



THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

How Surplus Federal Property Can Prevent and End Homelessness

October 2013





A Report by

NATIONAL LAW CENTER

ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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The Law Center is solely responsible for the views expressed in this report.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty is committed to solutions that address the causes, rather than merely the symptoms, of homelessness. We believe that housing is a human right and that homelessness can be ended only when placed within the larger context of poverty.

To achieve our mission of preventing and ending homelessness, we employ three main strategies: impact litigation, policy advocacy, and public education. We are a persistent voice on behalf of homeless Americans, speaking effectively to federal, state, and local policy makers to inform changes in the law that benefit those living in poverty. We also produce investigative reports and provide legal and policy support to local organizations.

For more information about our organization and access to publications such as this report, please visit our website at www.nlchp.org.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Homelessness is a national crisis that has increased in recent years as a result of the housing collapse and the Great Recession. The growing numbers of homeless people, increasingly families who are experiencing housing instability for the first time, are putting additional pressure on service providers who are already overburdened and underfunded. For example, from 2010 to 2011, the number of people using homeless shelters annually in cities increased by 2.5 percent to reach 1,036,515 people. Currently:

- An estimated 1.5 million to 3.5 million people experience homelessness in a given year.²
- The number of people living "doubled up", which means residing with friends and family members for economic reasons, is currently estimated to include over 7 million people.3
- Every year, over 1.6 million children, or one in every 45, are homeless. This represents an increase of 38% from 2007 to 2010.⁴

Given the growing need, it is especially critical that we make full use of our available resources to address it.

One key, and often overlooked, available resource is unused federal property.

Unused federal property can help combat the growing problem of homelessness while saving taxpayer money

Unused federal property is one resource that has not been used to full advantage despite the fact that states, local governments, and homeless service providers are able to acquire such property for free under Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.⁵ Title V is a common sense, costeffective public benefit conveyance system that provides homeless service providers with property that may otherwise be unaffordable to them, enabling even small non-profits to provide the shelter and services needed in their local communities. Title V has the added benefit of reducing the expenses borne by taxpayers for the maintenance and operation of approximately 14,000 excess properties that cost the federal government \$190 million dollars each year.6

Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act helps millions of homeless and poor people each year

More than 2 million Americans each year receive assistance as a result of Title V property conveyances, which have provided access to approximately 500 buildings on nearly 900 acres of land. The impact of this program is felt from coast to coast, with programs operating in 30 states plus the District of Columbia. For example, each year, in formerly unused properties:

- Over 30,700 people receive emergency or transitional housing, often with accompanying services such as mental health treatment.
- Over 3,350 domestic violence survivors and their families are housed.
- Over 12,500 veterans are housed.
- Over 146,000 poor and homeless are people provided with other services, such as case management and employment training.
- Over 150 million pounds of food delivered to homeless and low-income people.

Congressional attempts to repeal or undermine the Title V program are misguided

But despite its impressive accomplishments, the Title V program has been under attack by the Administration and Congress who seek to circumvent, reduce, or entirely dismantle it. Many of the criticisms of the Title V program are unfounded and based on a lack of accurate information. This report addresses those criticisms, and aims to educate readers about the facts.

Sensible reform of the program can be in everyone's best interest

The Title V program is not without its challenges, but these challenges are ones that should be addressed with an eye toward program improvement, not elimination. The final part of this report makes recommendations for reform that would increase the effectiveness of the program in helping to combat homelessness while reducing government inefficiency.

About this report and the Law Center's critical role in the program

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty has helped develop this program, monitors its implementation and, when necessary, litigates to enforce compliance. This report, the third released by the Law Center on federal surplus property programs benefitting homeless persons, describes how our government's unused assets can be transformed into thriving programs that serve millions of people each year. The Title V program, similar to the Base Realignment and Closure program ("BRAC") described in our prior reports, provides the legal framework for putting these critical assets to use. This report highlights a number of successful programs operating in properties conveyed under Title V ranging from transitional housing for our nation's veterans to the largest food bank distributor in the United States. These success stories prove the value of the Title V program and make the case for its continued existence. Furthermore, these success stories demonstrate what can be accomplished when the federal government eliminates waste, and allows local communities to convert something unused into something useful.

Shelter Partnership, Inc.





Homelessness is a Growing Crisis in America

Homelessness is a growing crisis in America, with an estimated 1.5 million to 3.5 million people experiencing homelessness in a given year. The collapse of the housing market and a high rate of prolonged unemployment have left many more individuals and families at risk of homelessness, some for the first time. Indeed, the number of those living "doubled up" with friends and family members for economic reasons has increased by 50% since the beginning of the foreclosure crisis, and is currently estimated to include over 7 million people. Often, these temporary and crowded living arrangements are a family's last alternative before residing in their cars or on the streets.

The growing numbers of people in need of services has placed additional pressure on already overburdened resources. Homeless service providers are overwhelmed with the current demand for services, and budget shortfalls add to the challenge. Shelters with an inadequate number of beds to meet increased need have turned to overflow cots, chairs, and hallway sleeping arrangements, while others do not have even those luxuries. In a majority of the major cities surveyed by the U.S. States Conference of Mayors, 60% of emergency shelters were forced to turn homeless people away due to a lack of available beds.⁹

In such an environment, we must evaluate our available resources and explore solutions that will make the best and most efficient use of them. Vacant federal property that can be converted to use by states, local governments, or non-profit organizations for homeless services is one such resource that has not been used to full advantage.



INTRODUCTION

The Title V Program is a Sensible and Cost-Effective Way to Support Programs that House and Serve Homeless People

Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act allows vacant federal property to be deeded or leased for free to eligible groups for the purpose of housing or providing services to people who are homeless. The Title V program is a common sense, cost effective way to help the growing population of homeless persons while simultaneously reducing the financial burden on the government.

The federal government, as the largest single owner of real estate in the nation, owns real property that it does not use and does not need. These properties represent an unnecessary, ongoing expense to taxpayers who pay the cost of the maintenance and operation of these unneeded federal properties. The Title V program removes this cost to taxpayers while facilitating increased homeless services in local communities, promoting both economy and efficiency. The former federal building is put to effective use by a homeless service provider, who may not have been able to afford such a property on the open market, and costs borne by the federal government are eliminated. Everyone wins.

Despite Its Many Benefits, the Title V Program Has Been Under Attack

Despite the economic benefits of the Title V program, and the millions of people who are helped by it each year, there have been numerous attempts over the years to circumvent, narrow, or entirely eliminate the program. In the 112th Congress, for example, legislation was proposed to eliminate the right of first refusal currently granted to homeless service providers under Title V, and to, instead, place discretion over property disposal in the hands of a board that need not include a single homeless service provider or advocate. Along with legislative attacks on the program, there has been a failure of federal agencies to adequately implement Title V. These failures include illegal land banking, whereby federal agencies have improperly withheld unused properties from the Title V screening process, insufficient outreach as required by the law, and

inadequate technical assistance provided to homeless service providers applying for available properties. The Law Center has litigated against the federal government to enforce implementation and compliance with Title V, and in March of 2013, we secured a modified permanent injunction requiring the government to comply with and provide greater transparency into the program.¹¹

Much of the opposition to Title V stems from a lack of education about the program, resulting in misconceptions about how it operates and its overall effectiveness. For example, opponents claim that the Title V program blocks the federal government from efficiently selling or otherwise disposing of real property assets because it holds large numbers of properties off the market due to an allegedly lengthy statutory process. This position is clearly refuted by the federal law governing the Title V program, however, as each stage of the process has short and clearly delineated deadlines that amount to only a few months. Surplus federal property is indeed languishing, but the Title V program is not the cause. Indeed, the regular surveying and reporting that must be conducted by landholding federal agencies pursuant to Title V helps to facilitate the efficient disposal of federal properties by identifying which properties are needed and which ones are not. As homelessness continues to increase across the country, this is not the time for Congress to weaken or eliminate this vital program.

This Report Demonstrates the Value of the Title V Program and Makes Recommendations for Further Improvement

The Law Center has been at the forefront of Title V advocacy since the inception of the program in 1987. We have been the primary legislative advocate for Title V, successfully blocking attempts to reduce or eliminate the program. We have served as the sole entity monitoring compliance with the Title V program, and we have fought in the courts to secure a permanent injunction setting forth specific steps that must be undertaken by the government to implement and comply with Title V's requirements. We have also served as the main source of outreach, education, and technical assistance related to Title

V, assisting hundreds of organizations take steps toward obtaining properties to operate or expand their programs. We recognize that the first step in answering the attacks on Title V is to dispel common myths surrounding the program's efficiency and effectiveness. This report describes the important homeless service work performed by numerous agencies operating out of former federal properties

transferred under the Title V Program. It further addresses the challenges facing Title V, both as written and in practice, and makes recommendations for improvements that will preserve the ability of homeless service providers to put unneeded federal properties to good use while also meeting the government's property disposal goals.

PURPOSE OF THE TITLE V PROGRAM AND HOW IT WORKS

History and Purpose of the Program

Congress created the Title V program as part of its larger response to the epidemic of homelessness that emerged in the 1980's. 12 In passing the legislation, Congress recognized that "the Federal Government has a clear responsibility and an existing capacity to fulfill a more effective and responsible role," to meet the needs of homeless people. 13 Congress' purpose of enacting the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act was, in part, "to use public resources and programs in a more coordinated manner to meet the critically urgent needs of the homeless of the Nation." 14

How the Title V Program Works

Title V of the McKinney Vento Act is entitled, "Identification and Use of Surplus Property." It requires federal agencies to regularly identify and make available surplus federal real property, free of charge, to states, local governments and non-profit agencies "for use to assist the homeless." 15

The program grants eligible groups, such as local governments and non-profit homeless service providers, the right to apply for federal real property that has been deemed surplus or excess to the needs of the federal government. These unneeded federal properties are screened by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to determine their suitability for homeless use, and all such suitable properties are published in the Federal Register on a weekly basis. Homeless service providers are then given a sixty day window during which they have the exclusive right to express interest in obtaining the listed properties.

Interested homeless service organizations will then have ninety days to complete and submit an application for the building or land to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS"). The application requires that organizations submit detailed and comprehensive documentation of their plans for the properties, including proof of financial capacity and appropriate expertise to execute their proposed programs. If HHS approves the application, the General Services Administration ("GSA") executes a deed or lease conveying the property at no cost to the homeless service provider. If HHS denies the application or the sixty-day holding period expires, the landholding agency may proceed with the property disposal process according to the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949.¹⁶



TITLE V PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

More than 2 million Americans each year receive assistance as a result of the Title V program, which has conveyed approximately 500 properties on nearly 900 acres of land since 1987. Homeless service programs, some the first of their kind, are operating in Title V properties in 30 states plus the District of Columbia.¹⁷

Homeless service providers, community development organizations, and local government agencies have used properties in a variety of ways to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness in their communities. Former federal property has been used to create emergency shelter, transitional housing for domestic violence survivors, supportive housing for homeless veterans, distribution centers for food and other necessities, and innovative employment training programs. Some of these model programs operating as a result of Title V are described below. A more complete list of programs, organized by state, is included in the Appendix.

The Title V Program Has Helped Thousands of Veterans Escape Homelessness

Many programs operating in properties transferred under the Title V program are designed to prevent and end homeless among veterans, representing a critical part of the federal government's effort to end veteran homelessness by 2015. Former, unneeded federal properties have been converted into shelters or service programs offering everything from employment training to free meals for the servicemen and servicewomen who risked their lives for our country.

FACT: On a single night in January 2012, 62,619 veterans were homeless in the United States, accounting for 13% of all homeless adults.¹⁸

The New England Center for Homeless Veterans (NECHV) Boston, Massachusetts

The New England Center for Homeless Veterans (NECHV) is dedicated to assisting veterans who are facing or at-risk of homelessness. Through its diverse array of services, NECHV strives to enable

veterans to reintegrate into their communities, obtain meaningful employment, and to live independently. The NECHV workshop acquired a 10-year lease on the former Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic at 17 Court Street in downtown Boston. The 140,000 square foot, ten-story building provided the beginnings of a drop-in shelter for homeless veterans offering hot showers, meals, and drug and alcohol counseling.

Recognized as the 142nd "Point of Light" by President George H.W. Bush's administration, NECHV offers a wide range of services through five distinct programs and support services: Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Single Room Occupancy Apartments, Training and Employment, and Health Care and Case Management. Each of these services assists veterans in solving the problems that led him or her to homelessness, and many of the staff are fellow veterans who understand the unique problems faced by their clients. A particularly impressive aspect of NECHV's programming is its work to train veterans to become fully employed after they have finished their service in the military. The Veterans Training School offers a comprehensive employment training program, offering instruction in areas such as the culinary arts.

Since opening its doors, NECHV has provided aid to more than 12,000 veterans.

Vietnam Veterans of California, Inc. (VVC) Redding, California

Vietnam Veterans of California, Inc. (VVC) constructed transitional housing projects on former federal property that offers a safe environment where veterans are supported in their efforts to overcome homelessness. By providing an effective network of services, veterans are connected to employment and training programs, counseling, and legal services. These programs were developed by veterans to help their peers build better lives for themselves, their families, and our communities. One of the agency's most successful employment training programs is "Winning the Employment Game", boasting a 90% success rate.

The agency has 80 beds in operation, and 46 in development.

"The VVC homeless program empowered me to again become whole. The case management approach in the supportive housing program allowed me to begin breaking what I thought were unbreakable barriers." – Dan R USAF

FACT: During a 12 month period from October 2010 to September 2011, approximately 141,449 veterans spent at least one night in emergency shelter or transitional housing programs.¹⁹



Veteran's Transition Center of Monterey Marina, California

The Veteran's Transition Center of Monterey acquired federal property after the closure of the Ft. Ord military base to provide services to Monterey County's homeless veterans and their families. Through the provision of housing, emergency services, and case management programs, veterans are able to become stable and productive members of society.

As part of their housing project, 38 housing units and a dining facility have been or will be developed where veterans will be permitted to reside for up to 24 months. While the veterans learn to deal with their mental health and physical issues, they are also taught skills necessary to become self-sufficient. Each year, between 50 and 60 people participate in the two-year transitional housing program which boasts an 85% success rate of helping formerly homeless veterans and their families become self-sustaining and maintain stable, permanent housing.

"Without the Title V property, the shelter would not have been able to operate. If we didn't have the property, we wouldn't be able to house them. If we didn't have the housing, there wouldn't have been a program to begin with." – Arline Bandy, Finance Manager

New Life Evangelistic Center Springfield, Missouri

New Life Evangelistic Center (NLEC) acquired a 17,346 square foot former Social Security Administration building to establish its Veteran's Coming Home program. The program works to enable veterans to escape homelessness and become self-sufficient by providing a variety of services, including counseling, job training, educational classes, and the provision of basic necessities such as meals, showers, and clothing. Each case plan is developed with the unique needs and abilities of the individual in mind.

Volunteers of America of L.A. Los Angeles, California

Volunteers of America of Los Angeles (VOALA) operates out of the former Boyle Heights Social Security Building to offer programs such as the Barracks and Rotary House Veterans' Services program that offers housing to chronically homeless veterans. In addition, VOALA offers job training and placement services, permanent housing referrals, work clothing, and transportation assistance. All programs are designed to encourage positive development, promote self-sufficiency, and foster independence for children, youth, families, seniors, and veterans living in poverty as well as individuals challenged with homelessness.

Rockland Housing Action Coalition New City, New York

Homes for Heroes is a Rockland County based program that provides permanent, supportive housing to disabled and homeless veterans. It is placed on a 14-acre Army reserve camp that was no longer being used. The program started by developing four rental apartments, ultimately developing to 50 handicapped accessible, gardenstyle apartments. On-site support services to resident veterans are also available.



The Eagle's Nest
East St. Louis, Illinois

In a former military reserve center, Eagle's Nest provides supportive housing to homeless veterans in the St. Louis area. Their mission is to help veterans escape homelessness by empowering them to attain their highest levels of self-sufficiency. The agency serves up to 26 homeless veterans in the St. Louis area at any given time.

"We believe that by providing our U.S. Veterans a safe and comfortable space in which to live, we will be providing them the dignity and high quality of life they so deserve." – The Eagle's Nest of St. Clair County website²⁰



Esperanza en Escalante Tucson, Arizona

Esperanza en Escalante (EEE) obtained land on a former military property that was developed to provide housing and services to veterans transitioning out of homelessness. The program offers 19 multiple occupancy homes, rehabilitation, and job training to 60 veterans at any given time. Each resident is individually evaluated to determine the individual's unique needs so that the program can be personally tailored.

Many of the residents are referred from the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System and local homeless shelters. EEE works closely with the City of Tucson, the State of Arizona, and the Veteran's Administration to provide the housing, social services, and programming to help veterans escape homelessness.

The Title V Program Has Helped Thousands of Women and Children Free Themselves From Domestic Violence

Wintergarden Women's Shelter Carrizo Springs, Texas

In 1994, the domestic violence shelter in Carrizo Springs, Texas was forced to close. Women who depended upon the shelter from the four-county area it served were denied services and sent back to their abusers, including one woman who was later killed by her spouse. This tragedy led to the opening of the Wintergarden Women's Shelter, Inc. (WWS) in 1995, serving Zavala, Dimmit, Maverick, and LaSalle counties in a property transferred under the Title V program. WWS operates a twenty-four hour shelter facility and two outreach offices that provide a broad range of services, including crisis intervention. The shelter has space for 5 families, including those with multiple children. Each year, the WWS serves approximately 2,000 unduplicated clients.

Tundra Women's Coalition Bethel, Alaska

The Tundra Women's Coalition (TWC) provides transitional housing to domestic violence victims in former army housing barracks located on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Dedicated to the achievement of full equality for women and the elimination of sexual and family violence, TWC empowers women to control their own lives while educating the community at large to adapt positive cultural change.

TWC houses between 8 and 15 women at a time, and provides ongoing support groups and one-on-one counseling to residents.

FACT: As many as 92% of homeless women have experienced severe physical and or sexual assault at some point in their lives.²¹

The Family Center, Inc. Helena, Arkansas

The Family Center, Inc. helps homeless individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency by offering a variety of services, focused primarily on domestic violence. The agency operates two emergency shelters for victims of domestic violence and their children. The shelter offers battered women the time and resources they need to become empowered to live independently and to secure alternative housing.



Grace Centers of Hope Pontiac, Michigan

Grace Centers of Hope (GCH) is one of the oldest faith-based organizations in the country offering outreach to homeless individuals and families. GCH provides a recovery and rehabilitation campus for people who have suffered domestic abuse or substance abuse addiction. Life skills, education and work programs form the foundation of its services, which are designed with an emphasis on personal accountability. It offers an emergency shelter program that provides food, shelter, and clothing to homeless persons seeking immediate assistance. As many as 40 people are served by the shelter, with each resident permitted to remain for up to thirty consecutive days.

WOMAN, Inc. Houston, Texas

WOMAN, Inc. creates affordable housing with supportive services for women fleeing domestic violence. Through developing affordable housing programs, WOMAN, Inc. seeks to empower women to be financially self-sufficient. Program residents work with case managers to establish goals and to

improve participation in educational and job skills enhancement programs. Other services offered include childcare assistance, rental assistance, and parenting skills training. Residents are required to have an income and to save a portion of that income to reach their goal of financial independence.

FACT: In some areas of the country 1 in 4 homeless adults reported that domestic violence was a cause of their homelessness, and between 50% and 100% of homeless woman have experienced domestic or sexual violence at some point in their lives.²²

Homeward Bound Salina, California

Homeward Bound obtained 6.65 acres of former federal land improved with a 289,674 square foot building to operate a transitional housing program. The program provides a safe and confidential location where victims of domestic violence and homeless families can receive housing and supportive services, including case management, food and clothing pantries, and child care. The community provides fully furnished family residences where families are permitted to remain for up to 24 months while they move toward independent and violence-free living. The program helps, on average, over 60 people each day.

The Title V Program Has Provided Employment Training Opportunities for Thousands of Homeless People

Community for Creative Non-Violence District of Columbia

In 1989, The Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV), the largest shelter in the District of Columbia, acquired the Square 571 federal property adjacent to CCNV's existing homeless shelter. On the property, now called the Mitch Snyder Arts and Education Center, CCNV offers a variety of services, including a Jobs for the Homeless program, alcohol and drug counseling, arts and educational courses, a GED program, and computer classes.







Urban Renewal Corp. Kearny, New Jersey

The Urban Renewal Corp. runs an innovative and successful employment training program on a former Naval Reserve Center focusing on computer literacy, computer salvage, refurbishing, and repair. Most of the clients served by the program have been involved with the criminal justice system, and all of them were homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The SAFE program (Support A Future Employee) involves the donation of used computers to the Urban Renewal Corp. program. Governmental entities and large corporations, such as Deutchebank and L'Oreal, donate computers that are then refurbished by program participants and provided to others, including soldiers serving overseas. This program not only provides valuable technical training, but also lays the foundation for future networking and internship opportunities.

The program is expanding to adapt to new technologies. For example, the program has recently launched a new Apple division with volunteer trainers that teach both Apple technology and iMovie. The program opens up new opportunities for people experiencing homelessness, strengthening their employability and widening their potential job possibilities.

The training and assistance in job searching contribute to a high success rate, with nearly 70% of participants securing jobs immediately after

graduation. One year later, 50% still had those jobs. Graduates from the program often remain to train the new classes of participants, helping to keep their skills fresh. All graduates also leave the program with computers that they personally rebuilt.

The program varies in length from 16 to 22 weeks, and the total class size is usually between 60 and 75 people.

"The greatest successes are when an individual comes into the housing facility with nothing. Absolutely nothing but the shirt on their back, and we are able to address their needs. Whether it is food, clothing, medical...We are able to stabilize the individual, and then we work on their life skills. When that person finishes our program and gets a job, and comes back, says thank you, and looks in your eyes and says, "I couldn't have done this without you." That's what it's all about." – Lane Jacobs, Founder and President

Growing Home Marseilles, Illinois

In 2002, on the site of a former national weather station, Growing Home established its first farm. The Les Brown Memorial Farm, named after the founder of Growing Home, is a certified organic farm operating on 10 acres of land. The land contains a residence for the farmers, a native habitat for bees, and two large hoophouses.

Growing Home provides transitional employment and training for those who face multiple barriers to securing a permanent place in the workforce. The Les Brown Memorial Farm, through experiential learning and employment in horticulture, has enabled individuals to enter into the labor market. Growing Home provides training, work-focused case management, links to employers, and placement and retention services. Since the program began, over 250 formerly homeless people have participated in the program and received training in organic farming.

Most of the people entering the program have been involved in the criminal justice system or have suffered from substance abuse. 95% of the people who graduate have stayed out of prison. More impressively, around 70% of the people who have graduated from the program have gone on to full-time employment or further training.

"[The Title V property] was the first property we had for running the program. We now have 4 different sites."

– Harry Rhodes, Executive Director

The Title V Program Has Helped to Reduce or Eliminate Hunger for Millions of People

The Title V Program has resulted in a dramatic reduction of food insecurity for millions of households, with food distribution programs utilizing former federal properties providing over 150 million pounds of food to homeless and poor people each year.

Gleaners Community Food Bank Warren, Michigan

Gleaners was one of the first food banks in the United States, and it has led the effort to fight hunger in Southeastern Michigan. In collaboration with other groups, such as the Feeding America network, Gleaners provides millions of pounds of donated and purchased food to people suffering food insecurity. It aims to reduce reliance on the emergency food system by adopting and developing best practices for efficient food services. To support its efforts to end hunger, Gleaners conducts outreach and education programs, such as teaching families how to prepare meals that are economical, nutritious, and delicious.

Gleaners collects, warehouses, repacks, and distributes millions of pounds of food for more than 550 local partners, who then use it to stock their food pantries. Some food is donated by farmers, grocery stores, and food manufacturers and the rest is purchased in bulk from wholesalers at discounted prices. In 2011, Gleaners distributed over 30,426,512 meals. It is working to expand upon these impressive numbers by growing annual food distribution from 36 million pounds of food to 50 million pounds in 2013.

California Emergency Foodlink Sacramento, California

California Emergency Foodlink (Foodlink) operates on 28 acres of former federal land transferred to California's Department of Health and Human Services via Title V. Foodlink is the largest food bank in the country, distributing approximately 122 million pounds of food during the course of an average year.

Foodlink was created to ensure that California's 1.2 million Emergency Food Assistance Program eligible households are able to receive food assistance, and to serve as a wholesale food provider for the homeless. Foodlink acquired the former Sacramento Army Depot to manage the logistics and transportation of government and privately donated food commodities to every county in the State of California.

Foodlink shares its donations with food banks located across the state. The program hires many social welfare recipients for employment as truck drivers and warehouse laborers, giving California's low-income people a source of income and valuable employment experience.

The Title V Program Has Provided Housing for Homeless People Suffering From Physical and Mental Illness

Physical and mental illness contribute to homelessness, creating barriers to steady employment and permanent housing. For many people, homelessness is the result of a downward spiral originating from a health problem that led to a disruption in employment, financial troubles, and, ultimately, a loss of housing.²³ Addressing health problems, therefore, is critical to ending homelessness in America. The following are examples of Title V properties used to keep people suffering from physical and mental illness from becoming homeless:

Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association (Four A's) Anchorage, Alaska

The Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association, or Four A's, obtained two surplus federal duplexes to provide housing and care for Alaskans living with HIV/AIDS. The program began operating in 1995.

Four A's serves as a key collaborator within Alaska in the provision of supportive services to persons living with HIV/AIDS. Guided by the values of compassion, respect, and innovation in the effort to eliminate the transmission of HIV infection and its stigma, Four A's provides quality care to approximately 15 people year in the former federal property.

"Title V is truly a life saver! The Alaskan AIDS Assistance
Association received two surplus federal duplexes in
1991 during the height of HIV/AIDS related deaths.
Thousands of volunteer hours went into renovating
the properties to transfer [them] into a hospice for
Alaskans living with HIV/AIDS. Many lost their housing
and family when diagnosed. As the deaths began to
decrease due to medical/medication advancements,
the propert[ies] [were] transformed into permanent
housing. The quality of life for many individuals was
greatly improved because of Title V." – Trevor Storrs,
Executive Director

Breakthrough House Topeka, Kansas

Located in a former Social Security Administration office building in Topeka, KS, Breakthrough House provides services for 400 mentally ill people per year. Their mission is to empower individuals with mental illness to function more independently in their social, living, and working environments and to secure affordable housing. Program participants have the choice of living in a supported living group home, a semi-independent apartment, or an independent apartment, depending upon their individual needs and preferences. Support groups, social activities, and transitional employment designed to prevent or end homelessness are also offered.

The Crossroads Community, Inc. Centreville, Maryland

The Crossroads Community, Inc. obtained four single family units formerly used by the Coast Guard to provide transitional housing to homeless people suffering with mental illness. The program began operating in August 2003. All four homes are between 1000 and 1100 square feet, with 3 bedrooms. The program operating in these properties serves 12 individuals each day, and 16 to 20 individuals annually.

Liberty House Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

Community Mental Health Services, Inc. obtained the former Valley Forge Hospital, which consisted of a two-story building with 48 housing units, 5 administrative offices, and staff apartments on 7 acres of land, to launch Liberty House.

Liberty House has operated a residential facility for mentally ill homeless persons on the property since 1996, serving 48 people each year. The program offers full-time case management, including on-site counseling and social services, along with a 24-hour crisis intervention program. Liberty House also provides three meals a day in its cafeteria.



Third Way Center Denver, Colorado

The Third Way Center is a diagnostic and assessment program that serves emotionally and behaviorally disturbed youth. The land transferred under the Title V program was redeveloped and now boasts 4 eight-bed residential units that provide services to teens at high risk of homelessness. Many of the program's clients struggle with serious mental health and behavioral issues, contributing to their housing instability. Many of the program's youth have gone on to successfully complete high school or college. They also are able to join the workforce and maintain stable housing. In Colorado, adolescent psychiatric hospital beds are rare, making this program's services critically important in the prevention of youth homelessness in the area.









Mental Health Mental Retardation Services for the Concho Valley San Angelo, Texas

Mental Health Mental Retardation Services for the Concho Valley (MHMRSCV) obtained a former Fish Hatchery Station, consisting of two 1,200 square foot housing units, 2 warehouses, a garage, and 91 acres of land. MHMRSCV's program offers housing to homeless persons suffering with mental illness, and serves an average of 15 people each year.

MHMRSCV offers life skills training, vocational training, and a job placement program for residents and other mentally ill homeless persons living in the area. Residents of the housing program also receive on-site case management and 24-hour supportive service staffing. Although there is no limit on the length of time which residents may reside with the program, the average length of stay is 24 to 30 months. When residents leave, often for less structured supportive housing, the program offers continued case management.

Harmony House Monroe, Louisiana

In 1994, the Monroe Area Guidance Center was approved to acquire sixteen acres of land and two buildings formerly used as a Naval Reserve Center to open Harmony House. Harmony House serves as a shelter and transitional housing facility, with stays lasting up to 6 months. Each day, four men and four women call their transitional living program home. The program annually assists 30-40 unduplicated individuals suffering from mental illness.

Harmony House provides a place where mentally ill homeless people can obtain the services they need in a comfortable social environment. The program is designed to help people function at their highest level and to maintain stable living. Harmony House helps people accomplish these goals by assisting with medication regulation and by offering life skills classes specific to managing mental illness.

Harmony House has been immensely successful, leading many of its clients to move on to full self-sufficiency. A program representative interviewed by the Law Center gave an example of one formerly homeless client who now works a full-time job, owns a vehicle, attends church regularly, and organizes

volleyball tournaments at her apartment complex for mentally ill individuals.

The Title V Program Has Provided Emergency and Transitional Shelter for Thousands of Homeless People

Advocates for Homeless Families, Inc. Frederick, Maryland

Advocates for Homeless Families, Inc. (AFHF) provides services to hundreds of families who are working to overcome homelessness and to become self-sufficient. Families achieve success through a structured two-year program of education, housing and support services designed to assist families in their transition to stable and independent living.

The organization operates a transitional housing program and a program to help keep families from losing their homes. They make up to a two year commitment to each family, giving them the time they need to gain self-sufficiency or to maintain their housing stability. Both programs provide families individualized case management, weekly life skills workshops, and access to higher education and career training. Annually, AFHF provides housing and support services to an average of 90 to 100 adults and children.

FACT: In 2010, one out of every 141 persons in black families stayed in a homeless shelter.²⁴

Catherine A. Rowe Commons Paterson, New Jersey

The Paterson Coalition for Housing, Inc. obtained 1.5 acres of land to provide transitional housing and children's day care to families transitioning from homelessness. The Catherine A. Rowe Commons Transitional Housing Program (The Commons) provides 20 housing units, a day care center, and a comprehensive program offering necessary case management and counseling. The Commons serves 100 people each year.

Home to Stay Bozeman, Montana

The Home to Stay program operates from a former federal property that served as Bozeman's first Post Office and, later, a National Guard Armory.

The building was improved to add two transitional apartments for families leaving homelessness. Home to Stay also offers homeless prevention counseling, financial assistance to prevent eviction or to secure an apartment, and case management.

Making It Possible To End Homelessness New Brunswick, New Jersey

Middlesex Interfaith, later known as Making It
Possible to End Homelessness, became the first
agency in the country to receive surplus Federal
Property under Title V. The former federal property
was converted to become the site of The Amandla
Crossing Transitional Housing Program, one of the
first transitional housing programs offered in the
state of New Jersey. The program serves single-parent
families who receive welfare benefits.

Making It Possible to End Homelessness later opened Imani Park Transitional Housing Program, serving individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS, in a separate surplus federal property land grant at Camp Kilmer that was transferred in 1996.

To date, Making It Possible to End Homelessness has ended homelessness for over 450 families.

Interfaith Hospitality Network Rock Hill, South Carolina

The Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) obtained a former Social Security Administration building, approximately 5,224 square feet, to operate two homeless shelters. Since the time the property was acquired, IHN has served 321 individuals. The program has an impressive success rate, with over 80% of families leaving for permanent housing and over 90% leaving with employment.

"Our budget would be much higher if we had to rent a space. The location is perfect, the size is perfect. [The Title V program] worked out wonderfully for us." – Jennifer Coye, Executive Director

The Westwood Transitional Village Los Angeles, California

Built on two acres of formerly vacant federal property, The Westwood Transitional Village is a 40-unit residential housing facility that provides supportive services to homeless families. For up to two years, homeless families are able to build the skills and resources they need to live independently in permanent homes. At any given time, there are approximately 150 people – nearly half of whom are veterans – living in The Village.

The transitional housing residents are often people leaving emergency shelters, and the supportive services provided by the program help them to make the transition to permanent housing. Each apartment is furnished, with up to 4 bedrooms available for larger families. All residents participate in a case management plan, employment development assistance, and mental health care.

The Village's child development center provides licensed childcare to residents and low-income families in the local community. Tutoring services are also available. During their stay, each resident is required to go to school or work full-time and participate in a mandatory savings program that helps them develop the resources they will need after they leave the program.

Quapaw House, Inc. Hot Springs, Arkansas

Quapaw House, Inc. obtained a surplus federal office building to help men with substance abuse problems. Quapaw House, Inc. began operations in the building in March 2004 and serves eight men with substance abuse problems each day. Services include transitional housing and job training.

Carpenter's Shelter Alexandria, Virginia

Carpenter's Shelter is the only day shelter in the City of Alexandria. It operates an 80 bed residential facility year round and a hypothermia shelter that provides 50 additional beds during the winter months. The shelter serves 550 people each year through its shelters and between 500 and 700 additional people through its case management services for people who have moved from the shelter. The success of the program has been tremendous, with 95% of former residents escaping homelessness to become self-sufficient.

"We were in a warehouse and we were being evicted. So, acquiring the [former federal property] allowed us to have a location...We keep our beds full, and so there is a steady number of people who would be on the streets each night that have a bed because of our shelter." – Lissette Bishins, Executive Director



Economic Security Corporation Joplin, Missouri

Located in the former Durwood G. Hall Federal Building, the Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area (ESC) provides a variety of programs for people experiencing homelessness, including community-based housing for homeless persons with disabilities, transitional housing for homeless families, and supportive services for those who are chronically homeless.

The Title V property, a 36,000 square foot building, proved critical to the community in the wake of the tornado that devastated Joplin in 2012. Serving as an emergency shelter for families who lost their homes to the natural disaster, the emergency shelter provided a roof over the heads of approximately 500 people each night.

Community Christian Care Center Jay, Oklahoma

In 2006, the Community Christian Care Center was approved to provide emergency shelter and transitional housing in a vacant federal post office. Recognizing the need for a women's shelter and a larger facility to house the local food pantry, the Community Christian Care Center partnered with several organizations to redevelop the property that now provides a number of support services to 12 homeless women residents each year. Support services include job training, meals, family counseling, GED classes, and a 12 step recovery program.

Emmaus Shelter Ellsworth, Maine

The Emmaus Homeless Shelter was founded in 1992 on the site of a vacant federal post office in rural Ellsworth, Maine. The Emmaus Homeless Shelter is a 22 bed facility that can accommodate four families, six single women, and five single men, ages 18 and up. The Shelter operates twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. In 2011, the shelter served 383 people with residential services and 20,838 with non-residential services, including food, clothing, furniture, and help with obtaining medications.

The Title V program is responsible for the existence of this important agency and the help it provides year round to homeless people in Maine. Says its Director, Sister Lucille Macdonald: "I cannot imagine what life would be like for the homeless and those individuals and families struggling to survive if the Emmaus Homeless Shelter never existed."

House of Refuge Mesa, Arizona

The House of Refuge is a faith-based non-profit that obtained property located on the former Williams Air Force Base to provide transitional housing and supportive services to homeless individuals and families. The property is located on 20 acres of land, improved with 88 two-bedroom single family homes and a support center. Five of the homes are used for the provision of services, and include a donation center, a community center, a maintenance shop, and a resource center that specializes in workforce development and education.

House of Refuge is one of the largest transitional housing facilities in Arizona, serving approximately 450 people each year. The program has a tremendous success rate with 93% of residents securing permanent housing when they leave.

"I had no education, no work experience, no transportation, and I didn't speak English. I had no idea how I was going to make it work, but I had hopes and goals and the commitment to give everything I had to succeed. House of Refuge provided me an opportunity to make those goals a reality."

— Freyda, Resident

Aftercare Ministries, Inc. Alexandria, Louisiana

Aftercare Ministries, Inc. is a non-profit that operates on the former Nettles Army Reserve. The four acre property provides transitional housing for men reintegrating out of prison along with homeless veterans. The program started in November 2004.

Safe Home Albuquerque, New Mexico

Safe Home, a refuge for homeless youth, operates in a former Veterans Administration hospital transferred under Title V. The program offers children between the ages of 11 and 17 a safe residential setting while staff works to reunite them with their families or find a stable alternative.

The environment is structured and secure, providing children with the home that they need to develop. During their stay, youth and families receive clinical and case management services, as well as entry into the Life Skills Academy. Youth are assisted with school enrollment, tutors, and obtaining GEDs so that they are equipped with the education they need to succeed.

"I am going to finish school and get my diploma then become a nurse or start my own youth shelter and give back because I have been given so much since I've been at the New Day Shelter." – Resident

Community Partners for Affordable Housing Tigard, Oregon

In 2005, Community Partners for Affordable Housing was approved to acquire the former Sears Armory property, a 4 acre parcel of land improved with one administrative building, for the operation of a permanent supportive housing program for formerly homeless individuals and families. The program serves approximately 200 persons each year.

The Title V Program Has Helped Local Governments Reduce Homelessness in Cities Across America

City of Modesto Modesto, California

In a former Social Security Administration building, the City of Modesto offers services to chronically homeless individuals suffering from mental illness. The property consists of a .62-acre corner lot improved with an 11,957-square-foot office building and 24 paved outdoor parking spaces.

City of Bangor Bangor, Maine

The City of Bangor's Department of Health and Welfare obtained 60 housing units, 1 office, and approximately 13 acres of land in 1995 to create the Park Wood Program, a transitional community for homeless individuals and families. Residents may receive assistance from a range of on-site services, including case management, education planning, child care assistance, and counseling for up to two years. Each day, the program serves 50 people, and 600 are served each year.

City of Redmond Redmond, Washington

The City of Redmond acquired in 1998 a former Coast Guard housing site, consisting of 18 housing units on 5 acres of land, to provide transitional housing and an emergency shelter to homeless individuals and families. Services provided include case management, housing placement assistance, life skills training, and job skills training.

The facility now has 50 family housing units and eight emergency shelter units. The program also has a child care center. Approximately 150 individuals are served annually in transitional housing, and 300 are served in the shelter.

Prince William County Woodbridge, Virginia

In 1992, Price William Country obtained 7 acres of former federal property that has been used to operate The Dawson Beach Transitional Housing Program. The 24-month transitional housing program serves 35 people on average each year.

"[The Title V property transfer] made the program possible, because the county did not have transitional housing, until they were able to acquire this property. We've been able to help people that otherwise would have been staying in emergency shelter facilities. The success rate has been over 80%, with people moving into permanent housing." – Bill Lake, Community Preservation and Development Manager

The Title V Program Can Be Used For A Broad Range of Services to Help Reduce Homelessness

North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging Manhattan, Kansas

The North Central-Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization that coordinates services for senior citizens in 18 north central Kansas counties from a former federal office building. The agency works in partnership with local and country government to enhance the quality and dignity of life for older Kansans.

The S. Mark Taper Foundation Shelter Resource Bank Los Angeles, California

The Bell Federal Service Center, a former federal warehouse, was conveyed to the Salvation Army in March of 2007 and has been converted for use as The S. Mark Taper Foundation Shelter Resource Bank. The conveyed property was 2.42 acres of land, improved with a 108,000 square foot warehouse.

The Resource Bank is a unique project that distributes, at no cost, donations of surplus inventory from manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers to homeless service agencies throughout Los Angeles County. The program secures and distributes nonfood items, such as baby products and clothing, to over 200 agencies and 100,000 homeless individuals

each year. By meeting immediate needs, the project enables participating agencies to focus their energy and scarce resources on case management, support services, and organizational capacity-building.

Housing Authority of Scott's Bluff County Gering, Nebraska

The Housing Authority of Scott's Bluff County operates in a former Social Security Administration building, and it provides rental assistance to low-income individuals and families. The authority owns, manages, and maintains all rental units offered through the program. In addition, they link people with the off-site services that help them to secure other necessities, such as food and clothing. 160 people were served in 2011.



HOPE Community Services Farmville, Virginia

HOPE Community Services operates programs, ranging from job training to housing, in the former Watkins K. Abbitt Federal Building. Their work targets seniors and low-income families living in Virginia's heartland, and they serve approximately 400 people each year.

"[The Title V program] was absolutely critical, because the distance that we serve is so wide, and because Farmville is the center of that area. It's made transportation access so much more accessible, since all of our clients are indigent. Transportation is difficult. This building has really been integral to our ability to access these populations." – Dr. Kitty Smith, Executive Director

Samaritan House, Inc. Kalispell, Montana

The Samaritan House, Inc. obtained a former armory, consisting of 2.42 acres and two buildings, for use as administrative offices to provide support services to homeless individuals and families.

Through the Samaritan House, homeless people in four counties can access services such as shelter, case management, meals, transitional housing, and permanent low-income apartments.

As the only homeless service provider in the area, Samaritan House, Inc. serves 1,500 people each year.

Housing Authority of Monterey Salinas, California

The Housing Authority of Monterey County (HAMC) obtained 56 housing units and an 8,000 square foot building to provide transitional housing to homeless families. The Housing Authority's program, Pueblo Del Mar, is designed to promote self-sufficiency among its clients who are primarily referred through substance abuse recovery programs. A variety of services are offered, such as Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous meetings, and through its partnerships with other service providers, job training, case management, and cooperative day care are also available. Seventy-five adults and 150 children are served by the program each year.

Community Social Model Advocates Atwater, California

Community Social Model Advocates, Inc. provides residential alcohol and drug treatment to individuals struggling with addiction. It offers two programs, tailored to client gender. The Rose Julia Riordan Tranquility Village caters to women and children, while The David J. Riordan's Hobie House provides services to men.

A key part of Community Social Model Advocates' mission is to help create and re-unite healthy families by mitigating the damaging effects of alcohol, drugs, and other mental health related problems. The programs offer community based, peer oriented residential treatment where each resident works to achieve long term sobriety. Staff members are certified professionals, but also recovering addicts who can understand what each resident struggles with from personal experience.

The David J. Riordan's Hobie House is a 25 bed residential facility designed for men 18 years and older. The program is set in a home-like environment that provides 33 hours of structured services in programs ranging in length from 30 days to six months. The Rose Julia Riordan Tranquility Village is a 42 bed residential facility. Women in the program are able to have their children aged five and under live with them on site for up to 1 year. There is an accompanying program for children while their mothers are in treatment.

The women's program offers transitional housing for those in need of a continued sober living environment following residential treatment. The transitional living program offers step-down services designed to help women maintain their recovery. The aftercare services help recovering women maintain the sober lifestyle they developed while in residential treatment.

Building Bridges, Inc. West Chester, Pennsylvania

Building Bridges, Inc. obtained a former Social Security Administration building to provide supportive housing for homeless families, serving approximately 400 people at any given time. While Building Bridges would exist without the former federal property, its capacity to serve people in their community would be dramatically decreased. There would likewise be a much higher operating cost without the property, further limiting its impact.

Grace Apostolic Church San Bernadino, California

The Grace Apostolic Church obtained two buildings, a parking lot, and an outdoor recreation area on the former Norton Air Force Base to provide an intake center offering health screening and work training for homeless people. Grace Apostolic Church also provides supportive services to nearly 1,000 homeless people each year, including case management, food and clothing distribution, transportation, and budget counseling.



Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless Cheyenne, Wyoming

The Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless acquired property on a former Naval Reserve Center allowing it to expand its services to homeless persons to include a Look Your Best clothing closet that provides professional work clothing for the people it serves. Given the importance of a professional appearance when seeking and maintaining a job, this program has proven to be highly successful for the 450 people who are served each year.

OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE TITLE V

The wealth of programs, combined with the millions of people served by them, demonstrate the value and success of the Title V program in combating homelessness in America. Still, the fact that the program has been largely unsupported by the federal government cannot be ignored. The Law Center recognizes that there are legitimate challenges posed by the Title V program, both in law and in practice, which limit its success. The following section discusses a sampling of the current challenges facing the Title V program and opportunities for improvement.

Agencies Have Too Many Opportunities to Circumvent Title V

Although there are a number of suitable properties that are listed in the Federal Register, many are listed as "unavailable." As currently written, Title V requires that federal agencies make a statement of the, "reasons why the property cannot be declared excess or made available for use to assist the homeless."25 In the case of excess property that has already been reported to the General Services Administration, the government is only required to make a statement that, "there is a further and compelling federal need for the property" and provide a full explanation of the need to legally and indefinitely exempt the property from the Title V process.²⁶ But no clear process is spelled out in the law for evaluating those reasons and mandating that property be turned over if they are not in fact compelling or even accurate.

This creates a potential loophole through which any number of properties that are vacant, but still paid for, by the federal government are kept out of reach of the homeless service providers who could put them to good use. A vacant Federal Reserve building in downtown Seattle provides an excellent example. Although the building has been vacant since 2008, it is "unavailable" for homeless use per GSA. A coalition of interested homeless service providers in Seattle, in consultation with the Law Center, submitted a letter to GSA stating its interest in obtaining the property for use by Seattle's homeless population. Their request for the building to be deemed available for application was denied, and there is no recourse offered under Title V to challenge that decision. There also appears to be little or no oversight to ensure that GSA is providing to HUD statements with a full explanation of the ongoing federal need, as required by law.

Agencies Defeat the Purpose of Title V by Offering Off-Site Use

When properties are both suitable and available, many are rendered virtually useless to homeless service providers because the properties are only made available for off-site use. Off-site use requires that any physical improvement to the land, such as a building that could serve as a homeless shelter, be removed from the land before it can be utilized by the homeless service provider. To remove a building from the land where it sits can be prohibitively expensive for a homeless service provider, to say

nothing of the cost of separate land on which to put the removed building. This significantly limits the benefit of the Title V program and precludes homeless service providers from accessing valuable and useful properties. Under current law, there is no requirement that the government make property available for on-site use.

Outreach by the Federal Government is Insufficient

Despite the Title V program having been in existence for 25 years, too few local governments and homeless service providers are aware that they are eligible to receive surplus and excess federal property for free. Undoubtedly, this lack of awareness has contributed to the low numbers of applications for useful properties when they become available. A primary reason for this is the federal government's inadequate outreach efforts.

Under Title V, the federal government is required to implement an outreach program that provides direct information to homeless service providers about the properties locally available to them.²⁷ Although an outreach program has technically been implemented, it is woefully inadequate to the task. Instead, outreach by the federal government has been limited and sporadic, failing to reach the service providers that may be interested. Further, when outreach is conducted, it is done by individual agencies that host their own websites and provide inconsistent information. The lack of cooperation between agencies has led to a generally chaotic system of marketing and notification that is inefficient and ineffective.

Eligible Uses for Properties Are Too Narrowly Defined by HHS

Under Title V, the only statutory limit on the use of federal property is that it "be used to assist the homeless." A reasonable interpretation of this broad limitation would include permanent housing as an eligible property use under the Title V program, and there is nothing in the law or implementing regulations to suggest otherwise. Nevertheless, as a matter of policy, HHS does not approve applications that propose use of the property as permanent housing for homeless people unless that housing program also provides supportive services. This arbitrary limitation on available uses of properties

transferred under Title V limits the desirability of those properties to homeless service providers. Moreover, it is inconsistent with current evidence and practice indicating that "housing first" models are often the best responses to homelessness. HHS's policies should be revised and updated to reflect current evidence and best practices.

The Application Form is Overly Cumbersome

Currently, the application form that HHS requires all Title V applicants to complete is a standard form (HHS Form 696) used for all property conveyances and not tailored to the Title V program. The generic application is lengthy and cumbersome, making it difficult for an applicant to complete in the short time frame imposed under the law. In addition, the application calls for homeless service providers to provide information that is already in the government's possession, such as a description of the easements on the property.

Further, the application has a breadth that makes it difficult for HHS to rule on submitted applications in a timely manner. Often, HHS makes multiple requests for additional information on applications that it deems insufficiently completed, creating unnecessary delays.



Human Resource Development Council



RECOMMENDATIONS

In this environment of increasing homelessness, it is imperative that the ability of homeless service providers to access and productively use unused federal real property is preserved. This will help the government attain the goal of ending homelessness, outlined in Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. We believe that this can be accomplished while also preserving the federal government's ability to promptly dispose of additional surplus property in an efficient and effective manner. In this spirit, the Law Center recommends the following:

- holding onto property that is truly surplus and no longer needed. The law governing Title V should be amended to require that properties be made available to homeless service providers after they have remained unused for a reasonably limited period of time. There should be improved government oversight to ensure that an agency's decision to make a property available or not is justified and documented.
- Properties that are suitable and available for homeless use should include both the buildings and the land upon which the buildings rest. A designation of availability should be interpreted to mean properties where both the buildings and the land are available to be transferred under Title V, rather than making the buildings solely available for off-site use.
- The federal government should conduct improved and expansive outreach to advertise the program and information about suitable properties when they become available. HUD, HHS, and GSA should develop a coordinated outreach plan and engage in an ongoing and meaningful public awareness campaign to promote the Title V program to the fullest extent possible.
- A single website specific to the Title V program should be created, hosted, and advertised by the federal government to improve outreach and to streamline the **application process.** The website should include a comprehensive and up-to-date list of all surplus properties and an overview of the Title V distribution program, HUD, HHS, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Interagency Council on Homelessness should make available clear and concise instructions on Title V, including how to apply for properties, and an explanation of all categories of properties that should be available under this section. Further, contact information for each landholding agency and technical assistance in the application process should be made available through the website.
- Homeless service providers should be permitted to use properties for permanent housing for homeless people. HHS should revise its policy of rejecting applications that propose permanent housing without also providing supportive services.
- The application for property should be tailored to the Title V Program. A streamlined application process that requires only the information contemplated by Congress in Title V should be created, utilizing a shorter application specific to Title V rather than the general HHS Form 696.

This Land is Your Land: How Surplus Federal Property Can Prevent and End Homelessness

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- 24 Inst. for Children, Poverty, & Homelessness, Intergenerational Disparities Experienced by Homeless Black Families, 1, (2012), http://www.icphusa.org/filelibrary/ICPH_Homeless%20Black%20Families.pdf.
- 25 24 C.F.R. 581.7(a)(1)(iii) (2013).
- 26 Id. at (a)(2)(ii).
- 27 Nat'l Law Ctr. on Homelessness and Poverty v. U.S. Dept. of Veterans Admin., 819 F. Supp. 69, 75 (D.D.C. 1993).

APPENDIX

State	Organization Name	Property Name	Program Type/ Services Provided	Address	Telephone Number and Contact	Website
	Tundra Women's Coalition	Bethel Army Advisory Housing	Transitional Housing for Domestic Violence Survivors; Counseling and other support services	No address listed because of privacy	(907) 543-3444	http://tundrapeace.org
AK	AAAA (Four A's)	Federal Building	Transitional Housing and support sevices for low-income Alaskans living with HIV/AIDS	1057 W. Fireweed, Suite 102 Anchorage, AK 99503	(907) 263-2050	http://www.alaskanaids. org/2011/index.html
	Catholic Social Services, Inc	Anchorage Duplexes-Brown St.	CSS operates two emergency shelters, two homes for teens, a food pantry, supportive housing and case management specializing in services for unsheltered families with children.	Anchorage Duplexes - Brown St 924; 926; 944; and 946 Brown St. Anchorage, AK	(907) 222-3700	http://www.cssalaska.org
AR	Our House, Inc	VA Medical Building	Family Housing; Transitional Housing; Emergency Shelter; Job Training; Case Management and Support Services	302 E. Roosevelt Road Little Rock, AR 72206	(501) 374-7383	www.ourhouseshelter. org
	Salvation Army, A Georgia Corp	Federal Building	Food Pantry; Utility Bill Pay Assistance; Narcotics Anonymous Meetings	129 N. Main St. Benton, AR 72018	(501) 374-9296 ext. 103	http://www.uss. salvationarmy.org/uss/ www_uss_caac.nsf/vw- sublinks/8DF049B453E F08A9852576CE007303 93?openDocument
AK	Family Center, Inc	Social Security Admin. Building	Emergency Shelters for battered women and children; manages the Food Bank of the Delta	406 Pecan Street, Helena, AR 72342	870-338-8447	https://www. facebook.com/ TheFamilyCenterInc
	Quapaw House, Inc	SSA/Federal Building	Transitional supportive housing and other services for people suffering from susbtance abuse and their families.	Hot Springs, AR	(501) 767-4456	www.quapawhouse.org
AZ	Esperanza en Escalante	Tract #3 Davis Manthan AFB	Multiple Occupancy Housing; Rehabilitation Services; Job Training and other support services for Veterans	3700 S. Calle Polar Tucson, AZ 85730	(520) 571-8294	www.eeeveterans.org

State	Organization Name	Property Name	Program Type/ Services Provided	Address	Telephone Number and Contact	Website
AZ	House of Refuge Community Housing Partnership	Williams Air Force Base (3 dispensations 1bldg, 20bldgs, and 68bldgs	Transitional housing and support services	6953 E. Williams Field Rd. Mesa, AZ 85212	(480) 988-9242	www.houseofrefuge.org
	Shelter Outreach Plus	Ft. Ord	Outreach; Emergency Shelter; Transitional Housing; Support Services for Domestic Violence Surviviors and People Experiencing Homelessness including Homeward Bound Program	P.O. Box 1340 Salina, CA 93933	831-422-2201	www.sopinc.org
	Interim, Inc.	Ft. Ord	Affordable Housing; Residential Treatment; Social support; Homeless Outreach and Support; Family Outreach; Supported Education and Employment Services for Adults with Mental Illnesses.	P.O. Box 3222 Monterey, CA 93942	(831) 646- 2220 ext. 322 or (831) 776-2101	www.interiminc.org
CA	Pueblo del Mar Family Recovery Center	Social Security Admin. Building	Emergency Shelters for battered women and children; manages the Food Bank of the Delta	406 Pecan Street, Helena, AR 72342	870-338-8447	https://www.facebook.com/TheFamilyCenterInc
	Housing Authority County of Monterey (Property Lesee)	SSA/Federal Building	Transitional supportive housing and other services for people suffering from susbtance abuse and their families.	Hot Springs, AR	(501) 767-4456	www.quapawhouse.org
	Sun Street (Property Operator)"	Ft. Ord	Transitional Housing and other Supportive Services for Homeless Families	123 Rico St. Salinas, CA 93907	831-753-6009	http://sunstreetcenters. org/residential/pueblo_ del_mar.php
	California Emergency Foodlink	Sacramento Army Depot	Food Bank and other emergency food distribution services	5800 Foodlink Street Sacramento, CA 95828	1-800-283- 9000	www.foodlink.org
	New Directions, Inc.	VA Building	Transitional Housing; Drug and Alcohol Abuse Support Services; Long term Case Management; Emergency Shelter and Detox Center for Veterans	"11303 Wilshire Blvd. VA Bldg 116 Los Angeles, CA 90073-1003	310-914-4045	http://www. newdirectionsinc.org/

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	Veterans Transition Center of Monterey	Ft. Ord	Transitional Housing; Counselling; Emergency Services; Case Management for Veterans	220 12th St. Martinez Hall Marina, CA 93933	(831) 883-8387	www.vtcmonterey.org
	Operation Grace Grace Apostolic Church	Norton AFB-Parcel J	Emergency Shelter for Women and Children; Emergency food for people experiencing homelessness; other support services	6549 N. Steven Way San Bernadino, CA 92401	(909) 382-8540	http://operationgrace.com/
	Community Social Model Advocates	Castle, AFB	Residential Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program for individuals and families	559 Mendocino Court Atwater, CA 95301	(209) 357-5200	www.csmainc.org
	Westwood Transitional Village The Salvation Army	VA Triangular Parcel (1st Property)	Transitional housing and Other Supportive Services for Homeless Families	1401 S. Sepulveda Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90025	310-477-9539	http://www1.usw. salvationarmy.org/usw/ www_usw_southcal.nsf/ vw-text-dynamic-arrays/ AF2BC42C61EA36C988 2575A50067638A?open Document&charset=utf-8
CA	The Bell Center The Salvation Army	Bell Federal Service Center	Transitional Housing for people experiencing homelessness; emergency housing; case management; on-site health care and medical referrals; rehabilitation services	5600 Rickenbacker Rd Bell, CA 90201	(323) 263-1206	http://www1.usw. salvationarmy.org/usw/ www_usw_southcal.nsf/ vw-text-dynamic-arrays/8 0222FB0DC42967B8825 75A200745BF9?openDoc ument&charset=utf-8
	Redding Veteran's Resource Center Vietnam Veterans of California, Inc.	Redding Reserve Center	Supportive services for veterans and their families who are experiencing homelessness	280 Hemsted Drive, Suite 100 Redding, CA 96002	(530) 223-3211	www.vietvets.org
	City of Modesto	Social Security Admin. Building	Services for people with mental illness who experience chronic homelessness	1010 10th St. Modesto, CA 95354	(209) 577-5245	
	The S. Mark Taper Foundation Shelter Resource Bank Shelter Partnership Inc.	Bell Federal Service Center; building 1101	Aggregator and distributor of wholesale donations of resources for homeless shelters and populations	5600 Rickenbacker Road, Bell, CA 90201	(323) 261-9597	www.shelterpartnership.
	Volunteers of America Los Angeles VOALA	Boyle Heights Social Security Administration Building	Transitional housing and other supportive services to chronically homeless veterans		(213) 435-4800	http://www.voala.org/

СО	Third Way Center	Lowry AFB building 964	Residential based services for teens at high risk of experiencing homelessness	P.O. Box 61385 Denver, CO 80206	(303) 780-9191	http://www. thirdwaycenter.org/
DC	Third Way Center	Lowry AFB building 964	Residential based services for teens at high risk of experiencing homelessness	P.O. Box 61385 Denver, CO 80206	(303) 780-9191	http://www. thirdwaycenter.org/
FL	Metropolitan Dade County	Homestead AFB	Manages the operation of two permanent supportive shelters and one transitional housing program for individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS	111 NW 1st Suite 27-310 Miami, FL 33128- 1902	(305) 375-1490	www.miamidade.gov/ Homeless/home.asp
GA	Mt. Olive Community Outreach Center	Boyett Village Family Housing Complex	Job training; creation of mixed-income housing communities	302 Adkins St. Albany, GA 31704 (Church Address)	(229) 435-9961	www.the oliveexperience. org/outreach.php
IL	Growing Home, Inc.	National Weather Service Meteor	on-the-job training in urban agriculture; work-focused case management	2539 N. 30th. Rd Marseilles, IL 61341	(773) 549-1336	www.growinghomeinc.
	The Eagle's Nest of St. Clair County	Perry F. Muldrow USARC	Supportive housing and other services for veterans	5020 State St. East St. Louis, IL 62202	(314) 680-2599	http://www. thejosephcenter.org/
	North Central- Flint Hills Area Agency on Aging	Federal Office Building	Homelessness prevention services for senior citizens	401 Houston St. Manhattan, KS 66502	(785) 776-9294	http://www.ncfhaaa.com/
KS	Breakthrough House	Social Security Administration Building	Supportive group housing for people with diagnosed mental illnesses	1201 Van Buren, Topeka, Kansas 616612	(785) 232-6960	http://www. breakthroughhouse.org/
	Monroe Area Guidance Center	Naval Reserve Center	Emergency Shelter; Transitional Housing	1900 Garett Rd. Monroe, LA 71202	(318) 343-9200	www.monroeagc.org
LA	Aftercare Ministries, Inc.	Eugene Nettles Army Reserve Center	Transitional Housing and Re-entry services for Veterans	1815 N. Bolton Avenue, Alexandria, LA 71303		
	City of Lynn	Marine Corps Training Center	Supportive Housing Program	100 Willow St. Lynn, MA 01901		http://www.lhand. org/resources_pages/ homelessinitative.html
MA	New England Center for Homeless Veterans	VA Outpatient Clinic	Reintegration; Employment; Independent Living Services for Veterans	17 Court St. Boston, MA 02108	(617) 248-9400	www.nechv.org

State	Organization Name	Property Name	Program Type/ Services Provided	Address	Telephone Number and Contact	Website
MA	Health and Education Services, Inc. "Nike Village"	US Army Housing, Topsfield	Outpatient Treatment; Emergency Services; Residential Care; Substance Abuse Prevention Programming	9 Nike Village Topsfield, MA 01983	(978) 887-0833	www.hes-inc.org
	Advocates for Homeless Families	710 Trail Avenue	Transitional Housing; Home Foreclosure Protection	710 Trail Avenue	(301) 662-2003	http://www.afhf88.org
MD	Southern MD Tri-County Community Action	La Plata Housing Units	Emergency Food Services; Housing Counselling; Employment Training Opportunities		(301) 609-7289	www.smtccac.org
	Crossroads Community, Inc.	Stillpond Housing Units	Rehabilitation; Counselling; Case Management for People with Mental Illnesses	937 Gateway Drive Chestertown, MD 21620	(410) 778-9200	www.ccinconline.com
	Emmaus Shelter H.O.M.E. Inc.	Ellsworth Federal Post Office Building	Homeless Shelther; Non-residential Services	41 Main St. Ellsworth, ME 04605	(207) 469-7961	homecoop.net
ME	Parkwoods Transitional Housing City of Bangor Housing and Community Services	Chestertown Family Housing	Transitional Housing and other services	103 Texas Ave. Bangor, ME 04401	(207) 992-4530	http://bangorhealth. org/public-housing/ parkwoods-transitional- housing/
	Facilities Inc.	Loring AFB	Provides affordable housing to low- income communities and non-profit organizations	5 Vickers Drive Caribou, ME 04736-3884	(207) 498-3709	http://www.mefacilities.
MI	Grace Centers of Hope	Furlong Building	Emergency Shelter; Substance Abuse Prevention and Counselling; Recovery and Rehabilitation Center; Other Supportive Services for Individuals and Families experiencing homelessness, domestic violence survivors	35 East Huron St. Pontiac, MI 48342	(855) 435-7424	http://www.gracecentersofhope.org/
	Gleaners Community Food Bank	Arsenal Acres	Food bank and other emergency food services	24140 Mound Rd. Warren, MI 48091	(586) 758-6830	http://www.gcfb.org/site/ PageServer
MN	The Salvation Army	Duluth Housing Unit	Emergency Housing; Transitional Housing; Food Assistance	Duluth, MN	(218) 722-7934	http://www.usc. salvationarmy.org/duluth

State	Organization Name	Property Name	Program Type/ Services Provided	Address	Telephone Number and Contact	Website
	Economic Security Corps of SW Area	Durwood G. Hall Fed. Building	Transitional Housing; Community-Based Housing; Supportive services for those experiencing chronic homelessness	302 S. Joplin St. Joplin, MO 65801	(417) 781-0352	http://www.escswa.org
МО	Veterans Come Home Program New Life Evangelistic Center	SSA Building	Transitional Housing and other supportive services for Homeless Veterans	806 North Jefferson Ave. Springfield, MO	(417) 864-5338	http://www. newlifeevangelisticcenter. org/veterans/
	Carriage House Human Resource Development Council	USARC Bozeman Reserve Center	Transitional Housing and other supportive services	32 South Tracy Avenue, Bozeman, MT 59715	(406) 587-4486	http://www.thehrdc.org/ http://www.thehrdc.org/ 2010/02/carriagehouse/
MT	Samaritan House, Inc.	Sonstelic Hall Army Reserve Center	Transitional Housing and other supportive services with a dedicated number of beds for homeless veterans	1110 2nd St. Kalispell, MT 59901	(406) 257-5801	http://www. homelessintheflathead. blogspot.com
NE	Housing Authority of the County of Scotts Bluff	SSA Building	Manages transitional housing programs of the county; creates and manages affordable housing units.	89A Woodly Park Rd. Gering, NE69341	(308) 632-0473	www.scottsbluffhousing.
	Catherine A. Rowe Commons Paterson Coalition for Housing	Naval Reserve Center	Transitional Housing; Supportive Services for Domestic Violence Survivors and their families	2 Broadway Paterson, NJ 07505	(973) 684-0473	
NJ	Urban Renewal Corp	Naval Reserve Center	Job Training and Placement Support	53 Hackensack Ave. Kering, NJ	(973) 632-9343	www.urbanrenewal.org
	M.I.P.H. (Making It Possible To End Homelessness)	GSA Raritan Dept.	Transitional Housing and Other Supportive Services	Amandla Crossing Transitional Housing Program 60 Clif Prescod Lane, Edison, NJ 08817	(732) 729-7770	www.miphnj.org
NM	Safe Home New Day, Inc.	VA Hospital	Residential Services for Youth Experiencing Homelessness	2820 Ridgecrest SE Albuquerque, NM 87108	(505) 260-9912	www.ndnm.org
NY	Neighbors of Watertown, Inc.	SSA Trust Fund Building	Creation of long-term affordable supportive housing	190 Stone St. Watertown, NY	(315) 782-8497	www. neighborsofwatertown. com

State	Organization Name	Property Name	Program Type/ Services Provided	Address	Telephone Number and Contact	Website
	Overcoming Love Ministries	GSA Motor Pool Parcel at FB 2	Transtitional Housing serving families experiencing homeless; emergency food services	78-14 Rockaway Boulevard Woodhaven, NY 11421	(718) 235-1464	http://oclm.org/home.html
NY	Homes for Heroes Rockland Housing Action Coalition	Tappan Army Reserve Center	Permanent Supportive Housing for Disabled Veterans and their Families who have experienced homelessness		(845) 708-5799	http://www. rocklandhomesforheroes. org/
OK	Community Christian Care Center	Jay Federal Building	Emergency Housing; Transitional Housing; Women's Shelter; Emergency Food Services	202 S 5th St. Jay, OK 74346	(918) 253-6168 (918) 253-4062	
OR	Community Partners for Affordable Housing	Sears Armory Parcel	Administrative Offices for a Permanent Supportive Housing Program	P.O. Box 23206 Tigard OR 97281	(503) 293-4038	http://www.cpahinc.org/
	Liberty House Community Mental Health Services, Inc.	Valley Forge General Hospital	Residential Facility for People who have mental illnesses and are affected by homelessness; Case Management; 24 hr Crisis Management	Liberty House 200 Liberty House Lane Phoenixville, PA 19460	(610) 983-0900	
PA	United Chrisitian Ministries, Inc.	Cowanesque Lake Project "David's By The Lake"	Transitional Housing			http:// unitedchristianministriesinc. com/about.php
	Building Bridges Inc.	SSA Building, West Chester	Supportive Housing and Mental Health Services	330 W Market St West Chester, PA 19382-2805	(610) 429-3033	
SC	Family Promise of York County Interfaith Hospitality Network	SSA/Federal Building	Supportive services for families experincing homlessness	404 East Main St. Rock Hill, SC 29730	(803)329-2456	www.familypromiceyc.
	New Haven Home, Inc	Ft. Wolters Clinic	Emergency Food Services; Transitional housing and other supportive services for families experiencing homelessness	New Haven Ministries P.O. Box D Mineral Wells, Texas 761068	(940) 328-0910 (940) 452-1784	newhavenministries. tripod.com
TX	Mental Health Mental Retardation Services for the Concho Valley Concho Valley for Human Development	Fish Hatchery - San Angelo	Supportive services for people with mental health issues; life skills and vocational training	Administrative Offices: 1501 West Beauregard Avenue San Angelo, Texas 76901	(325) 658-7750	http://www.mhmrcv.org/

State	Organization Name	Property Name	Program Type/ Services Provided	Address	Telephone Number and Contact	Website
	Woman, Inc.	Ft. Crockett	Community Housing Development serving Domestic Violence Survivors	WOMAN, Inc. 1919 Decatur P.O. Box 571898 Houston, Texas 77257-1898	(409) 741-9098	www.womaninc.us
TX	Children's Center	Ft. Crockett	Emergency shelter; residential housing & services for minors; domestic violence support; other support services for the most vulnerable families and children	The Children's Center, Inc. P.O. Box 2600 Galveston, Texas 77553	(409) 765-5212	http:// thechildrenscenterinc.org/ index.html
	Union Gospel Mission	SW Division Soil Testing Lab	Shelter for women and children; supportive childcare services	Center of Hope Women and Children's Shelter 4815 Cass St. Dallas, TX 75235	(214) 638-2988	http://ugmdallas.org/ center-of-hope/
	Wintergarden Women's Shelter	Border Patrol Station	24hr Emergency Shelter; Crisis Intervention; Outreach	201 North 5th St. Carrizo Springs, TX 78834	(830) 876-9656	
	HOPE Community Services Central Piedmont Action Council	Watkins K. Abbitt Fed. Bldg.	Homelessness intervention; community development services	103 South Main Street, Farmville, VA 23901	(434) 315-8990	http://www.hopecsva.org/
VA	Dawson Beach Transitional Housing Prince William County	Woodbridge Military Housing Site	Transitional Housing and other supportive services for families with children experiencing homelessness	The Hilda M. Berg Homeless Prevention Center 14945 Jefferson Davis Highway Woodbridge, VA 22191	(703) 680-5403	http://www.pwcgov.org/ government/dept/housing/ Pages/Transitional- Housing-Program.aspx
	Carpenter's Shelter	Cameron Station	Emergency Day Shelter; Residential Facility; Seasonal Hypothermia Shelter; Case Management	930 North Henry Street, Alexandria, VA 22314	(703) 548-7500	http://www. carpentersshelter.org/
	The Salvation Army	SSA Trust Fund Building	Emergency Shelter	2215 Park Ave. P.O. Box 2314 Lynchburg, VA 24501	(434) 845-5939	http:// virginiasalvationarmy.org/ lynchburgva/
VT	NE Kingdom Community Action, Inc.	Border Patrol/ Custom's House	Transitional Housing for people exiting the prison system	Either: 70 Main St. Newport, VT 05855 Or: 343 Main St. Newport, VT 05855	(802) 334-7316	http://nekcavt.org/
WA	Fleetwood Apartments The Low Income Housing Institute	Olympia Federal Building	Housing dedicated to individuals experiencing homelessness; Case Management; Intensive Supportive Services for Veterans	119 7th Ave. SE Olympia, WA 98501	360.753.8292	http://www.lihi. org/prop_ fleetwoodAppts0001.html

This Land is Your Land: How Surplus Federal Property Can Prevent and End Homelessness

State	Organization Name	Property Name	Program Type/ Services Provided	Address	Telephone Number and Contact	Website
WA	King County Housing Authority	Midway "Nike" Housing Site	Emergency Housing for Families experiencing homelessness	Multi-Service Center 1215 S. Central St. Kent, WA 98032	(253) 854-3437	http://www.kcha.org/ housing/property. aspx?PropertyID=69
	City of Redmond	Coast Guard Housing Site	Emergency Housing; Transitional Housing; Supportive Servces	NE 95th St. Redmond, WA 98052		http://www.hope-link.org/about/
	Worthington Mental Health Systems	Army Reserve Center	Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services	Substance Abuse Services 3199 Core Road Parkersburg, WV 26104	(304) 485-5185 ext. 300	
WV	Wyoming Coalition for the Homeless	Naval Reserve Center	Life enrichment services; job training; life skills training	Either: 907 Campbell Ave. Cheyenne, WY 82001 Or: 4700 Ocean Loop Cheyenne, WY 82011	(307) 634-8499	http://www.wch.vcn.com/

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