

NCSHA 2015 Annual Awards Entry Form

(Complete one form for each entry)

Deadline: Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Visit ncsha.org/awards to view the Annual Awards Call for Entries.

Instructions: Type entry information into the form and save it as a PDF. Do not write on or scan the form. If you have any questions contact Matt Cunningham at mcunningham@ncsha.org or 202-624-5424.

Fill out the entry name *exactly* as you want it listed in the program.

Entry Name: Hope Manor II

HFA: Illinois Housing Development Authority

Submission Contact: (Must be HFA Staff Member) Man-Yee Lee **Email:** manyeel@ihda.org

Please provide a 15-word (maximum) description of your nomination to appear on the NCSHA website.

Supportive housing for female head-of-household Veterans and their families

Use this header on the upper right corner of each page:

HFA: Illinois Housing Development Authority

Entry Name: Hope Manor II

Select the appropriate subcategory of your entry and indicate if you are providing visual aids.

| Communications | Homeownership | Legislative Advocacy | Management Innovation |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Annual Report | <input type="radio"/> Empowering New Buyers | <input type="radio"/> Federal Advocacy | <input type="radio"/> Financial |
| <input type="radio"/> Creative Media | <input type="radio"/> Encouraging New Production | <input type="radio"/> State Advocacy | <input type="radio"/> Human Resources |
| <input type="radio"/> Promotional Materials and Newsletters | <input type="radio"/> Home Improvement and Rehabilitation | | <input type="radio"/> Operations |
| | | | <input type="radio"/> Technology |
| Rental Housing | Special Needs Housing | Special Achievement | Are you providing visual aids? |
| <input type="radio"/> Encouraging New Production | <input type="radio"/> Combating Homelessness | <input type="radio"/> Special Achievement | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes |
| <input type="radio"/> Multifamily Management | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Housing for Persons with Special Needs | | <input type="radio"/> No |
| <input type="radio"/> Preservation and Rehabilitation | | | |

Hope Manor II

Introduction

The need for services to all Veterans continues to grow, throughout the country and right here in the Chicago area. According to the 2008 CHALLENGE Report completed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 131,000 Veterans are homeless on any given night in the U.S. with at least twice that number experiencing homelessness sometime during the year. Additional data consistently demonstrates that Veterans, who account for only 11 percent of the total U.S. population, are overrepresented in the homeless population - accounting for more than 33 percent of the total homeless male population and still accounting for a very statistically significant 25 percent of the total homeless population when homeless women and children are included. While the need for services – especially housing – still outpaces the available resources by more than 300 percent, the resources that *do* exist are primarily designed to meet the needs of single, unaffiliated male Veterans.

Program Need

The need for a new, more comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of homeless Veterans is underscored by the changing demographics of our U.S. Military, and subsequently, the demographics of Veterans that are homeless or at serious risk of homelessness. First, the age of Veterans presenting as homeless is dropping as soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are finding themselves in crisis at a much more accelerated rate than in any previous combat era. More than 25 percent of all soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are showing some acute symptoms of PTSD upon return. Unemployment is also especially high for young Veterans with 18-26 year old Veterans experiencing an unemployment rate 3 to 4 times the national average. These factors coupled with the scarcity of affordable housing puts many young Veterans on the path to homelessness in a matter of months – not years – following their discharge from active military service. Subsequently, ***many of the veterans entering the homeless population today are doing so with dependent children.*** This is one of the reasons ***the rate of homelessness among Veterans with families has been increasing by more than 5 percent every year for the past 4 years.***

The other reason the rate of homelessness among Veterans with families is increasing so steadily and significantly is because of the increasing number of women serving in the U.S. Military. Currently, females represent approximately 8 percent or 1.8 million of the total Veteran population in the U.S. That number is expected to double over the next 10 years as the total number of woman serving in the military increases every year with females representing 15 percent of the total number of active military personnel in the armed forces today. More significantly, women represent a growing percentage of military personnel deployed to combat theatres – exposing them to all the same conditions associated with combat that place male Veterans at such high risk for homelessness. ***Almost 250,000 women have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan,*** which represents approximately 11 percent of the total number of troops deployed to that area since combat operations began. Statistics have clearly shown that female Veterans are a rapidly growing percentage of the homeless Veteran population. ***In fact, female Veterans are 2 times more likely to become homeless than male Veterans and 4 times more likely to become homeless than their non-Veteran female counterparts in the general female population.***

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the State of Illinois is home to more than 800,000 Veterans, of which, more than 56,000 are female Veterans. Chicago's population alone includes more than 120,000 Veterans with approximately 1000 to 2100 homeless Veterans on any given night and more than 10,000 experiencing homelessness at some point during the year. In addition, **the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that approximately 6 - 8 percent of all homeless Veterans are women, meaning that up to 175 female Veterans, most with children, are homeless in Chicago each night.** The US Department of Veterans' Affairs estimates that **39 percent of the women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan will have some sort of mental health disorder.** Untreated mental health issues stemming from PTSD and Depression are the primary factors contributing to the high incidence of homelessness among Veterans. Female Veterans are particularly susceptible to combat-related depression which can be very debilitating if left untreated and can affect not only their ability to provide for their children through employment, it can also negatively impact their ability to safely and effectively parent. As a result, it is critical that any program designed to address the unique issues facing female Veterans and Veterans with small children also address their role and responsibilities as parents.

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) is proud to partner once again with the Volunteers of America of Illinois (VOA of IL) to bring much-needed housing and targeted supportive services to our state's Veterans. Volunteers of America is a national nonprofit organization that provides local human service programs and housing for Veterans and also advocates for the special needs of this important population. Its goal is to move Veterans from homelessness to long-term stability and self-sufficiency.

With multi-layered problems that are deep, complex and far-reaching, Chicago's homeless Veterans and those with families confront a dire housing and unemployment situation that cannot be remedied with a "one size fits all" approach. VOA of IL believes that services must be comprehensive, *gender-responsive*, integrated and include strategies that address all the short and long-term barriers, as well as both the individual and systemic barriers that converge to create significant challenges for female Veterans and Veterans with children who are struggling with homelessness and unemployment.

Program Description

HOPE MANOR II is a comprehensive response to the challenges facing all Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness - especially female Veterans and Veterans with dependent children. HOPE MANOR II is a campus-style community built around a park that provides a flexible continuum of housing and supportive services to individual Veterans and Veterans with families. It features a combination of studio apartments, 1, 2 and 3-bedroom units and 4-bedroom townhomes. In total, HOPE MANOR II provides housing and supportive services to more than 70 Veteran-headed households, all located on a three-acre site donated by the City of Chicago. In addition to the \$1 million in state resources, the development also received a \$1.9 million loan and a \$3million tax-increment financing grant from the City and all of its units are rent subsidized by the Chicago Housing Authority.

As the name implies, HOPE MANOR II is about much more than simply providing housing for Veterans who are struggling – the goal is to help Veterans change and improve their lives over the long-term by promoting self-sufficiency, building new skills, creating strong support networks and integrating Veterans more positively into community life. To achieve this objective of empowering Veterans to transform their lives in the most positive way possible, HOPE MANOR II is a service-rich community with immediate access to a broad range of supportive services on-site. The first floor of the main building is devoted to services that support Veterans and promotes a vibrant, healthy community for all residents of HOPE

MANOR II. Services include: employment readiness classes; job training and coaching; computer training; a business resource center; a health and wellness center; peer support groups; recovery resources; individual and family counseling; mental health screening; emergency assistance for food, clothing and household items; and case management support. Residents also enjoy access to several large multi-purpose rooms to encourage a sense of fellowship and community among the residents and to promote a highly supportive, peer-driven culture which has proven to be extremely important and effective in programs serving Veterans. On-site services are primarily available and/or funded through existing support services provided through VOA of IL to Veterans through other sources, and additional U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs grants to serve Veterans with families, service funding through HUD-VASH and collaborations and partnership with other providers in the community.

Veterans living at Hope Manor II have onsite access to VOA of IL's True North Project – a comprehensive program for Veterans who are struggling, in crisis or at-risk of serious instability in their lives – and True North University which offers group-based training and counseling in a variety of areas including: employment readiness, building financial stability, life management skills, nurturing parenting, understanding addictions, healthy relationships, a trauma recovery group (for women only) and support networks that are gender-specific.

A key feature of the development is the focus on creating and delivering gender-responsive and family-centered elements to the program, such as utilizing female staff who are specifically trained in gender responsive programming and can target and work with female Veterans and Veterans with families.

All Veterans residing at HOPE MANOR II have access to the Employment program which utilizes a comprehensive, community and strength-based approach to serving Veterans who are struggling with unemployment and/or homelessness. The approach requires a strong commitment to collaborations and partnerships. For example, community partnerships are key for addressing the mental health, substance abuse and child care issues that serve as a barrier to employment for many Veterans in crisis. By leveraging existing resources in the community instead of replicating them, the program is able to provide a coordinated and holistic package of support to Veterans that ensures *long-term* stability and success. When *all* the barriers that caused their unemployment and/or homelessness are addressed, Veterans gain the confidence and the tools to achieve immediate self-sufficiency *and* prevent future episodes of homelessness.

Results

As of June 1, 2015, Hope Manor II is 100 percent fully occupied, with a waiting list of 514.

In the words of U.S. Army Veteran and husband and father of three small children, Dallas Wade, who went through three years of not having stable housing, in part, because of a disability that hinders him from performing physical work: "Before I moved to Hope Manor II we [my family] had nowhere to go. But thanks to Volunteers of America we now live in a three-bedroom apartment and we love it. My family and I have been swept off our feet with the help we have received from Volunteers of America. Now I can serve my country proud knowing my family has a place to lay their heads at night."

Due to the success of Hope Manor II, as well as Hope Manor I (which IHDA financed in 2010), IHDA has already committed to supporting the development of Hope Manor Joliet to provide supportive housing for Veteran-headed families who may be homeless, at serious risk of homelessness or struggling with housing stability.

VISUAL AIDS

- Photographs (5)
- Press release of grand opening event 10.17.14









OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
PAT QUINN

For Immediate Release
Friday, October 17, 2014

Governor Quinn Opens Hope Manor II, Expands Affordable Housing Options for Illinois' Veterans

Campus Style Community Designed to Serve Veterans with Families Now Open in Chicago

CHICAGO – Governor Pat Quinn today announced the opening of Hope Manor II, one of the first large-scale housing developments in the nation designed to address the needs of female veterans and veterans with families at risk of homelessness. The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) provided approximately \$1 million in funding to finance the development located at 60th and Halsted streets in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. Today's event is part of Governor Quinn's agenda to make Illinois the most veteran-friendly state in the nation.

"Hope Manor II is not only about housing, it is about helping our veterans get a job, keep a job and provide for their families," Governor Quinn said. "We have a duty on the homefront to take care of our heroes and protect those who protected us especially when it comes to jobs, education and housing. For all they have sacrificed in the name of freedom, Hope Manor II will give our servicemembers the comforts and safety of home they deserve."

Developed by the Volunteers of America of Illinois (VOA), Hope Manor II is designed for veterans and their children. It will be home to more than 100 Illinois heroes and family members who were previously homeless or at risk of homelessness. The development will be an important part of the state's goal to help struggling veterans change and improve their lives over the long-term by promoting self-sufficiency, building new skills, creating strong support networks and integrating veterans more positively into community life.

Services at the campus include employment readiness classes, job training and coaching, computer training, peer support groups, recovery resources, individual and family counseling, mental health screening, emergency assistance for food and household items and case management support. Residents will also have access to the Volunteers of America of Illinois' True North Project which aids veterans who are struggling, in crisis or at risk of serious instability in their lives.

"This is a great day for our veterans, Chicago businesses and for Illinois," Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Acting Director Rodrigo Garcia said. "We know that employment and stability for families is critical in helping veterans and those at-risk bridge from the military to a thriving civilian life. Hope Manor II will be a great base for our veterans to find great jobs here in Illinois and help businesses thrive."

The campus-style community features a mix of single-family town homes and apartments built around a park, all located on a three-acre site donated by the city of Chicago. In addition to state resources, the development also received a \$1.9 million loan and a \$3 million tax-increment financing grant from the city of Chicago. All 73 apartments will receive Project-Based Rental Assistance from the Chicago Housing Authority.

"We are excited to partner with the Volunteers of America of Illinois to provide the stability and support our veterans need to transition back into civilian life," IHDA Executive Director Mary R. Kenney said. "Our goal is to provide a comprehensive response to the unique challenges of today's veterans, delivering the tools they can use to change their lives over the long-term."

Women veterans and those with dependent children are the fastest growing demographic in the veteran community, often facing significant challenges as they transition to civilian life. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that approximately six to eight percent of all homeless veterans are women and as many as 175 female veterans, most with children, are homeless in Chicago each night. After IHDA provided federal stimulus funds and federal tax credit financing for Hope Manor I to provide housing and services to single veterans, a community to serve families was the next appropriate step.

Since Governor Quinn took office, Illinois has made it a priority to address the need for affordable housing and supportive services. He is the first Governor in Illinois history to dedicate state capital dollars to supportive housing, creating approximately 2,150 community-based supportive housing units since 2009. IHDA has financed 860 units of affordable housing either reserved or specifically targeted to veterans in that same timeframe.

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