



HONORING VETERANS WITH SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

VETERANS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT

WHY CALIFORNIA VETERANS NEED THE \$4 BILLION VETERANS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT

Veterans are bearing the brunt of California's affordable housing and homelessness crisis in which many people are spending as much as 50% of their incomes on housing and 1 in 3 Californians are unable to afford their rents.



- California has 24% of the national veteran population that is homeless, the largest share of any state.
- Many veterans suffer medical and psychological conditions that make it difficult to find and maintain gainful employment and pay for housing. According to the California Department of Veterans Affairs:
 - 55% of homeless veterans suffer from mental health issues, along with high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury
 - 70% are affected by substance abuse issues
 - 40% of female homeless veterans report severe forms of mental illness, often related to military sexual trauma
- Veteran households headed by a person of color, female and those with a disability are more likely to face additional housing cost burdens than other servicemembers.
- Homelessness among women and veterans from Operations Enduring Freedom, Freedom's Sentinel, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn is projected to significantly increase over the next 10 years, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans.

WHAT THE ACT DOES TO BUILD SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR CALIFORNIANS

- Dedicates \$1 billion to the CalVet Home Loan Program, providing below market interest rate loans to help veterans buy safe, affordable homes.
- Dedicates \$1.5 billion to the Multifamily Housing Program, \$150 million for the Transit-Oriented Development Program, and \$300 million for the Infill Infrastructure Grant Program, to build and preserve affordable housing for low-income individuals and families, including supportive housing.
- Helps veterans live near health, education and veterans services helping them keep medical and counseling appointments, increase opportunities for job training and support them as they age with dignity among other servicemembers.

CONTACT

David Koenig (DavidJKoenig@gmail.com) for information on how you and your organization can formally endorse the Act, participate in outreach opportunities and contribute to the campaign to build affordable housing in California.

[VETSANDAFFORDABLEHOUSINGACT.ORG](https://vetsandaffordablehousingact.org)

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