

November 9, 2016

Board of County Commissioner  
Clackamas County

Members of the Board:

Recognition of Veterans Day

<b>Purpose/Outcomes</b>	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.
<b>Dollar Amount and Fiscal Impact</b>	N/A
<b>Funding Source</b>	N/A
<b>Safety Impact</b>	N/A
<b>Duration</b>	N/A
<b>Previous Board Action</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Person</b>	Erika Silver, Manager, Social Services Division 503-650-5725
<b>Contract No.</b>	N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

The Social Services Division of the Health, Housing and Human Services Department would like to acknowledge the service, commitment and sacrifices of those who have served our great nation on Veteran’s Day, Friday, November 11, 2016.

Since 1938, the United States has commemorated the sacrifices of its armed forces by designating November 11<sup>th</sup> as a national holiday. Today, the Program Manager of the Clackamas County Veterans Service Office and the Director of Community Solutions for Clackamas County 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 those who are currently serving, and for the family and friends who are also impacted by military service, is needed every day.

Clackamas County continues to use innovative strategies to support our Veterans by helping them address a broad spectrum of needs.

The County Veterans Service Office assists veterans to obtain VA financial and medical benefits. Last year the County’s Veterans Service Office staff members, Janice Harlan-Tafoya, Gina Thomas, Heather Miewald, and Jackie Bauer had 1,629 claims granted, a 22% increase over the previous year. The CVSO helped secure more than \$10.9 million dollars in federal benefits for Clackamas County veterans in 2014-15 (15-16 data as yet incomplete).

Community Solutions assists veterans in need of training and employment with individualized workforce services. These veterans have multiple complex needs including poverty, disability and criminal justice involvement. Last year, 59% of veterans who received training were placed into jobs earning an average of \$15.80 an hour or 71% above minimum wage. The remaining 41% are still in training and/or continue to receive services this fiscal year.

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.

Specifically in support of the Performance Clackamas goal of cutting veteran homelessness in half, 51 VASH vouchers have been issued to Clackamas County. Of these, 47 are leased up and 4 are in the housing search process. A new Veterans Rapid Re-Housing program launched last year, as well as a new Veterans Permanent Supportive Housing and a new Veterans Rental Assistance program for a total of 60 more Veteran households receiving rent assistance and supportive services to end their homelessness. The Homeless Veteran Coordination Team meets monthly and includes the VA, the Clackamas County Department of Health, Housing and Human Services and community partners serving homeless veterans.

Clackamas County supports its veterans.

**Recommendation**

Staff respectfully requests that the Board recognize and honor the service, commitment and sacrifices of all military personnel, reservists, Veterans and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Swift, Director  
Health, Housing & Human Services

# Veteran's Day



Presentation to the  
Clackamas County  
Board of County Commissioners

# Veterans in the State and County

2

Veterans in Oregon	331,632
Veterans in Clackamas County	35,165*
Veterans in County Workforce	
-Every level, every Department, major impact on County infrastructure and services.	

\* 74 Veterans counted in the 2015 Homeless Count



# GOALS for Veterans in Clackamas County

3

- Employment, training and education opportunities so that veterans in Clackamas County can obtain living wage jobs
- Easy access to VA benefits through County Veterans Service Office
- Homeless veterans in Clackamas County have services and supports needed to regain stable housing

# SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES



# Clackamas Veterans Service Officers

5

## During 2015-16, CVSO staff

- Met with 1,818 veterans and family members
  - Filed 911 initial compensation claims
  - Had 1,629 claims granted, a 22% increase
  - Generated new federal monetary benefits of \$10.9 million dollars (FY 14-15).
- Increased the number of claims granted for Clackamas veterans by 242% over last 5 years.

# Clackamas Veterans' Workforce Program (Community Solutions)

6

- Served 40 Veterans
  - 59% became employed
  - 41% still in training
- Average wage \$15.80
  - Jobs included: construction, government, security, public relations, manufacturing, customer service
- Demographics:
  - 28% former offenders
  - 40% have a disability
  - 15% received SNAP (food stamps)
  - 14% lack transportation



11/9/2016

# Housing for Veterans

7

## VASH Vouchers

- 47 homeless veteran households housed, 4 more searching for housing

## Housing Veterans First Rapid Re-Housing

- 12 new homeless veteran households including 8 kids

## Housing our Heroes Permanent Supportive Housing

- 18 new homeless veteran households

## Veterans Rental Assistance Project Permanent Supportive Housing

- 30 veterans with serious mental health challenges, homeless or at high risk

## Other CCSS Homeless Housing Programs (HOPE, Bridges to Housing, etc.)

- 7 homeless veteran households

# VETERAN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Clackamas County supports a 15-member, Board appointed Veterans Advisory Committee to advise the Board and staff on a wide range of veterans related issues, with the goal of ensuring that Clackamas County is responsive to the needs and concerns of our veterans.
- Representation on VAC includes: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Order of the Purple Heart, American Legion, Oregon National Guard, Cascade Centers, and Clackamas Community College among others.
- Most branches of service and Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan eras are represented.

# Activities in 2015-16



## HOMELESS VETERAN OUTREACH CONTINUES

The homeless veteran outreach identified and engaged with 91 homeless veterans, and helped 25 access permanent housing.

## SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR VETERANS - REGIONAL TRAINING

Held in November 2015, with coordinator from VA. 67 participated including 24 veterans.

## HOMELESS VETERAN COORDINATION TEAM

Includes Social Services, Community Solutions, Behavioral Health, VA and others. Streamlines service access.

11/9/2016

# Much More Work To Do....

10

- **EMPLOYMENT:** Veterans in Oregon experience unemployment rates that are higher than the nation average for veterans, and are higher than the rate for non-veterans in Oregon
- **MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA/SUICIDE PREVENTION:** The stigma associated with mental health problems is a serious barrier to veterans accessing needed services.
- **TRAUMA:** Female and male veterans experience unique health and mental health concerns, including the impact of military sexual trauma.
- **HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING:** The majority of homeless veterans identified during the 2015 homeless count reported having a disability.

11/9/2016

# Please Contact the CVSO!

11

- CVSO Location

Public Services Building, 281  
2051 Kaen Road, Oregon City  
Monday - Thursday

7 a.m. to noon  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

- Phone

503-650-5631

- Email

[veterans@clackamas.us](mailto:veterans@clackamas.us)

- Website

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

# Please Contact the Clackamas Veterans Workforce Program!

12

- Community Solutions Location: 112 11<sup>th</sup> St.  
Oregon City  
Monday - Thursday  
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Phone 503-655-8848
- Email KenBie@clackamas.us
- Website <http://www.clackamas.us/communitysolutions/employment.html>

# THANKS VETERANS

