



California Department
of Veterans Affairs

Permanent Supportive Housing and Health Programs for Veterans

Veterans Support to Self-Reliance (VSSR), California Veterans Health Initiative, &
Homekey+

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Homekey+ Overview



Homekey+

A place to live — and thrive.



Permanent Supportive Housing for Veterans

\$1.065 billion worth of housing investments for veterans who are at risk of homelessness, experiencing homelessness, or experiencing chronic homelessness who have mental health needs or a substance use disorder.

Modeled after HCD's existing Homekey Program grants for housing with supportive services:

- Extremely low income (30% AMI or less).
- Experiencing or at-risk of homelessness + behavioral health challenge
- At least 5 years supportive services required; initial seed money for operations but looking for long term sustainability
- Coordination with County Behavioral Health department. Large counties (population over 100k) required to have veteran on Behavioral Health planning board.

Eligible Use of Funds:

- Acquisition, rehabilitation of motels, hotels, hostels, or other sites and assets that could be converted to permanent housing.

Eligible Entities:

- Cities, Counties, regional and local public entities
- Development Sponsor (loans only)

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A place to live — and thrive.



Summer 2024



Engage Stakeholders

Stakeholder Engagement including **demand survey** and small group **listening sessions** to inform program overview document release.

Late 2024



Issue Notice of Funding Availability

Requests for applications for bond funding will leverage existing Homekey models.

Early 2025



Accept Applications

Technical Assistance and webinars for **potential NOFA applicants** will be prioritized prior to opening of the application portal.

Summer 2025



Announce Awards

Awards will be announced on a rolling basis as applications are received and reviewed.



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Veterans Support to Self-Reliance Pilot Overview



Purpose

The mission of the VSSR Pilot is to evaluate enhanced supportive services models in PSH to:

- Improve outcomes for aging and high acuity veterans
- Decrease housing displacement
- Allow veterans to age in place in a community of care



Grant Overview

Pilot Grants are intended to support Pilot Grantees throughout a three-year observational and reporting period.

- \$20 million total / \$4.5 million max grant amount
- Pilot Grant qualifications include currently providing supportive services in veteran PSH
- Staffing at individual sites are tailored to fit within the overall organizational structure of the Pilot site.
- Flexibility in program design to fit the specific needs of each grantee.
- Pilot Grantee staff and leadership duties include significant engagement with CalVet and Consultants technical assistance, reporting, and evaluation procedures.
- Participation in local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)



VSSR Grant Model Characteristics

Funded positions:

- Service Assistant, Peer Specialist, Mental Health Specialist, Transportation Specialist, Occupational Therapist, Social Worker (Geriatric), Nurse, VSSR Pilot Specialist
- Flexibility in direct hire/contracting for staff positions.

Locations:

- Current operating PSH sites with existing services staff
- Established service coordination, case management, property management



Grantees

Six grants across California:

- Sonoma – Nation's Finest
- Sacramento – Nation's Finest
- San Francisco/Oakland – Swords to Plowshares
- Los Angeles – U.S. Veterans Initiative
- Inland Empire – U.S. Veterans Initiative
- San Diego – People Assisting the Homeless (PATH)



VSSR Reporting and Impact

Reporting:

- Quarterly reporting, weekly office hours, regular roundtables
- VSSR Data Collection Manual
- Report to Legislature: February 2025

Impact:

- Interim reports: December 2024, July 2025, January 2026
- Final report/presentation of findings: August/September 2026



Preliminary Findings: Data from the first year of the Pilot shows significant improvements from baseline to the fourth quarter in several key areas.

- **Health Behaviors:** Missed medical appointments declined by 81%, use of specialty care increased by 29%, medication adherence increased by 17%, and alcohol use dropped by 65%.
- **Acute Care Utilization:** Emergency visits and ambulance calls decreased by more than 50%.
- **Social Engagement:** Participation in group activities more than doubled, and veterans were leaving their units more frequently.
- **Food Security:** The percentage of veterans eating three meals a day nearly doubled.



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California Veterans Health Initiative – Mental Health Support (CVHI-MHS) Grant Program Overview



CVHI-Mental Health Support Grant Program

- \$38 million for competitive grants
- The goal of the CVHI-MHS grant program is to expand access to mental healthcare for veterans and their families, especially those who are historically underserved, by supporting a sustainable network of veteran-specific resources throughout the state of California with three-year grants.
- Comprehensive, coordinated statewide approach to minimizing the incidence of veteran suicide by focusing on prevention, early intervention, and treatment services.



Scope, Expectations, Deliverables & Goals

- Scope: Outreach, Peer Support, Case Management, Outpatient Clinical Care, Nontraditional & Innovative Approaches
- Expectations:
 - Improve the wellbeing of CA veterans and their families experiencing barriers to mental healthcare
 - CVHI grantees collectively to providing a total of 42,000 clinical appointments annually.
- Deliverables: Monthly Data Reporting, Grant Reports



CVHI-MHS Network

| CVHI-MHS Grantee/Provider | Coverage Area |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| University of San Diego | San Diego |
| Veterans Village of San Diego | San Diego, Los Angeles |
| US Veterans Initiative | Los Angeles, Inland Empire, Orange |
| Child Guidance Center, Inc. | Orange |
| Resiliency Center of Fresno | Central Valley |
| Swords to Plowshares | Bay Area |
| Transitions Mental Health Association | Central Coast |
| Nation's Finest | North Valley |



University of San Diego

Focus: Peer Support, Case Management and Outpatient Clinical Care.

Key Positions Funded : Clinical Director, Case Manager, Intake Coordinator, 3 Associate Clinicians and a Peer Support Specialist

Veterans Village of San Diego/Cohen Veterans Network

Focus: Case Management and Outpatient Clinical Care.

Key Positions Funded : Clinical Director, Case Manager, Intake Coordinator, 8 Clinicians and a Clinical Supervisor

U.S Veterans Initiative

Focus: Peer Support, Case Management and Outpatient Clinical Care.

Key Positions Funded : Mental Health Support Coordinator, 14 Clinicians, 3 Clinical Supervisors, 3 Case Managers, 2 Intake Coordinators and 2 Peer Specialists

Child Guidance Center, Inc.

Focus: Peer Support, Case Management, Outpatient Clinical Care and Non-traditional/Innovative Methods.

Key Positions Funded : Clinical Director, Supervising Clinician, 6 Clinicians, Intake Coordinator and 2 Peer Specialists

Resiliency Center of Fresno

Focus: Peer Support, Case Management and Outpatient Clinical Care.

Key Positions Funded : Clinical Manager, 3 Clinicians, Peer Specialist and Case Manager.

Swords to Plowshares

Focus: Peer Support, Case Management, Outpatient Clinical Care and Non-traditional/Innovative Methods.

Key Positions Funded : Clinical Director, 3 Clinicians, 5 Peer Specialist, 3 Case Managers, Intake Coordinator and 2 Outreach Specialists.

Transitions Mental Health Association

Focus: Case Management and Outpatient Clinical Care.

Key Positions Funded : Clinical Manager, 1 Clinician, 2 Clinical Trainees, Case Manager and a Peer Specialist.

Nations Finest

Focus: Peer Support, Case Management and Outpatient Clinical Care.

Key Positions Funded : Clinical Supervisor, 2 Clinicians, 3 Peer Specialists and 3 Outreach Specialists.

VSD PSH & Health Programs Contacts

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