



Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program (VHHP) February 2015 Funding Round Outcomes

■ Application Characteristics

- HCD, in collaboration with CalVet and CalHFA, released a \$75 million NOFA in February 2015.
- A total of 32 applications were received, requesting approximately \$125 million.
- 12 applications were for projects in Los Angeles County, 6 in the Orange County / Inland Empire region, 3 in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1 in San Diego, and 10 scattered around the state.
- 25 applications were for projects with supportive housing units for veterans. One was for transitional housing. Many applications proposed mixed populations. In 21 projects, fewer than 60% of the units were proposed as VHHP-assisted.
- 28 applications listed tax credits as a funding source. 11 listed other HCD programs. Many also were counting on local government funding.

■ Approved Projects

- In June, 2015, HCD, CalVet and CalHFA awarded approximately \$63 million to 17 projects. These projects will have 1221 units, 566 of which will be VHHP-assisted.
- 8 of the approved projects are in Los Angeles County, 4 are in the Orange County / Inland Empire region, 1 in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1 in San Diego, and 3 in other locations. The following table compares the announced geographic targets with the awards:

Area	Target (Minimum \$)	Awards
Bay Area	14%	8%
Los Angeles County	31%	43%
Orange County / Inland Empire	8%	29%
San Diego County	7%	2%
Other Areas	16%	18%

- 13 approved projects have VHHP supportive housing units (often along with general veteran and non-VHHP units), one will be operated as transitional housing, and 3 will target the general veteran population.
- Out of the 566 VHHP units, 371 (66%) are supportive housing. 146 of the supportive housing units (39%) and all 23 transitional housing units will target the chronically homeless.
- 72% of VHHP funds will go to 359 extremely low income units, with 81% of those units being supportive housing.
- 22% of the VHHP units have 2 or more bedrooms, indicating availability to veteran families.
- Development funding sources include tax credits (for all projects except the one transitional housing facility), other HCD programs (for 7 projects), locality funds, and private bank loans.
- 8 projects have external rental / operating subsidies. Sources include VASH (4 projects, 183 units), Section 8, LA County Department of Health Services, MHSA, and HUD Shelter + Care. 4 projects will capitalize operating subsidy reserves, made possible through receipt of supplemental VHHP funds.
- Supportive services funding is being provided from a wide variety of sources, including VASH, SSVF and other VA programs, project operating income, and LA County Department of Health Services. Many service providers are also providing in-kind services. On average, nearly 60% of budgeted services funding was committed at time of application.

▪ **Unsuccessful Projects**

- Applications were selected through a point scoring system, with 11 scoring categories. There was no single cause for failure. One unsuccessful applicant had significantly low scores in two scoring categories; the rest had low scores in three to seven categories.
- All but one unsuccessful applicant lost substantial points in the category that rewarded having rental or operating subsidies. Other areas where scores tended to be low were 1) the quality of the supportive services plan 2) project readiness and 3) the experience of the lead service provider.