

Military Family Support Working Group
Grant to End Veteran Homelessness
Q4 2018

GRANT DESCRIPTION

Funding

Grant by the Military Family Support Working Group with funding from The Parker Foundation, Rancho Santa Fe Foundation, May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, USS Midway Foundation, Funders Together to End Homelessness San Diego

Goal

Through this grant MFSWG will support solutions to ensure veterans in San Diego County have one-on-one navigation of the system to more quickly and effectively help them be matched with and given access to housing that matches their needs.

Background

The Military Family Support Working Group (MFSWG) is a funder collaboration facilitated by San Diego Grantmakers that focuses on helping military families in San Diego County with the difficult transition from active duty to civilian status. In 2017 MFSWG added a focus on ending homelessness among all veterans.

MFSWG believes that a regional approach to ending homelessness that emphasizes Housing First principles and utilizes the Coordinated Entry System for data management is most effective. There are more than 100 agencies in San Diego working to address issues related to homelessness, and five agencies working with the federal Veterans Administration through Supportive Services for Veteran Families that focus specifically on ending veteran homelessness in San Diego. Based on information shared by national and local experts, MFSWG understands that the system to access services can be complex and difficult to navigate. We also understand that while numerous veterans have requested services and possess housing vouchers, the limited capacity of agencies to support them presents a systemic barrier to their access to housing.

GRANTEES – DESCRIPTION AND QUOTES

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES (\$50,000)

Contact: **Jennifer Handy** | Grant Writer
Work Cell 760.546.8948

Interfaith Community Services | 550 West Washington Avenue | Escondido, CA 92025
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Description of funded work: With the support of the San Diego Grantmaker's Military Family Support Working Group, and extensive experience navigating the homeless system and strong relationships with the local VA and other veteran's service providers, Interfaith Community Services provides both programming and systems navigation to homeless veterans. By adding a Housing Stability Case Manager solely focused on moving veterans from homelessness to secure, permanent housing, and working with each veteran from point of entry, Interfaith will significantly impact the veteran homeless community.

Quotes:

"I lived at the Aster Street apartments as a child, so giving back and volunteering where I lived so long ago meant the world to me," **said Silvia**, a Verisk 3E "Volunteer Week" participant. "It was the second place I lived coming to the United States. My mother passed away shortly after, so going back and serving the community where she lived made it special to me. Interfaith has done a great job at making these apartments look wonderful – especially the garden! I am looking forward to going back next year and the year after that."

PATH SAN DIEGO (\$50,000)

Contact: MELISSA KHAMVONGSA
Senior Director of Institutional Giving
T: (323) 644-2211

Description of funded work: PATH's Veterans Housing Navigator will engage with Veterans living in interim housing and provide individualized support in navigating housing and military benefits systems to connect them to permanent homes.

Quotes:

For Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness, accessing services and navigating the complexities of the homeless system is challenging. Sometimes an opportunity for housing is just within grasp when unforeseeable barriers make the dream of having a home again out of reach. The Veterans Housing Navigator position is crucial to help homeless Veterans finally make it home.

- Jonathan Castillo, PATH San Diego Regional Director

I was having trouble holding down a job because of my disability and became homeless. My case manager at PATH helped coach me and found me a job that works for me. And he helped me find an apartment that I could afford with my benefits from the VA. PATH cared about me and changed my life.

- Mr. H., 56 year-old Navy Veteran and PATH Client