



**Department of
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2011

Funds Going to Alaska Agency in New Homeless Prevention Initiative *Grant is Part of \$60 Million in Homeless Funding for Veteran Families*

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced today the award of more than \$350,000 to Catholic Social Services, one of 85 non-profit community agencies in 40 states and the District of Columbia to receive a grant. The grant will serve approximately 50 participant households in Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Valley communities as part of VA's new Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

“This new homeless prevention program will provide new hope and comprehensive support to Veterans who have served honorably, but now find themselves in a downward spiral toward despair and homelessness,” Secretary Shinseki said. “This program expands our capacity to act before a Veteran becomes homeless and to target the problem of family homelessness. These grants would not have been possible without the extraordinary partnerships forged with community organizers who are firmly committed to making a positive difference in lives of Veterans and their families.”

The SSVF Program, a critical element of VA's plan to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans, will promote housing stability among homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families. Under the SSVF program, VA awards grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that can provide a range of supportive services to eligible very low-income Veteran families. Supportive services include outreach, case management, assistance in obtaining VA benefits, and assistance in obtaining and

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coordinating other public benefits. Grantees will also have the ability to make time-limited temporary financial assistance payments on behalf of Veterans for purposes such as rent payments, utility payments, security deposits and moving costs.

More information about VA's homeless programs is available online at <http://www.va.gov/homeless>.

A list of award recipients and details about the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program are available online at <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp>.

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