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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VA Awards \$300 Million More in Grants to Help End Veteran Homelessness*Flexible Grants Help Lower Rates of Veteran Homelessness in Michigan*

[Saginaw, MI] – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today awarded approximately \$300 million more in grants under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to help thousands of very low-income Veteran families around the nation who are permanently housed or transitioning to permanent housing. The SSVF grant program provides access to crucial services to prevent homelessness for Veterans and their families.

SSVF funding, which supports outreach, case management and other flexible assistance to prevent Veteran homelessness or rapidly re-house Veterans who become homeless, has been awarded to 275 non-profit organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. These grants, key elements of VA's implementation of the Housing First Strategy, enable vulnerable Veterans to secure or remain in permanent housing. Locally, 12 organizations received grants totaling more than \$8 million. A list of SSVF grantees is located at www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp.

“SSVF is a key tool to promote housing stability among our most economically vulnerable Veterans and their families,” said Dr. Ginny Creasman, Medical Center Director. “This program empowers our community-based partners to provide the mix of services needed to prevent Veterans from becoming homeless and rapidly re-house those who become homeless.”

Grantees will continue to provide eligible Veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance obtaining VA and other benefits, which may include health care, income support services, financial planning, child care, legal services, transportation, housing counseling, among other services.

Grantees are expected to leverage supportive services grant funds to enhance the housing stability of very low-income Veteran families who are occupying permanent housing. In doing so, grantees are required to establish relationships with local community resources.

In fiscal year (FY) 2015, SSVF served more than 157,000 participants and is on track to exceed that number in FY 2016. As a result of these and other efforts, Veteran homelessness is down 47 percent since the launch of the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in 2010. Also since 2010, more than 360,000 Veterans and their family members have been permanently housed, rapidly re-housed, or prevented from falling into homelessness by VA's homelessness programs and targeted housing vouchers provided by the Department of Housing

and Urban Development. Today's grant recipients successfully competed for grants under a January 15, 2016, Notice of Fund Availability. Applications were due February 5, 2016. The funding will support SSVF services in FY 2017, which starts October 1, 2016, and ends September 30, 2017. The breakdown for Michigan areas follows:

Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency, Inc.	Alpena, Alcona, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Iosco, Kalkaska, Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Missaukee, Montmorency, Oceana, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, and Wexford	(MI-500) Michigan Balance of State CoC,(MI-512) Grand Traverse, Antrim, Leelanau Counties CoC	\$659,706.00
Bluewater Center for Independent Living	St. Clair, Lapeer, Tuscola, Sanilac, Huron, Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne Counties	(MI-500) Michigan Balance of State CoC,(MI-501) Detroit CoC,(MI-502) Dearborn/Dearborn Heights/Westland/Wayne County CoC,(MI-503) St. Clair Shores/Warren/Macomb County CoC,(MI-504) Pontiac/Royal Oak/Oakland County CoC	\$590,103.00
Training & Treatment Innovations, Inc.	Lapeer, Oakland, Macomb, Saginaw, Genesee, Jackson	(MI-500) Michigan Balance of State CoC,(MI-503) St. Clair Shores/Warren/Macomb County CoC,(MI-504) Pontiac/Royal Oak/Oakland County CoC,(MI-505) Flint/Genesee County CoC,(MI-510) Saginaw City & County CoC,(MI-517) Jackson City & County CoC	\$1,037,163.00
Mid Michigan Community Action Agency, Inc.	Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Ionia, Isabella, Lake, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Newaygo, and Osceola	(MI-500) Michigan Balance of State CoC	\$478,498.00

For more information about the SSVF program, visit www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp.

The Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in Saginaw, Michigan operates an 81-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation Community Living Center, with an additional 8-bed acute medicine and telemetry wing. It provides care to over 34,700 Veterans in a 35-county geographic area, from mid-Michigan to the Mackinac Bridge. Veterans also receive care at one of our nine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located throughout Michigan. More information about this VA can be found at www.saginaw.va.gov.

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