



*The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness  
e-newsletter 07.14.08*

***IN THE CITIES: FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PARTNERS ANNOUNCE  
AWARD OF VETERANS PERMANENT HOUSING RESOURCES IN BOSTON  
AS PART OF NATIONAL HUD-VASH INITIATIVE***



*BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.* Partners from every level of government gathered this week in Boston to celebrate the award of \$1.3 million in permanent housing resources for homeless veterans in Boston under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH).

Federal officials, including Congressman Michael Capuano, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Director Philip Mangano, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regional Director Taylor Caswell, and VA Boston Healthcare System Director Michael Lawson joined Boston Mayor Tom Menino, Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Services Thomas Kelley, and Boston Housing Authority CEO Sandra Henriquez in making the announcement of the new resources during a press conference at the VA Medical Center in Jamaica Plain.

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Director Philip Mangano (pictured here) noted: "When the Congress resurrected the HUD-VASH program, history and data were on their side. HUD-VASH began in 1990, was successful, but dormant in expansion. But every study, every bit of research said, here was an initiative that worked: that ended homelessness for our veterans, that saved money, that reduced human misery. The good news is that HUD-VASH is field-tested and evidence-based."

The award of 105 vouchers to the Boston Housing Authority is part of the \$75 million announced nationally for 10,000 new vouchers for the program as the result of Congressional support in the FY 2008 budget. An additional Presidential request for \$75 million for 10,000 more vouchers has been supported in both the House and Senate in early stages of the FY 2009 budget.

The resources are part of \$2.5 million awarded in Massachusetts; other grants were awarded to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (\$736,781) to administer 70 vouchers in conjunction with the Bedford VA Medical Center, and to the Northampton Housing Authority (\$487,402) to administer 70 vouchers in conjunction with Northampton VA Medical Center. Pictured here is Director Mangano with John Nihen, Jr., one of the first veterans housed.

The VA Boston Healthcare System will provide outreach, supportive services and case management to eligible homeless veterans. The Boston Housing Authority will determine income eligibility in accordance with HUD regulations for the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Under the program, veterans can use vouchers to rent privately-owned housing and pay up to 30 percent of income towards rent. The federal subsidy will make up the difference between the actual rent and what the veteran will pay.





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"Every veteran deserves a home that he or she can afford," said HUD Regional Director Taylor Caswell (pictured right). "This program will serve a vital need by making sure veterans have an affordable place to live with the support services they need to live independently."



"This HUD funding will help the City of Boston expand its efforts to serve our veterans, who have given so much for our country. The money will be targeted toward providing homeless veterans with support services and the opportunity to obtain permanent housing, and I appreciate the efforts of all involved to make this program a success," stated Congressman Mike Capuano.

"It is important that we express to our veterans our deepest appreciation for their service to our country by providing them with the kind of housing and quality of life they deserve," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino (pictured right). "This will now be possible through a new partnership between the Boston Housing Authority, the VA Boston Healthcare System and US Department of Housing and Urban Development."



"This program will provide additional housing opportunities for a most deserving population, our nation's veterans; men and women who put themselves in harm's way, so that we could enjoy the comforts of home. Now it is their turn to be given the opportunity to enjoy a home of their own," said VA Boston Healthcare System Director Michael Lawson.

Council Regional Coordinator John O'Brien participated in this event.