

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Study Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 10/15/14 **Approx Start Time:** 10:30 AM **Approx Length:** 30 min.

Presentation Title: Housing Our Heroes Project – matching funds request

Department: Health, Housing and Human Services

Presenters: Cindy Becker

Other Invitees: Brenda Durbin, Erika Silver

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

To commit \$62,957 (25%) in County General Funds to meet the required 25% match of Housing our Heroes HUD Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus Project (the Project). The need for matching funds begins July 1, 2015.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Social Services Division has the opportunity to apply for \$251,828 in HUD homeless funds for the Housing Our Heroes Project. Only one local project can be funded and no other local projects will be applying.

In addition to being the only local application the Project aligns with the County Strategic Plan. The County's Plan committed to the following:

- Reduce the number of unsheltered veterans in Clackamas County by 50% by 2019.

The Project, if funded, will house up to 18 Veterans and their families, making it likely that Clackamas County will meet this strategic goal ahead of schedule.

The Project carries the following requirements:

- To be eligible for housing, veterans would need to have been homeless for the last year or have had four episodes of homelessness within the last three years and have a documented disability.
- They are required to pay 30% of their adjusted income towards rent and the project would pay the balance. In the absence of income the Project will pay the full rent.

Those needing housing, veteran or not, have multiple complex needs and are often vulnerable to violence and chronic health problems. Experience shows that supportive services increase the likelihood that project participants can successfully obtain and maintain housing.

To this end, the Project will employ a full time case manager. This position will not duplicate the work of Veteran Service Officers. The case manager ensures that each homeless veterans' needs are fully assessed and that they are connected to the full range of resources to address their needs. They help each homeless veteran overcome barriers to income, housing placement and housing stability and provide a bridge between the homeless veteran and area landlords.

The Project anticipates the following results:

- 80% of clients maintain permanent housing;
- 60% maintain or increase their income.

Housing our Heroes dovetails with the current Homeless Veterans Outreach Project bolstering the resources needed to meet the above targets. The two part time homeless veteran outreach specialists are ensuring an accurate count of homeless veterans in the 2015. The specialists will also help eligible homeless veterans prepare to access housing.

Homeless veterans are the priority. The Project may also serve other chronically homeless persons if the VA and HUD release more VASH vouchers to Clackamas County within the same time frame of this grant. HUD requires that all HUD funded programs operate at or above full capacity. Failure to fill slots may negatively impact all HUD funded programs in Clackamas County.

The attachment "County by County Comparison of Veterans Housing Resources" details information on programs neighboring counties have implemented to address veteran homelessness. Clackamas County has no such programs and this project begins to remedy that imbalance.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

If awarded the HUD grant, Clackamas County's financial obligation would begin in July 2015. HUD projects require 25% match and the Division will need additional funds to meet the match requirement.

Line Item	HUD	CGF	Total
Rental Assistance	\$172,284	\$18,000	\$190,284
1.0 FTE Case Manager & fringe	\$41,383	\$39,027	\$80,410
Case manager mileage @ 200 miles /month	\$0	\$1,371	\$1,371
Case manager work station, tablet and cell phone	\$0	\$1,940	\$1,940
Client assistance (transportation, utility deposits, employment training and similar items)	\$21,687	\$2,619	\$24,306
Administrative Costs	\$16,474	\$0	\$16,474
Total	\$251,828	\$62,957	\$314,785

Over time, HUD may increase the amount of rental assistance based on their assessment of fair market rents in our area. Historically these increases have been less than 2% annually. These increases would also affect the amount of required match.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

None.

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:

In addition to the Performance Clackamas process, the project is also in alignment with the 2014 Update to the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. The Update to the Ten Year Plan was vetted extensively with members of the public including the Continuum of Care, Homeless Policy Council, Homeless School Liaisons and a variety of other work groups which included persons who identified as formerly homeless.

OPTIONS:

- Option One – Commit \$62,957 of matching funds, pending successful grant application.
- Option Two – Do not approve matching funds and do not move forward with grant application.

RECOMMENDATION:

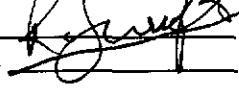
Staff recommends Option One.

ATTACHMENTS:

County by County Comparison of Veterans Housing Resources

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval _____
Department Director/Head Approval _____
County Administrator Approval _____

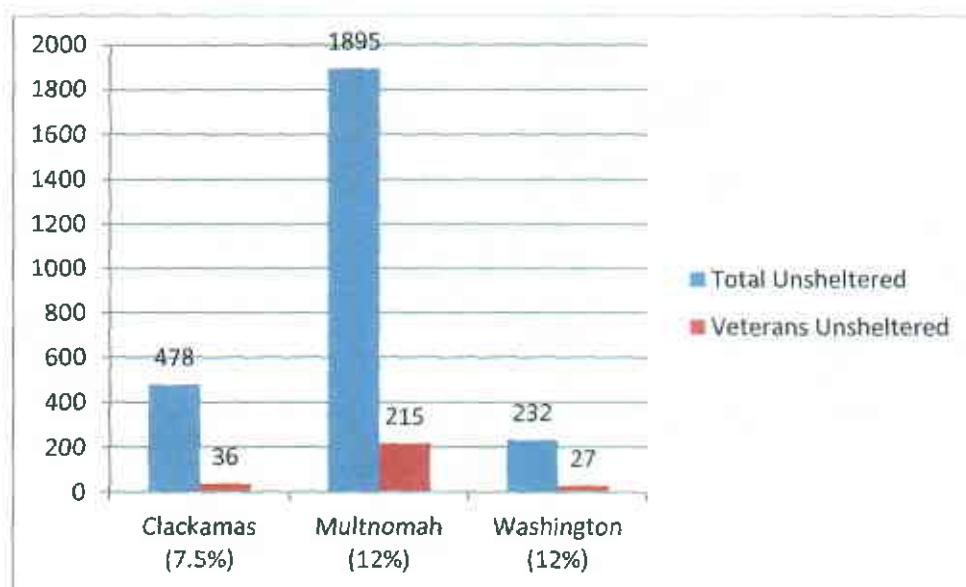


For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact Erika Silver @ 503-650-5725

County by County Comparison of Veterans Housing Options

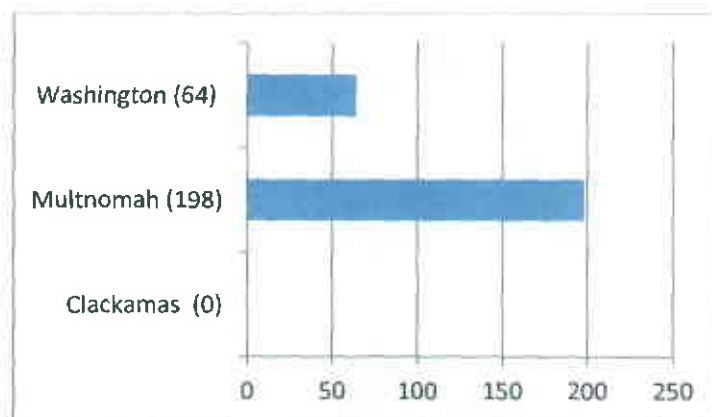
Background - 2013 Point in Time Count

While the homeless counts are not 100% accurate, they provide a useful base for comparison between counties. With a Housing First model, veterans likely to be housed first would be those sleeping outdoors or in places not meant for human habitation. Thus, looking at the total unsheltered and the veterans unsheltered, along with the percent of unsheltered who were Veterans gives an idea of the magnitude of the problem in each county.



However, both Multnomah and Washington Counties have more shelter and transitional housing resources than Clackamas County, which Veterans were accessing on the night of the count.

Veterans in Shelter or Transitional Housing (as of January 2013 Point in Time Count)



Homeless Services (not including Domestic Violence or Homeless Youth)

Multnomah County has six emergency shelters for single homeless adults (total 406 year round beds, plus 215 more in winter). There are three emergency shelters for families (total 150 year round beds plus 88 more in winter). While not exclusive to veterans, veterans can and do access these shelters.

Grant Per Diem (GPD) Program is short term emergency and transitional (up to six months) homeless veteran housing funded by the VA. Central City Concern and Transition Projects both have GPD Grants for a total of about 90 slots. Both male and female vets served.

Washington County has three emergency shelters for families (total 65 beds) and no year round emergency shelter for single homeless adults.

Grant Per Diem Program is also available in Washington County through the Salvation Army Veterans and Family Center in Beaverton, with 80 beds for veterans and their families. Stay is up to nine months.

Washington County has also dedicated 10 project-based Section 8 vouchers for veterans.

For comparison, Clackamas County has one emergency shelter for families (total 20 beds), no year round shelter for single homeless adults, no Grant Per Diem program and no dedicated project based Section 8 vouchers for veterans.

All three counties have the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Grant that supports short term Rapid Re-Housing and Homelessness Prevention for eligible veteran households, and VASH vouchers as available and awarded by HUD and the VA.