

Department of Veterans Affairs
FY 2026 President's Budget
Bridging Rental Assistance for Veteran Empowerment (BRAVE)
As of June 23, 2025

As part of the Administration's effort to end Veteran homelessness, the **Bridging Rental Assistance for Veteran Empowerment (BRAVE) program** will enable VA to oversee and administer rental assistance to provide the full spectrum of needed supports for Veterans experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, including activities to transition from the current Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing program. The FY 2026 President's Budget requests \$1.1 billion in discretionary funding and also seeks legislative authority needed to implement the program. Without full BRAVE funding, some Veterans will be at risk of not receiving the full range of services they need.

There are approximately 91,000 Veterans under lease through the joint initiative between HUD and VA for Veterans experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. Currently, HUD's Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance is linked with VA-sponsored case management and supportive services. However, there remain unused vouchers where there is a mismatch with demand or limits on available affordable housing.

The proposed program would include providing rental assistance to homeless Veterans. VA would implement robust policies for oversight of property inspections and leasing requirements for landlords, and site-specific rental assistance for homeless Veterans. By managing the full spectrum of services, VA will be better positioned to meet the needs of Veterans. VA is committed to ensuring that no Veteran who is currently receiving HUD-VASH will lose their housing during the transition to VA's BRAVE program.

In addition, the BRAVE proposal would include new pilot authorities for VA to initiate innovative activities to improve the prevention, support, treatment, long-term care or return to independence for Veterans and their families. Up to \$100 million of the \$1.1 billion request could be used to carry out pilot programs.

Specific elements include:

- Greater and easier portability of vouchers to allow Veterans the flexibility to live in regions of the country where housing stock may be more plentiful, with better re-employment options, or where they would be closer to their support network, etc.
- Greater flexibility in the ability to award Project-Based Vouchers within specific communities to prioritize the needs of Veterans. This is especially critical in those communities where there is limited housing stock and a significant difference between rental assistance amounts and the local rental rates. These site-specific

projects could support development of VA-approved communal living arrangements that facilitate Veterans independent living.

- Authority for VA to seamlessly transfer the current and pending assisted households and Project-Based Voucher sites to VA with no change in current requirements in order to ensure no disruption in this service.
- Discretion for VA to determine the optimal structure and arrangement for managing vouchers and the property inspection/landlord leasing processes depending on state, local, Veteran service organization grantees and VA capacities within specific communities.
- Innovation authority to allow the VA to initiate pilot efforts to enhance the services available and living arrangement options to different cohorts of homeless Veterans and their families and improve their outcomes. This is designed to also provide additional flexibilities in expanding housing options and support services available to Veterans.

These authorities are necessary for VA to be able to successfully implement President Trump's Executive Order to establish a National Center for Warrior Independence on the West Los Angeles VA Campus (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/keeping-promises-to-Veterans-and-establishing-a-national-center-for-warrior-independence/>)