

WDVA TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM (THP)

2021 UPDATE

NEW FEDERAL VA GRANTS

- ◆ **\$2.4M** capital grant to restructure rooms to make 48 individual rooms, each with a private bathroom at Building 10 in Port Orchard, WA.
- ◆ **\$3.8M** capital grant to restructure rooms to make 50 individual rooms, each with a private bathroom at Roosevelt Barracks at the Soldiers Home in Orting, WA.

CONTINUED CARES ACT FUNDING

- ◆ Receiving **\$112.41/day** in CARES Act funding during COVID-19 Pandemic.

THP WEBSITE & VIDEO

- ◆ dva.wa.gov/thp

SUCCESS STORIES

Veteran "TC" was at Building 10 for approximately 18 months, entering the program at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to entering the Transitional Housing Program, he struggled with homelessness for more than 12 months, surviving on the streets and in the woods of Thurston County, all while also battling addiction and mental health challenges.

TC came into the program and quickly engaged in mental health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment at the Puget Sound VA Health Care System at American Lake. He made the most of everything we offered, mental health classes, Work Source referrals, legal assistance, veterans' benefits, and participating in our Vocational Work Program (THVTP). His duties involved working at the Veterans Home (WVH) aiding foodservice workers and delivering meals to residents. His THVTP work experience led to him being hired as a WDVA WVH custodial employee, and eventually he transferred to the foodservice department. He works full-time, and is focused on paying down debt, improving his credit, and developing his work history.

TC reinforced the support he received at the VA, by regularly attending Building 10 bible study, and AA meetings. TC also regularly attended our clinical mental health support groups, even though they were not a requirement. While in the program, he was awarded service-connected disability benefits of 100%, got his driver's license back. With his increased credit score, he was even able to purchase a truck. TC moved to Las Vegas, to be close to some supportive friends that he had served with in the Marine Corps and into his own apartment in December 2021. Within the first month, he had secured two jobs!

TC was very supportive to his fellow veterans while in the Transitional Housing Program. He is a prime example of how veterans, who utilize the support and resources of the program, can close the chapter on homelessness and move forward with confidence and stability in life.

Veteran "X" is a young combat veteran who had been homeless and living in the woods. His PTSD was so severe that he was existing purely in survival mode. He struggled to sleep due to night terrors and had severe digestion issues due to anxiety. During his military service, he sustained injuries to his ankles and knees but he found that if he walked after eating, he was able to digest a meal. Despite the pain, he would walk miles and miles each day, not only after eating, but to find places that he could charge his phone and access Wi-Fi so he could complete college classes. Extreme winter temperatures and lack of funds were the deciding factors for him to come to enter the Transitional Housing Program. When he entered the program, he was extremely thin, and emotionally withdrawn.

During his first month, he struggled, but we provided him with tools to help him succeed such as donated noise-cancelling headphones and a white noise machine to assist with sleeping, and a small in-room refrigerator so he could supplement his diet with easily digestible foods. With our in-person support, he learned to trust the THP team and program. Eventually, he gained the confidence to return to where he had been living to dig up the remainder of his belongings that he had buried for safe-keeping. He had officially made the commitment to receive the support he deserved.

That moment was pivotal in his journey because he felt safe and supported in a stable environment. We were then able to connect him with the necessary mental health support, ensured that he completed his service-connected disability benefits process, and followed up on medical appointments. He was able to complete college classes and attend virtual mental health appointments using a donated laptop. The day he received his VA benefit award letter for his service-connected conditions he broke into tears. He stated that he saw it as validation and acknowledgment from the Federal VA of what he had been through, and he was finally able to move on. This financial support also gave him the confidence to reach out to family, who did not understand how or why he had changed so drastically. He was able to reconnect with his family, rebuild relationships, set new goals for his future, and allow himself to be himself again! He has now relocated to the Midwest, closer to family and is happy, stable, and confident to successfully face the future.

WDVA TRANSITIONAL HOUSING OUTCOMES

FEDERAL VA GRANT & PER DIEM MEASURES AND OUTCOMES

2021 UPDATE

FEDERAL VA GRANT & PER DIEM TARGETS	WDVA RESULTS	NATIONWIDE RESULTS
% Exits to Permanent Housing for Bridge Housing - $\geq 75\%$	75%	72%
% Exits to Permanent Housing for Low Demand - $\geq 50\%$	57%	57%
% Exits to Permanent Housing for Clinical Treatment - $\geq 65\%$	66%	59%
% Exits to Permanent Housing for Service Intensive - $\geq 65\%$	77%	65%
PERCENTAGE OF NEGATIVE EXITS		
% Negative Exits for Bridge Housing - $\leq 23\%$	17%	18%
% Negative Exits for Low Demand - $\leq 23\%$	12%	26%
% Negative Exits for Clinical Treatment - $\leq 23\%$	17%	26%
% Negative Exits for Service Intensive - $\leq 23\%$	16%	22%
PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYMENT AT EXIT		
% Employed at Exit for Clinical Treatment - $\geq 50\%$	30%	50%
% Employed at Exit for Service Intensive - $\geq 30\%$	35%	58%

PERMANENT HOUSING

- ◆ **42 veterans permanently housed with HUD-VASH vouchers.**

HUD-VASH is a collaborative program between HUD and VA which combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help Veterans who are homeless and their families find and sustain permanent housing.

- ◆ **4 veterans housed with Section 8 vouchers.**
The housing choice voucher program is the federal government's major program for assisting very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.
- ◆ **30 veterans housed without subsidized assistance.**

EMPLOYMENT CONNECTIONS

- ◆ **4 veterans were hired by WDVA in permanent positions.**
- ◆ **12 veterans at Building 10 were stably employed and receiving a livable wage at the time of exit from the program.**

VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

- ◆ **44,198 hours of vocational training were completed by veterans enrolled in the Transitional Housing Program. THP veterans supported the Transitional Housing Program, Washington Veterans Home and Washington Soldiers Home by performing duties such as: security, meal service, temperature screenings, grounds and building maintenance, administrative duties, and custodial work.**

VA CASE MANAGER GRANT

- ◆ **4 veterans were assisted with case management support from our WDVA Housing Retention Specialist.**

VETERAN COURT GRADUATES

- ◆ **3 veterans successfully graduated from Kitsap County Veterans Court and discharged from the program with a clear background check and better opportunities for jobs and housing.**

VETERANS BENEFITS

- ◆ **A total of 18 veterans from Building 10 were awarded VA Service-Connected Disability benefits, with 6 of those receiving award ratings of 70% or higher and receiving a combined \$77K in retroactive benefits.**
- ◆ **THP provided clients with support to manage appointments, obtain vital documents, and assist with transportation; all of which were barriers prior to living in the THP.**