



Housing Authority of Cook County

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF COOK COUNTY HONORS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL THANK YOU BREAKFAST & CUBS HATS

Helping Veterans Transition to Permanent Housing Remains a Top Priority

Cook County – Today the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) reiterated its commitment to end homelessness among Veterans and honored 72 veterans during an appreciation breakfast at Freedom's Path Housing, an affordable housing community located on the Hines VA Campus. The breakfast was attended by HACC staff, Freedom's Path management and veteran residents.

In 2015, the HACC joined Communities for Veterans as it officially opened Freedom's Path under the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program and provided 72 project based vouchers to keep veterans housed. Since 2008, the HACC's HUD-VASH Program has assisted more than 500 Veterans transition to permanent housing. VASH combines rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs



Veterans enjoy breakfast and Cubs hats provided the HACC

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Veterans Day Thanks

“No veteran deserves to be homeless and we are honored to be here this morning to show our appreciation to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Today, more than 400 veterans and their families have been housed through the program and we remain committed to helping these forgotten heroes rebuild a life of stability so that they can achieve a better quality of life,” said HACC Executive Director Richard Monocchio.

In advance of Veterans Day, the HACC staff served breakfast from the Club Room at Freedom’s Path to the veteran residents and presented each veteran with an official Cubs World Series cap.

More than 1.5 million households headed by a veteran spend more than half of their income on housing costs. For low income veterans and their families, this means they may be one paycheck or emergency away from being homeless. In 2011, there were more than 20 million veterans in the U.S. making up 9% of the total population.

The HACC is working with the VA Hospital to identify resources and develop strategies for rapid rehousing. Plans are underway to allocate more project based vouchers for veteran housing within the coming year.

Federal officials have given Illinois nearly \$1.3 million to help find permanent housing for hundreds of homeless veterans in the state. The funding comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



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