

Passageway Grant Request

Office of Economic Development



February 11, 2020



Passageway-Homeless Veterans

- Founded in 2014
- Non Profit organized to assist homeless military veterans
- Presently, Passageway has a hybrid shelter that can provide housing up to 9 veterans

Homefront Veteran Neighborhood

- According to the annual City/County Point in Time Homeless Count, over the past three years, 2017-2019, the number of homeless veterans was 57, 58, and 57.
- Passageways intends to serve homeless female veterans, as well as families, and has developed a plan to do so. Named Homefront Veterans Neighborhood, Passageways has identified land near I-235 and Seneca and plans a “campus style housing project.”

Homefront Veteran Neighborhood

- Phase I of the project includes building at least 30 cottages ranging from 500 - 750 square feet that include a kitchen bedroom(s), a bathroom, stackable laundry system and heating and air conditioning. In addition, the campus will include playgrounds, animal park and gardens. The neighborhood will also house a resource center, a community center, a chapel and storage. The resource center will house staff, as well as space for community partners to provide services to the residents.
- The estimated cost of Phase I is \$3,500,000, including land acquisition.

Homefront Veterans Neighborhood

- To date, Passageways has raised \$1,400,000 to support the Homefront Veterans Neighborhood, along with commitments from area organizations such as Goebel Family Star Lumber Charity Foundation that plans to provide building materials for the construction of the homes. The Wichita Area Builders Association is providing labor and Waste Connections has agreed to provide no-cost trash service. These are among just a few of the organizations currently committed.
- The grant will be a reimbursement grant for capital expenses, not including land acquisition, tied to the development of Phase 1

Passageway Grant

- The one time grant amount is \$75,000 and is funded out of the City Council's Community Initiatives fund.
- WSU conducted standard cost benefit analysis
- Result is less than 1:1 due to lack of sales/transaction and property tax generation and jobs considered substitution type of jobs
- The \$75,000 grant is to support in providing an important community service effort to help homeless military veterans.
- It is recommended that the City Council approve the grant request and authorize the necessary signatures