Permanent, stable housing is the benchmark of efforts to end homelessness among Veterans, but housing alone may not be enough. Unemployment is cited as the third leading cause of homelessness in the United States, according to USICH. Employment can be a key element in helping Veterans climb out of homelessness or avoid it all together.

Studies show that gainful employment at a livable wage, with opportunities for advancement, is the foundation for maintaining economic stability and reducing the risk of becoming homeless. Employment provides:

- Income that is key to economic well-being.
- Greater social interaction and connections that can reduce isolation and build social capital.
- A sense of personal efficacy and social integration that contributes to life satisfaction.

Employment is also likely to result in decreases in substance use, improvements in mental health, and a decreased risk of suicide.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2022

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