



# News Release

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## VA and HUD team up to help homeless Veterans in Louisiana

*HUD-VASH vouchers to provide housing for 12 Veterans in East Baton Rouge and New Orleans*

NEW ORLEANS – To help end Veteran homelessness, Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System (SLVHCS) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded \$84,886 to provide a permanent home to an estimated 12 Veterans experiencing homelessness in East Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The rental assistance announced today is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA.

HUD-VASH reduces Veteran homelessness because it provides funding for both the housing and supportive services that are essential for ending homelessness for Veterans, many of whom are living in unsheltered locations.

In the HUD-VASH program, SLVHCS assesses Veterans experiencing homelessness before referring them to local housing agencies for these vouchers. Decisions are based on a variety of factors, most importantly the duration of homelessness and the need for longer term, more intensive support in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing. The HUD-VASH program includes both the rental assistance the voucher provides and the comprehensive case management that SLVHCS staff offers.

“Veterans have put their lives on the line for the freedoms we all enjoy,” said SLVHCS Medical Center Director/CEO Fernando O. Rivera, FACHE. “The HUD/VA partnership has helped many Veterans get off the streets and into housing, with important medical and case management that helps them remain housed and keeps them on the path for independent living.”

Since 2008, more than 93,000 vouchers have been awarded and approximately 150,000 homeless Veterans have been served through the HUD-VASH program.

“We have few responsibilities greater than making sure those who have sacrificed so much in service to their country have a home they can call their own,” said HUD Secretary Carson. “The housing vouchers awarded today ensure homeless Veterans in Louisiana have access to affordable housing and the critical support services from the VA.”

Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent.

For more information about the new Veterans medical center, clinic locations and other services available to Veterans in southeast Louisiana, visit the website [www.neworleans.va.gov](http://www.neworleans.va.gov), Facebook at [www.facebook.com/VANewOrleans](https://www.facebook.com/VANewOrleans) or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/vaneworleans](https://www.twitter.com/vaneworleans).

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