

November 12, 2020

Board of County Commissioners
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

Recognition of Veterans Day

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| Purpose/Outcomes | 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. |
| Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact | N/A |
| Funding Source | N/A |
| Safety Impact | N/A |
| Duration | N/A |
| Previous Board Action | N/A |
| Contact Person | Erika Silver, Manager, Social Services Division 503-650-5725 |
| Contract No. | 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 11th as a national holiday. Today, the Program Managers of the Clackamas County Veterans Service Office and Children, Family and Community Connections 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 families also impacted by military service, is needed every day.

Consistent with **Performance Clackamas** goals to build public trust through good government and ensure safe, healthy and secure communities - 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 1,854 veterans and family members. Current data indicates that the CVSO helped secure more than \$11.8 million in new federal benefits for Clackamas County veterans, however this will increase as more claims are processed.

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 services overcome multiple complex barriers including

Healthy Families. Strong Communities.

PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury. Last year 43 veterans were served, 56% gained employment and the remaining veterans continue to actively engage in case management and employment training. Average wage for those who gained employment was \$17.50 an hour.

In support of the Performance Clackamas **Ending Veteran Homelessness** goal, within Social Services three programs housing and supporting homeless veterans, 78 veteran households were served (98 adults and 15 children). An additional 40 veterans were prevented from homelessness. Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH) are administered by the Housing Authority of Clackamas County. VASH provides a rent subsidy and a VA case manager for formerly homeless veterans. Of 121 current vouchers, 91 are housing veterans, 11 have been issued to veterans searching for housing now, five are pending for Rosewood Station and 18 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. As of the end of October, there were 59 known homeless veterans, a reduction of 39% from this time 2019.

Veterans Village sheltered 25 veterans including three females, nine veterans 62 or older, five who identify as people of color and five living with a physical disability. Partially in response to COVID, seven more pods were added to the Village in order to increase capacity to bring the total pods available for occupancy from 14 to 22. Six veterans moved to permanent housing directly from the Village.

Clayton Mohr Commons, a 24 unit affordable housing project opened in November 2019 in Oregon City. Low-income veterans occupy all 24 units and many moved in directly from homelessness. Robust on-site services are provided on site to support the success of each veteran and the project as a whole.

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 include veteran suicide prevention and mental health.

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

Veteran's Day 2020



PRESENTATION TO THE
CLACKAMAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Veterans in the State and County

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Veterans in Oregon | 263,885 |
| Veterans in Clackamas County | 22,937 |
| Known homeless veterans | 59 |

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

Goals for Veterans in Clackamas County

- Homeless veterans are supported to regain stable housing
 - Performance Clackamas goal: zero unsheltered homeless veterans
- Easy and effective access to benefits through County Veterans Service Office
- Employment, training and education for living wage jobs



Clackamas County Veterans Service Office



ODVA Accredited VSOs: Janice Harlan, Heather Miewald, Gina Thomas, Felicia Ridings

Jackie Bauer, Office Specialist

During 2019-20, CVSO staff

- Met with 1,854 veterans and family members
- Filed 1,138 compensation claims with 744 claims granted
- Generated \$11.8M in new federal monetary benefits

CFCC Veterans' Employment Program

Served 43 Veterans



- 24 (56%) became employed
- 75% retention at 90 days (goal = 55%)
- Average wage \$17.50/hour

Jobs included: manufacturing, construction, transportation, retail, social assistance, education and wholesale trade

Ending Veteran Homelessness

Social Services programs housed 78 homeless veteran households, 25% increase over last year (98 adults and 15 children).

VASH vouchers administered by HACCC (total 121)

- 91 currently housed (28% more than last year)
- 11 more vouchers issued, in housing search
- 5 on hold for Rosewood Station
- 18 still available

Known homeless veterans reduced 39% from a year ago
40 veteran households were prevented from homelessness

Ending Veteran Homelessness

Veterans Village sheltered 25 veterans, six exited to permanent housing

- Three women, nine age 62+, five people of color, and five with physical disabilities
- Safety off the streets cannot be understated



Ending Veteran Homelessness

Clayton Mohr Commons – opened November 2019

- New 24 unit Veteran affordable housing, ended homelessness for many residents
- Partnership between Housing Authority and Do Good Multnomah



Clackamas County Veterans Services Office

Monday-Thursday
7 a.m. to noon
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Call 503-650-5631

Email

veterans@clackamas.us

Website

<http://www.clackamas.us/socialservices/veterans.html>



Contact the Clackamas Veterans Workforce Program

Children, Family and Community Connections –
Workforce Programs

112 11th Street, Oregon City, Oregon 97045

Monday-Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone 503-655-8848

Email

KenBie@clackamas.us

Website

<https://www.clackamas.us/cfcc/employment.html>

Veterans in a Housing Crisis

Coordinated Housing Access

503-655-8575

cha@clackamas.us

Online application

<https://www.clackamas.us/communitydevelopment/cha>



**THANKS
VETERANS**

AND MILITARY FAMILIES

Proclaiming November 11, 2020 as Veterans Day in Clackamas County

WHEREAS, regardless of how one feels about policies that lead to war, let there be no doubt that veterans serve with honor. They serve to make life better for others. They preserve our liberties and freedoms, and

WHEREAS, not all veterans have seen war, but a common bond that they share is an oath in which they expressed their willingness to die defending this nation, and

WHEREAS, perhaps most significant in preserving our way of life are the battles that America does not have to fight because those who wish us harm slink away in fear of the Coast Guard cutter, the Navy aircraft carrier, the Air Force fighter squadron, the Marine Corps fire team or the Army soldier on patrol, and

WHEREAS, those of us gathered here to observe Veterans Day have already indicated our support for the outstanding men and women who have served our country, and

WHEREAS, it is up to us to ensure that every veteran feels that his or her service to this country is appreciated by their fellow Americans, and

WHEREAS, war is never anything to celebrate, but peace is. The peace in between horrific wars is brought to you mainly by our veterans, and

WHEREAS, Veterans Day is for ALL who served. While many veterans are humble, there is no such thing as insignificant military service, and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County and The American Legion are dedicated to remembering the legacy of all veterans because what these men and women have done for us matters to America, and

WHEREAS, Clackamas County is proud to partner with American Legion Post 180 to recognize and honor veterans who have served and are still serving our country so that all may pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED, that the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners declares November 11, 2020 to be Veterans Day in Clackamas County and encourages all Clackamas County residents to observe same.

Dated this 12th Day of November, 2020

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jim Bernard
Chair

Sonya Fischer
Commissioner

Ken Humberston
Commissioner

Paul Savas
Commissioner

Martha Schrader
Commissioner