

November 7, 2024

BCC Agenda Date/Item:

**Presentation in Recognition of Veterans Day 2024**

Board of County Commissioners  
 Clackamas County

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

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** The Clackamas County Social Services Office, in collaboration with the Children, Family, and Community Connections Divisions of the Health, Housing & Human Services Department, is honored to present this Veterans Day tribute. Since 1938, November 11th has been a day of national recognition for the commitment and service of our armed forces. Today, the Housing and Veterans Services Manager, along with the Job Development and Training Specialist and VSO Supervisor, stand before the Board of County Commissioners to honor the service, dedication, and sacrifices of our nation's veterans.

The County maintains an active Veterans Advisory Council 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 Council is working on are as follows; Membership recruitment and retention of VAC Members, a centralized calendar for all veterans' events, create an outreach subcommittee, and planning for the Veterans Expo Event 2025.

Children, Family and Community Connections Veterans Workforce Program assists veterans in need of training and employment with intensive case management and customized career plans. Veterans engaging in CFCC's employment services encounter complex barriers to employment. Approximately 60% are justice system involved, 56% were experiencing homelessness and 24% were on the verge of becoming homeless. 24% report disabilities, including PTSD, affecting their activities of daily living and 24% of veterans report substance use disorder.

Last year 35 veterans were served. Eighteen obtained employment during the program year; 8 completed training programs. Of those placed in employment, 83% retained their employment for 90 days. The average wage for those who gained employment was \$21.81/hour. The remaining veterans continue with intensive employment and/or training services. 20% of the veterans served identify as female, 28% as a person of color and 32% are age 55 and older.

The Homeless Veteran Coordination Team meets monthly and includes the Clackamas County Social Services Division, the VA, and various community partners serving homeless veterans. The team is dedicated to fostering collaboration and ensuring the efficient and effective use of resources. As of October 22, 2024, there are 72 unsheltered veterans in Clackamas County.

In alignment with Clackamas County's performance initiative to End Veteran Homelessness, the Social

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Services Department launched four targeted programs designed to house and support homeless veterans. Over the past year, these programs successfully provided services to 75 veteran households, serving 82 adults and 12 children. These teams focus on serving some of the most vulnerable veterans in our community, offering comprehensive support and housing solutions.

Veterans Village has sheltered 129 veterans since the 2018 inception and 55 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 in total.

The Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) program, administered by the Housing Authority of Clackamas County, provides rent subsidies and VA case management to formerly homeless veterans. As of January 1st, 2024, 171 veteran households were housed through these vouchers, with two additional units ready for placement. Looking ahead to 2025, there is an opportunity to expand the program by securing 25 additional vouchers, pending application approval. This expansion would further enhance the essential support for homeless veterans in need of stable housing.

During the fiscal year 2023-2024, the County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) played a pivotal role in helping veterans secure both financial and medical benefits through the VA. CVSO staff provided dedicated support to 1,863 veterans and their families, successfully filing 1,086 compensation claims, including appeals. These efforts led to securing over \$26.7 million in new federal benefits for veterans in Clackamas County. This marks a significant increase from the previous fiscal year, 2022-2023, when the office generated \$9.4 million in new federal benefits. This remarkable growth reflects the essential support provided to veterans and their families.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff makes no request of the Board, as this presentation is informational only.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rodney A. Cook*

Rodney Cook, Director

Health, Housing & Human Services



## **Veterans Services Provided by H3S**

- Veterans Service Office
- CCFC Veteran Employment Programs
- Veterans First Rapid Rehousing Program
- Housing Our Heroes PSH Program
- VRAP Permanent Supportive Housing Program
- Veterans Outreach



# CFCC Veterans Employment Program

## The Program Served

**35 Veterans** with barriers to employment including houselessness, disability, and having justice involvement

Employment in the following fields:

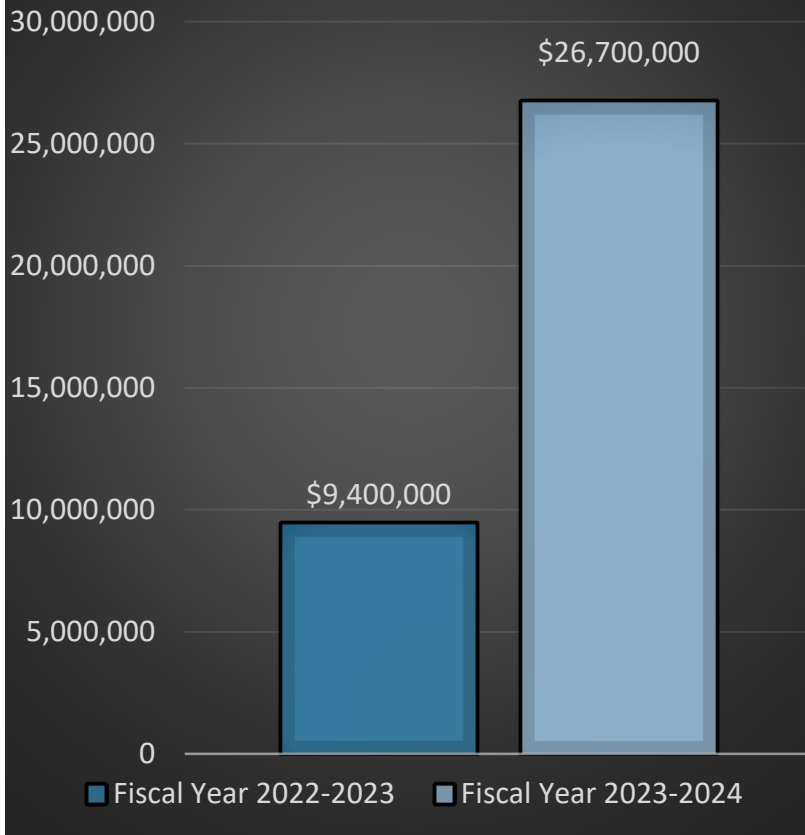
Manufacturing, construction, healthcare, retail, social service, transportation, wholesale trade.

- Average wage: \$22.00 an hour.
- Job Retention Rate: 83% at 90 days.

# Veteran Service Office

## Clackamas County

Overall, Success  
This Last Year



- Last fiscal year the office generated \$26.7 million in new federal monetary benefits.
- VSO staff met with **1,863 veterans** and family members.
- VSO staff filed **1,086 compensation claims**.

**US Department of Veterans Affairs implemented two significant benefits changes 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](#)



**Veterans Service Office**

503-650-5631 | veterans@clackamas.us  
11/07/2024



**This Increase in Benefits is Due to the PACT Act**

11/07/2024

# Ending Veteran Homelessness

Veterans in Oregon

✓ 232,653

Veterans in Clackamas County

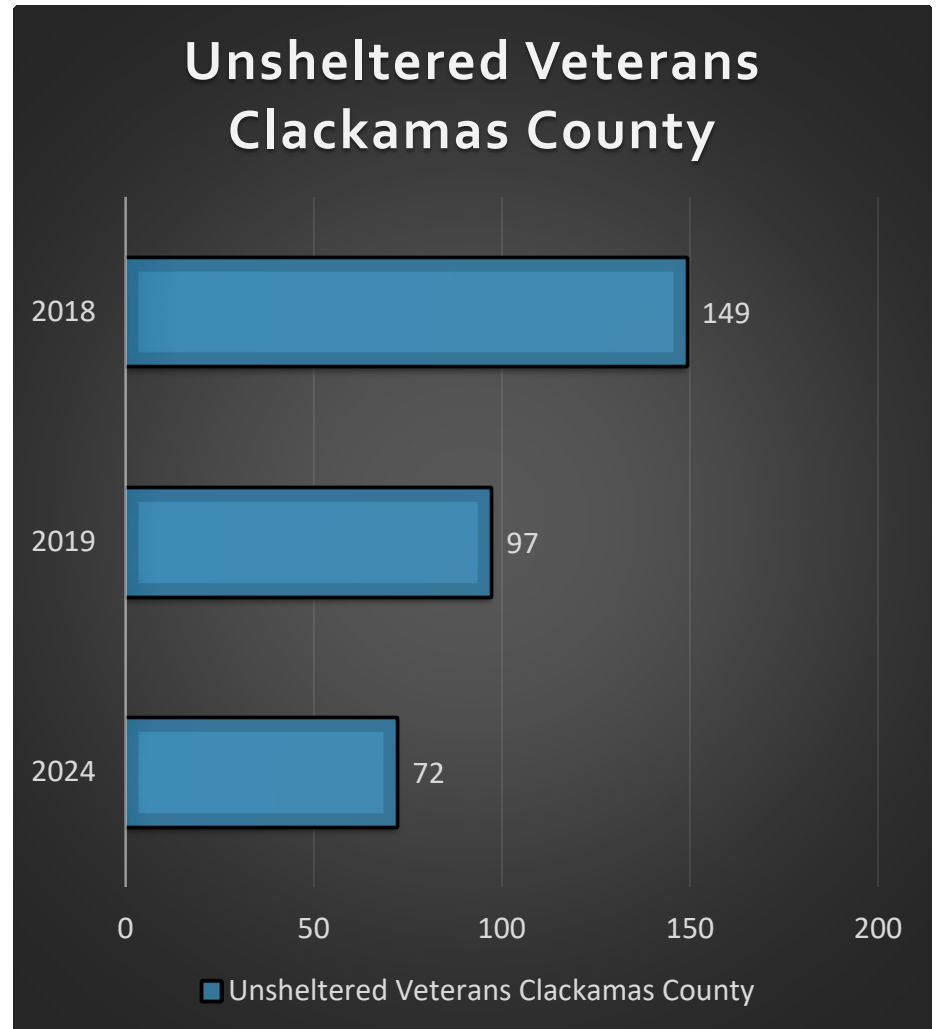
✓ 22,147

Unsheltered veterans in Oregon

✓ More than 1,400

Unsheltered veterans in  
Clackamas County

✓ 72







# Access to Veterans Housing Through Collaboration

**Fiscal year 2023-2024**

## **Three Social Services Housing Programs Served**

- 46 homeless veteran households comprising of 51 adults and 8 children.

## **Veterans Outreach Assisted in Placing**

- 29 homeless veteran households compromising of 31 adults and 4 children

## **VASH Vouchers administered by HACC:**

- 171 Households as of January 1st, 2024

HACC has applied for 25 additional VASH vouchers

## **Clayton Mohr Commons**

- 24 units housing 27 veterans

## **Veterans Village**

- Since 2018, 129 veterans have been sheltered and 55 have secured permanent housing