



Agency Happenings

Community Action Agencies Partner to Offer Services to Low-Income Veterans

Three Community Action Agencies have received a grant for \$507,000 from the Veterans Administration for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to serve homeless veterans in five Ohio counties. With the grant, Washington-Morgan Counties Community Action, Gallia- Meigs Community Action and Muskingum Economic Opportunity Action Group, Inc. will partner to serve approximately 100 veteran families in their five-county area.

The goal of the grant is to prevent and end homelessness among low-income veterans by promoting housing stability. The grant funds will be used to provide supportive services to low-income veterans living in or transitioning in to permanent housing.

“Our veterans have been promised that if they defend our country, a grateful nation will provide them with services and benefits they have earned,” said U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, regarding the program. “These federal funds are a down payment on the promise to support those who have already given so much to our nation.”

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families program will begin October 1, 2013. Each agency will begin to outreach and assist veterans in their counties in the first part of October. Low-income veteran families struggling to remain in their current housing or those families that are homeless will receive a combination of case management and financial assistance services. Veteran households will be required to create a housing stability plan and meet monthly with the case manager. Using the guiding principle of providing the “right service, at the right time, using the right amount of assistance,” case managers will be able to help veteran families eliminate the barriers to stable housing in the five counties.

“We are very excited about this opportunity. It is an excellent example of how Community Action Agencies can work together to bring resources to our counties to meet community need,” stated David Brightbill, executive director of Washington-Morgan Counties Community Action. “This grant will provide important supportive and financial assistance services to veteran families in the five counties.”

Washington-Morgan Counties Community Action was one of six Community Action Agencies that participated in a pilot program called Ohio Vocation, Education, Training & Services (Ohio VETS) that was created by the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies with funding from the Ohio Development Services Agency to help low-income veterans. The Ohio VETS program offered education and training to assist veterans in finding meaningful employment at a living wage, and provide them and their families with other supportive services to help them attain self-sufficiency utilizing a case management system. “Because of the VETS pilot program we have good connections established and have identified resources that we will be able to use for the SSVF program. The same staff person who worked with the VETS program will be the case manager for the SSVF program,” explained Carrie McNamee, program director at Washington-Morgan Counties Community Action.

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families program will allow Washington-Morgan Counties Community Action to continue their efforts to help low-income veterans and increase services to veterans in three surrounding counties.