

November 9, 2022

Board of County Commissioners
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

Recognition of Veterans Day

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, Human Services Manager, Social Services Division 503-650-5725 Jennifer Harvey, Employment and Training Services Manager, Children, Families and Community Connections Division 503-655-8843
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 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 outreach.

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 such as living

Healthy Families. Strong Communities.

with disabilities including PTSD (50%), substance use disorder (13%), justice system involvement (38%), and housing instability/homelessness (63%). Last year 40 veterans were served, and 24 gained employment with 100% retention for at least 90 days. Average wage for those who gained employment was \$25.00 an hour. The remaining veterans continues with intensive employment and/or training services.

In support of the Performance Clackamas **Ending Veteran Homelessness** goal, within Social Services four programs housing and supporting homeless veterans, 65 veteran households were served (76 adults and 13 children). 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 146 current vouchers, 92 veterans are housed, 4 veterans have units identified but not moved in yet, and 48 are available.

The County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) assists veterans to obtain Veteran's Administration (VA) financial and medical benefits. Last year, CVSO staff members Gina Thomas, Heather Miewald, Felicia Ridings and Jackie Bauer worked intensively with 1,634 veterans and family members. Current data indicates that the CVSO helped secure more than \$9.5 million in new federal benefits for Clackamas County veterans, and this will increase as more claims are processed.

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 the end of October, there were 76 known homeless veterans, an increase of 69% from this time 2021. This probably reflects the shift back to street based outreach post pandemic response.

Veterans Village sheltered 40 veterans last year including 11 veterans 62 or older, six who identify as a person of color and seven who did not identify as male. Fifteen veterans (68% of exits) moved to permanent housing directly from the Village.

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,

Denise Swanson

Rodney Cook, Director
Health, Housing & Human Services

Veteran's Day 2022



PRESENTATION TO THE
CLACKAMAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

NOVEMBER 9, 2022

Veterans in the State and County

Veterans in Oregon	273,946
Veterans in Clackamas County	25,403
Known homeless veterans	76

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



Veterans Advisory Council

Membership

- Currently includes people who served in Army, Air Force and National Guard
- Service dates span from Korean war to OIF/OEF
- Affiliations include Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Clackamas Community College, Milwaukie Planning Commission, Kiwanis, Chambers of Commerce among others
- [Recruiting new members](#)

21-23 Work plan goals

- Active role in veterans suicide prevention efforts
- Increase veteran employment
- Support outreach efforts, connect county veterans to CVSO.

Projects

- Veterans Behavioral Health Summit
- Developing and implementing next survey

CFCC Veterans' Employment Program

Served 40 Veterans

- 24 employed
- 100% retention at 90 days
- Average wage \$25/hour



Manufacturing, transportation, information, construction, agriculture, social assistance, professional service and healthcare



NEW Grants: Oregon Dept. of Veteran Affairs & US Dept. of Labor--HVRP

Veterans Employment Story



Veteran hiring and training veteran!
Placed in 2020, now managing the business

‘Ron’ was homeless for over a year, living in his truck

- ✓ Admitted to Vets Village in March, 2022
- ✓ Stabilizing services provided
- ✓ Community service work
- ✓ Vets Rapid ReHousing permanently housed
- ✓ HIRED!

Clackamas County Veterans Service Office



ODVA Accredited VSOs: Heather Miewald, Gina Thomas, one open
Office Specialist: Jackie Bauer
Supervisor: Gus Bedwell

During 2022-23, CVSO staff

- Met with 1,634 veterans and family members
- Filed 928 compensation claims (including appeals) with 475* claims granted
- Generated \$9.5 M in new federal monetary benefits

* *Claims for 21-22 are now 760. VA continues to process claims submitted.*

VSO Claim Example

Vietnam Combat Veteran financially struggling and dealing with severe medical issues due to his recent diagnosis of Bladder Cancer. As a last ditch effort he reached out to the County Veteran Service Office for assistance.

- 2008
 - **August**, VSO J Harlan filed a new VA claim for Bladder Cancer and several other conditions.
- 2009
 - **April**, Veteran was denied for Bladder Cancer
- 2016
 - **June**, VSO Harlan filed another VA claim to reopen Bladder Cancer claim with new evidence
 - **December**, Veteran was denied again for Bladder Cancer
- 2019
 - **July**, VSO G Thomas filed several new VA claims
- 2021
 - **October**, VA adds Bladder Cancer to Agent Orange Presumptive list
 - **November**, VSO G Thomas reopened veterans claim for Bladder Cancer
- 2022
 - **March** – VA Grants Bladder Cancer with effective date of August of 2008 with a retroactive award check totaling \$100,000, enabling him to catch up on many bills and reduce his overall stress.

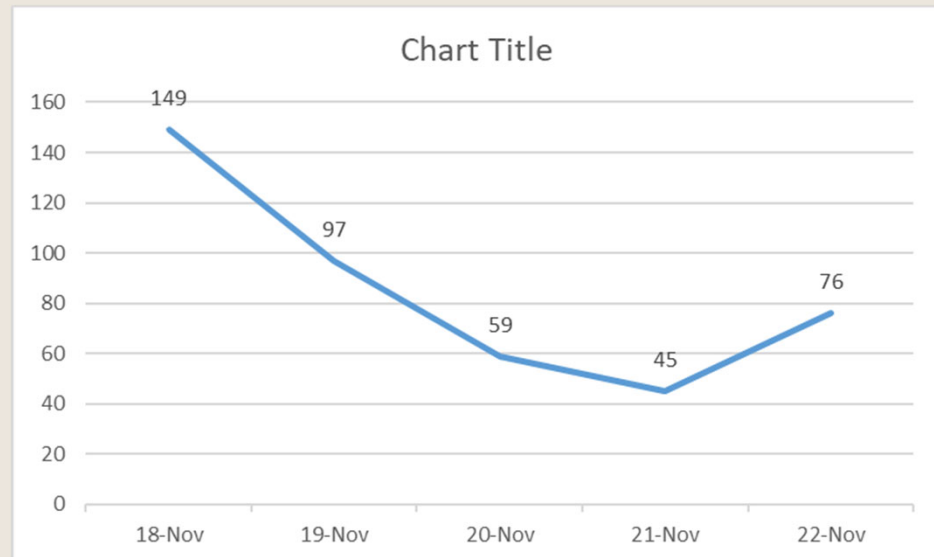
Ending Veteran Homelessness

Social Services programs housed 64 homeless veteran households (75 adults and 10 children).

VASH vouchers administered by HACCC (total 146)

- 94 currently housed
- 4 more vouchers issued, units identified but not moved in yet
- 48 still available

Known Homeless Veterans Trend Line



Up from last year 45 due to resource shortages, inflation, labor challenges, etc.

Veteran Village

Veterans Village sheltered 40 veterans, 15 (68% of exits) exited to permanent housing (PH)

- Seven did not identify as male, 11 age 62+, six people of color
- Safety off the streets cannot be understated
- Since opening in 2018, 66 veterans served - 29 (59% of exits) went to PH



Ending Veteran Homelessness

Clayton Mohr Commons –
opened November 2019

- 24 units for Veteran Households
- 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>



Housing and Employment

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Phone: 503-655-8575

Email: cha@clackamas.us

Online application

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

EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Phone: 503-655-8840

Email: Workforce@clackamas.us

Website:

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

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appointment. Services available in person and virtually

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

November 11, 2022

VETERANS DAY

