



VETERAN SERVICES DIVISION

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Fact Sheet

Homeless Veteran Program

California Department of Veterans Affairs

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Thomas Johnson, FACHE
Secretary

Roger Brautigan
Undersecretary

Ted Puntillo
Deputy Secretary
Veteran Services

Stan Opegard
Deputy Secretary
Veterans Homes

Barbara Ward
Deputy Secretary
Women and Minority
Veterans

J.P. Tremblay
Deputy Secretary
External Affairs

Robert Wilson
Deputy Secretary
Legal Affairs

Customer Call Center
1.800.952.5626
Website: www.cdva.ca.gov

- The California Department of Veteran Affairs (CDVA) is the State's point of contact for government agencies, community-based organizations, and California Stand Downs for matters pertaining to homeless veterans. The CDVA staff communicates information, conducts outreach to, and assists nonprofit community-based organizations assist homeless veterans: generates public awareness of the issue of homeless veterans and provides resource referrals to homeless veterans.
- National estimated veteran population: 23,539,470. California's estimated veteran population: 2,131,939 (9.1% of the national population).
- National estimated homeless veteran population: 190,000. California's estimated homeless veteran population 49,000.
- In 2002, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) introduced a new initiative called the "Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness." Communities around the nation were asked to support the development of a comprehensive plan that would focus on ending chronic homelessness. Since the initiative's start, some regions have chosen to widen the scope of chronic homelessness to all homeless. Many California cities and counties have been preparing 10 year plans to end homelessness.
- In 2002, the CDVA began to annually make discretionary funds available through grants for Stand Down events to provide services such as food; shelter; clothing; health screenings; State, USDVA and Social Security benefits counseling; and referrals to a variety of other necessary services such as housing, employment and substance abuse treatment. CDVA awarded \$45,000. in grants to assist communities with veteran stand downs.
- The Vietnam Veterans of San Diego organized the first Stand Down in 1988. Since then, Stand Down events have been used as an effective tool in reaching out to hundreds of homeless veterans at every event. Since 2002, the number of Stand Down events increased, reaching 18 this year. To view the 2009 Stand Down Schedule, visit: www.cdva.ca.gov/homeless/standdown09.asp.
- As a result of Governor Schwarzenegger's initiative to open employment and education avenues for veterans, many Honor a Hero Hire a Vet Job and Resource Fairs are being held throughout California. These are held in partnership with the CDVA and other State agencies to create opportunities for veterans to meet with employers who are ready to hire, educate, train and provide apprenticeships for veterans. For a complete listing of resource fairs, visit: www.edd.ca.gov/eddjobfairevents.asp.
- Nearly every county in California has a resource list of community-based organizations or government agencies that may provide assistance to homeless Veterans. There are over 460 agencies providing shelter of all types for veterans. Visit: www.cdva.ca.gov/homeless/resources09.asp
- www.baha.org The Bay Area Homeless Alliance (BAHA) website, a collaboration of greater San Francisco Bay Area service agencies contains information for ten counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma.