

## **Veteran First Time Homebuyer**

February 2018

- The Veteran First Time Homebuyer project advances the public policy objectives of competing for employment talent and the economic benefits that come from better hiring and increased homeownership.
- This is a pilot project and is for veteran, first time homebuyers and provides a grant at closing to assist with the purchase of a home, with eligibility determined by UDVMA.
- The project is planned to be implemented by DWS via the Olene Walker Housing Fund and the Utah Housing Corporation. UDVMA would verify veteran program eligibility as a part of the administrative process.
- Veterans are a desirable employment demographic. Veterans come with experience, training, and a duty-based work ethic valued by potential employers.
- The program will both promote deeper community roots and economic development benefits of homeownership of those currently living in Utah as well as attracting those veterans recently separating from the service and looking to establish a new state to live and work.

### **WHY:**

- Utah is experiencing historically low unemployment and companies are clamoring for veteran hires. Some of the recent veteran job fairs have more companies looking to hire veterans than veterans seeking employment.
- Other states offer different benefit and incentive packages to attract military veterans to their states. This program augments Utah's attractiveness in the marketplace for veteran employees.

**WHAT:**

- Home must be located in Utah and purchased by the eligible veteran.
- Home must be the first home the veteran has purchased in Utah.
- Home must be immediately occupied by the veteran as his/her primary residence.
- Purchase must occur no later than 5 years after separation from the service.
- Funding for this program is by state appropriation and is subject to funding availability.

**HOW:**

- Utah Housing Corporation can administer the program as determined by DWS. The first time buyer "grant" arrives at closing as cash to the buyer.
- As currently scoped, the grant will be \$2500, but could change. At the current budget amount of \$500,000 the program will assist approximately 200 veterans, less any needed administrative costs.
- As a pilot, we expect to learn about the utilization rate and demographics of those benefiting from the program. With that information, the program, including funding, eligibility requirements and implementation, can be adjusted over time to make it the most effective possible.