



WASHINGTON STATE  
HOUSING FINANCE  
COMMISSION

*Opening doors to a better life*

Karen Miller  
*Chair*

Kim Herman  
*Executive Director*

December 31, 2015

Dear Housing Partner:

I am writing to you today to ask for your partnership to address a critical housing need in our region. Returning veterans are experiencing a homelessness crisis in our community. Too many of them do not have a place to call home after returning from their service to our country. Both the King County Executive and the Seattle Mayor have identified ending homelessness among veterans a priority this year, echoing the national goal of ending homelessness among our military veterans. The recent declaration of a State of Emergency for Homelessness further highlights this crisis. Elsewhere in the US, communities are reaching this goal and we are asking you, our housing partners, to join the challenge locally.

The men and women who are eligible for veterans programs have all stepped up to serve and defend our country. After their service, they deserve a place to call home. With your support, we can meet the goal of ending homelessness among King County veterans.

Working in collaboration with the United States Departments of Veterans' Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, our local housing authorities administer 900 Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to homeless veterans and their families. In addition to rental subsidies, eligible veterans also receive case management and ongoing supportive services from the VA Puget Sound Health Care System. This targeted voucher program provides the necessary combination of rental assistance and services to achieve and sustain housing stability.

Ending veteran homelessness is achievable, but your assistance is needed. Veterans who receive a VASH voucher must find a willing landlord to rent to them. The benefits to participating landlords include: fair market value for rental units; stabilized occupancy rates; stable operating income through guaranteed, timely rent payments; and expedited initial unit inspection, plus ongoing annual inspections to ensure housing is adequately maintained. We know that many of you are already renting to veterans and we thank you for doing so but we wanted to call this important effort to your attention in case you can do a little more.

Please join this important effort to house homeless veterans at your property. For more information about housing veterans or to list a unit in the city of Seattle, please contact Liz Morris of Seattle Housing Authority at [Elizabeth.morris@seattlehousing.org](mailto:Elizabeth.morris@seattlehousing.org) or 206-239-1626. To list a unit in King County, please contact Jim Green of King County Housing Authority at [jamesg@kcha.org](mailto:jamesg@kcha.org) or 206-957-2257.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation in this worthy effort!

Sincerely,  
Kim Herman