

**Kathy Hochul**

Governor

**Daniel W. Tietz**

Commissioner

**BARBARA C. GUINN**

Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 28, 2022

Monroe County

39 West Main Street

Rochester, NY 14614

To Whom It May Concern:

The Veterans Outreach Center (VOC) provides a critical service to the community. Their ability to provide emergency and transitional housing to homeless veterans in need is a necessity for the men and women who served our country. In addition to providing essentials like shelter, food and clothing, they also provide a wealth of supportive services that truly enable our veterans to become self-sufficient upon discharge into permanent housing. Their methods are successful, as evidence by 80% placement rates into both permanent housing and employment. Moreover, they have a plethora of community partnerships that leverage shared resources for the betterment of our veterans.

The renovation and expansion of VOC’s Richards House is an exciting prospect for the community. Some key elements of this project include an expanded kitchen for better operational efficiency and training opportunities, the addition of an elevator and several new bathrooms (all ADA compliant), 16 new beds which will bridge the gap between the number of community beds available to veterans on any given night and the number of homeless veterans, improved program space, all new systems (HVAC, plumbing, electrical, roof, etc), and a new layout with aesthetics that are appropriate for adult men who have served their country.

The NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) has invested $2,000,000 in this project, through the Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP). HHAP provides grants and loans to nonprofit corporations and their subsidiaries, charitable organizations and municipalities to expand the supply of supportive housing for homeless families and individuals, including those with special needs. HHAP awarded funding to VOC for this project as we believe it will make a tremendously positive impact in the Rochester community. HHAP has been working with the VOC over the last year and are confident that this project will be completed with all goals met and with an exceptional new space for veterans in need.

If we can provide any additional information, please call me at (518) 473-2587.

Thank you for your consideration.

 Sincerely,

 

 Dana Greenberg

 Assistant Director

 Bureau of Housing and Support Services