* We have housed **30** vets and are gathering the tools needed for a major push forward to accelerate our placement rate.
* We have identified **175** homeless veterans and **80** of them are known to be chronically homeless.
* **34** veterans already have HUD-VASH vouchers in hand (including 20 from the Montrose VA and 14 from our new VA partner in the Bronx).
* We have identified **43** more immediately available permanent housing subsidies with attached supportive services:
 • **11** more HUD-VASH from the Bronx VA,
 • **12** Continuum of Care (from a city that never before allowed its CoC resources to be used for homeless people originating elsewhere in Westchester),
 • **14** from the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services - the first OASAS funding for permanent housing in Westchester in at least 30 years, and
 • **6** SROs at the Yonkers YMCA, affordable with county/state-funded Shelter Supplement subsidies and with 2 state-funded case managers on site,
* Our Patriot Housing outreach campaign to landlords is bearing fruit. **20** landlords with 40+ apartments have already said they want to participate in the initiative. The proffered resources include a vacant 20-unit building in Yonkers that would give us the opportunity to provide on-site group supports within the next 60 to 90 days.

* We are not satisfied with the pace at which these resources are being used.
•  We plan to implement a version of the rolling housing fairs that we learned about at our Philly Boot Camp.
•  We’ve asked our HUD-VASH and Section 8 administrator, CVR Associates, to try pre-inspecting and pre-approving units, which they’ve never done before for anyone, as part of our Patriot Housing Initiative.
•  Our hope is that by this Friday 10/11 we could have 5+ of the 34 veterans with HUD-VASH vouchers ready to move into permanent housing and have 6-10 of those ~40 potential new units pre-inspected and approved, so that by the following Tuesday 10/15 we could house at least 5 veterans in those new units.
•  We hope to have all of the necessary services available from the VA, our local Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families program, and the county and city veterans’ service agencies lined up in a row (as we did with the tennis balls in the Boot Camp exercise!) so that the veterans can get everything they need lined up in a single morning of sequential appointments on-site in their new housing units.
•  This is a wild and crazy goal, based on all that’s gone before, but our group is excited and believes that we can in fact pull this off!

* The Westchester County Department of Social Services has announced the details of how it is reorganizing its homeless services. Currently there are 2 separate DSS groups addressing homelessness. The first group are the local district offices, which are responsible for homelessness prevention, shelter diversion and shelter placement. A small second group manages county contracts for shelters and services.
\*  These two functions are being combined with a new Services unit that will work directly with clients to stabilize them and help them succeed in permanent housing.
•  The number of diversion workers in the four district offices, who help people find alternatives to shelter placement, will rise from 5 to 9. They will be able to pay rent arrears, utility arrears, childcare, move-in packages, and more.
•  The contracts management unit will be expanded so that it can help guide and implement policy changes.
•  The new service unit will begin with 4 Caseworkers, 2 Senior caseworkers, and a Supervisor. Each Caseworker will be responsible for a caseload of 15 chronically homeless families or individuals. The Caseworkers will follow cases as long as needed to stabilize them in permanent housing. Additional staff will be added as they are freed up due to NYS taking over a current county DSS function.
•  The new service workers will be cross-trained with relevant local CBO staff in key evidence-based interventions including a) Critical Time Intervention, b) trauma-informed services, and c) the Community Network approach to mobilizing formal and informal community supports.
•  The service unit will include a staff person from the Westchester County Veterans Service Agency.
•  All three groups will be led by a single high-level Director reporting directly to the Deputy Commissioner. We have already met and begun sharing information with the new Director, who brings a wealth of experience in homeless services, district office operations, contract management and policy.
•  The staff changes at DSS have been announced. The actual staff realignment is being delayed several weeks due to facility problems that are preventing immediate transfer of all the new staff to their new site. Everything is expected to be in place by the end of October.
* Our media efforts are developing nicely. Our home base on Facebook[www.facebook.com/patriothousing](http://www.facebook.com/patriothousing%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) has 76 likes and our Twitter[twitter.com/patriothousingw](http://twitter.com/patriothousingw%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is beginning to take off as well. Our wiki page is a great resource within the group for all of our internal activity. Other camps can access our published information there if they find it helpful at www.programdesign.com/wiki/WCPatriotHousing