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Nearly 1,000 California Veterans Expected to Benefit from \$116 Million in Second Round of Proposition 41 Grants

Twenty eight new projects assist homeless Veterans and their families

SACRAMENTO – Nearly 1,000 low-income and homeless Veterans and their families will benefit from affordable housing opportunities announced at a press conference today at Mather Veterans Village by three state agencies. Twenty-eight new projects throughout California will receive more than \$116 million in funding through Proposition 41 and the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP).

"The State of California is committed to ending and preventing homelessness for our Veterans and their families," said California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Dr. Vito Imbasciani. "I'm proud our collaboration with the Department of Housing and Community Development and the California Housing Finance Agency developed a wonderful program with strong Veteran-centric services from providers with specific experience serving our Veterans in need."

"The housing provided to our Veterans and their families through VHHP is more than a roof and four walls," said Housing and Community Development Director, Ben Metcalf. "Residents also receive quality supportive services such as case management, substance abuse services, health clinics, benefits advocacy, and family and childcare services."

On any given night, more than 11,000 Veterans are at risk of housing instability and homelessness in California. Instability and homelessness among women veterans and their families are also on the rise.

The service-rich communities being developed through VHHP funding address many of the challenges homeless Veterans face and guide them toward independent living. The latest awards build or rehabilitate 28 developments across California and assist Veterans as far north as Shasta City and as far south as Escondido with wide-ranging coverage across the Bay Area, Los Angeles County, Orange County, the Inland Empire, and San Diego. The 28 developments will provide 2,124 units of housing; 983 of these will be Veteran-specific.

Three collaborating state agencies developed VHHP: the <u>Department of Housing and Community Development</u> (HCD), the <u>California Department of Veterans Affairs</u> (CalVet), and the <u>California Housing Finance Agency</u> (CalHFA).

(See attached maps and fact sheets)

In 2013, the State Legislature authorized approximately \$600 million (AB 639, Perez), in general obligation bonds to construct, or acquire, and rehabilitate, multifamily permanent, transitional and supportive housing for low-income Veterans and their families experiencing homelessness and housing instability. California voters approved the program when Proposition 41 passed on the June 2014 ballot.

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