

Initiative to End Veteran Homelessness In 2015

We have a goal as a country to end homelessness among Veterans by the end of 2015. In order to make this an achievable goal nationally we must first do it locally.

The Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care created an Initiative for Veterans of Okaloosa and Walton Counties (I VOW). I VOW is a Homeless Veterans Taskforce that developed a local action plan to make sure every veteran in the community has access to stable housing and the supportive services they need to stay off the street. The goal is a systematic end to homelessness, which means there are no Veterans sleeping on our streets and every Veteran has access to permanent housing. The, I VOW defines ending homelessness among Veterans by having the capacity to serve the inflow of Veterans in need of support to help them regain or maintain stable housing, immediately. When Veterans become or are at-risk of becoming homeless, a system of coordinated Federal, State, and community partners will quickly connect them to the help they need to achieve housing stability by utilizing the strategies outlined in the action plan.

As of January 2015, Okaloosa County counted 117 homeless veterans. A part of the I VOW plan is the commitment of our local municipalities and county officials to lend their voice, focus effort, and align resources to the task of supporting those among us that sacrificed for our freedom and defended our rights. Now we join forces to defend theirs.

The signatures below are those local officials that are committed to ending veteran homelessness in communities throughout Okaloosa County, by partnering with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Okaloosa Walton Homeless Continuum of Care, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and the I VOW Homeless Task Force.

With this signature, I commit to support and encourage the efforts to end veteran homelessness by December 31st, 2015.

Signature

Commitment Date

Nathan D. Boyles

Mike Audley

Margaret D. Young

John C. Cook

Will Funder

May 19th, 2015

May 19, 2015

May 19, 2015

May 19, 2015

May 19, 2015
