



Office of Public Affairs
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Fact Sheet

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) Comprehensive Homeless Center

Homeless Veterans in VAGLAHS's service area

- On any given night, there are 5,776 Veterans homeless in VAGLAHS's catchment area (Los Angeles*, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Kern Counties). (*VHA estimates 80% of Los Angeles County's homeless Veteran population falls in VAGLAHS's catchment area; the remainder with VA Long Beach and VA Loma Linda.)

VAGLAHS Homeless Resources

- **VAGLAHS has the largest VA homeless program in the nation** with over 400 staff, a FY 2014 budget of \$37 million, and resources to house over 6,700 homeless Veterans (emergency, transitional, permanent housing, and Veteran-designated Section 8 vouchers).

Impact

- **Between 2011 and 2013, the number of homeless Veterans in VAGLAHS's catchment area (point-in time) declined 21.68%** from 7,375 to 5,776.
- In FY 2013 (October 1, 2012 – September 2013), 15,152 currently and recently homeless Veterans were served by VAGLAHS. Of these 15,152, 1,107 (7%) were women; 1,796 (12%) were OEF/OIF/OND; about 1,500 (10%) were Veterans with children in custody.

- **In the first nine months of FY 2014** (October 1, 2013-June 30, 2014), 13,093 homeless Veterans received some kind of VAGLAHS service. Of these 13,093, 980 (7%) were women; 1,572 (12%) were OEF/OIF/OND.

Program Highlights

- *Enhanced Housing First (EHF) teams:* These trans-disciplinary teams (psychiatrists, nurse practitioners, social workers, peer support specialists, substance use disorder clinicians, outreach staff) provide care to Veterans on the streets. The EHF team is currently working intensively with chronically homeless, vulnerable Veterans.
- *Building 402/Integrated Community Care Center (ICCC).* This Center opened June 2014 with co-located mental health, primary care (Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams or “H-PACTs”), homeless, legal, and benefits services. *ICCC* trans-disciplinary teams provide comprehensive chronic care management for high-utilizer homeless Veterans with complex health, social and medical needs.
- *Homeless programming in the hospital emergency room:*. A Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team (H-PACT) has a co-located clinic with the VAGLAHS Emergency Department to help engage homeless Veterans and direct them to VAGLAHS’s full range of services.
- *Emergency Bridge Shelter beds:* 65 beds operated by Salvation Army on the VA West Los Angeles campus.
- *Partnership with LA County:* Outstationed County mental health worker at VA West Los Angeles campus to coordinate County care and work with healthcare ineligible Veterans.
- *Jail diversion through Veteran courts:* VAGLAHS works with six Veteran courts in four counties (Los Angeles, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara) to divert Veterans into VA residential treatment programs. An additional court in Kern County is in development.
- *VA Grant and Per Diem (GPD), Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) and other transitional housing:* Through partnerships with 13 agencies, VAGLAHS has 1,335

community transitional housing beds for homeless Veterans. Veterans stay for 3-18 months while receiving a range of medical, mental health and rehabilitative services. There are programs targeting women, older adults, OEF/OIF/OND Veterans, and recently incarcerated. Goal: prepare participants for independent living and transition them into permanent, independent housing.

- *Permanent housing through HUD-VASH:* Through the HUD-VASH program, VAGLAHS has access to 4,050 Veteran-specific Section 8 housing vouchers (allocated between 2008 and 2013). These housing vouchers provide partial financial support to individual Veterans who can then select their own housing in the community with VA case management support.
- *Permanent housing through Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF):* SSVF provides financial and other supports to keep Veterans with families out of homelessness. Administered through the local VA network office in conjunction with VAGLAHS, SSVF has a FY 14 budget of \$12.7 million; it has served 2,765 households this year.
- *Vocational rehabilitation and job-finding, and Veteran-specific employment development opportunity services:* These are provided through Community Care's Homeless Veterans Supported Employment Program (HVSEP) and private community partners. There are 19 HVSEP staff embedded within VAGLAHS homeless programs, including GPD and HUD-VASH. These trained specialists are formerly homeless Veterans providing assistance to their peers.

Future Projects

- *On VA West LA campus:* Building 209 Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (Early to Mid FY15).

**VA GREATER LOS ANGELES:
AVAILABLE HOUSING BY LOCATION AND LEVEL OF CARE**

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System Bed Capacity for Programs Targeting Homeless Veterans	
Program Name	Beds
Available Beds On VA Campuses	
Emergency Housing	
Salvation Army HAVEN 2 –Alpha Center (Building 212) (non-GPD program)	45
Salvation Army Exodus Transition (Building 207) (non-GPD program)	20
Transitional Housing	
New Directions (VA Grant and Per Diem program, Building 116)	128
New Directions North (VA Grant and Per Diem program Building 257)	50
Salvation Army HAVEN 1 (VA Grant and Per Diem program, Building 212)	95
Salvation Army HAVEN Senior (VA Grant and Per Diem program, Building 212)	25
Salvation Army Naomi House (VA Grant and Per Diem program, Building 212)	15
VA Domiciliary (Buildings 214 and 217)	296
Long-Term Residential Care	
Salvation Army Exodus Lodge (Building 207)	70
Permanent Housing	
Cal-Vets State Home (conversion of retirement units into permanent housing)	84
Community of Friends (VA Sepulveda campus: includes 50 HUD-VASH project-based vouchers managed through the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles)	147
Total: on-VA Campus Beds (818- VA West Los Angeles; 147-VA Sepulveda)	965
Available Beds Within the Community	
Transitional Housing	
VA Grant and Per Diem Programs (not including VA WLA campus programs)	935
VA Healthcare for Homeless Veteran Contracts	87
Volunteers of America Barracks (Veteran-specific program funded by SAMHSA [Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration], but developed in conjunction with VAGLAHS. VAGLAHS staff serve as program liaisons.) (Los Angeles, Skid Row Area)	40
Permanent Housing	
U.S. Vets Westside Supported Housing (Inglewood, CA)	321
U.S. Vets Westside II Permanent housing (Inglewood, CA) (includes 50 HUD-VASH project-based vouchers managed through the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles)	196
HUD-VA Supported Housing (vouchers for Veterans living in their own apartments). *	3,950
Long-Term Residential Care	
Community Residential Care (Not including VA WLA campus program)	232
Total: Off Campus Beds FY 2014	5,761
Total: All Beds FY 2014	6,736

**Does not include 100 project-based vouchers (50 at U.S. Vets Westside II, 50 at Community of Friends)*