



## Do You know of a Homeless Veteran? "Housing Our Heroes" Campaign

Do you know of a homeless Veteran who lives on the streets or in shelters in the city of San Diego?

Please tell them about the "Housing Our Heroes" campaign, a program of the San Diego Housing Commission's (SDHC) The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative to provide housing opportunities for up to 1,000 homeless veterans in the city of San Diego within one year (March 2017).

Veterans who will be assisted include:

- Veterans and their families who become homeless because of an unexpected life experience, such as a job loss, domestic violence, or medical crisis. They will receive monthly financial rental assistance (Rapid Re-housing), as well as funds for up-front move-in costs.
- Chronically homeless Veterans with an honorable discharge and a disabling condition who need supportive services and who qualify for the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) voucher program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Federal government pays approximately 70 percent of their rent. These Federal housing vouchers do not expire as long as the individual continues to meet qualifying criteria, such as income eligibility.
- Veterans who are not eligible for the Federal VASH Vouchers, including Veterans who did not receive an honorable discharge. They may qualify for a Sponsor-Based Housing Voucher with supportive services based on income. The Federal government pays approximately 70 percent of their rent. SDHC awards Sponsor-Based Housing Vouchers to nonprofit or for-profit organizations, or "sponsors," to provide rental assistance to homeless Veterans to help pay for their housing.

For more information: email [HousingOurHeroes@sdhc.org](mailto:HousingOurHeroes@sdhc.org) or call (619) 578-7768

All participants of The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative must be referred by SDHC partner agencies or organizations that provide supportive services to homeless San Diegans.

It is important that homeless Veterans add their names to a database that assesses their housing needs and vulnerability, which will help identify those homeless Veterans who are most in need.

Call or visit the following agencies that can assist homeless Veterans with the registration for this Coordinated Assessment database:

**Neil Good Day Center**

(619) 233-8500  
299 17th St. San Diego, CA 92101

**Joan Kroc Center at Father Joe's Villages**

(619) 233-8500  
1501 Imperial Ave.  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Courage to Call (Mental Health Systems)**

(858) 636-3604  
9445 Farnham St. Suite 100,  
San Diego, CA 92123

**Volunteers of America**

(619) 234-6218  
3530 Camino Del Rio North, Suite 300, San  
Diego, CA 92108

**Veterans Village of San Diego**

(619) 497-0142  
3320 Kemper Street #104,  
San Diego, CA 92110

**Veterans Community Services**

(800) 974-9909  
5605 El Cajon Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92115

**PATH**

(619) 810-8600  
1250 6th Ave, San Diego, CA, 92101

**Alpha Project for the Homeless**

(619) 232-4785  
3737 5th Ave, San Diego, CA 92103

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

(619) 400-5000  
7410 Mission Valley Road,  
San Diego, CA 92108





## *The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative “Housing Our Heroes” Campaign*

The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative of SDHC's **HOUSING FIRST - SAN DIEGO** Homelessness Action Plan follows the Housing First model - to provide housing as quickly as possible, with supportive services as needed.

In addition to Landlord Outreach – “Housing Our Heroes,” which provides incentives for participating landlords, the other three critical program components of The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative are:

### **Rapid Re-Housing Assistance**

**Homeless Veterans Assisted:** Up to 600 homeless Veterans will be provided housing opportunities with supportive services. Veterans need not have honorable discharge to be eligible.

**Program provides:** Rental payments to Veterans and their families who become homeless because of an unexpected life experience, such as a job loss, domestic violence, or medical crisis. The program will cover up-front move-in costs, such as security deposits and utility deposits. The funds will also be used to provide supportive services, such as case management and client outreach. Rapid Re-housing funds are awarded to nonprofit or for-profit organizations who apply for these funds through a competitive Notice of Funding Availability. These funds are paid directly to the landlord.

### **SDHC Federal VASH Vouchers**

**Homeless Veterans Assisted:** 300 chronically homeless Veterans with an honorable discharge and a disabling condition who need supportive services and who qualify for the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) voucher program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**Program provides:** Rental housing vouchers from the HUD VASH voucher program, which provides rental assistance administered by SDHC and supportive services through the VA San Diego Healthcare System. To help homeless Veterans find an apartment, SDHC obtained a waiver from HUD that allows for up to 20 percent higher rent payment amount for a VASH Voucher, effective February 1, 2016. These Federal housing vouchers do not expire as long as the individual continues to meet qualifying criteria, such as income eligibility.

### **SDHC Federal Housing Vouchers with Supportive Services**

**Homeless Veterans Assisted:** 100 homeless Veterans who are not eligible for the Federal VASH Vouchers.

**Program provides:** Housing for homeless Veterans with supportive services, such as mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment programs, job training skills and health services. SDHC will award Federal HUD Sponsor-Based Housing Vouchers to nonprofit or for-profit organizations – chosen through a competitive process – to provide rental assistance to homeless Veterans to help pay for their housing.

All participants of The 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative must be referred by SDHC partner agencies or organizations that provide supportive services to homeless San Diegans.

It is important that homeless Veterans add their names to a database that assesses their housing needs and vulnerability, which will help identify those who are most in need. Agencies that will be able to add homeless Veterans to this Coordinated Assessment database, and are located in the downtown area, are Neil Good Day Center and The Joan Kroc Center at Father Joe's Villages.

**Funding Sources:** A grant from the City of San Diego resulting from the ground lease of San Diego Square; proceeds from SDHC's pending sale of Hotel Metro; HUD VASH Voucher Administration Fees; HUD Extraordinary Administrative Fees for VASH Vouchers; HUD VASH Rental Assistance; and HUD Sponsor-Based Housing Voucher Rental Assistance.

