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## Focus of Program

Safe Haven utilizes the following service models to assist Veterans in reaching their goals:

**Housing First** refers to an approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals to improve their quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief helping people establish safety and security, via a place to live, are priority foundations for attending to other needs such as employment, financial stability, medical and mental health services. Additionally, Housing First is based on the belief that client choice is valuable in housing selection is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their life.

**Harm Reduction** refers to policies and practices that aim to minimize the negative health, social, and legal impacts associated with substance use, policies and laws. Harm reduction focuses on working with people without judgement, coercion, discrimination, or requiring that they stop using substances or alcohol as a precondition of support while helping them to make positive changes through a range of effective, evidence-based approaches and have been demonstrated to have a positive impact on individual and community health.

New England Center and Home for Veterans (NECHV) is a national leader in housing and serving Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Located in Downtown Boston and offering services throughout the region, NECHV supports Veterans with innovative



NEW ENGLAND CENTER  
AND HOME FOR VETERANS

# SAFE HAVEN Program

## Stabilization & Housing for at-risk Veterans

New England Center and Home  
for Veterans

17 Court Street  
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## About the Program

The goal of Safe Haven is to rapidly stabilize Veterans' medical, mental health, substance use and other psychosocial problems in order to place them in permanent or other appropriate transitional housing within six months of entry.

To accomplish this Veterans are placed in a safe, supportive, residential setting where they have access to professional services to address their complex needs through on-site supportive case management and counseling services. The target population for this program is chronically homeless Veterans with substance use disorders, mental health struggles and/or other serious and complex needs.

Based on these factors, Veterans who are considered high priority for this program have been determined to be highly vulnerable due to serious mental health, substance use, or other psychosocial conditions or stressors that makes them an unlikely candidate for more traditional supportive services.

The low-threshold environment and the supportive services of Safe Haven are intended to help these individuals succeed in their goals

## Services & Offerings

- Individual bedrooms with secure lockers
- daily meals
- Internet access
- Transportation services for appointments
- Access to medical services via on-site clinic

### **Case Management Services**

- Participant Veterans meet weekly with an assigned Case Manager to help them develop and execute their goals.

### **Housing Services**

- Participant Veterans work with on-site Housing Specialists and have access to resources to locate and finance independent housing.

### **Individual Counseling**

- Staff is available 24/7 to meet with participant Veterans for individual substance use counseling.

## Eligibility

To be eligible for the Safe Haven Program, at NECHV Veterans must be assessed by the local VA Medical Center and meet the following criteria:

- Be eligible for VA health care
- Be experiencing homeless

## Contact Us

### Program Manager

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