

# LAWYERS FOR WARRIORS

NOVEMBER 7, 2022

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ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR

**MICHAEL KIBBE, ESQ.**

VETERAN OF THE YEAR

**JENNIFER R. JOSLIN, ESQ.**

VETERAN ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

**U.S. VETERANS MAGAZINE**

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Veterans Legal Institute (VLI) is a military-specific public interest law firm that provides pro bono legal assistance to homeless, at-risk, low income and disabled veterans and active service members that eradicates barriers to housing, education, employment and healthcare and fosters self-sufficiency.

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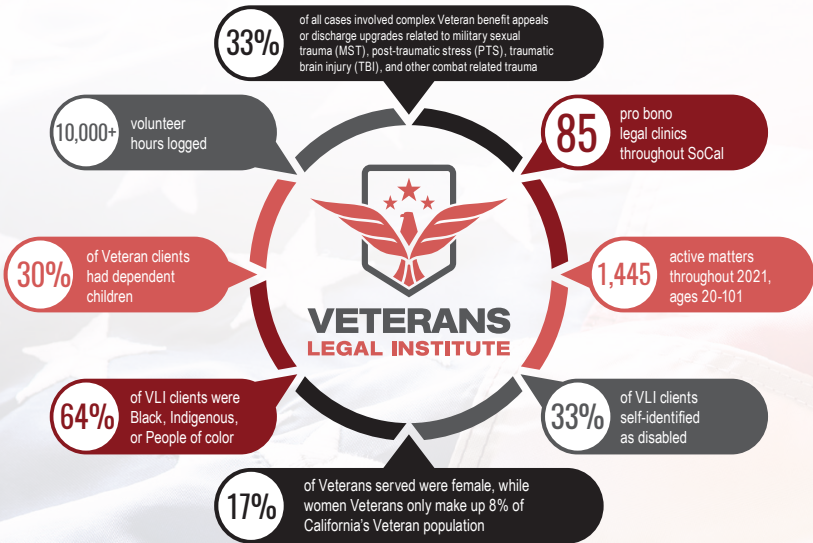
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# 2021 IMPACT

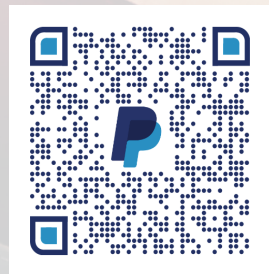


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- Take a case pro bono
- Apply to join the VLI Board
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- Join VLI's Annual Fundraising Event Committee

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- Designate Veterans Legal Institute as your charity of choice on Amazon Smile.
- Become a monthly supporter and stand with our Veterans of today and tomorrow by registering at [VetsLegal.org](https://VetsLegal.org) or text VLI to 44-321.
- Recommend VLI receive a donation through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF).
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# LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR

ArentFox Schiff LLP is internationally recognized in core industries where business and the law intersect. With more than 650 lawyers and policy professionals, the firm serves as a destination for an international roster of companies, governments, individuals, and trade associations. Our attorneys have been recognized for their exceptional work by top industry watchers, including Chambers USA, Legal 500, US News & World Report, Daily Journal, Thomson Reuters, Super Lawyers, and Best Lawyers in America.

ArentFox Schiff was also the first big US law firm to buy a stake in the Metaverse, an innovative and quickly developing industry that the firm's attorneys provide counsel on within blockchain matters, decentralized autonomous organizations ("DAOs"), NFTs, and more. Throughout all 8 of the firm's offices nationwide, many attorneys volunteer thousands of hours to local pro bono projects each year in an effort to ensure that the firm remains at the forefront of the private bar's effort to address unequal access to legal representation.



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# COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR

U.S. Veterans Magazine (USVM) is the premier resource magazine for transitioning service members, service-disabled veterans, veteran business owners and their spouses and families. USVM is the link between the qualified students, career and business candidates from the ranks of our nation's veteran organizations, educational institutions, corporate America and the federal government.

We provide our readers with relevant and timely information about employment, recruitment, supplier diversity, education, wellness and benefits. We recognize the immense value veterans offer as employees and link job seekers with companies eager to hire them. Our publication connects entrepreneurs with opportunities to grow their businesses, and for those seeking educational prospects and scholarships, we share the information they need to support their academic success.

USVM is committed to serving those who have served our country. Our connection and support of the military community are expanding each year. We attend career fairs providing pathways to careers for transitioning service members and veterans seeking employment, gift magazines to VA hospitals through the Cheeriodicals program and volunteer with local veteran organizations.

USVM is a proud partner of VLI and is dedicated to giving exposure to VLI's tireless efforts in advocating for veterans who need legal assistance. We look forward to our continued partnership, and we're honored to be recognized as your Community Partner of the Year.



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# ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR



## **MICHAEL JONES, ESQ.**

Originally an “East Coaster”, Michael Jones moved to California in late 1990’s and joined the Army after the 2001 September 11th attack. His reason for joining the Army was simple—if someone is going to be shot at, he’d rather it be him than his family. He has continued with his military service since that time and is currently serving as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for an Army division in California (40th Infantry Division). He has served the country all over the world—throughout the United States, and overseas in Italy, Germany, Korea, and Kosovo.

Michael has served as one of the Army’s legal instructors, teaching on legal assistance areas that are often needed by military personnel—Service members Civil Relief Act (SCRA), Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), and federal consumer protection law. While the SCRA and USERRA have application to those currently serving in the military, federal consumer protection law has much broader application and is often of great help to military veterans. As you’d expect, his favorite assignment was as the legal assistance JAG on a foreign deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where he was able to represent Soldiers with their personal legal needs.

Through the Veterans Legal Institute, Michael has provided substantial pro bono legal assistance to our nation’s veterans in various federal consumer protection areas and bankruptcy cases. Not only does he represent VLI veterans in bankruptcy cases without any expense to the veteran, he also provides consulting services and instruction to Veterans Legal Institute staff and volunteers.

As a Soldier himself, Michael understands the commitment that military personnel make to one another. There is a comradery among those who have served in the military, especially among those who are combat deployed. As such, Michael is always ready to respond to the needs of his fellow veterans.

Having served dozens of veterans to date through VLI, Michael has been an essential resource in lifting up our veterans in need.





# VETERAN ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR



## JENNIFER JOSLIN, ESQ.

Jennifer has practiced family law for over 15 years in both Washington and California. Jennifer approaches each family law case with both an emotional and logical perspective. She has chosen to practice family law because she believes in helping families resolve their differences amicably and without the high costs of litigation.

Jennifer believes that by understanding each client's unique needs and goals, cases can be resolved early through zealous advocacy and negotiation. Jennifer truly believes in doing what is in

the best interests of her clients and has always believed in open and honest client communication.

Jennifer has always had a special place for Veterans and active duty military. Her grandfather served in the Korean war and missed the first year of her mother's life. When asked why she serves at Veterans Legal Institute, she stated: "I feel that volunteering is a way of me giving back and thanking those past and current military members for their service. I am passionate about helping those who can't afford an attorney, but especially veterans and active duty military members. I regularly volunteer my time and services to low income veterans in Southern California. My experience and expertise in family law brings comfort to pro per veterans navigating the legal system while also battling invisible conditioni like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder."





# VETERAN OF THE YEAR



## **MICHAEL KIBBE, ESQ.**

Michael Kibbe advises a wide range of clients on employment related matters involving compliance with federal and state laws and best employment practices. Michael has defended clients nationwide and internationally on a wide scope of matters including employment law, wage and hour law, Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), unfair competition, fraud, defamation, trade secret litigation and business litigation, among others.

Michael is a Marine veteran who has been involved with VLI for more than 4 years. He is currently serving as the chair of the board. Michael also acts as VLIs outside employment counsel on a pro bono basis.



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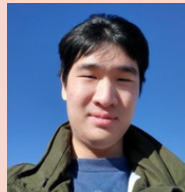


# MEET OUR INTERNS



I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work alongside so many knowledgeable and innovative people while I learn the ins and outs of the legal field. Moreover, I have had the chance to help support veterans and hear their unique life stories. This has even further motivated me to pursue law as my future career. Creating positive change is and will continue to be, the highlight of my intern experience here at VLI. I am proud of my role here and the assistance I have provided to veterans in need. - **Nathan Buturla**

I enjoy interning at VLI because I get to help out veterans in any way I can. I believe that these veterans who have risked their lives to ensure our safety deserve all the help they can get. It is the least I can do to give back to them after all the work they have done. - **Ryan Chang**



Interning at VLI has been a great experience because I get to work on legal matters that help at-risk veterans. Although homelessness and poverty rates among veterans have been declining over the past two decades, it is still disheartening to see veterans being left behind or cast aside after their service and sacrifice. Before interning with VLI, I had never interacted with veterans before. Hearing their gratitude and relief for finally being helped makes me glad that I get to help veterans get what they need and deserve. - **Audrey Fung**



At VLI, the best part of my internship is I have been able to work with awesome people and develop myself. Plus, I also learned that the privilege of helping veterans is greatly appreciated.

Without VLI, I would have no idea why assisting veterans is critical and requires much work and effort. Thanks to it, I always give more respect to all veterans. - **Nhi Huynh**



My favorite part of the internship is the communication I have with the veterans, specifically talking to them about how our institute can assist with their legal needs. In addition, hearing them joyful after finding out that their application has been accepted is always a nice moment to share, which makes the internship more worthwhile. This work is important to me because our veterans deserve the best because they allow our country to be the best! - **Bayan Zamani**





# DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

## \$25K MATCHING

A generous anonymous donor through the Orange County Community Foundation has volunteered to match up to \$25k to eradicate homelessness and suicide through Veterans Legal Institute. Donate today and join this movement to lift up those in need.

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**KATRINA FOLEY**  
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# You've served us, now let us serve you.

Lending a hand is what community is all about.

We are proud to support the Veterans Legal Institute and applaud its commitment to providing supportive services and hope for our veterans community across Orange County.

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in their mission to empower low income veterans  
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We congratulate all of this year's honorees

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## **Veteran of the Year:**

Mike Kibbe, *Esq.*, *U.S. Marine Corps Veteran*

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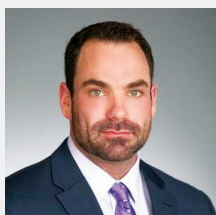


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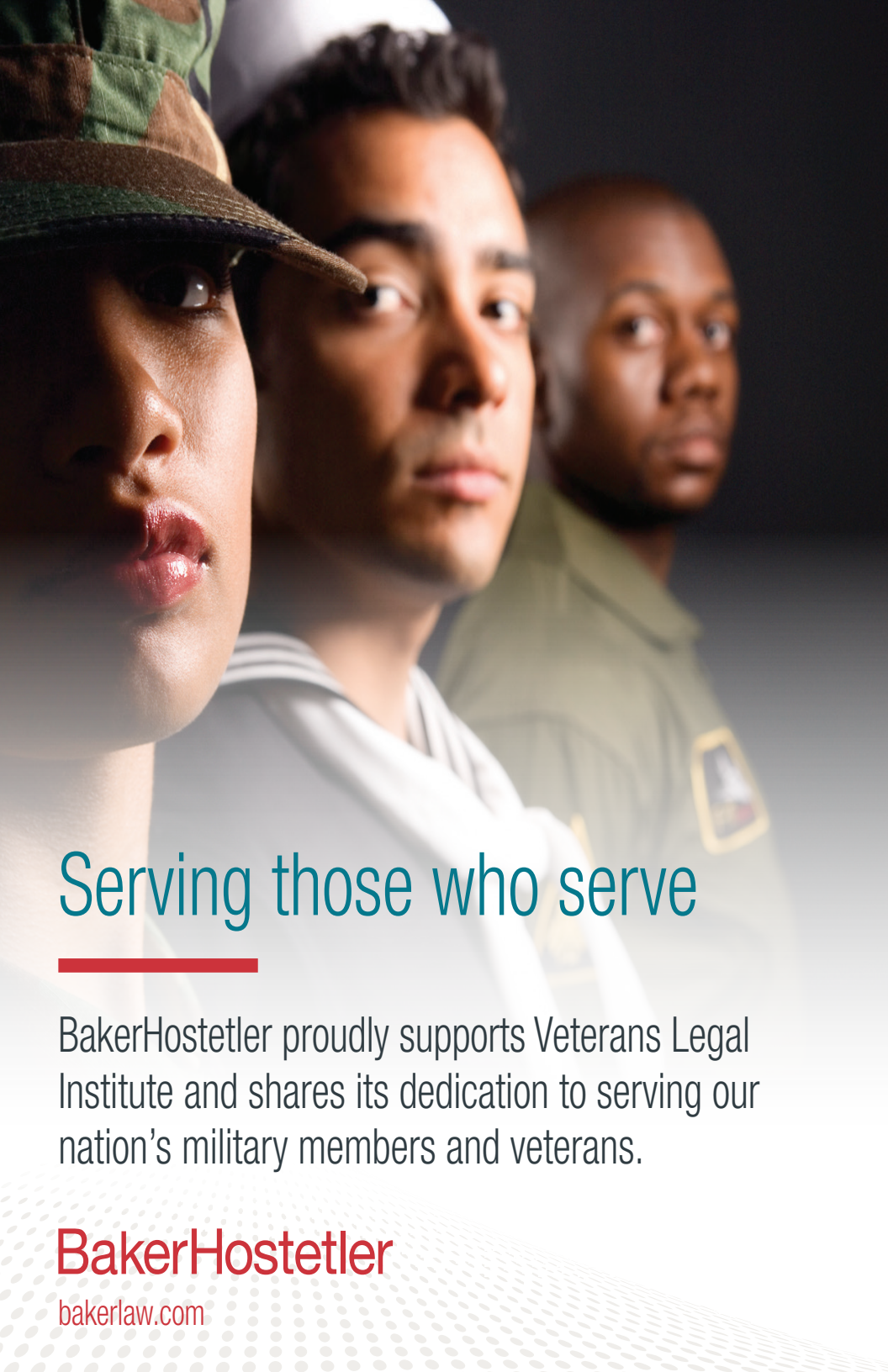


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\$ 56,000,000	\$ 5,325,000	\$ 50,675,000	Breach of Contract
\$ 20,000,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000,000	Products Liability
\$ 16,577,000	\$ -	\$ 16,577,000	Likeness Infringement
\$ 7,333,333	\$ -	\$ 7,333,333	Partnership Dispute
\$ 5,600,000	\$ 475,000	\$ 5,125,000	Trademark Infringement
\$ 3,467,490	\$ 170,000	\$ 3,297,490	Medical Lien Dispute
\$ 1,008,566	\$ -	\$ 1,008,566	Attorney/Client Billing Dispute
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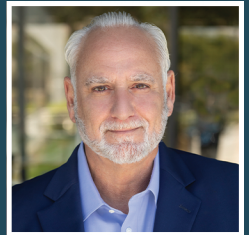
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The top half of the page features a collage. On the left, there is a vertical strip showing a close-up of the American flag's stars and stripes. To its right is a portrait of a smiling woman with dark hair, wearing a dark blue shirt. Further right is a close-up of a single white star on a blue fabric background, also part of the American flag. The background of the top half is divided into four colored squares: red (top-left), grey (top-right), teal (bottom-left), and orange (bottom-right).

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OC Women2Women's goal is to inspire hope in the hearts of women to move forward. We believe that by impacting the life of a woman, you can change generations to come. All community-minded women are encouraged to join us for any of our events as we strive to give a hand-up, not a hand-out to those in need.







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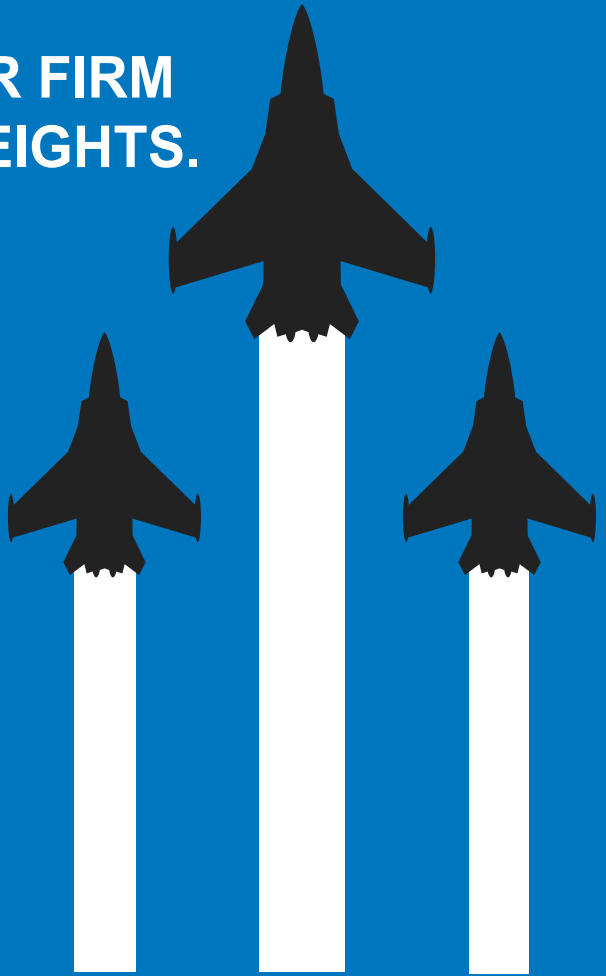
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# DATA HIGHLIGHTS

## 2014 - 2020

- Over **\$2.5 million** dollars in veteran benefits and **\$500K** dollars in civil claims awarded to low-income VLI Veteran clients
- Approximately **200** lawyers and law firms have volunteered to serve the VLI mission
- The number of pro bono clinic dates has increased by **500%**, from 10 per year in 2014 to over 60 per year in 2020
- **17%** of VLI clients to date have disclosed they have no income
- Over **50%** of VLI's clientele has a household income of under \$2,000 per month

**In 2020, 17 of 19 unlawful detainer cases avoided eviction and Veteran homelessness** — roughly a 90% success rate versus a 60% or lower success rate per studies for those without representation.

**In 2020, 83% of discharge upgrade decisions recieved by VLI were successful** — that's 3.5x higher than average rate of success. Favorable upgrades resulted in low-income Veterans restoring their dignity and ability to access safe housing, healthcare, economic and other benefits.





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Fund one on-site, free legal clinic at a local VA Hospital; this clinic serves close to 60 low-income and homeless veterans who have medical issues.

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Funds sustaining the healthcare and standard of living of veterans through appeals led by an attorney; these appeals secure benefits claims for illnesses and injuries including, but not limited to, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Military Sexual Trauma.

## \$500

Funds one Legal Hero to collaborate with other nonprofits to keep one veteran family safe and sound.





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Many in vulnerable communities (like homeless or disabled individuals) can commonly be brushed off.

Listening to a veteran's story can validate their experience, making the veteran feel heard.

A veteran might feel comfortable navigating the legal system with your legal advice under their belt, building their confidence.

Attorneys can give advice beyond what the court's self help center can provide, like legal strategy or what to expect in a courtroom.

## VOLUNTEER AT A CLINIC

VLI offers different ways to participate in a clinic:

1. A one-off consultation in a practice area of your expertise (i.e. family law)
2. General intake interview and advice (i.e. virtually at a Veteran Service Office [VSO] or at the Long Beach VA Hospital once public clinics resume).

## TAKE A CASE PRO BONO

What may be a quick and easy case for you is also a source of anxiety and fear for a veteran.

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Since its founding in **2014**, Veterans Legal Institute has opened over **9,000 cases** and restored **over two and a half million dollars** in veterans benefits.

In 2022, our attorney and volunteer warriors continued to keep free legal aid within reach for veterans at even greater risk of homelessness and suicide as we exit a pandemic and enter uncertain economic times. We returned to in-person services at the VA Long Beach Hospital, implementing an additional legal clinic specifically focused on Vietnam era veterans who are still suffering with disabilities caused by exposure to Agent Orange. Over 40 clinics a year continue virtually and in-person at six strategic veteran hotspots so veterans can dream again of a life filled with purpose and dignity.

### **MISSION**

Veterans Legal Institute (VLI) is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides pro bono legal assistance to homeless, at risk, disabled and low income current and former service members to eradicate barriers to housing, healthcare, education and employment and foster self-sufficiency.

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