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HANO Receives Additional HUD-VASH Allocation to Provide 56 Housing Vouchers for Veterans

New Orleans, LA (May 1, 2015) -- The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) today announced the award of \$447,747 for fiscal year 2015 by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program to fund vouchers for veterans identified in Orleans Parish. HANO will utilize the additional funding to provide 56 housing vouchers to veterans in partnership with the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System.

This award follows an announcement by Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu and First Lady Michelle Obama celebrating the progress achieved nationally to end homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015, and to recognize New Orleans as the first major city to achieve the goal. Mayor Landrieu touted the success of a major coalition led by The City, in partnership with HANO, HUD, the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System, UNITY of Greater New Orleans, the Louisiana Office of Community Development, the U. S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), and the New Orleans Interagency Council on Homelessness (NOICH) to issue more than 200 vouchers through an on-going system of identifying available supportive housing and an expedited leasing process.

“In January, New Orleans became the first major city to answer the President and First Lady’s call to end Veteran homelessness, a year earlier than the federal goal,” Mayor Landrieu said. “Right now, hundreds of leaders across the nation are taking on the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness in 2015, and I am proud that New Orleans is a trailblazer on this important and challenging issue. We know the work of ending Veteran homelessness is never really done because a Veteran could become homeless today or tomorrow. In New Orleans, we have created a new and sustainable rapid response model that combines all available local, state, and federal resources with the work of our local active duty and former military personnel – utilizing Veterans to help Veterans. This model is being replicated nationwide and the HUD-VASH program is essential to our efforts so that we can end Veteran homelessness once and for

all.”

“HANO will continue to prioritize the provision of housing assistance for some of the most vulnerable and well respected citizens of our great city who have sacrificed so much for the safety of our nation,” said HANO Executive Director Gregg Fortner. “We acknowledge our continued partnership with HUD and thank the Department for their commitment to provide much needed funding to continue such programs.”

In 2011 HANO distributed 100 VASH vouchers to veterans identified by Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System aiding the national call to offer clinical assistance to the men and women who served our country. Between 2012 and 2014, HANO’s allocation increased to a total of 265 VASH vouchers available for distribution. The additional 56 vouchers will increase the cumulative allocation to 321, effective June 1, 2015, upon receipt of funding from HUD.

The HUD-VASH program is designed to assist veterans in locating permanent housing through HUD’s rental assistance program and connects them with services at the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers in the community. The eligible veterans will be identified by the VA, and referred to HANO to determine their final income eligibility and to assist in locating suitable housing.

For more information on the HUD-VASH program, visit www.hud.gov or www.hano.org.

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