



# HUD NEWS

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Julián Castro, Secretary  
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## **Mayor Jose “Joey” Torres Commits to End Veteran Homelessness in the City of Paterson**

*The initiative brings together local governments, non-profits, advocates, and federal resources to work towards eradicating veteran homelessness by 2015*

**Paterson, NJ** – Mayor Jose “Joey” Torres has pledged to end veteran homelessness in the City of Paterson by the end of 2015. In making this commitment, Mayor Torres joins the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, an initiative announced by First Lady Michelle Obama that brings together the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USCIH), and the National League of Cities - as well as local service providers and advocates - to ensure that our homeless veterans receive the housing and services they need.

“I am proud to join hundreds of Mayors across the country and increase our ongoing efforts towards ensuring that every veteran in Paterson has a home in 2015,” said **Mayor Jose “Joey” Torres**. “I look forward to partnering with state and local leaders and focusing our resources to end homelessness in our city and our country. Veteran homelessness can be solved if we all work together with federal and local resources to meet the challenge.”

“HUD welcomes and applauds Mayor Torres’ commitment to ending veteran homelessness in Paterson by 2015,” said **Holly Leicht, HUD Regional Administrator for New York and New Jersey**. “The brave men and women of the military, who have given so much to protect our lives and liberty, deserve to have a place they can call home. Through the Mayors Challenge, all levels of government are joining forces to make sure that they do.”

“Our HUD New Jersey Office is ready to provide support and guidance to Paterson, New Jersey’s third largest city, and to Mayor Torres and his staff to assist in reaching this important goal,” said **Maria Maio-Messano, HUD New Jersey Field Office Director**. “We work closely with the Passaic County, State, and non-profit entities that receive HUD federal funding to assist the homeless population, and I’m confident that they are also committed to this challenge. With increased focus on Paterson’s veteran homeless population, together we can make sure needed services continue to reach the men, women, and families that need the support that only a stable home can provide.”

In Paterson, the Public Housing Authority has already received 48 HUD/VASH vouchers. Later this year, HUD anticipates awarding approximately 10,000 new HUD-VASH vouchers nationwide to build upon significant progress toward ending Veteran homelessness. Since 2008, 43,371 formerly homeless Veterans are currently in homes of their own because of HUD-VASH. Rental assistance and support services provided through

HUD-VASH are a critical resource for local communities in ending homelessness among our nation's Veterans.

Since 2010, when the Federal government launched Opening Doors, a strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, there has been a 24 percent reduction in homelessness among veterans. This reduction has been achieved through a partnership between the Obama Administration, local governments, non-profits, and the private sector. Through this final push, the goal of ending veteran homelessness in America is within reach.

To learn more about resources for local veterans experiencing homelessness, visit <https://www.onecpd.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-veterans/>.

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