



California Department
of Veterans Affairs

Mental Health Services Act Grant Program

Michael Iadarola

Phillip Leggett

February 24, 2025

Recognition



- California State Association of Counties 2024 Challenge Award

- Nevada County Veterans Outreach & Wellness (VOW) Program
- Addresses Mental Health, Homelessness, Employment, & Community Engagement
- Four key goals: preventing veteran suicides, ending veteran homelessness, providing pathways to employment, and fostering community engagement
- Results: reduced wait times for services, fostered a strong support network, secured stable employment, honored veterans, and built connections between veterans and the civilian community ensuring veterans' needs and voices are represented



Overview

- MHSA Program
- Application Process
- Lessons Learned
- County Presentations

Program Overview

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) was passed by California voters in 2004 and is funded by a one percent income tax on personal income in excess of \$1 million per year. It is designed to expand and transform California's behavioral health system to better serve individuals with, and at risk of, serious mental health issues, and their families. Since 2012, CalVet has distributed \$8,240,0000 in total grant funding.

- FY 2024/2025 \$1.27M in available funding

Request for Application



2024/2025/2026
Mental Health Services Act Grant Program
Request for Applications (RFA)

Application Scoring

- Applications are reviewed by a panel comprised of CalVet staff and rated on a 100-point scale. All final funding decisions are made by the CalVet Deputy Secretary for Veteran Services.
- Section A: Statement of Need (10 points)
- Section B: Proposed Service/Project (30 points)
- Section C: Proposed Implementation Approach (40 points)
- Section D: Performance Assessment and Data (20 points)

Funding Prioritization

Current funding awards were prioritized based on the following program models:

- CVSOs that directly or indirectly partner with California Community Colleges to provide veterans and their family members behavioral healthcare on school campus
- CVSOs that directly or indirectly provide veterans with legal services
- CVSOs that directly or indirectly provide veterans assistance with housing or assisted living support for senior veterans

Timeline and Deliverables

November 1, 2023	RFAs Sent to Counties
January 1 – February 1, 2024	Review RFAs and Determine Grant Amount
February 1 – March 31, 2024	Contract Request Sent to Procurement
April 1 – May 1, 2024	Contract Sent to Counties for Approval
May 1 – May 30, 2024	CalVet Executes Contract
June 1, 2024	CalVet Notifies Counties
July 1, 2024	Contract Begins
October 31, 2024	1st Qtr. Metrics Due
January 30, 2025	2nd Qtr. Invoice/Metrics Due
April 30, 2025	3rd Qtr. Invoice/Metrics Due
July 31, 2025	4th Qtr. Invoices/Metrics Due
July 31, 2025	Annual Progress Reports Due

Lessons Learned

Grants Done Well

- Fully developed project and approach
- Fully articulated responses in application

Common Errors

- Not fully answering questions
- Including items unassociated with the MHSA Grant
 - Travel
 - Continuing Education
- Misalignment with RFA funding prioritization



Tuolumne County **CALIFORNIA**————

- **11000 miles driven**
- **Over 200 rides given (approx. 30 rides per month)**
- **Steadily increasing since inception**
- **Transportation Officer has reached capacity**
- **Overwhelming success to this point**
- **Questions?**



San Luis Obispo County CalVet MHSA Funding Overview

Presented By: Morgan Boyd
SLO County Veteran Services Officer





CalVet MHSA Funding Overview:

- 2-Years, \$200,000 funding a Veterans Outreach Coordinator
- Host outreach events throughout SLO County
 - Priority emphasis on increasing access to Veteran BH resources
 - SLO Vet Center is primary partner
- Five primary categories
 - Sr. Veterans
 - Student Veterans
 - Unhoused Veterans
 - Transitioning Servicemembers
 - General (all Veterans)





Outreach Event Overview



- “Meet them where they are at”
- Partner with local Service Organizations for planning and promotion
- Average of 35 resource providers at each event
 - VA Resources: CBOC, HUD/VASH, VBA, Vet Center
 - CalVet
 - County BH and Suicide Prevention
 - SSVF & Veteran Housing Programs
 - Sr. Veteran Resources
 - SUD Programs
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Resiliency Programs





Resource Fairs & Outreach



- SLOCVSO has hosted 7 resource fairs
 - Nipomo, Morro Bay, Paso Robles
 - 1st Annual Sr. Veteran Resource Fair
 - Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant
- Participated in 19 other outreach events
 - College orientations
 - SUD and unhoused outreach events
 - Sr. resource fair
 - Midstate Fair
 - Sheriff's Day





Outreach Numbers to Date



- Total Numbers for Q1 & Q2: 1,179
 - Sr. Veterans – 500
 - Student Veterans - 55
 - Unhoused Veterans - 122
 - Transitioning Servicemembers - 0
 - General (all Veterans) – 502



Community Engagement: Collaboration



- Community Corrections Partnership Board
 - AB 190 Funded Vet Rep
 - Veteran Treatment Court and Military Diversion
- Veteran Behavioral Health
 - County Behavioral Health Board
 - SLO County Suicide Prevention Council
- Community Partners BNL Meeting
 - Unhoused Veteran support
- SLO Vet Center Collaboration
 - Veteran therapeutic gardening
 - Veteran therapeutic archery



Outreach Numbers & Upcoming Events



- Upcoming Events:
 - March 8th: 1st Women Veterans Celebration and Resource Fair
 - April 5th: Popup Resource Fair in Atascadero, Ca.
 - May __: Vet Center/Welcome Home Military Heroes
 - July __: Nipomo Popup Resource Fair in Nipomo, CA
 - August__: South County

HONORING HER SERVICE:

WOMEN VETERANS
CELEBRATION &
RESOURCE FAIR

Date: Saturday, March 8, 2025
Time: 11am -3pm

Address: 801 Grand Ave.,
San Luis Obispo
Veterans Hall Building

On-site Services:

- Headshots For Resumés
- Women's Clothing
- Food Bank
- Veteran Activities
- VA Resources
- Community Resources

Free Child Care Available

Opening Ceremony: 11 AM
Lunch Served 11:30 to 1:30 PM or Until We Run Out
Free Lunch for Veterans & Family
Closing Ceremony: 3 PM

Enter On-Site Raffle Win Prizes! (Need Not be Present to Win)

VET CENTER

Contact
Cindy Valdez at 805-782-9101
for additional information



QUESTIONS?



Morgan Boyd

Veteran Services Officer | Department Head

County of San Luis Obispo

Email: mboyd@co.slo.ca.us

Tel: (805) 781- 5766 | Fax: (805) 781- 5769

Contact Information

Michael Iadarola
Operations Manager
Veterans Services Division
California Department of Veterans Affairs
michael.iadarola@calvet.ca.gov
(916) 503-8306

Phillip Leggett
Mental Health Coordinator
Veterans Services Division
California Department of Veterans Affairs
phillip.leggett@calvet.ca.gov
(916) 503-8327

Questions