NINETY-EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
Cincinnati, Ohio
August 30, 31, September 1, 2016

Resolution No. 340: Support Permanent Authorization for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program
Origin: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education
Submitted by: Convention Committee on Veterans Employment & Education

WHEREAS, The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program is the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) primary prevention program designed to help veterans and their families rapidly exit homelessness, or avoid entering homelessness; and

WHEREAS, SSVF funds are granted to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives that assist very low-income veteran families by providing a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability; and

WHEREAS, The vast majority of VA's homeless programs are necessarily geared toward rehabilitation – more than half of the homeless veteran population suffers from physical disabilities, mental illness, substance abuse, or co-occurring disorders; and

WHEREAS, The SSVF program is critical because it serves an at-risk veteran population that is ten times larger than the homeless veteran cohort, yet has no other dedicated funding source for the homelessness prevention services it needs; and

WHEREAS, SSVF is intended to be a short-term intervention, and it is crucial in serving those veteran families who may only need minor, one-time assistance to prevent or end their homelessness. Grantees provide low-income families with case management services and direct supportive services, including rental assistance, utilities assistance, child care costs, moving costs, transportation expenses, emergency supplies and security deposits; and

WHEREAS, In FY 2015, approximately 100,000 homeless veterans and at-risk veterans and their families were served with these funds; and

WHEREAS, The SSVF program has proved to be successful in stabilizing homeless and at-risk veterans with housing and other relevant services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 30, 31, September 1, 2016, That The American Legion recommend Congress to permanently authorize and adequately fund the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program, which is the only national, veteran specific program to help at-risk veterans avoid becoming homeless, and rapidly re-house those veteran families who lose their housing.