

**BOARD LETTER – SUMMARY SHEET
HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CLUSTER**

AGENDA REVIEW	12/4/2013
BOARD MEETING	12/17/2013
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT	ALL
DEPARTMENT	MENTAL HEALTH
SUBJECT	Acceptance of a grant agreement from the Department of Veterans Affairs to implement an intensive Housing First Assertive Community Treatment program intended to assist chronically homeless mentally ill Veterans residing in Los Angeles County and approval of a request for appropriation adjustment.
PROGRAM	Adult System of Care – Veterans And Loved Ones Recovery (VALOR) Program
DEADLINES	December 18, 2013
COST & FUNDING	The total federal VA grant award, up to \$2,889,600, will be allocated annually per federal Fiscal Year in the respective amounts; \$600,000, \$662,400, \$700,800, \$525,600, and 400,800. The federal VA grant will be renewed annually per federal Fiscal Year and is subject to the availability of federal funds.
PURPOSE OF REQUEST	<p>Board approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to accept a federal VA grant award totaling \$2,889,600, and execute the attached grant agreement (Attachment I), for an intensive Housing First Assertive Community Treatment (Housing First ACT) Program, and provide mental health services to chronically homeless mentally ill Veterans residing in Los Angeles County. Through this program, DMH will outreach and engage chronically homeless mentally ill Veterans, secure housing for the those Veterans authorized by the VA for acceptance into the program, and provide critically needed intensive services, including mental health and case management, to address issues around trauma and isolation commonly experienced within this population.</p> <p>On September 30, 2013, the VA notified DMH of the grant award as the outcome of a competitive application process. The grant agreement is effective September 30, 2013, and requires implementation of the Housing First ACT Program begin on December 18, 2013, per the grant requirements.</p>
SUMMARY/ ISSUES (Briefly summarize program and potential issues or concerns. Identify changes, if any, to level of funding or staffing; how funding will be utilized and why best use; prior accomplishments; and for BLs involving contracts, also note changes to the	<p>The Housing First ACT Program is a partnership between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the VA Supportive Housing program to place and maintain Veterans in permanent, community based housing using HUD Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers that are paired with ongoing case management services. This award is renewable for up to five years, subject to the availability of federal funds and satisfactory progress of the program. The Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan for this grant is attached (Attachment IV) for your reference.</p> <p>The grant agreement requires services be directed to eligible chronically homeless mentally ill Veterans for whom such care is specifically authorized by the VA. DMH will significantly expand outreach efforts for chronically homeless Veterans suffering with mental health issues, including those with substance abuse and those being released from jails. Once engaged, DMH will provide extensive housing placement and case management services through this grant to 50 Veterans in the base year of the contract. DMH will provide these services</p>

contract term.)	under the Adult System of Care Bureau's Veterans and Loved Ones Recovery (VALOR) program, augmenting VALOR to include the initiation and delivery of the required Housing First ACT Program services.
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