



THE H.O.P.E. MANDATE

The H.O.P.E. Institute (H.I) is a dynamic, grassroots, emerging non-profit organization committed to transforming the lives of the homeless Women Veterans of El Paso County through partnering and strategic planning within our community. Our program of housing, mentoring, training, counseling, and empowering our residents focuses on moving them towards a goal of self-sufficiency. We will provide the tools required to rebuild their lives and achieve spiritual, social, physical, mental, emotional, and financial restoration through **H**ealing, **O**ptimizing, **P**erfecting, and **E**mpowering.

Currently, there are **2.1 million** Women Veterans in this great country we live in. While the overall veteran population is projected to decline, Women Veterans are the fastest-growing demographic and are expected to represent **18%** of the total veteran population by 2040. In **Texas**, which leads the nation with the largest Women Veteran population, numbers have climbed to approximately **207,522** as of 2024 and are projected to reach over **222,000** by 2029.

H.I has to narrow the scope when addressing a need of this magnitude. We are physically located 10 minutes from **FT Bliss, Texas**, a cornerstone of the Army's footprint. In 2024, women made up **16.0%** of the active-duty Army, while the national average across all military services reached **17.9%**. Women continue to serve in record numbers; they are now nearly one-fifth of our active force and climbing! Given these statistics, exacerbated by traumatic experiences such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Military Sexual Trauma (MST), we can safely presuppose the continued need for specialized support for our Servicewomen.

While National Women Veteran homelessness dropped **16%** between 2023 and 2024 to approximately **3,329** individuals on a given night, they remain more likely than their male counterparts to experience housing instability. The time to take radical action is now!

Our housing and supportive services program offers housing, subsistence, transportation, clothing, training, counseling, and a tailored educational curriculum in a stable environment for Women Veterans who need a "hand up" while working to develop the skills necessary to assimilate, reintegrate, and live independently. The residents must be committed to a program with the goal of self-sustainability.

Our Concept of Operation is as follows:

Core Program(s)/Service(s): Until an individual's basic needs are met, the transition to sustainable independence cannot begin. Therefore, the primary focus of our program is to ensure basic needs (housing, food, clothing, and transportation) are met in a safe environment these ladies would be proud to call home.

Secondly, the foundation of our ancillary services is a four-pillar, progress-based, and goal-oriented approach to self-sufficiency. Those four pillars represent life skills training that address:

1. **Self-Awareness**
2. **Financial Management**
3. **Employment Sustainability**
4. **Housing Management**

Once a Veteran completes the program, H.I functions as a **Post Transition Support Center (PTSC)** to provide supportive services as needed following the Veteran's transition into permanent housing. The PTSC will assist or refer each woman in practical areas such as securing home furnishings, working with her landlord, and accessing community resources. Most importantly, the PTSC provides encouraging advocacy for each Veteran while settling into her new home and new life. An impenetrable lifelong bond will develop between the residents and Staff of H.I. We will be a lifelong support network for these ladies...we're their family!

We recognize that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted response. We also understand that eradicating homelessness and poverty is a major undertaking and requires a methodically thought-out plan of action. While our long-term plan is to serve every Woman Veteran in need, we understand it takes time, effort, resources, and a nationwide initiative. We will begin our campaign to eradicate homelessness amongst Women Veterans in El Paso County. No Female Veteran will be left behind...Ever! H.I is committed to rebuilding communities and strengthening lives.

NO FEMALE VETERAN LEFT BEHIND...EVER