

VASH Program Description

VASH, or the VA Supported Housing Program, a joint project between the Dept of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The **goal** of the program is to transition veterans from homelessness to having permanent, secure, safe housing so that they rebuild their lives. The **clientele** in **VASH** vary, although they have one common denominator- lack of secure housing. They range from families to single vets and from Vietnam era to returning OIF/OEF vets.

This program is administered in terms of a **housing voucher** from HUD for the vets to rent a home or an apartment, and intensive case management services provided by the VA for five years. After the five years, the veteran turn his or her vash voucher into a housing choice voucher to maintain their apartment, freeing up the vash voucher and case management for another veteran. The **Case Management** services are administered for five years and are highly individualized to support the vet and /or family to reach self sufficiency and success. After one year, the vets can use the housing voucher towards a mortgage.

VASH was brand new to Manchester in 2008, and housed 35 vets. In 2009, we received 35 more vouchers and are in the process of getting those vets housed. We are hoping for 35 or even 70 more in 2010 and we can be well on our way towards our goal of eliminating homelessness amongst our NH vets.

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