

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: _____

HFA: _____

Submission Contact: (Must be HFA Staff Member) _____ **Email:** _____

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

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

HFA: _____

Entry Name: _____

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

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

Virginia Housing Development Authority Preventing and Ending Veteran Homelessness

“On any given night in Virginia, 620 veterans go to sleep without a safe roof over their head. Folks, that is unacceptable. So you have my commitment that a year from today not one single veteran will not have a safe roof over their head.”

*Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe,
speaking at the Commonwealth’s Veterans
Day Ceremony on Nov. 11, 2014*

Brief Description

The Virginia Housing Development Authority has implemented a three pronged approach to combat veteran homelessness as part of the Virginia Governor’s Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness by 2015. This approach includes a.) developing charitable efforts to support emergency housing for homeless veterans through the annual VHDA Golf Tournament, b.) underwriting a statewide Veterans Boot Camp to jump start local efforts, and c.) underwriting the costs of an intensive 100 day Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness in Virginia.

- a.) 2015 Don Ritenour Charity Golf Classic – The first element of the approach to combat veteran homelessness was to provide direct support to homeless shelters serving homeless veterans by awarding them with a portion of the proceeds from this annual golf tournament held on May 21, 2015. Collectively, these organizations serve homeless veterans through emergency shelter and rapid re-housing assistance. Several of these recipients mentioned that the award will make it possible to provide case management and shelter assistance to rapidly exit homeless veterans into permanent housing.
- b.) Veterans Boot Camp – The second element of VHDA’s approach was to underwrite a portion of the cost of the statewide Veterans Boot Camp. Virginia was the first state in the country to undertake a statewide boot camp, and it included a day and a half of facilitated processes to help community stakeholders begin mapping and implementing a permanent housing pipeline for homeless veterans. VHDA provided funding for the facilitation cost, meeting space, meals and staff logistical support. This was a multi-agency collaborative effort with the leadership of the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) and the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) along with the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, VHDA and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) assisting with planning and design. At the conclusion of the two-day session, each of the participating communities established a Community Take-Down Number totaling 333, which was the goal for the number of homeless veterans to be housed in a 100-day period.
- c.) 100 Day Challenge to Combat Veteran Homelessness – The third element was VHDA’s sponsorship of Virginia’s 100 Day Challenge to Combat Veteran Homelessness in communities across the state. In this phase, community stakeholders met on a bi-weekly basis to develop, implement and assess local processes towards housing the target number of veterans established at the September Boot Camp. VHDA’s sponsorship partially funded the support of technical assistance from Community Solutions and Rapid Results, two nationally recognized technical assistance providers. Technical assistance providers worked with the Department of Veterans Services and coached local communities on addressing system and process barriers to quickly place homeless veterans in permanent housing and out of homelessness. The goal was to find homes for 333 of the state’s 620 homeless veterans by January 30, 2015.

Why it was Undertaken

Veteran Boot Camps have been an effective tool in several communities across the country as they work to end veteran homelessness. Salt Lake City, Phoenix, and New Orleans are all communities that used this proven tactic and all three of them have declared an end to veteran homelessness. The Boot Camp tactic was an obvious choice to jump start Virginia’s effort to reach the 2015 goal.

Virginia Housing Development Authority Preventing and Ending Veteran Homelessness

Additionally, VHDA realized that organizations would need direct financial support in order to provide emergency housing to veterans identified during this intensive effort. Therefore, the decision to redesign VHDA's Charity Golf Tournament award process was made to allow VHDA to help communities meet immediate housing needs for veterans.

What It Has Accomplished

As of January 30, 2015, 338 veterans were housed and 124 veterans had received a housing voucher or rental assistance and were being assisted in their housing search. This makes a total of 462 veterans assisted, and accounts for nearly 75 percent of the homeless veterans identified in a 2014 statewide point-in-time count.

These outcomes were in large part made possible as a result of the Veterans Boot Camp and the 100 Day Challenge. Additionally, a portion of the proceeds from the 2015 Don Ritenour Charity Golf Tournament will be used to resolve current veteran homelessness through the actions of recipient organizations located throughout the state. In fact, four charities with homeless veterans as a target population were awarded \$20,000 each from the golf tournament for this purpose.

Why It Is Meritorious and Meets NCSHA Judging Criteria

Innovative

The approach taken by Virginia was innovative because a model was applied statewide that previously had only been used at a community level. Stakeholders from across the state collaborated to develop new or renewed approaches to combating veteran homelessness that were implemented during the 100 Day Challenge. Providing support to four charities that include veteran homelessness in their target population and are geographically dispersed across the state further extended VHDA's reach in addressing veteran homelessness.

Replicable

The approach taken by VHDA can be implemented by states across the country by bringing together key players from public housing authorities, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and human services agencies to address hurdles to eliminating veteran homelessness. Additionally, other states can donate proceeds from a golf tournament or similar charity event to organizations that target veteran homelessness.

Respond to an important state housing need

Virginia has established a statewide goal to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. The state is home to several military bases and an increase in the number of veterans living in the state is anticipated in the coming years. Making sure that all of those who served our country have adequate and safe housing is a priority for VHDA, and addressing the needs of our most vulnerable veterans experiencing homelessness is an obligation that we are fully committed to honoring.

Demonstrate measurable benefits to HFA targeted customers

Both the Boot Camp and 100 Day Challenge have been able to demonstrate significant benefits to formerly homeless veterans. Based on the 2014 statewide point-in-time count, nearly 75% of the 620 identified homeless veterans were housed or had either a housing voucher or rental assistance which would be utilized once their assisted housing search was completed.

Have a proven track record of success in the marketplace

2015 marks the 23rd straight year for the VHDA golf tournament, with proceeds provided to charities throughout the state. This year, a total of \$80,000 was provided to four organizations assisting homeless veterans in their target population. Veteran Boot Camps have been an effective tool in several communities across the country as they work to end veteran homelessness. Salt Lake City, Phoenix and New Orleans are all communities that used this proven tactic and all three communities have declared an end to veteran homelessness. The Boot Camp tactic was an

Virginia Housing Development Authority Preventing and Ending Veteran Homelessness

obvious choice to jump start Virginia's effort to reach the 2015 goal. This first year clearly demonstrated success by decreasing veteran homelessness nearly 75% over a period of 100 days, as previously described.

Provide benefits that outweigh costs

Total costs of the Boot Camp were more than \$48,000, of which approximately \$9,700 was funded by VHDA. As a result of those funds spent, 462 veterans had their housing situation addressed. This translates to \$104 spent per veteran so they can have a place to call home. This clearly demonstrates that the benefits provided outweigh the costs.

Demonstrate effective use of resources

Resources were effectively used from the golf tournament, the Boot Camp and the 100 Day Challenge. The annual golf tournament has grown from providing proceeds to one charity in the early years to providing proceeds to as many as eight charities during the last few years. The Boot Camp brought together stakeholders in veteran homelessness from across the Commonwealth to create positive outcomes.

Effectively employ partnerships

A portion of the proceeds from this year's golf tournament went to four charities located across Virginia, demonstrating an effective way to partner with non-profits that have a direct impact on resolving veteran homelessness.

The Boot Camp brought together stakeholders from across the Commonwealth, including public housing authorities, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and human services agencies. The actions of these partners have a direct impact on decreasing veteran homelessness through the wide variety of programs they administer.

Achieve strategic objectives

VHDA's FY2014-2016 Strategic Plan states a desired outcome for VHDA's Community Outreach Division to help strong local partners in addressing the housing needs of their local communities. VHDA has achieved this strategic objective by providing a portion of the 2015 golf tournament proceeds to four charities that address veteran homelessness as a part of their target population and by financially supporting the Boot Camp and resulting 100 Day Challenge.

Conclusion

Virginia's three-pronged approach to addressing veteran homelessness has proven to be very successful. These elements included supporting emergency housing for homeless veterans through VHDA's annual charity golf tournament, as well as underwriting both the statewide Veterans Boot Camp and the costs of the 100 Day Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness in Virginia. The results were phenomenal – as of January 30, 2015, 338 veterans were housed and 124 veterans had received a housing voucher or rental assistance and were being assisted in their housing search. This makes a total of 462 veterans assisted, and accounts for nearly 75 percent of the homeless veterans identified in a 2014 statewide point-in-time count.

In addition, the strengthening of processes and the partnerships created as a result of participation in the Boot Camp will continue to provide leverage in alleviating veteran homelessness in the months and years to come.

Please see attachments below:

Virginia Housing Development Authority
Preventing and Ending Veteran Homelessness



Charities receive proceeds from VHDA’s Charity Golf Tournament every year to fight homelessness and veteran homelessness.



Each year, VHDA's partners participate in the Charity Golf Tournament to support homeless shelters across Virginia.



ANNUAL TOTALS

1993	\$25,000	2005	\$100,000
1994	\$29,000	2006	\$100,000
1995	\$33,000	2007	\$110,000
1996	\$34,000	2008	\$110,000
1997	\$40,000	2009	\$100,000
1998	\$40,000	2010	\$112,500
1999	\$43,000	2011	\$115,000
2000	\$60,000	2012	\$150,000
2001	\$63,000	2013	\$150,000
2002	\$63,000	2014	\$125,000
2003	\$75,000	2015	\$160,000
2004	\$100,000		

Total

\$1,937,500

