

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 8

**SUBJECT: STRENGTHENING EMERGENCY HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

Veteran homelessness remains a deeply pressing issue in San Diego County, which is home to one of the largest concentrations of military personnel and veterans in the United States. With more than 240,000 veterans living in the region, San Diego carries a distinct responsibility to ensure that those who have bravely served our nation are fully supported as they transition to civilian life. Yet for too many veterans, this transition is marked by challenges in securing stable housing, accessing healthcare, and connecting to critical support services.

While the County has made important strides in reducing homelessness among veterans, there continues to be a significant need for focused, sustained efforts. Veterans are still at disproportionate risk of falling into homelessness, often due to a combination of behavioral health conditions, economic hardship, and the breakdown of support networks that once existed during military service. These compounding issues require solutions that are both immediate and tailored to the veteran experience.

Today's action proposes exploring the feasibility of a targeted pilot program that would increase the number of Regional Housing Assistance Program (RHAP) beds specifically dedicated to homeless veterans. This initiative also includes evaluating enhanced funding options for associated services such as case management, behavioral health support, and rental assistance.

By increasing RHAP capacity to serve veterans, the County can provide more direct, dependable pathways out of homelessness-supporting long-term stability and reaffirming our commitment to honor and care for those who served.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back in 90 days on the feasibility of a pilot program expanding the Regional Housing Assistance Program to add beds for homeless veterans in the unincorporated area, including the number of beds needed, projected costs, and potential funding sources.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Increasing RHAP capacity to serve veterans ensures equitable access to emergency housing for those facing unique challenges from their military service. Veterans are more likely to experience mental health issues, substance use, and limited support networks. Targeted resources help meet these needs and build trust in public systems. With a 26% drop in veteran homelessness shown in the 2025 PIT Count, focused interventions are proving effective. Setting aside RHAP beds will sustain this momentum and embed equity in housing access.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Increasing RHAP capacity to serve veterans experiencing homelessness supports the County of San Diego's sustainability goals by promoting access to housing and improving health and social well-being for those who have served in the military. By reducing barriers to emergency shelter and connecting veterans to supportive services, this initiative contributes to a more resilient, inclusive, and responsive community that upholds the health, dignity, and long-term stability of all residents.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years required for the purpose of creating the report as described. There may be fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval. The projected number of beds, associated costs, and potential funding sources including possible impact on net General Fund cost will be listed in the report and will inform any future staff recommendations.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Desmond, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

