

November 8, 2023

BCC Agenda Date/Item: **11/8/2023**

Recognition of Veterans Day

Board of County Commissioners
Clackamas County

Previous Board Action/Review	N/A		
Performance Clackamas	Consistent with Performance Clackamas goals to build public trust through good government and ensure safe, healthy, and secure communities.		
Counsel Review	No	Procurement Review	No
Contact Person	Joey Johns Jennifer Harvey	Contact Phone	503-650-5725 503-867-7500

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Clackamas County Social Services Office and the Children, Family, and Community Connections Divisions of the Health, Housing & Human Services Department have collaborated for this presentation in honor of Veterans Day. Since 1938, the United States has acknowledged the commitment of its armed forces on November 11th. Today, the Program Managers and VSO supervisor are here before the Board of County Commissioners to acknowledge the service, dedication, and sacrifices of those who have served our nation.

The County maintains an active Veterans Advisory Committee that ensures that the perspective of a broad diversity of Clackamas County veterans have the opportunity to impact County plans and services. Current initiatives the committee is working on are as follows; membership recruitment, a centralized calendar for all veterans’ events, and planning for the Veterans Expo Event 2024.

Children, Family and Community Connections Veterans Workforce Program assists veterans in need of training and employment with intensive case management and customized career plans. Last year 41 veterans were served, and 27 gained employment with a 96% retention for at least 90 days. The average wage for those who gained employment was \$24.06 an hour. The remaining veterans continue with intensive employment and/or training services. 20% of the veterans served

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identify as female, 20% as a person of color and 27% are age 55 and older.

Veterans engaging in services encounter complex barriers such as approximately 40%, grapple with disabilities such as PTSD, which greatly affect their daily lives. Additionally, 27% of veterans are dealing with substance use disorders, further exacerbating their struggles. Furthermore, a significant 37% have been involved with the justice system, adding another layer of complexity to their situations. Alarming, a staggering 73% of these veteran's experience housing instability or homelessness.

In support of the Clackamas County performance initiative to End Veteran Homelessness, the Social Services department implemented four programs aimed at housing and supporting homeless veterans. In the past year, these programs successfully served 66 veteran households, comprising 73 adults and 13 children. These teams work with some of our most vulnerable veteran community members.

Veterans Village has sheltered 99 veterans since the 2018 inception and 43 of these sheltered participants have moved to permanent housing directly from the Village. Clayton Mohr Commons a project constructed by Northwest Housing Alternatives and caser managed by Do Good Multnomah has 24 units available for Veterans and it is currently housing 27 veterans' total.

The Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) program, administered by the Housing Authority of Clackamas County, offers rent subsidies and VA case managers to formerly homeless veterans. Currently, out of 146 vouchers, 104 veterans have been housed, 10 units are ready for placement, and 42 vouchers remain available. Excitingly, in the upcoming year 2024, VASH vouchers will increase from 146 to 171, further expanding support for homeless veterans.

Additionally, the County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) played a crucial role in assisting veterans to obtain VA financial and medical benefits. Last year, dedicated CVSO staff members worked closely with 1,884 veterans and family members. They successfully filed 1,197 compensation claims, including appeals. Their efforts resulted in securing over \$9.4 million in new federal benefits for Clackamas County veterans.

The Homeless Veteran Coordination Team is convened monthly and includes the Clackamas County Social Services Division, VA and numerous community partners serving homeless veterans. This team is committed to collaboration and the efficient and effective use of resources. As of October 18th, 2023, there were 59 unsheltered veterans in Clackamas County, marking a 22.36% decrease from the previous year's count of 76. This decline could be attributed to increased resources post-pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully requests that the Board recognize and honor the service, commitment and sacrifices of all Veterans, military personnel, reservists, and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney Cook, Director

Health, Housing & Human Services

Veteran's Day 2023

PRESENTATION TO THE

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

Veterans in the State and County

- Veterans in Oregon 271,871
- Veterans in Clackamas County 23,915
- Known homeless veterans in Oregon 1,439
- Known unsheltered homeless veterans in Clackamas County 59

Veterans in our County workforce are making meaningful impacts in every department.





CFCC Veterans' Employment Program



Served 41 Veterans

27 employed

96% retention at 90 days

Average wage \$24/hour



Manufacturing, construction, healthcare, retail, social service, transportation, educational services

Vulnerabilities Identified

- 73% at risk of homelessness or homeless
- 27% report substance use disorder
- 40% identify as having a disability
- 37% have justice involvement





VSO Overall Success This Last Year

• Generated \$9.4 M in new federal monetary benefits

- VSO staff saw more 250 more individuals than the year prior.
- VSO staff filed 269 more claims than the year prior.

- VSO staff met with 1884 veterans and family members.
- VSO staff filed 1197 compensation claims. (including appeals)

• The VSO office has been understaffed with a VSO vacancy for nine of the twelve months of 2022-2023 fiscal year

US Department of Veterans Affairs implemented two significant benefits changing legislations in 2022

- [The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics \(PACT\) Act.](#)
- [Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment \(COMPACT\) Act](#)

Ending Veteran Homelessness

Clayton Mohr Commons

- This project was constructed by Northwest Housing Alternatives for the Housing Authority of Clackamas County. Case management is provided by Do-Good.
- Permanent Supportive Housing targeting chronically homeless and low-income veterans in our local community.
- This project has **24 units** and currently houses **27 Veterans**.



Veterans Village

- Since opening in 2018, the Village has served 99 Veterans, 43 of whom have been moved into permanent housing!
- The Village can shelter 24 Veterans in individual, gender-inclusive pods.
- The Village has a shared community space, stocked kitchen, bathroom/showers, and case managers to address needs and help participants secure permanent housing.



Ending Veteran Homelessness



Social Services Programs:

Housing Our Heroes
Permanent Supportive Housing
Veterans Rapid Rehousing.
Houseless Veterans Outreach

Households Served:

Housed 66 homeless veteran households in fiscal year 22/23
73 Adults housed in these totals.
13 Children housed in these totals.

VASH Vouchers administered by HACCC:

- 104 Households as of October 16th, 2023
- VASH PBV units identified that need Veterans placed- 10 units currently identified.
- In 2024 VASH Vouchers will increase to 171 vouchers, increasing access to this much needed resource.