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Comment On: VA-2024-VACO-0001-0141

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: Homeless Programs—Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups) for Veterans; FR Doc No: 2024-13757; OMB Control No. 2900-0843

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Non-Comment on ICR- Homeless Programs—Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups) for Veterans; OMB No. 0843; Department of Veterans Affairs

Submitter Information

Government Agency Type: Federal

Government Agency: VA

General Comment

I have a few suggested modifications to the CHALENG survey, which can help generate information on the needs of homeless veterans.

1. For Q5/6- Add new race/ethnicity category for “Middle Eastern or North African” which is now a new OMB standard.
2. For Q2- For the response of “literally homeless,” break it out into two to differentiate sheltered (i.e., in shelter) from unsheltered homelessness (i.e., on streets, public encampment, in car).
3. Consider eliminating Q9 because this seems subjective and presumably all Veterans who participate are unstably housed to some degree.
4. Under the Housing category, include two additional questions, one about “Utility Assistance” and another on “Preparation for Natural Disaster/Extreme Weather.”
5. Under the Treatment Services category, suggest removing “Treatment for Dual Diagnosis” because ill-defined and you already ask about Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment. Suggest adding “Complementary and Alternative Medicine (acupuncture, herbal medicine, meditation).”
6. Under the Digital Access category, include two additional questions that ask “Do you use the Internet to access VA services” and “Do you use any phone apps for your healthcare?”
7. Under the Education/Job Services category, include an item for “Assistance with Safe Firearm Storage”

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide input.

Attachments

CHALENG public comment