

## Veteran Moves Out of Car and Into Apartment

### Positive Stories / Lessons Learned from HPRP: *Individual Success Story*

HPRP Grantee:	City of Oakland Department of Human Services
CoC Name and Number:	CA-502 Oakland/Alameda County CoC

### Latest CoC Point-in-Time Count:

Total persons in ES:	852	Total persons in TH:	1,114
Total persons in Safe Haven:	0	Total unsheltered persons:	2,212
Total persons, sheltered and unsheltered:	4,178		

Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) veterans are of particular concern to both HUD and VA — 1.3 million troops have been deployed since September 11, 2001, and 8,200 veterans have already returned, experienced homelessness, and sought VA assistance. One of these veterans is Kevin\*, who became homeless at the age of 27 after breaking up with his girlfriend. With his siblings on the opposite coast, the rest of his family in Korea, and the loss of his significant other, Kevin could not identify any other support systems or financial resources. He moved his belongings into his car.

For two years, Kevin managed to continue attending his college courses in the morning, completing classwork in the library or in his car, showering at a local gym, and spending nights in his car, parked on residential streets. When accepted into the HUD-VASH program and upon receipt of a Section 8 voucher, he told his HUD-VASH case manager before he even began to identify housing that he did not have the resources to put down a security deposit.

HPRP paid for Kevin’s security deposit assistance. With that small amount, he used his Section 8 voucher to secure an apartment; this time, not just overnight. Oakland has used HPRP as a

supplementary resource to provide HUD-VASH veterans with rental deposits, security/utility deposits, and utility payments — in Kevin’s case, this collaboration was the necessary first step to receiving the permanent housing support, supportive services and case management he needed to regain housing stability. Six months after moving in, Kevin received his bachelor’s degree. He is one of the 3,895 veterans served by HPRP in its first year, and one less homeless OEF/OIF veteran.

*\*Names have been changed for confidentiality.*

For more information, contact Norm Suchar, National Alliance to End Homelessness at [nsuchar@naeh.org](mailto:nsuchar@naeh.org).