

November 8, 2018

Board of County Commissioners  
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

Recognition of Veterans Day

<b>Purpose/Outcomes</b>	Acknowledge the service, commitment and sacrifices of those who have served our great nation. Appreciation and support for those who have served and those who are currently serving, and for the family and friends who are also impacted by military service.
<b>Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact</b>	N/A
<b>Funding Source</b>	N/A
<b>Safety Impact</b>	N/A
<b>Duration</b>	N/A
<b>Previous Board Action</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Person</b>	Erika Silver, Manager, Social Services Division 503-650-5725
<b>Contract No.</b>	N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

The Social Services Division of the Health, Housing & Human Services Department present the recognition of Veteran's Day. Since 1938, the United States has commemorated the sacrifices of its armed forces by designating November 11<sup>th</sup> as a national holiday. Today, the Program Manager of the Clackamas County Veterans Service Office and of Community Solutions for Clackamas County come before the Board of County Commissioners to acknowledge the service, commitment and sacrifices of those who have served our great nation. While Veterans Day is an annual commemoration and reminder, appreciation and support for those who have served and are currently serving, and for the family and friends who are also impacted by military service, is needed every day.

Clackamas County is engaged in a broad range of efforts to support our veterans including:

**The County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)** assists veterans to obtain Veteran's Administration (VA) financial and medical benefits. Last year, CVSO staff members Janice Harlan, Gina Thomas, Heather Miewald, Felicia Ridings and Jackie Bauer worked intensively with 1,776 veterans. Current data indicates that the CVSO helped secure more than \$7.6 million in new federal benefits for Clackamas County veterans, however there is a backlog being worked through at the VA and Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs and this number will increase as more awards data is uploaded.

**Community Solutions** assists veterans in need of training and employment with intensive case management and customized career plans. Veterans engaging in these services overcome multiple complex barriers including PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury. Last year 41 veterans were served, 78% became employed and the remaining veterans continue to be actively

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engaged in case management and employment training. Average wage for those who became employed was \$16.73 an hour, 19% more than last year's average.

In support of the Performance Clackamas **Ending Veteran Homelessness** goal, within Social Services three programs housing and supporting homeless veterans, 62 veteran households were served including 79 adults and 14 children. The number of Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers administered by the Housing Authority of Clackamas County was recently more than doubled from last year (51 to 106). VASH provides a rent subsidy and a VA case manager for formerly homeless veterans. Of these, 51 are housing formerly homeless veterans, ten have been issued to veterans searching for housing now, ten are on hold for the new Pleasant Avenue project and 35 are still available.

The **Homeless Veteran Coordination Team** is convened monthly and includes the Clackamas County Department of Health, Housing and Human Services, the VA and numerous community partners serving homeless veterans. This team is committed to collaboration and the efficient and effective use of resources.

The newly opened **Veterans Village** has sheltered 12 veterans including one female veteran, three veterans 62 or older, four veterans who identify as people of color and one veteran living with a physical disability. All homeless veterans are vulnerable but the veterans mentioned have added vulnerabilities. The Veterans Village provides a much safer alternative to the streets and facilitates engagement for housing placement and connection to other needed services.

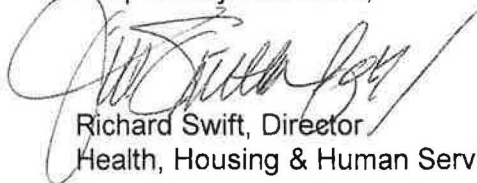
The County maintains an active **Veterans Advisory Committee** that ensures that the perspective of a broad diversity of Clackamas County veterans have the opportunity to impact County plans and services.

Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) recently selected Clackamas County as one of two counties in Oregon to pilot a new **Volunteer Veteran outreach program for aging veterans** that ODVA will be investing in. The county was selected due to the variety of effective, innovative and creative ways that Clackamas County supports its veterans.

#### **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,



Richard Swift, Director  
Health, Housing & Human Services