



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

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

# 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



**HEALING HEROES**  
*Through Horsemanship*



# Resource Fairs & Outreach



- SLOCVSO has hosted 7 resource fairs
  - Nipomo, Morro Bay, Paso Robles
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> Women Veterans Celebration and Resource Fair
  - April 5<sup>th</sup>: 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)

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

**VET CENTER**



# QUESTIONS?



**Morgan Boyd**

Veteran Services Officer | Department Head

County of San Luis Obispo

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# Contact Information

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# Questions