

# AACOG helping veterans through Housing for Texas Heroes grant

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by Michael Hernandez

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SAN ANTONIO---AACOG, the Alamo Area Council of Governments is accepting applications of up to 15 thousand dollars to help repair homes of veterans and low-income families.

"The U.S.S Shangrala, CV-38, an aircraft carrier," says Basilio Serrano

Basilio Serrano, a Navy veteran talking about the ship he was on from 1963-65. Now 74, he's thankful for the work AACOG had done on his home, in his case they repaired his foundation.

"And I'm grateful that I could get the grant to do this work because the house was leaning," exclaims Serrano.

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Mr. Serrano qualified for a program called Housing 4 Texas Heroes. Last year the program helped 16 veterans with a 300 thousand dollar grant.

Alicia Penalver, Weatherization Coordinator for AACOG explains, "The Housing for Texas Heroes grant is a grant that we receive from the Texas Veterans Commission, this year we have received another 300 thousand. So we do up to 15 thousand per low income household as long as they are a veteran or spouse of a veteran."

"The veterans program covered the foundation. This house was three inches lower in that corner than the top corner," explains weatherizations Carlos Lozano.

And there are other programs that Serrano and even non-veterans can qualify for.

"Then we have the weatherization program that is available to any household that is of low income status. We can go in and put in insulation, maybe replace a refrigerator or gas stove or water heater," says Penalver.

In 2018 AACOG weatherized 248 homes and have received over 2 million dollars for 2019. To find out more about these programs you can call AACOG or go to their website.

