

THE SUN VETERANS

Loma Linda apartment complex OK'd for homeless, low-income veterans

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The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved an 88-unit apartment complex in Loma Linda for low income and homeless veterans, which will be built near the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center.

Loma Linda Vets will offer 40 1-bedroom, 30 2-bedroom, and 18 3-bedroom apartments to veterans and their families, plus one 2-bedroom manager's unit. The complex will also include a community area, barbecue grills, a children's play area, a community room and a community garden. It will be built a quarter of a mile from the VA hospital.

Last year, the Board of Supervisors set a goal to end veteran homelessness in the county by Dec. 31, 2015. Though the county did not plan to disclose whether it met its goal until [Jan. 21](#), board Chairman James Ramos announced Tuesday that the county did in fact meet its goal.

"Last year, we achieved the goal of housing 100 percent of the county's homeless veterans," Ramos said in a statement. "We are very proud of this accomplishment and we will continue to search for funding opportunities to bring more services and more housing units like Loma Linda Vets, to our county's homeless veterans and their families."

Los Angeles-based Meta Housing Corporation will build the complex in partnership with the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, VA Loma Linda Healthcare System, and Volunteers of America, a faith-based nonprofit that provides affordable housing and other services to low income people.

In July, the Board of Supervisors approved the [implementation of a strategy](#) to permanently house all of the county's homeless veterans, 401 at the time, by the end of 2015. Within two months, more than half of the county's homeless veterans had been placed in permanent housing.

On Jan. 28, hundreds of volunteers will fan out across the county for the point-in-time homeless count, now an annual event. [Last year's homeless count](#) revealed that the homeless population in the county dropped by 8 percent since 2013, but the count also revealed that 25 families with a combined total of 58 children were among the 1,302 homeless people counted.

Volunteers are still being sought for the Jan. 28 point-in-time homeless count. Anyone interested in volunteering can sign up on the San Bernardino County Homeless Counts website: sanbernardinocountyhomelesscounts.com