

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
November 18, 2025

Creating Framework to Ending Veteran Homelessness in Los Angeles County by 2028

On January 10, 2023, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) declared a local emergency on homelessness, acknowledging both the scale and urgency of the crisis its scale and urgency. This was followed by a February 7, 2023 directive instructing the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA), in coordination with the Chief Executive Office (CEO), to examine barriers impacting the County's ability to serve veterans experiencing homelessness. The intent was not simply to study the issue, but to begin addressing the systemic inefficiencies and institutional siloes that have long hindered efforts to reach and support unhoused veterans, initiating a process focused on breaking through bureaucratic fragmentation and creating a coordinated, accountable, and responsive system. The goal is to dismantle systemic inefficiencies and siloes and to build a coordinated, accountable, and responsive system.

The MVA and CEO engaged state and federal partners — including CalVet and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) — to improve coordination, streamline services, and expand access to housing. The process confirmed that fragmentation in service delivery remains a major obstacle. Unhoused veterans face compounding challenges: service-related trauma, mental health conditions, disabilities, and administrative barriers.

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These challenges are worsened by inconsistent program eligibility, uncoordinated entry points, and lack of essential documentation — resulting in avoidable delays.

These barriers are especially acute for Black and Latino veterans concentrated in economically disadvantaged areas. According to the 2023 American Community Survey's (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, communities like Compton Community College District (CCD), Inglewood CCD, and South Gate-East Los Angeles CCD report veteran unemployment rates of 6.5% to over 9%, poverty rates up to 17.6%, and disability rates as high as 35.9%. These areas are also underserved by VA medical centers and ambulatory care services, limiting access for low-income, transit-dependent veterans.

In response, MVA joined the VA's One Team initiative — a pilot program designed to eliminate siloes through coordinated action. The VA and MVA aligned stakeholders, housing staff, and service providers to accelerate placements. Since launch of the pilot program, permanent housing placements increased by 43% and veteran homelessness decreased by 22.9%, with the number of unhoused veterans dropping from 3,878 in 2023 to 2,991 in 2024. The MVA recently issued a press release highlighting the additional unhoused veterans decrease of 10% in 2025.

With the passage of Proposition 1 and Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) reform, California now has dedicated funds to support housing for veterans with mental health and substance use challenges. Measure A has further galvanized momentum, prompting the Los Angeles County Veteran Advisory Commission to formally request Board support for MVA's homelessness strategy.

To sustain progress, coordination must extend beyond VA eligible housing. Employment and healthcare access are critical — especially in communities where

economic exclusion and limited care define veteran life. Veterans lacking meaningful employment or affordable healthcare are at heightened risk for chronic homelessness.

Significant strides have been made through America's Job Centers of California (AJCC), who offers employment services through more than 15 federal, state, and local programs. In 2017, LA County established a dedicated Veterans AJCC at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall. A new pilot is co-locating County workforce services at the West LA VA Medical Center, bringing AJCC staff onsite to streamline access to employment, training, and support.

Still, the County must further align employment programs with housing, health, and mental health systems. Opportunities exist to expand outreach and uptake of economic mobility services, including entrepreneurship and small business support.

A centralized County-level approach is essential to align employment programs under a veteran-focused framework that complements state and federal efforts. County investments should fill gaps where eligibility exclusions or access barriers prevent veterans from receiving assistance.

Throughout this process, MVA has worked to align its internal structure and resources. Their May 30, 2023 report to the Board identified opportunities to better coordinate systems — such as using County-owned properties for veteran housing, centralizing intake, and standardizing veteran status documentation. The plan also called for aligning employment and housing services to close eligibility gaps.

Veteran homelessness remains a critical issue. The ~~2024~~ 2025 Point-in-Time count indicated there were ~~2,994~~ 3,050 unhoused veterans and LAHSA's by name list identified ~~4,530~~ 1,537 unhoused veterans. With the County's emergency declaration and early pilot results, we know progress is possible by combining a coordinated strategy, MVA

leadership, and better use of existing tools, ending veteran homelessness by 2028 is achievable.

County systems must reinforce — not compete with — state and federal programs. By centering coordination around MVA, aligning systems and funding, and holding partners accountable, the County can ensure no veteran is left behind.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- ~~1. Direct the Director of the Department of Homeless Services and Housing (HSH) to collaborate with the Director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) to establish a responsive system that effectively serves veterans in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders;~~
1. Direct the Director of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) to ensure:
 - a. In collaboration with Chief Executive Office (CEO) and County Counsel, develop and recommend County-sponsored legislative or regulatory changes to remove systemic barriers and enhance service access for veterans experiencing homelessness;
 - b. Partner with California Department of Veteran Affairs (CalVet) and key stakeholders to pursue equitable allocation of Proposition 1 funds, informed by the housing needs and resources available for this population, and ensure targeted investments in housing, behavioral health, and employment supports for veterans.
2. Grant delegated authority to the Director of MVA, in coordination with Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), to pursue and execute a collaborative case management agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to enable self-referral to the Department of Housing and Urban Development – HUD Veterans Affairs

Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program or any federal program aimed at addressing veterans experiencing homelessness;

a. The agreement shall authorize MVA and its contracted partners to make direct referrals to HUD-VASH and deliver coordinated housing navigation in partnership with VA housing staff;

i. Execution of the agreement and any necessary amendments shall be reviewed and approved by County Counsel;

b. MVA and LACDA shall establish a standardized HUD-VASH exit reason dataset across all local housing authorities;

i. Support consistent data collection, improve retention analysis, and drive system-level adjustments aimed at reducing returns to homelessness among veterans;

3. Direct the Director of the Department of Homelessness Services and Housing (HSH), Director of MVA, Director of the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in coordination with relevant County departments responsible for housing policy and development, in consultation with the US Department of Veterans Affairs, to report back in writing within 180 days with a countywide strategy to end veteran homelessness;

a. Provide a framework of the plan that ensures access and alignment across systems and jurisdictions and clearly details the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder;

b. Provide recommendations, in coordination with the Departments of Mental Health and Public Health, to address non-VA eligible veterans experiencing homelessness with behavioral health and substance use needs;

- ~~b. Assess opportunities to secure additional funding to support ending veteran homelessness including, but not limited to, HomeKey+, Proposition 1 to expand housing and services for veterans;~~
 - ~~i. Prioritize models that reduce administrative overhead, increase access, and eliminate redundancy in service delivery;~~
 - ~~ii. Provide recommendations, in coordination with the Departments of Mental Health and Public Health, to address non-VA eligible veterans experiencing homelessness with behavioral health and substance use needs;~~
- ~~c. Recommend a countywide strategy for coordinated entry that aligns VA, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), housing authorities, Continuum of Care Programs (CoCs), and city jurisdictions under a unified veteran referral and engagement system;~~
- c. Recommend opportunities for ~~to~~ scale peer navigation, housing stabilization, and transportation services for veterans across all regions of the County, with needs assessments and existing resources that can be leveraged, informed by geographic data, veteran demographics, and housing gaps;
- d. To use and further ~~Develop~~ develop existing metrics and targets aligned to federal, state, and local funding requirements, with a phased implementation structure that allows for quarterly progress reviews and mid-course corrections;
 - i. The Chief Information Officer (CIO) shall lead the development of veteran-specific data governance standards and performance metrics in consultation with HSH and MVA to ensure alignment and accountability across systems;

5. Direct the CEO-Real Estate Division, the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), and MVA to conduct an inventory and assessment of County-owned sites suitable for veteran housing development;
 - a. The assessment shall include potential alignment with HomeKey+, Proposition 1, or other capital investment opportunities;
 - i. Any potential HomeKey+ efforts shall require collaboration with the respective Supervisorial District to ensure proper engagement with relevant jurisdictions;
 - b. The assessment shall also include an analysis of existing veteran housing and the occupancy rates of each development, an assessment of available tenant-based resources, and an analysis of where veterans want to live but are unable to access housing to inform the regions of LA County in need of more veteran-specific housing units;
6. Direct MVA₁ and LAHSA, and (HSH), in partnership with the VA, to develop a real-time veteran-specific dashboard and by-name list; the dashboard shall serve as a centralized tool to support coordinated case management, housing navigation, and cross-agency resource planning with a report back in 180 days;
- ~~7. Direct the Director of MVA in coordination with Director of HSH to create a funding framework to support the long-term sustainability of the County's veteran homelessness strategy;~~
8. Direct MVA to evaluate and report back within 120 days on opportunities to establish a veteran logistics ~~and outreach center~~, developed through public-private partnership, to support ~~engagement~~, fulfillment of basic needs, storage and distribution of donations, and emergency accommodations for veterans with pets;

- a. The evaluation shall include operational planning, site location analysis, nonprofit and private-sector funding collaboration options, and integration into the broader County homelessness infrastructure;
 - ~~b. In collaboration with the Center for Strategic Partnerships, explore philanthropic and cross-sector investment opportunities to enhance housing navigation and wraparound services for veterans.~~
9. Delegate authority to MVA, with input from HSH, to procure and hire, a consultant or technical assistance provider to support the development of a comprehensive framework to end veteran homelessness in the County;
 - a. The consultant's scope of work shall be jointly designed by MVA and HSH, while providing other relevant departments the opportunity to review and offer feedback on components affecting their department;
10. Direct CEO to identify opportunities, outside of Measure A, to recommend funding options to support the work required to develop and implement the framework to end veteran homelessness;
11. Direct the Directors of the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, and Public Health to report back to the Board in 120 days on the County's process of billing the VA and seeking reimbursement for providing health care and services for VA Healthcare eligible veterans.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), in collaboration with the ~~Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA)~~, to report back in writing within 180 days with an assessment and recommendations on the DEO's ongoing work and strategic plan of workforce modernization that has set targets for specialized

populations including veterans and veterans experiencing homelessness for developing a ~~Countywide Veterans Employment and Economic Mobility Strategy~~ that is ~~fully aligned with the broader veteran centralization and veteran homelessness~~ response;

- a. The report shall include a full accounting of existing workforce and employment funding streams (including Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Employment Development Department (EDD), and American Job Center of California (AJCC) programs) and assess gaps, overlaps, and areas for veteran-specific alignment including immediate opportunities across WIOA, ~~Measure A~~, and philanthropic sources to sustain veteran workforce initiatives. DEO and MVA shall assess feasibility of co-locating AJCC services at veteran-serving hubs in high-need regions such as Inglewood, Compton, and South Gate-East Los Angeles, with priority given to culturally responsive staffing and peer mentorship, and a recommended model that strengthens housing and employment service integration and outcomes for veterans. Evaluate sector-based training partnerships with trade unions, community colleges, and apprenticeship programs and recommend scalable models for connecting underserved veterans to living-wage employment in high-growth industries with career advancement opportunities.
- b. Include performance tracking recommendations, alignment with the veteran dashboard, and governance models to ensure integration with the County's broader housing and economic mobility efforts and ensure AJCC service data is integrated into the veteran dashboard to track employment outcomes, credential attainment, sector placements, and wage progression.

- c. Assess opportunities to further entrepreneurship, small business and other economic mobility services to support employment and wealth generation for veterans.

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