



For Immediate Release

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LOCAL NONPROFITS RECEIVE \$1.9 MILLION TO END HOMELESSNESS
Renewal Funding will continue to Help House Veterans

(San Bernardino, CA) Yesterday, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced awards of approximately \$300 million in grants through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program aimed at providing services to very low-income Veteran families living in – or transitioning to – permanent housing.

Knowledge and Education for Your Success, Inc. (KEYS), is one of the three Inland Empire nonprofits awarded this grant. KEYS received \$619,134, and its community partners U.S. Veterans Initiative received \$744,804 and Lighthouse Treatment Center received \$565,284. The renewal funding for these agencies will help reach even more homeless veterans in San Bernardino County.

Under the grants, homeless providers offer Veterans and their family members outreach, case management, assistance in obtaining VA benefits and other public benefits. KEYS and its partners offer temporary financial assistance for rent and utility payments, security deposits and moving expenses.

Last year thanks to the SSVF funding, KEYS served almost 150 chronically or at risk homeless individuals. "In order to assist homeless veterans, we've gone into homeless encampments, meet veterans on the street, taken calls from all over the county – whatever it takes to help those men and women who served our country. We have an amazing team of partners and are working together to make this happen" states Maureen O'Keefe Hodge, KEYS Executive Director.

This grant provides a range of services that promote housing stability among very low income Veteran families. "The work of SSVF grantees has already helped thousands of homeless Veterans and their families find homes and thousands more have been able to stay in their own homes" states Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald.

KEYS also contributed to the launch of the local 1,000 Homes Campaign – which is part of the national effort “100,000 Homes Campaign” to end homelessness. This local effort to house every homeless Veteran in stable housing includes several local nonprofits, government agencies and others like the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino.

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Knowledge and Education for Your Success (KEYS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established to empower low-income families to unlock their potential for success. By providing individual case management, KEYS will connect low-income families to existing high quality services and programs in their communities. For more information, please visit www.keysnonprofit.org.