

\$150,000 Grant Supports Prevention of COVID within Homeless Community

As the nation fights tirelessly against COVID-19, people experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity are at greater risk of contracting or transmitting the virus. To help protect the South Bay's most vulnerable populations during the pandemic, Kaiser Permanente has awarded [U.S.Vets](#) with a \$150,000 grant. U.S.Vets is the nation's largest nonprofit provider of comprehensive services to homeless and at-risk veterans, with locations in Long Beach, Inglewood and Wilmington.



“Housing and health are inextricably linked, and this connection becomes most apparent during public health crises,” said Margie Harrier, RN, senior vice president and area manager at Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center.

“U.S.Vets and other non-profit partners play a critical role in protecting the health of our communities. Homeless shelters and service providers are often faced with limited resources and staff capacity, and the COVID-19 outbreak has only increased the strain on these organizations.”

The funding provided to U.S.Vets will support:

- COVID-19 testing for homeless and at-risk veterans living in U.S.VETS residential sites and in the community.
- Quarantine and isolation beds for veterans testing positive or exposed to COVID-19.
- PPE and prevention supplies, including masks, gloves, cleaning supplies, biohazard cleaning, and special meal carts.
- Delivery of virtual programming, case management services, and mental health.
- Therapeutic activities for veterans to combat isolation and encourage mental well-being.

“We are so grateful for this incredible funding. To have Kaiser Permanente’s support in a time of uncertainty means so much to us,” said Erik Miller, Executive Director, U.S.VETS – Long Beach.

Almost 90,000 people in Southern California are currently experiencing homelessness, according to recent Point-In-Time counts. Kaiser Permanente has awarded \$1.5 million in grants to nonprofit organizations in the region, aimed at supporting the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 for people experiencing homelessness.

“Many of the communities we serve are grappling with some of the highest costs of housing and the highest rates of homelessness in the United States, leading to significant challenges for the health of our members and residents,” said Julie Miller-Phipps, president of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., and Hospitals of Southern California. “Our understanding of health is evolving, and it is much more expansive than health care. The quality of where and how we live, work, learn and play has a big impact on our health because ultimately, better health outcomes begin where health starts – in our communities.”