

# Veteran's Permanent Supportive Housing

*“As we express our gratitude (for veterans), we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”*

*— John F. Kennedy*





## OVERVIEW

Many of our nation's veterans return home to find a lack of resources to help them get back on their feet. The U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) states that approximately half of the nation's homeless veterans suffer from mental illness and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and 70% have alcohol and/or substance abuse problems<sup>1</sup>. The shortage of affordable housing, livable income, lack of family and social support networks and non-transferable military skills also put veterans at a disadvantage.

While the Treasure Valley has experienced rapid population growth and a booming economy, the boom coincides with a tightened local rental market, leaving veterans at risk and vulnerable to homelessness. In fact, of the 833 persons experiencing homelessness in Ada County in 2017, 124 were veterans, indicating that Ada County exceeds the national average with 14% of our homeless population being made up of veterans.

<sup>1</sup>National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, Demographics of Homeless Veterans (2018)  
[http://nchv.org/index.php/news/media/background\\_and\\_statistics/#demo](http://nchv.org/index.php/news/media/background_and_statistics/#demo)

## CURRENT LANDSCAPE

Since 2008, the Federal government has placed an increased emphasis on ending veteran homelessness, injecting significant resources into local communities to address the problem. The Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program has identified 187 housing vouchers in Ada County to support homeless veterans. The program combines housing vouchers (rental subsidies used in privately-owned housing) with support from VA case management services to provide veterans with healthcare, mental health treatment, vocational assistance and job development.

Unfortunately, in Ada County's highly competitive rental market, many vouchers go unused. On average, it takes 4-6 months for veterans to secure rental housing, while HUD requires vouchers to be returned into the pool after 120 days. This discrepancy leaves veterans without housing, making it extremely difficult for them to address their mental health or substance abuse issues.



## PROPOSAL

Local agencies, partners and community members have the opportunity to take an active role in helping those that have bravely served this country. To make a project like this work, we must weave together our resources and help the most vulnerable members of our community thrive.

The estimated cost for the Veteran's Permanent Supportive Housing development is approximately \$5.8 million. \$450,000 in private philanthropy would help close the gap.

We currently have \$5.35 million committed or available to the development through:

### **IDAHO HOUSING & FINANCE ASSOCIATION**

Estimated \$4 million in low income housing tax credit (LIHTC)  
capital opportunity

### **CITY OF BOISE**

\$1,250,000 total (\$1,000,000 HOME, \$250,000 general fund)

### **LAURA MOORE CUNNINGHAM FOUNDATION, INC.**

\$100,000 grant

On-going:

### **BOISE CITY/ADA COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

HUD-VASH vouchers valued at \$135,000 annually

### **BOISE VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION**

Case management and medical care valued at approximately  
\$500,000 annually

While the location is yet to be determined, the housing development requires approximately an acre of land near the Veterans Affairs Boise office and/or on a bus line.





*According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, approximately 11 % of the adult homeless population are veterans. Ada County exceeds the national average with 14 % of our homeless population counted as veterans.*

## MISSION

To help the men and women who have proudly served this country stand on their own two feet and reclaim their independence, health and dignity.

## VISION

Create an integrated system of support to meet the needs and challenges of homeless veterans.

In Ada County's tight rental market, dedicated housing units can be a necessary and life-saving solution for veterans experiencing homelessness. The Boise City/Ada County Housing Authority has the opportunity to "project-base" HUD-VASH vouchers into a housing development for homeless veterans. This has been done successfully in similar markets around the country, ensuring that veterans have access to the housing and health services they need.



**MAKE A GIFT TODAY: [www.givegab.com/campaigns/housing-Idaho-veterans](http://www.givegab.com/campaigns/housing-Idaho-veterans)**

**HomePartnershipFoundation**  
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