

In conjunction with the Full Council meeting of yesterday, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki also announced the allocation of \$75 million to local public housing authorities across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam to provide permanent supportive housing and dedicated VA case managers for an estimated 10,000 homeless Veterans, including families. This innovative joint initiative is called Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH).

This new funding will provide local public housing agencies with approximately 10,000 rental assistance vouchers specifically targeted to assist homeless Veterans, including families, in their area. Public housing authorities, that administer HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program, work closely with Department of Veteran Affairs medical centers to manage the program. In addition to the rental assistance, VA medical centers provide supportive services and case management to eligible homeless Veterans.

"It is shameful that after serving our nation so well, some of our Veterans leave their military life only to fall into homelessness," said Secretary Donovan. "Working closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs, we're able to offer a permanent home, along with critically needed supportive services, to the very people to whom we owe so much."

"No one, especially Veterans who have faithfully served our country should become homeless," said VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. "This Council's work is critical to providing for those at risk and on the streets. This interagency partnership allows us to leverage our resources, programs, talent and experience to create viable solutions that will eliminate homelessness."

Under HUD-VASH, HUD will provide housing assistance through its Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) which allows Veterans to rent privately owned housing. The VA will provide to eligible homeless Veterans clinical and supportive services through its health care system across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam. VA addresses the needs of the more than 100,000 homeless Veterans who access VA health care annually.