



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **VA Grants Going to Nebraska Agencies to Help End Veterans Homelessness**

*Initiative Targets 120,000 Homeless and At-Risk Vets and Families*

**OMAHA, Neb., July 15, 2013** — Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced the award of \$525,538 in homeless prevention grants that will support families in 46 Nebraska counties. The grants will serve approximately 118 homeless and at-risk Veteran families as part of the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

The following agencies received grants in the amounts designated:

- Central Nebraska Community Services, \$192,235
- Northeast Nebraska Community Action Group, \$199,302
- Blue Valley Community Action Partnership, \$134,001.

These agencies are part of the 319 community agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands that received SSVF grants.

“With these grants, we are strengthening our partnership with community non-profits across the country to provide Veterans and their families with hope, a home and a future,” said Shinseki. “The work of Supportive Services for Veteran Families program grantees has already helped us prevent and end homelessness among tens of thousands of homeless Veterans and their families, but as long as a single Veteran lives on our streets, we have work to do.”

Under the SSVF program, VA is awarding grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that provide services to very low-income Veteran families living in – or transitioning to – permanent housing.

Those community organizations provide a range of services that promote housing stability among eligible very low income Veteran families.

With the SSVF grants, these community organizations will provide a range of services that promote housing stability and play a key role in connecting Veterans and their family members to VA services such as mental health care and other benefits.

Community-based groups can offer temporary financial assistance on behalf of Veterans for rent payments, utility payments, security deposits and moving costs.

Central Nebraska Community Services will serve approximately 38 participant households in the Nebraska Counties of Adams, Buffalo, Blaine, Boone, Brown, Boyd, Cherry, Colfax, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Holt, Howard, Keya Paha, Loop, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Rock, Sherman, Valley, and Wheeler.

Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partnership will serve approximately 40 participant households in Antelope, Burt, Cedar, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Knox, Madison, Pierce, Stanton, Thurston, Washington and Wayne Counties and Tribal Lands Winnebago, Omaha and Santee Reservations.

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Blue Valley Community Action, Inc. will serve approximately 40 participant households in Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer and York Counties.

This is the program's third year. Last year, VA provided about \$100 million to assist approximately 50,000 Veterans and family members.

In 2009, President Obama and Secretary Shinseki announced the federal government's goal to end Veteran homelessness in 2015. The grants are intended to help accomplish that goal. According to the 2012 Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness, homelessness among Veterans has declined 17.2 percent since 2009.

Through the homeless Veterans initiative, VA committed over \$1 billion in fiscal year 2013 to strengthen programs that prevent and end homelessness among Veterans. VA provides a range of services to homeless Veterans, including health care, housing, job training, and education.

More information about VA's homeless programs is available at [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless). Details about the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program are online at [www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp). Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and their family members and friends can call VA's National Homeless Veterans Call Center at 1-877-4AID-VET

For further information, contact:

Anna Morelock – Deputy Public Affairs Officer, VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System

Office: 402-995-5547; Cell: 402-651-9583

E-mail: [anna.morelock@va.gov](mailto:anna.morelock@va.gov)

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/VANWIHCS>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/NebraskalowaVA>

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