



# Presentation to House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Margaret S. Salazar, Director  
February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

# OHCS VISION AND MISSION

## Vision

All Oregonians have the opportunity to pursue prosperity and live free from poverty.

## Mission

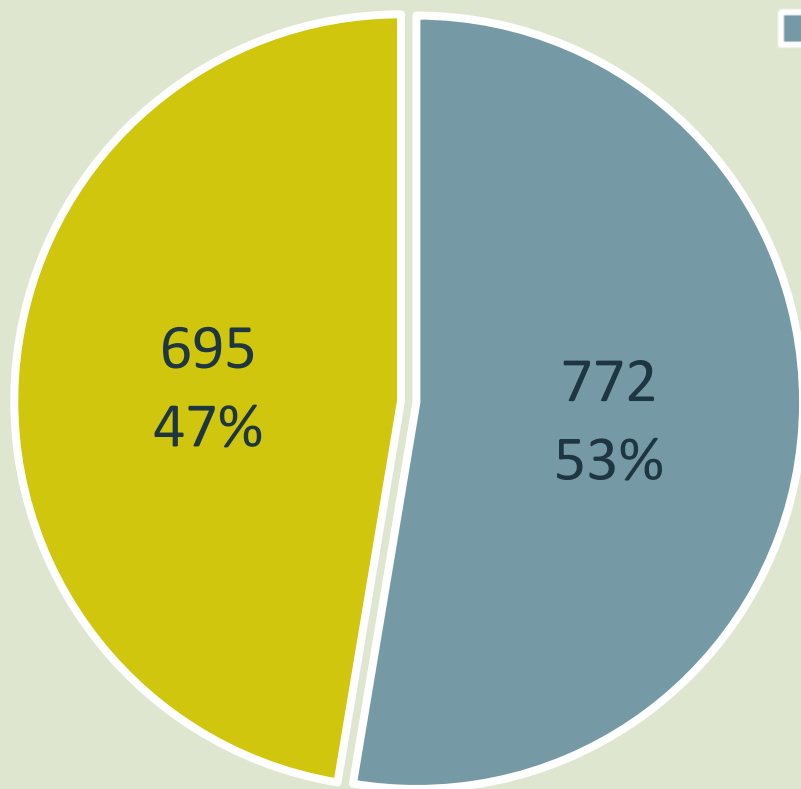
We provide stable and affordable housing and engage leaders to develop integrated statewide policy that addresses poverty and provides opportunity for Oregonians.

# OREGON'S HOMELESS VETERANS

Total Homeless	Homeless Households	Homeless Veterans
13,176	10,062	1,467

- Data collected during the January 2015 Point-in-Time count
- Homeless veterans comprise 11% of the total number of people experiencing homelessness counted in January 2015
- 4 in 10 homeless veterans were considered chronically homeless, meaning they had a disabling condition and were homeless continually for at least twelve months or at least 4 times over three years

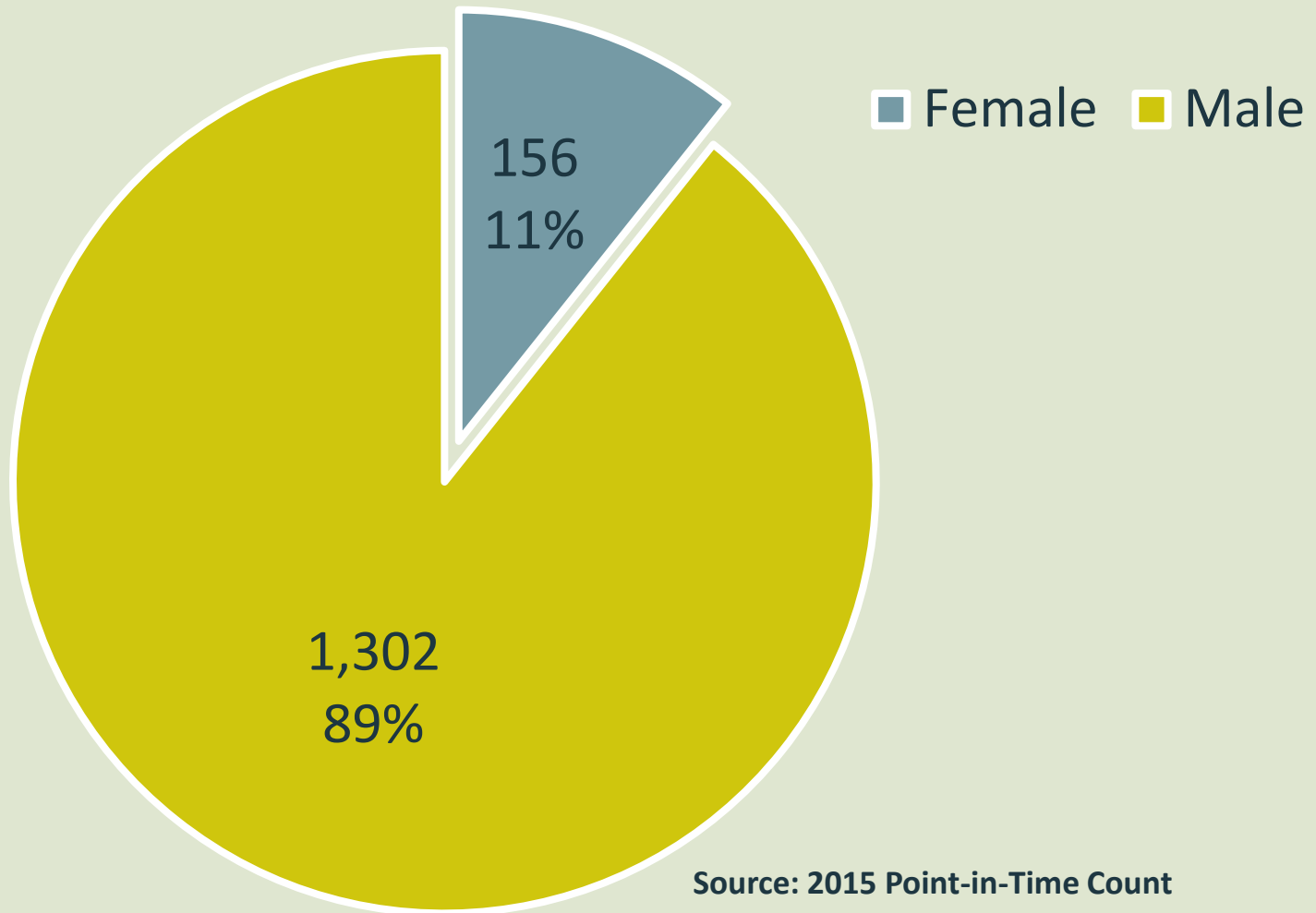
# SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED VETERANS



Source: 2015 Point-in-Time Count

- **Sheltered:** Living in a shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangement (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by government programs).
- **Unsheltered:** Staying in a public or private place not designed for regular sleeping accommodation for people, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground.

# HOMELESS VETERANS BY GENDER



Source: 2015 Point-in-Time Count

# HOMELESS VETERANS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

White	Black	Asian	American Indian	Pacific Islander	Multiple Races	Unknown
1205	101	8	54	16	57	26
82%	7%	0.5%	4%	1%	4%	1.5%

Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino	Hispanic/Latino	Unknown
1,347	52	68
92%	3.5%	4.5%

Source: 2015 Point-in-Time Count

# DOCUMENT RECORDING FEE

HB 2436 (2009) created a Document Recording Fee (DRF) which added a \$15 fee to recording of real property documents to fund affordable housing. HB 2417 (2013) added an additional \$5 specifically to serve veterans. By statute, the fee is divided into three purposes, each of which includes a set-aside for veterans:

- **Emergency Housing Assistance (EHA) – 10%**
- **Home Ownership Assistance Program (HOAP) – 14%**
- **General Housing Account Program (GHAP) – 76%**

# EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE

The Emergency Housing Assistance Veteran's Document Recording Fee (EHA VET DRF) assists low- or very low-income veterans who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, to acquire and sustain stable housing. EHA VET DRF funds are awarded on a quarterly basis. OHCS grants funds to 17 Community Action Agencies, representing service to all 36 of Oregon's counties.

## **Funds can pay for services from the following program components:**

- Transitional Housing
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Homelessness Prevention
- Street Outreach
- Supportive In-Home Services
- Data Collection
- Community Capacity Building
- Emergency Shelter



# EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE

EHA VET DRF 15-17 Allocation to Date: \$709,464

Current Expenditures: \$447,214\*

Remainder: \$262,250

Percent Remaining: 37%

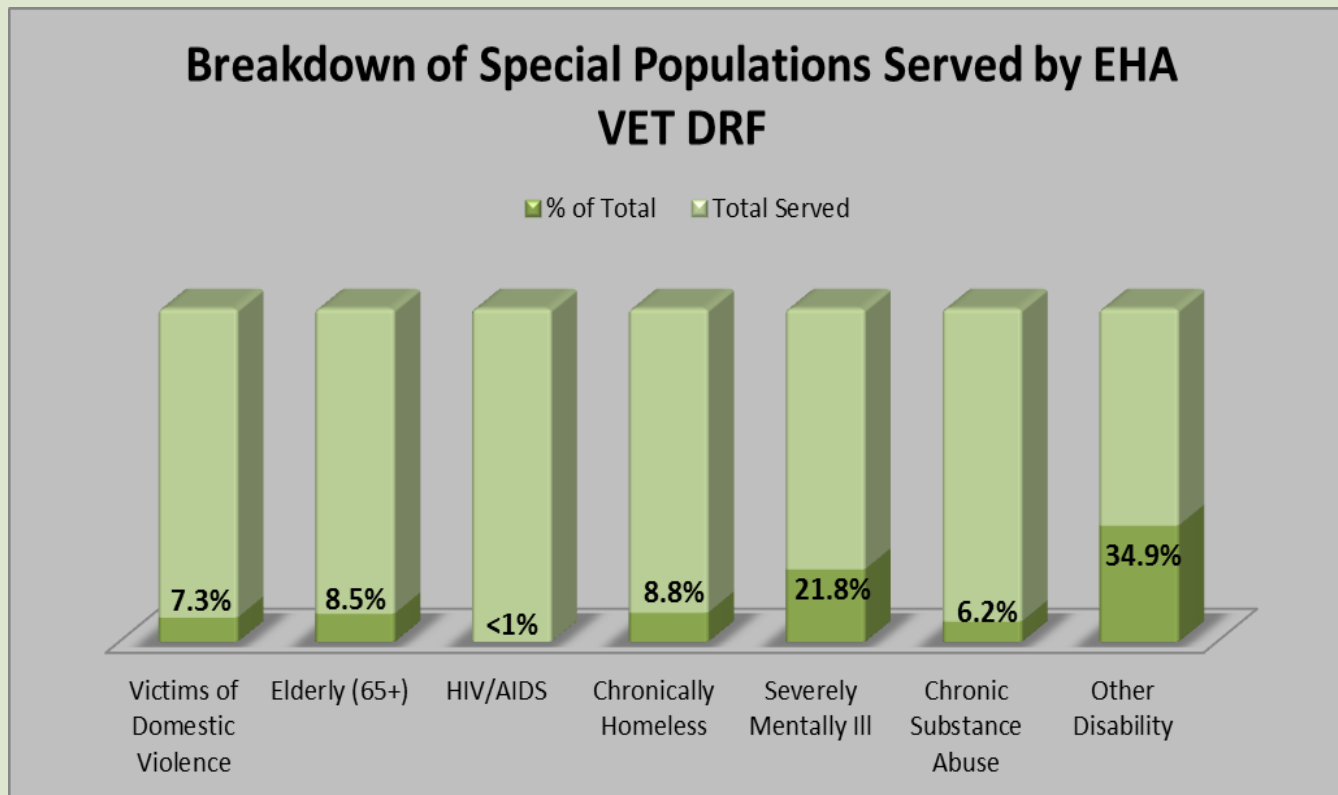
**From July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, EHA VET DRF funds provided services for:**

- 602 Individuals; 443 adults and 159 children (Of the adults served, 16% were on active military duty)
- 337 Households
- 308 Bed Nights of Shelter

\*Expenditures through December 31, 2016

# EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Within the total veteran population served, a combined total of over half were either suffering from a severe mental illness or other disability:



# EMERGENCY HOUSING ASSISTANCE

## Veteran's DRF Emergency Housing Assistance in Action

**Provider:** United Community Action Network (UCAN), Josephine County

**Funding Sources:** VET DRF EHA + HUD Emergency Solutions Grant, VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families

UCAN assisted a 57-year-old veteran, homeless, single mother in April, 2015. She was living at a local emergency shelter, had lost custody of her 15 year old son, and her sole income came from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) at \$432.00 each month.

Caseworkers at UCAN enrolled her in the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program and began work on her stabilization plan, through which she set the following personal goals: regain custody of her son, secure permanent housing, finish her SSDI claim and file for compensation for a service-connected disability.

**After six months of hard work and UCAN case management, she completed them all.**

# GENERAL HOUSING ACCOUNT PROGRAM

- OHCS issues a GHAP Veteran's Housing Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) every other year
- In November 2015, OHCS awarded \$3,771,471 to fund two projects serving low income veterans
- The 2017 GHAP Veteran's NOFA will be issued in Spring of 2017

# GENERAL HOUSING ACCOUNT PROGRAM

## **Victory Commons:** An 11 unit project in downtown Klamath Falls

- Awarded \$2,058,318 in Veteran's GHAP resources
- Includes 5 HUD Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers
- Partnerships with US Department of Veteran's Affairs, Klamath Lake Community Action Services, Klamath Housing Authority, Treatment Court, and behavioral health services

*Victory Commons was completed in Fall of 2016. The project is made up of five duplexes of one-bedroom units, including a community room, a laundry room, and a manager's space.*



# GENERAL HOUSING ACCOUNT PROGRAM

- **Victory Place:** A 17 unit project in Medford
  - Awarded \$1,713,153 in Veteran's GHAP resources
  - Includes 10 HUD Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers
  - Partnerships with ACCESS, Rogue Valley Veterans and Community Outreach, and others



# HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

After creation of the Veteran's DRF, a stakeholder group set priorities for the use of these additional funds within the Homeownership Assistance Program (HOAP):

- Down Payment Assistance for veterans through ODVA for the ORVET loan.
- Rehab/Repair/Adaptation for veterans to remain in their home.
- Mortgage Payment assistance program for returning unemployed veterans.

# HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- **OHCS entered into an Inter-Agency Agreement with ODVA in April 2015 to administer the Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance Program through the ORVET Loan Program.**
- Unfortunately ODVA was unable to provide down payment assistance proceeds to Veterans due to funding restrictions and competition with U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs mortgage programs.
- **Following feedback from ODVA leadership and members of the HOAP Veterans advisory group OHCS created a new Request for Application (RFA) for a Rehab/Repair Program for Veteran Homeowners**



# HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- The 2017 Single Family Veteran's RFA of \$1,500,000 will open statewide with geographic diversity to nonprofit corporations, local housing authorities and local governments
- **Awarded funds will be used for Health, Safety, Adaptability and Habitability projects for veterans, including grab bars and wheelchair access ramps**
- Applications will be scored by a Committee made of representatives from ODVA, Business Oregon, and OHCS
- **Scoring Committee recommendations are anticipated in March, 2017, with Director approval and a Housing Stability Council update set for April, 2017.**

# FEDERAL COMMITMENT TO END VETERANS HOMELESSNESS

Since 2010, the federal government has aggressively been pursuing strategies to end homelessness among veterans:

- Increasing available resources through HUD Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Vouchers: Rent vouchers for homeless veterans; these vouchers are available through Public Housing Authorities
- Increasing resources to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grant program
- Mayor's Challenge to End Veteran's Homelessness (Eugene and Portland)

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AT OHCS

## **OHCS administers a variety of resources to projects with units targeted for veterans:**

- LIFT, LIHTC, and HOME have all supported projects that include units and/or services for veterans
- **LIFT Project: Freedom Square Part II, White City**
  - 8 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans using project-based HUD-VASH vouchers. HA of Jackson County and the VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center & Clinics will partner to provide supportive services
- OHCS is focusing on developing supportive housing models, an important tool for better serving veterans
- Partnership with OHA Behavioral Health Continuum

As we start development of our State Housing Plan, OHCS is poised to focus long-term state investment to serving veterans.

OHCS has always been a part of the strategy, looking forward, we need to be intentional

Questions?