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## **HOUSTON CONTINUUM OF CARE ANNOUNCES SUCCESS IN HOUSING MORE THAN 300 VETERANS IN 100 DAYS, FEDERAL FUNDING FOR NEW PROJECTS**

Houston, TX (August 23, 2013) The [Houston Continuum of Care \(CoC\)](#) announced that the Housing Houston's Heroes initiative has housed **357 homeless veterans**, 195 of them chronically homeless, in 100 days. In addition, the Houston CoC received funds for three new permanent supportive housing (PSH) projects as well as planning money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) funding.

Housing Houston's Heroes began in May 2012 as a project titled "**100 in 100**," in which more than 20 partner agencies housed 148 homeless veterans in 100 days. This successful effort then expanded, and by May 2013 had housed 488 homeless veterans. This year, the partnering agencies had challenged themselves to house 300 chronically homeless veterans in 100 days, **by the end of July 2013**, as part of a larger goal to end veteran homelessness by January 2016. Through this effort, Houston's homeless service agencies have developed an effective and compassionate response to housing homeless veterans. Working collaboratively has allowed the agencies to quickly respond to a homeless veteran's needs without duplicating efforts and resources.

Furthermore, the Houston CoC was awarded nearly \$5 million in new funding for three new permanent supportive housing projects, and the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County has received \$250,000 in planning money to support the local CoC. The three organizations receiving funding for their new projects were SEARCH Homeless Services, Houston Area Community Services, and Star of Hope Mission. These three new projects will provide a total of 194 new units specifically for individuals who are either chronically homeless or severely mentally ill. Houston will receive 130 vouchers (more than \$800,000) through the [HUD-VASH Program](#), which combines

rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by the VA. The HUD-VASH Program awarded a total of 1120 vouchers nationwide, and Houston was by far the largest recipient.

“HUD has recognized the tremendous collaborative effort and major system change work that is underway here,” stated Marilyn L. Brown, President & CEO of the Coalition for the Homeless of Houston and Harris County. “By granting the funding for these new project requests, we can continue to move towards our goal of ending chronic and veteran homelessness by 2016.”

The **Houston Continuum of Care** encompasses Houston and Harris and Fort Bend counties, and exists: to help create integrated, community-wide strategies and plans to prevent and end homelessness; to provide coordination among the numerous regional organizations and initiatives that serve the homeless population; and to create the region’s single, comprehensive grant application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for McKinney Vento funding. As a result of its strong leadership, access to resources, and high visibility in the community, the **Coalition for the Homeless of Houston and Harris County** serves as the lead agency for the Houston CoC. For more information about the Houston CoC, visit [www.homelesshouston.org/continuum-of-care](http://www.homelesshouston.org/continuum-of-care).

Agencies that participate in Housing Houston's Heroes include: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; City of Houston, Office of the Mayor; Baxter Trust; The Beacon; Career and Recovery Resources, Inc.; Catholic Charities; City of Houston, Housing and Community Development Department; City of Houston, Office of Veteran’s Affairs; Couldbreak Communities; Coalition for the Homeless of Houston and Harris County; Compassionate Houston; Corporation for Supportive Housing; Goodwill Industries; Harris County Housing Authority; Harris County, Office of Housing and Community Development; The Housing Corporation; Houston Housing Authority; Houston Food Bank; Houston Police Department – Homeless Outreach Team; Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority; Neighborhood Centers, Inc.; Salvation Army; SEARCH Homeless Services; U.S. Vets.

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