

NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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Veterans Day Commemorations Are Over; Homeless Veterans Are Still on the Streets *The Law Center releases its report on Title V, an underused resource that could end and prevent homelessness*

Washington, D.C. - Today, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty ("the Law Center") will release *This Land is Your Land: How Surplus Property Can Prevent and End Homelessness*, a report on Title V of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. This is the third report by the Law Center on the Title V program, which allows vacant federal property to be used, for free, by eligible groups who provide housing or services to homeless persons. Currently, in a given year, an estimated 3.5 million experience homelessness in the United States. On a *single night* in January 2012, 62,619 veterans were found to be homeless. The report highlights the success of the Title V program, which has resulted in housing and services to over 2 million people last year, and demonstrates the need to make even better use of our nation's vacant property assets.

The increase in homelessness stemming from the foreclosure crisis and prolonged unemployment has overwhelmed already overburdened homeless service providers. One underutilized resource that could ease the burden and assist in preventing and ending homelessness is vacant federal property. For example, each year, in former federal properties conveyed under the Title V program:

- 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.

Despite these results, there is pending legislation in Congress that would undermine Title V. We oppose these efforts and instead support sensible reforms that would build on the program's history of producing affordable housing and saving millions of taxpayer dollars each year on property maintenance.

In the current environment, it is imperative that the federal government eliminates waste and maximizes available resources to help the millions of Americans suffering in the economic crisis. Protecting and expanding the ability of homeless service providers to access unused federal property is a critical part of that effort.

To read the report, [click here](#). For general inquiries, contact [Selam Aberra](#).

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The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty is a leader in the movement to prevent and end homelessness. To achieve its goal, the Law Center uses three main strategies: policy advocacy, public education, and impact litigation.