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County Award of Federal HOME Funds to Provide New Rental Housing for Veterans in Riviera Beach

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**Contact: Edward Lowery, Director, Dept. of Economic Sustainability,
(561) 233-3602**

**Public Affairs
Department**

P.O. Box 1989
West Palm Beach, FL
33402-1989
(561) 355-2754
FAX: (561) 355-3819
<http://www.pbcgov.com>



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A new housing complex for U.S. military veterans will be built on West 17th Court in Riviera Beach, thanks to \$900,000 in federal funding awarded by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.

Heron Estates Veterans Housing, a 75-unit apartment project, was selected to receive federal HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) gap loan financing through a competitive bid process issued by the Department of Economic Sustainability.

The builder is Ivy Green Veterans Housing, LLC, a development team comprised of Mosnar Group, LLC, Volunteers of America of Florida (VOAF), and Related Urban, a subsidiary of The Related Group. Their proposed \$12.2 million project will provide affordable rental housing for military veterans with special needs and their families. The land will be leased from the Riviera Beach Housing Authority.

Plans call for three, two-story residential buildings and a community center. The facilities will be constructed utilizing Green Building elements. Units will be marketed to veterans transitioning from the nearby West Palm Beach VA Medical Center. Located on a public transit bus route, tenants will be linked to VA services.

"This exemplary project is an excellent example of public, private, and nonprofit sectors partnering to bring quality development to the community for the benefit of our honored veterans," said County Vice Mayor Priscilla A. Taylor.

"I am so proud that our city will be home to a state-of-the-art residential community planned to meet the specific needs of disabled veterans and their families," said Riviera Beach City Manager Ruth Jones. "Infill housing of this caliber will also have a positive influence on reinvestments in the surrounding neighborhoods."

The nonprofit VOAF will be in charge of daily operations at Heron Estates. VOAF works with the Veterans Administration throughout the state helping veterans locate housing and providing services vital to stabilizing their lives.

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