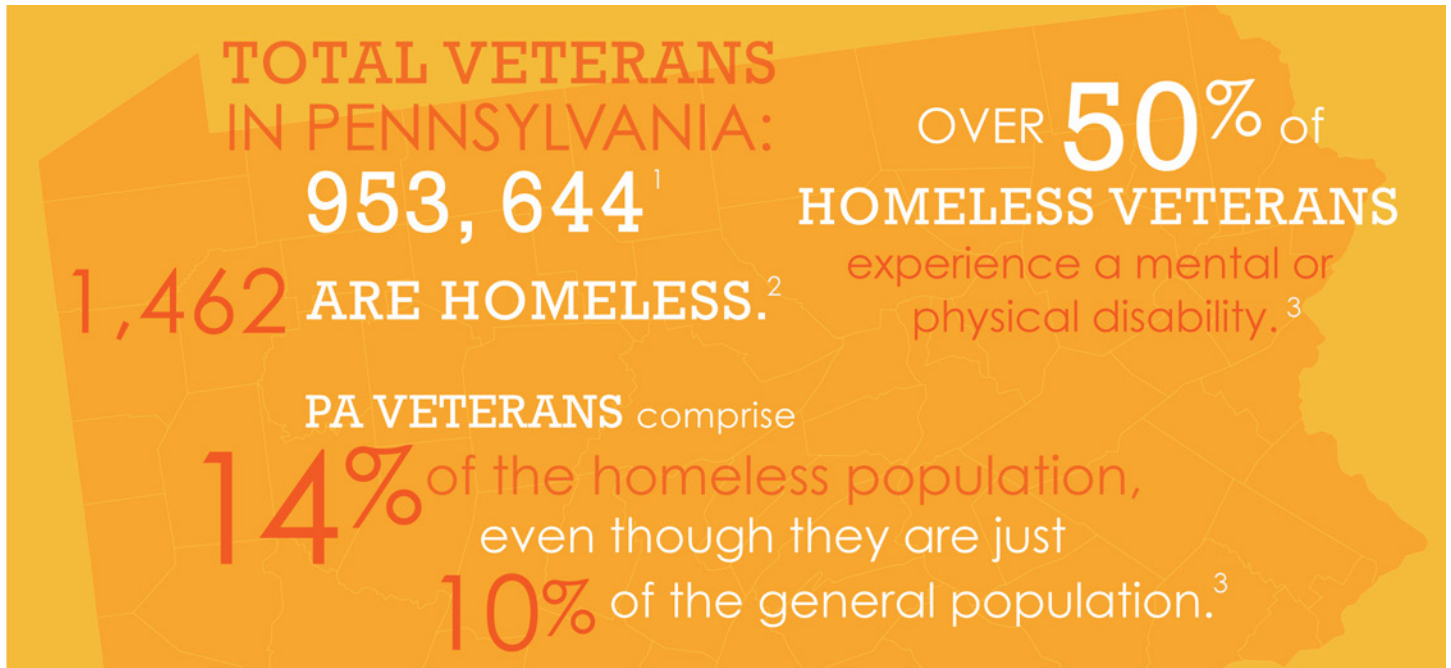


Housing Veterans



Veterans face unique challenges in securing stable and affordable housing.

Regional Housing Legal Services (RHLS) works to address these unique challenges by providing legal assistance to nonprofits developing affordable housing with veterans' needs in mind. Further, RHLS advocates for resources to create more affordable, supportive housing opportunities for those who have served our country.

The number of veterans experiencing homelessness is growing. With physical and mental injuries often resulting from their service, homeless veterans have complex needs that can only be addressed through supportive housing.

Data sources:

1. www.va.gov/vetdata/veteran_population.asp
2. www.nchv.org/index.php/connect/story/location
3. www.huduser.org/portal/periodicals/em/summer12/highlight1.html
4. www.huduser.org/portal/periodicals/em/summer12/highlight1.html

Innovative solutions are required for complex challenges:

25%

increase in demand for veterans services with the return of soldiers from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, as reported by RHLS partners

20%

of newly returning soldiers have a traumatic brain injury⁴

10–18%

of newly returning soldiers suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder⁴



The Impact Services Veterans and Family Housing Center will provide 26 units of housing in the Kensington section of Philadelphia. Rendering by Kramer+Marks Architects.

Policy

Neighborhood Assistance Program:

RHLS worked with a number of allied organizations to successfully advocate for the creation of a Special Program Priority for veterans in the Neighborhood Assistance Program ("NAP"). This success will increase funding opportunities for projects serving veterans. RHLS continues to advocate for ways to make NAP better able to serve veterans.

Low-Income Housing Tax Credits: RHLS and its partners successfully advocated for changes to the state's plan for allocating Low-Income Housing Tax Credits that made the program more amenable to supportive housing projects and resulted in a tripling of the funding provided to supportive housing projects funded on an annual basis.

Development Services

Impact Veterans Family Center: The Impact Veterans Family Center (IVFC) provides 26 units of affordable rental housing to veterans and their families. The IVFC, developed by Impact Services is located in a renovated former factory next to the organization's headquarters, where residents will be able to receive supportive services.

Impact Services provides programs that specifically address the complex needs of veterans with mental and physical health challenges through case management, employment services, as well as mental and physical health care. Six of the units in IVFC will be reserved for veterans who have experienced homelessness and have special needs. All of the units at the IVFC are VisitAble; 75 percent are accessible for persons with disabilities.

The IVFC is partially funded through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, as well as through the Philadelphia Housing Authority, the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, the Home Depot Foundation, and TD Bank.

RHLS provided a full range of legal support to Impact Services to ensure that the project could move from concept to reality—providing veterans and their families with high quality affordable housing.