

April 6, 2004 --- Mt. Airy Center, a facility for homeless men operated by the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services (HCJFS), became financially self-sufficient by winning a long-sought grant from the Veteran's Administration.

The U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs notified HCJFS on April 2 that the center had been awarded a grant that pays \$157,388 per year. The grant pays \$26.95 per day per veteran—for up to 16 beds—through 2007.

"I am extremely pleased that we finally have been awarded the VA grant," says Kimberly Hauser, the center's administrator since late 2001. "We applied for this four times."

With the additional funding, the center will not need about \$101,400 in county shared-revenue funds. Grants and Disability Assistance will cover operating expenses. The largest grant, \$122,000, comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Mt. Airy was one of three Ohio facilities—and one of 80 nationally—to receive the VA grant.

VA grants pay for beds for about 6,000 veterans. The VA estimates that 200,000 veterans experience homelessness each night in the United States. Double that number is homeless each year. About one third of adult homeless males and one-fourth of homeless adults have served in the armed forces.

Mt. Airy houses 65 residents—about four in 10 are veterans. Twelve HCJFS employees staff the facility.