



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System**  
**11301 Wilshire Boulevard**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90073**

The Department of Veterans Affairs Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLA) has made ending Veteran homelessness a top priority. Immediate changes are being implemented across homeless services to increase access, capacity, and minimize the time a Veteran is homeless. These changes will improve housing and healthcare engagement to dramatically increase successful outcomes for Veterans.

- 1. HIMS Access:** Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data on the provision of housing and services to individuals and their families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. In Los Angeles, the Home for Good initiative has been utilizing HMIS as a critical component to the Coordinated Entry System. To enhance collaboration and coordination with community partners, effective immediately, the VA will have read-only access to HMIS. VA staff and all VA funded providers will be provided HMIS training. The VA will continue to explore additional opportunities with HMIS to include the possibility of direct entry into HMIS.
- 2. Housing and Urban Development VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Expanded Focus:** HUD-VASH is a collaborative program between HUD and VA where eligible Veterans receive Housing Choice or Project Based Section 8 vouchers while VA provides outreach, case management, and supportive services to promote housing stability and recovery. Now, both VA and VASH contract agencies will expand their focus from serving only chronically homeless Veterans to include:
  - Elderly homeless Veterans with disabilities;
  - Female Veterans with dependents;
  - Veterans with co-occurring disorders who have not been stabilized with less intense levels of support.

Direct referrals may be made to VASH or Service Provider Area (SPA) teams as well as VASH contract agencies.

- 3. Addition of Bridge Housing:** The primary goal of bridge housing is to provide immediate housing and rapid engagement to permanent housing solutions, healthcare, and other supports as needed. At the West Los Angeles VA Campus, 77 beds are in the process of being converted to Bridge Housing. This will ensure Veterans are rapidly connected to safe housing and healthcare as they ultimately transition to permanent housing and long-term care plans. Veterans may be placed in bridge housing on a walk-in basis.

For more information, please view Attachment 1- Bridge Housing Resources.

- 4. Expanded hours for Building 402, Comprehensive Veterans Service Center:** Building 402, located near the main hospital on the West Los Angeles VA campus, is now open from 6:00am until 8:00pm Monday through Friday to expand primary care for homeless Veterans and assist with outreach, housing identification and placement.

For more information, please contact Angira Jhaveri at 310-478-3711 extension 47790.

- 5. VA Homeless programs staff are active members of Coordinated Entry System (CES) SPA teams:** GLA Homeless programs are participating in CES virtual huddles in an effort to streamline the referral and placement process. We encourage all community partners to join the Greater Los Angeles Veteran Surge Efforts and to continually visit the websites below for up-to-date information.

For more information, please visit <http://ceslosangeles.weebly.com/veteran-surge.html> and <http://homeforgoodla.org/about-us/>.

Ending Veteran homelessness is only possible with collaboration between VA and community partners. Together, we will continue to address the needs of our most vulnerable heroes and provide them with employment assistance, quality healthcare, substance abuse treatment, and other resources necessary to obtain and maintain housing stability. We thank you for your continued support in ending Veteran homelessness.

Attachment 1- Bridge Housing Resources

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Beds</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
VA Greater Los Angeles Domiciliary Building 216, 217 Los Angeles, CA 90073	30	Wendy Talley: 310-478-3711 ext. 43105
New Directions for Veterans Accelerated Rehousing Center 11301 Wilshire Boulevard Building 116 Los Angeles, CA 90073	20	310-914-4045
US Vets Inglewood 733 S. Hindry Avenue Inglewood, CA 90301	20	Angela Givens: 310-912-4272 Kevin Kinsey (afterhours): 310-863-5837
Volunteers of America Ballington 622 Wall Street Los Angeles, CA 90014	10	Jim Zenner: 213-220-6102
Salvation Army		Karen Guillmeno: 310-478-3711 ext. 48762 Michael Moore: 310-478-3711 ext. 41005 310-478-3711 ext. 44360