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PHA Receives Increased Funding to Fight Veterans' Homelessness

(Philadelphia, PA – December 27, 2021)— The Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) will receive \$145,337 to provide permanent homes to 20 veterans experiencing homelessness. The funding comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This brings the housing authority's total HUD VASH allocation to 834, which has played a critical role in Philadelphia effectively ending veteran homelessness.

“Veterans have sacrificed their time and their personal well-being to keep this country safe,” said PHA President and CEO Kelvin Jeremiah. “At times, many of them have literally been left out in the cold. It's most appropriate that we help the people who put themselves in harm's way on our behalf.”

The demand for Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) in Philadelphia is great. The agency's HCV waiting list is closed, except for applicants who qualify for admission under HUD's Special Purpose Voucher programs, including VASH, as well as applicants referred to PHA from external agencies that have an agreement with the housing authority.

The supportive housing assistance provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. These vouchers enable homeless veterans to obtain affordable, decent housing in the private market. They are critical tools in helping communities effectively end homelessness among veterans.

In the HUD-VASH program, VA Medical Centers assess veterans experiencing homelessness before referring them to local housing agencies such as PHA for these vouchers. Decisions are based on a variety of factors, most importantly the duration of homelessness and the need for longer term, more intensive support in obtaining and maintaining permanent housing. Veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program rent privately owned housing and generally contribute no more than 30 percent of their income toward rent.

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The Philadelphia Housing Authority's mission is to open doors to affordable housing, economic opportunity and safe, sustainable communities to benefit Philadelphia residents with low incomes.