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# **Metro Council Special Committee on Veterans Executive Summary**



**Nashville -- Building Veteran Readiness**

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# The Task

**Assess and report on public and private Veteran Engagement in Davidson County, including services currently provided, service gaps, and service delivery recommendations.**

<b>Urgent Intervention</b>	<b>Transition and Capacity Building</b>
Homelessness and Housing	State and Federal Benefits
Wellness--Healthcare	Transition Challenges and Opportunities
Wellness—Mental Health	Employment and Employers
Legal Issues/Concerns	Economic and Community Impact
COVID Impact on Veterans	Other City Models



# Metro Veterans

**Approximately 49,000 Veterans live in Metro—7% of residents**  
**More Veterans work, play and connect here**

**100**  
move to  
Nashville  
each month

**8,350**  
receive disability  
compensation or  
pension

**1,445**  
enrolled in  
local colleges  
& universities

**31,548**  
enrolled in  
VA  
Healthcare

**~190**  
homeless or living  
in shelters or  
transitional housing

**~\$425M**  
Annual  
economic impact  
for Metro



# Assessment # 1

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Davidson County is *Veteran Friendly*, but not necessarily *Veteran-Ready*.



- Service Ecosystem focuses on Veterans in crisis
- Isolated examples of *Veteran-Ready* initiatives
- Unawareness of Veterans' economic, employment and volunteer impact
- Lack of oversight and coordination to leverage Veteran impact
- Veteran talent is under-recruited, under-retained and under-utilized

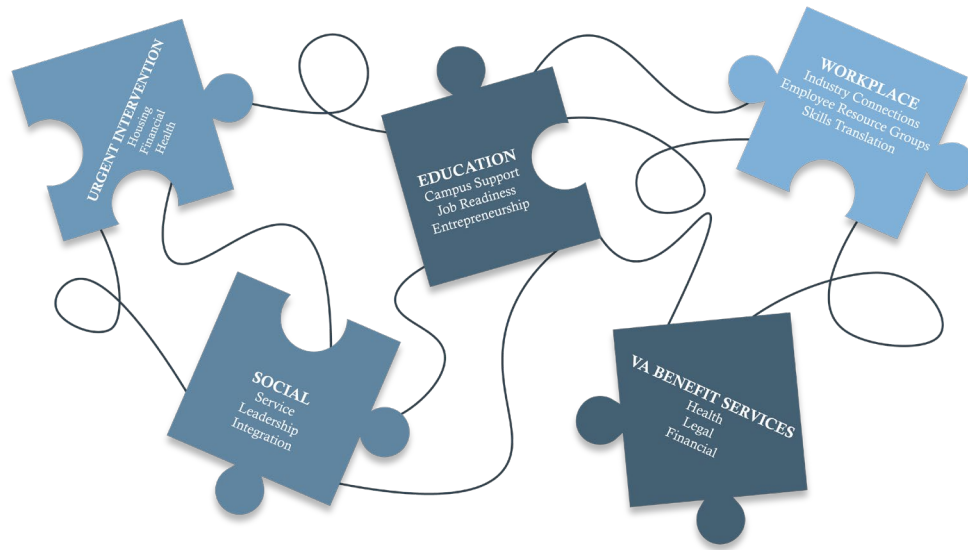
Power and potential of Veterans being **overlooked** and **under-leveraged**.

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# Assessment # 2

**A robust but uncoordinated** crisis service ecosystem.

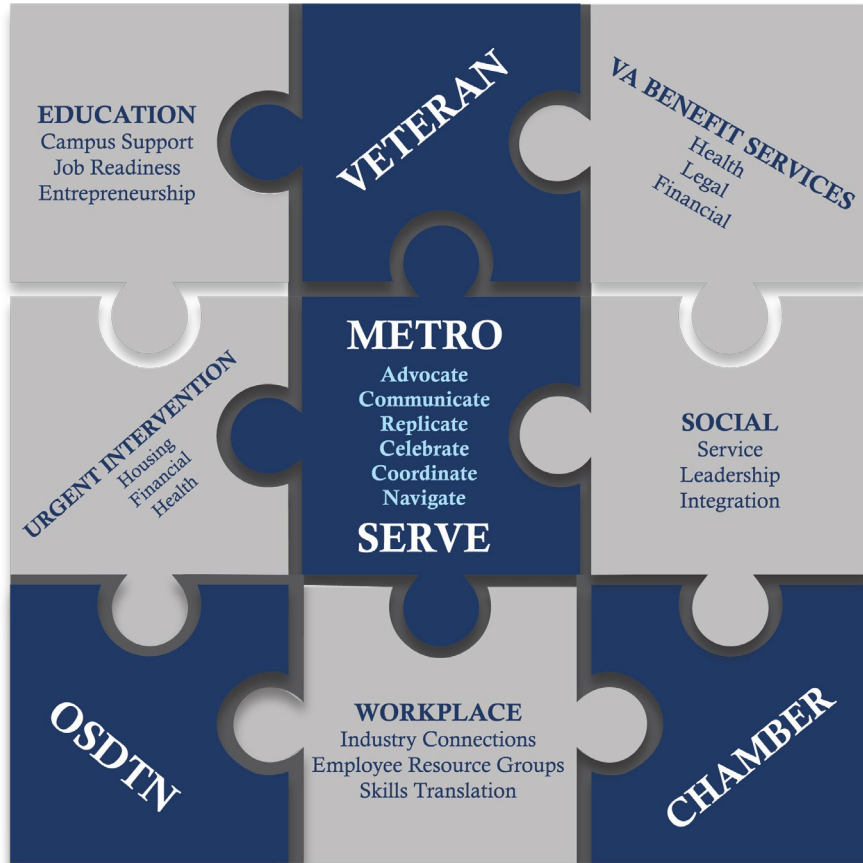


- Lack of city leadership commitment to end Veteran homelessness...reach “functional zero”
- Coordination difficulties defining and attaining common goals
- Close to 40% not enrolled with VA to receive benefits or healthcare
- Current housing capacity does not meet Veteran vouchers issued
- Lack of adequate affordable housing affects recruitment and retention of workforce Veterans

**Lack of coordination** defining/attaining common goals and disseminating information.



# The Opportunity



## **METRO MOVES THE NEEDLE!**

### **VETERAN-FRIENDLY TO VETERAN-READY**

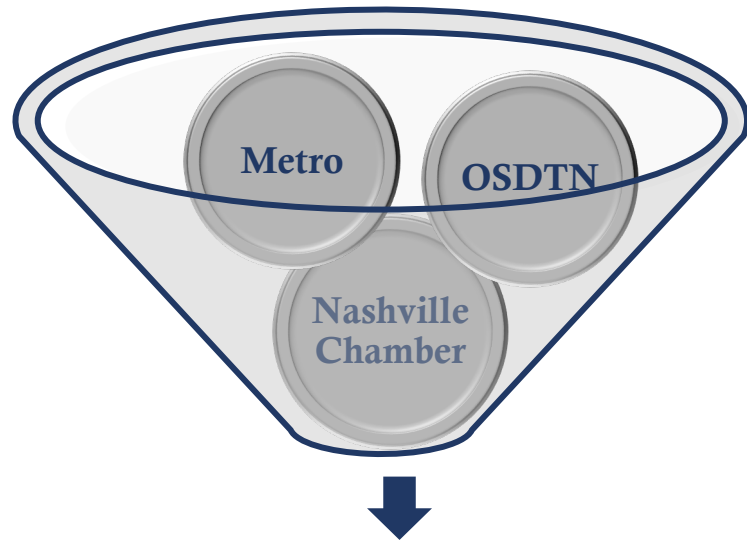
### Why Metro?

- Metro has the power to advocate, celebrate, coordinate, communicate and serve on behalf of Veterans
- Metro has the capability to be the HUB...centering, supporting, referring, navigating, innovating, and growing Veteran support efforts



# The Way Ahead

**Metro has the authority, prominence, and voice to bring those serving Veterans together.**



Make Nashville Veteran Ready

1. Elevate current Office of Veteran Services to a department.
2. Establish a Veteran Commission to serve in an advisory capacity on issues affecting the city's Veterans.
3. Enfold current Middle Tennessee Military Affairs Committee within the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Nashville Chamber of Commerce and Operation Stand Down Tennessee can assist.**



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# Metro Council Special Committee on Veterans



**Build a Veteran-Ready Community**

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