

## NCHV eNewsletter

October 2013



### Register Today for 2013 Veterans Access to Housing Summit Don't miss two days of training vital to ending veteran homelessness by 2015

On Nov. 20-21, the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV), in partnership with The Home Depot Foundation and Citi Salutes, is hosting the third annual Veterans Access to Housing Summit in Chicago, IL.

The NCHV Housing Summit brings together the major partners in improving access to affordable housing opportunities for homeless and low-income veterans. This two-day interactive training Summit will address the remaining housing challenges in the Five-Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness and provide participants with the opportunity to learn, share and create solutions. Representatives from homeless veteran service providers, corporate partners, charitable organizations and federal agencies will lead engaging and interactive workshops and training sessions.

The Summit will better equip your agency to be an active partner in streamlined service delivery for veterans in need of rapid re-housing assistance and housing stability. It will help improve your organization's ability to facilitate faster, more efficient housing placement for veterans in your programs. With less than 1,000 days left in the Five-Year Plan, every effort must be made to think creatively about maximizing housing alternatives available in local communities.

**For a list of planned Summit training sessions, [click here](#).**

The Summit is being hosted at the newly renovated Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel. This hotel offers luxurious, upscale and technologically advanced services in both the guest rooms and meeting space. The reserved room block for the Summit will include complimentary wifi and access to the brand new fitness center and pool area. Be ready to reserve your room early, as the reserved room block will sell out quickly.

Registration fees are \$200 for the full event; no one day registrations will be accepted. To register online, [click here](#). To download the registration form to register by mail or fax, [click here](#). To reserve your room at the Chicago Magnificent Mile, [click here](#).

Stakeholders are encouraged to register quickly, as space is limited for this event! Additional information about this event will be released as it is available.

---

## VA Creating Housing for Homeless Vets and their Families

## **Converting five buildings at Fort Snelling into 58 apartments**

The Minneapolis VA Medical Center will convert five old buildings at Fort Snelling into 58 apartments for homeless Veterans and their families.

Renovations work expected to begin in late 2013 or early 2014. The project represents one aspect of VA's nationwide effort to end Veteran homelessness by 2015.

"Building Utilization Review and Repurposing (BURR) is a Department-wide effort to identify empty buildings and land for repurposing," explained Ralph Heussner, public affairs officer for the Minneapolis VA. "This contributes to two important VA goals: fighting Veteran homelessness and decreasing VA's inventory of vacant and underutilized buildings.

VA's \$15 million Fort Snelling project covers six acres and renovation of five buildings. "A third benefit," he added, "is that it allows VA to preserve and restore some of its many historically valuable structures."

Fort Snelling is what is known as an 'unorganized territory' located near Minneapolis. It contains numerous military and other federal facilities, including historic Fort Snelling, its cemetery and the Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

The renovation of five historic buildings at Fort Snelling is part of a broader effort by VA to end Veteran homelessness by 2015. In November 2011 the Department announced plans to enter into agreements to provide more than 3,000 units of permanent and transitional housing for Veterans at 25 of its medical center campuses nationwide and that more agreements are planned for an additional 1,000 units. Proposed opportunities include housing for homeless Veterans, senior Veterans, disabled Veterans, other at-risk Veteran populations and their families.

VA's \$15 million Fort Snelling project covers six acres and will include the renovation of Building 210, an old stable where cavalry officers once kept their horses and Building 211, where GIs repaired tanks during World War II. Fort Snelling was decommissioned as a military post in 1946.

"The five buildings will contain multi-bedroom units," said Lisa Pape, national director of VA's Homeless and Residential Rehab Treatment Programs. "This will likely make them attractive to Veterans with families, as well as the growing number of homeless women Veterans who have children."

---

## **New California Law to Let Voters Repurpose Existing Housing Bonds to Better Serve Veterans**

*Governor Brown signs bill by Speaker John Perez for June 2014 vote*

SACRAMENTO – Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. recently signed the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014, giving California voters in June 2014 the opportunity to repurpose already existing veteran housing funds for better housing options for today's diverse and expanding veteran population.

AB 639 provides California voters with the opportunity to repurpose \$600 million in existing veterans' bond funds to respond more effectively to the housing needs of today's veteran population and their families. More than \$1 billion of voter-approved funding has been set aside for single family homes and farms, while the need for multifamily, transitional and supportive housing has greatly increased. AB 639, backed by the California Association of Veteran Services Agencies

and the Corporation for Supportive Housing, expands on proven and cost-effective supportive housing and service models that will reduce veteran homelessness, leverage public and private dollars, and decrease other public costs such as health care and incarceration expenditures.

"In the past California voters have said we should help honor our commitment to veterans by helping them with their housing needs," said Stephen Peck, U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam veteran, President of U.S.VETS and the California Association of Veteran Service Agencies, one of the leading advocates for the legislation. "Old approaches to housing can't meet the needs of today's veterans. AB 639 recognizes that and gives voters a chance to fix it. I know veterans across California thank Speaker Pérez for his leadership on our issues and we thank Governor Brown for signing this smart and compassionate bill."

"Every year in California more than 32,000 veterans suffer deteriorating health, repeated incarceration, and worsening mental conditions because they are homeless," said Sharon Rapport, Corporation for Supportive Housing Associate Director for California Policy. "They cost our state and local governments almost \$3,000 a month in response to repeated crises. Using existing bond authority to create over 10,000 affordable places to live, AB 639 will leverage \$3 billion in private and federal funds, will make a crucial commitment to move chronically homeless veterans into housing with services — supportive housing — and will save the lives of veterans now struggling to survive life on the street. For these reasons, we are incredibly grateful to Speaker Pérez for his passionate pursuit of this bill, and to Governor Brown for his insight that investing in supportive housing for homeless veterans makes sense."

California has the largest veteran population in the country, with almost 2 million veterans calling California home — a number which is expected to rise by over 200,000 when the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq wind down. If voters approve of the initiative next year, California will be at the forefront of the nation's efforts to end veteran homelessness by 2015.

The bill signing took place at Veterans Village of San Diego, where over 2,000 military veterans are served each year throughout the county of San Diego. It is nationally recognized as a leader in serving homeless military veterans, and has served veterans since 1981 with the dedication to "Leave No One Behind." Joining in the ceremony were Assembly Majority Leader Toni Atkins and Assembly Veterans Committee Chair Al Muratsuchi, Principal Co-Authors of AB 639, who have both made ending homelessness among veterans a priority.

---

## Funding Opportunities

**The Dr. Scholl Foundation** is interested in making grants to support areas including social services and healthcare. Grants usually range between \$5,000 and \$25,000, and recipients must be 501(c)(3) organizations. Their one grant cycle per year opens on November 1, though grant application forms have been available since Sep. 1 of this year. For more information, [click here](#).

**The Robin Hood Foundation** exists to serve poor New Yorkers. They have a large Veterans Initiative, which includes a focus on housing, job training, and mental health. The Foundation has made more than \$5 million in grants in the past 15 months to organizations working with New York City veterans. New grant applications are accepted year round and evaluated on a quarterly basis. [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.

---

This eNewsletter is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. For the latest news, resources and grant information, visit our website at [www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org).

**National Coalition for Homeless Veterans**

333 1/2 Pennsylvania Avenue SE

Washington, DC 20003

202-546-1969 or toll-free 1-800-VET-HELP

---