad, a 75% reimbursement rate and up to 640 hours if approved.
- The Houston Launch Pad can also reimburse for new hires for up to 200 hours. (Veterans Only)
Employment Adjustment Services

- The Houston Launch Pad is staffed with a Job Specialist Coach. Job Coach can assist with job adjustments, schedules work environments, co-workers, customer service skills, adaptation to company culture, and working on troublesome job situations.
- The Houston Launch Pad is staffed with four (4) Employment Specialist that will assist participants in achieving vocational goals, improving strengths and overcoming barriers.
How Can You Apply?

- The Houston Launch Pad has several ways to apply for assistance.
- Online at www.houstonlaunchpad.com
- Call Nancy Perea (Intake Specialist) (713) 637-4174
- Referrals
Contact Us!

- Hours of Operation:
- 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday–Friday
- 2646 South Loop West
- Suite 590, Houston, TX 77054
- (713) 637–4174
- www.houstonlaunchpad.com
What is SOAR?

• A model for assisting eligible individuals to apply for Social Security Administration (SSA) disability benefits

• For individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorder, or other physical disabilities

• Sponsored by SAMHSA in collaboration with the Social Security Administration (SSA) since 2005

• All 50 states and Washington, DC currently participate
SSA Disability Programs: The Basics

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**
- Eligibility based on need: low income and resources; living arrangement
- Monthly amount based on Federal Benefit Rate: $841/month (2022)*
- Date of eligibility based on Protective Filing Date/Application Date
- Health insurance: Medicaid

**Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)**
- Eligibility based on insured status (FICA payments)
- Monthly amount based on earnings history
- Date of eligibility based on “date of onset” of disability, 5 month waiting period
- Health insurance: Medicare

Understanding SSI - SSI Income (ssa.gov)
SSA’s Definition of Disability for Adults
Ages 18 and Over

• The inability to engage in any *substantial gainful activity (SGA)* ($1,350/month in 2022)
• By reason of any *medically determinable* physical or mental *impairment(s)*
• Which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months.

THIS IS *NOT* A TEMPORARY DISABILITY PROGRAM
Key Eligibility Criteria: The following 4 characteristics represent key eligibility criteria for SSA disability benefits (ADULT)

1. Applicant has a serious mental illness or exhibits symptoms and/or has serious physical illnesses that affect his/her ability to work at a substantial gainful level ($1,350/month in 2022)

2. The illness(es) or condition(s) have lasted or are expected to last for at least 12 months (or result in death)

3. Individual is currently exhibiting symptoms of mental illness or has periods with worsening of symptoms that prevents sustainable employment.

For example:
- Psychotic Symptoms (positive or negative)
- Depressive Symptoms (decreased energy, lack of motivation, suicide attempts)
- Manic Symptoms (racing thoughts, disorganized thoughts)
- Anxious feelings (paranoia, nervousness)
- Cognitive deficits (brain injury, problems with concentration, memory, etc.)
- History of trauma (history of abuse, posttraumatic stress disorder, etc.)
For applicants with mental illness, he/she has marked restrictions in at least 2 of these functional areas, or extreme limitations in one area:

- Understand, remember, or apply information (memory, following instructions, solving problems, etc.)

- Interact with others (getting along with others, anger, avoidance, etc.)

- Concentrate, persist, or maintain pace (as they relate to the ability to complete tasks)

- Adapt or manage oneself (hygiene, responding to change, setting realistic goals, etc.)
If Client is a good SOAR Candidate

• Refer to CFTH Income Team
  • In HMIS add SOAR Referral and select Referral to SOAR Counselor
  • Select Coalition for the Homeless SOAR as provider
  • In comment section indicate why you are making the referral i.e. diagnosis
  • Review referral email and make sure contact information for client is correct.
  • Add case manager’s name/contact information to email and send.
  • Release the information by selecting Edit Client/Release Exceptions

• We can help! Email CFTHIncome@homelesshouston.org
SOAR Referral

Referral Service: Referral to SOAR Counselor

Referral Recipient
Select the agency referral recipient as the Refer to Provider.
Referral Recipient: Coalition for the Homeless SOA

Information Release
If the Client has authorized that his/her information can be released to the selected provider, please indicate this below. Doing so will cause an email to be automatically generated and sent to this provider.
Email Authorized: ✔

Referral Source
Select the agency referral source as the Refer from Provider.
Refer from Provider: Coordinated Access Provider
Refer from User: Stefanie Quintela
Location: CFTTH
Status: Referral Made
Comments: Unable to work due to diagnosed Disability
Income Now

The Way Home
- Coalition for the Homeless & other Providers
- Housing Assessments
- Housing Intervention Programs
- Shelters

Income Now
- Referrals
- Navigator
- Support Services
- Housing & Employment

Workforce Solutions
- Job Search
- Work Support
- Education and Training
- Transportation
- Child Care
3 Qs to ask before submitting a referral

• Are you work-ready?
  • Able and willing to look for employment
  • I-9 documents
  • Updated email or phone number to maintain contact

• Are you aware WFS services are geared toward employment efforts?
  • Job search
  • Job support services (i.e., gas or bus pass, childcare, etc.)

• Are you aware a WFS staff member will contact you within week?
  • 3 attempts by phone or email
Workforce Solutions Updates

• Currently hiring
  • 2 Income Now Navigators
  • 1 Mobile Career Advisor
• Childcare service waitlist
• Email Income team and copy Manager for referral updates
  • CFTHincome@homelesshouston.org
  • omartinez@homelesshouston.org
Income Initiatives
Thank You!