

Quarterly Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes - September 22, 2022

In attendance: Shaundell Diaz, Three County CoC, Michael Hagmaier, Soldier On, Andy Klatka, Eliot Services, Michele La Fleur, Three County Coc, Pamela Schwartz, Network, Uri Strauss, Kate Sweetster-Owens, Community Legal Aid, Sue White

The meeting focused on learning about the new state and federal resources now available to veterans.

- **New state dollars:** \$500,000 in new veteran resources via Soldier On that will focus on Holyoke but be available to all of Western MA. Expanded eligibility to veterans who served in the National Guard and are reservists (and all but dishonorable discharge). Funds can provide a broad range of support services, from transportation to legal services to wellness planning. Hiring 2 case managers and peer support. Will be conducting extensive outreach and planning for a large outreach event. To contact call: 888-720-5575.
- **New federal dollars:** expanded Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF) that will now serve veterans with income up to 80% of Area Median Income (previously 30%). Funds are paying for a housing navigator who will be embedded with HUD/VASH; landlord and veteran incentives and flex funds for household items and more. For SSVF call: 866-406-8449
- See quick links from Soldier On here: [Soldier On Brochure on State Funds](#); [Apartment ad flyer](#); [SSVF Poster](#); [SSVF brochure](#) ; [Home and Credit brochure](#)
- Also funding for veterans with highest medical needs to provide an assisted living type service provided by medical professionals - recognition of aging population. Nurse, CNA, OT, peer specialist. Agawam, Leeds, Pittsfield. Pilot program here

Additionally: funding is available for veterans with highest medical needs to provide an assisted living level of service from professional staff (nurse, CNA, OT, peer specialist). This pilot project is happening in properties in Agawam, Leeds and Pittsfield.

All noted the exceptional partnerships between Soldier On and HUD/VASH and VSOs and other community partners. All extremely promising for ending veteran homelessness!

Next quarterly meeting: Thursday, December 15, 2pm - 3 pm