



January 31, 2019

California Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Services Division
1227 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Mental Health Coordinator

Subject: 2019/2020 Proposition 63 Funding Mental Health Outreach and Services
Request for Applications

To whom it may concern:

The Fresno County Veterans Service Office is pleased to present the enclosed proposal in response to the California Department of Veterans Affairs release of the 2019/2020 Proposition 63 Funding Mental Health Outreach and Services Request for Application.

The proposal was completed by our Fresno County Veterans Service Office. The Veterans Service Office will be going to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors in April to request approval to submit this application and will provide the Boards approval to CalVet by the May 30, 2019 deadline.

Should Fresno County be awarded funding, the agreement will be executed by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors.

Please call David Rose at (559) 600-4075 if there are questions regarding the attached documents.

Sincerely,

David Rose
Veterans Service Officer

Office Location: 205 W. Pontiac, Clovis, California 93612

Phone: (559) 600-2300 ~ FAX: (559) 600-2310

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The County of Fresno is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



**2019/2020 Proposition 63 Funding
Mental Health Outreach and Services
Request for Applications (RFA)**

Appendix A – Program Narrative

Fresno County Veterans Service Office Veterans Outreach Proposition 63

Program Narrative

Section A: Statement of Need (500 words max)

Fresno County is one of the largest, fastest growing, and most diverse counties in the state of California with an estimated 989,255 residents, according to the California Department of Finance. Of the nearly one million residents in our County, approximately 45,000 are veterans along with approximately 4,000 residents that are in the Guard or are Reservists. Serving these veterans is one of the County's top priorities. In FY 2017-18 the Fresno County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) provided assistance for Mental Health Services (MHS) to approximately 1,400 veterans, 140 being women.

Our CVSO, David Rose, and his adeptly trained staff, have made it their mission to reach out to the county's veteran population and make early connections with those still in the National Guard, Air Guard and Reserves. The CVSO has designed his team to have the knowledge to identify veterans, newly discharged members and retirees that need support and access to MHS, and immediate care for those at high risk of a mental crisis, as well as thorough assistance with claims and benefits. The team provides veterans with education of what services are available and a full assessment of symptoms to determine when veterans are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), so they can be referred to the proper mental health agency; primarily the CVSO refers to the local Vet Center or Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VA Hospital).

The CVSO represents 15 towns/cities that spans at over 6,000 square miles making outreach to connect with the County veteran residence a priority, if veteran's can't get to the CVSO then the CVSO will go to them. To increase awareness of services the CVSO's team attends events such as Yellow Ribbon, Stand Downs, The Women Veteran Stand Up, Job Fairs, Muster Briefings, and Armoires for National Guard Reserves Events and Homeless Program Presentations. The CVSO also visits the local colleges and attends Retirement Briefings at the local bases.

In addition to outreach the CVSO also collaborates with others that work to assist veterans. Susan Basmajian, Fresno's Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) specialist, works with the CVSO to assist veterans with avoiding criminalization due to mental illness and together they assist the veteran in getting the mental health support needed. The County Veteran Service Office is located right next to the Fresno Vet Center which provides both offices easy access for working together to help veterans suffering mental health issues. In addition to the CVSO's current contacts he also continues to work toward building relationships with other agencies that can provide mental health support for veterans.

Working closely with the Central Valley Local Interagency Network Coordinator whose office is onsite, the CVSO has identified several key barriers veterans have with accessing veteran services which include stigma, legal matters, avoidance and concerns about career prospects. The CVSO and his team work with veterans to remove these barriers by building a relationship of trust and understanding so the veterans feel safe to talk to staff and get the help they need.

Section B: Proposed Service/Project (1000 words max)

Project Goal: The CVSO and his team will identify and refer veterans and service members that are in need of MHS to the correct agency for assistance, acquire access to aid for high risk veteran and assist with barriers and/or claims veterans need assistance with in order to obtain the services that will help them return to the civilian world.

Project Objectives: By June 30, 2020, the CVSO and his team will identify and assist veterans in need of MHS

- Perform 2,000 screens for MHS
- Provide 900 referrals timely and effectively to service providers in order to enhance the mental and physical healthcare of veterans with serious mental health issues.
- Track referrals through a Referral Screening Tracking sheet which will identify the date, client name, case number, screening for PTSD /MST and TBI and whether and where the client was referred for services.
- Assist 1,000 veterans and their families in application/submittal of Service Related Disability Compensation claims & Non-Service Related Disability Pensions related to Mental Health Issues.
- Attend outreach events throughout the county, conducting presentations consisting of sharing real life stories and educating the audience regarding the services available through the Veterans Service Office, VA hospital, Vet Center and local non-profit organizations.
 - Three Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program events
 - Three Stand Downs, including a 3 day event in which the CVSO, and The Fresno County Misdemeanor Court, will hold a veteran court to eliminate misdemeanors and traffic cases, giving the veterans a second chance.
 - The Central Valley Women's Stand Up, an event that hosts roughly 100 women veterans in Fresno County and is held the day before the 3 day Stand Down. This event will provide the CVSO and his team an opportunity to meet with the women and increase focus for them on MST issues.
 - Three well-structured Job Fairs for veterans that are large and well attended
 - Six events at the Armoires for National Guard and Reserves
 - Six Homeless veterans program presentations
- Work with the Transition Goals, Plans, Success (TGPS) program to provide those discharging/retiring service members and their families the skills, tools and self-confidence necessary to successfully re-enter into the civilian work force and pursue higher education or technical training.
 - Attend Muster Briefings
 - Attend Retirement and Separation Briefings at local bases (National Guard & Air Guard)
- Visit the local colleges once a month to provide presentations and meet students that are using their Military Education Benefits
- Collaborate with the Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) to assist 100 veterans with avoiding criminalization due to mental illness and referring those in need to the Fresno Veteran Treatment Court
- Assist with the verification process of 100 MIL100 forms in collaboration with the VJO.
- With the collaboration of the Vet Center the CVSO can refer veterans, service members and their

families to obtain pro bono legal aid twice a month at the Vet Centers through its co-op with Central California Legal Services (CCLS). These legal services will help members remove legal barriers that are preventing access or continued maintenance of their mental healthcare. CCLS provides the following legal services to these members:

- Housing
 - Employment
 - Discharge Upgrades
 - Criminal Law
 - Consumer Law
 - Civil Law
- When applicable, shift qualifying veterans from Medi-Cal programs to the VA medical system for mental health related care.
 - Inform CalVet on issues of access to care, customer and clinician satisfaction, efficiency, and delivery of quality healthcare.
 - Build collaborations with other mental health agencies to create veteran mental health assessment days.
 - Build relationships with the veterans the CVSO's team meets with to provide an environment of trust and understanding so the veterans feel safe to talk and be open with their needs/concerns and get the services needed to transition back to the civilian world. With these relationships the CVSO's team intends to eliminate the stigma, avoidance and provide them the understanding that getting help is not a weakness but a strength to move forward.

Section C: Proposed Implementation Approach (1500 words max)

Experience and Anticipated Impact

Transitioning from a military to a civilian lifestyle can be tough. Simply reconnecting with family and readjusting to home life can be difficult enough to prevent a search for MHS, factor in finding a job or recovering from an injury and the transition can become overwhelming. The Fresno County Veterans Service Office has years of experience working with veterans and their Families in Fresno County. The CVSO with his team conducts mental health outreach and refers veterans in need of care. Achievement of the outreach goals outlined in Section B have had meaningful and relevant results because more veterans have gotten the help they need, therefore helping veterans avoid homelessness, potentially reducing crime, overcoming barriers to employment and striving toward a healthy lifestyle. By reaching out to veterans early and often at events, the CVSO's team is conducting mental health outreach to a veteran audience who otherwise may have never come into the Fresno County Veterans Service Office. The outreach efforts are the first step in helping link this population to services to ensure the transition is successful. Additionally assisting veterans and their families in the application/submittal of PTSD claims may help the veteran become more self-reliant and helps inform the CalVet on issues of access to care, customer and clinician satisfaction, efficiency, and delivery of quality healthcare which should improve the delivery of services overall. CVSO's team uses best practices, as identified within the Substance Abuse and MHS Administration National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices, to help Veterans assess VA and community resources and identify and/or address mental health/substance use issues. The CVSO's team shows veterans how to effectively develop a plan and prioritize goals to be successful in meeting VA requirements for benefits to achieve rewards once they finish the treatment.

As mentioned above, the CVSO's team attends various outreach events and as a result of the information provided at these events, many veterans will request a follow up meeting. When meeting with veterans one-on-one, the CVSO or other team members ask a brief series of questions to determine whether a veteran may have

an issue with PTSD, MST or TBI. The CVSO's team also refers homeless veterans to the Fresno VA Hospital walk-in clinic or emergency room for immediate services. Combat vets with mental health issues are referred to the local Vet Center, which is co-located in the same complex as the County Veterans Service Office. With new VA mental health regulations, every veteran, regardless of discharge is able to be served and stabilized if necessary.

Number of Participants

Through this program, the Fresno County Veterans Service Office anticipates providing referrals to approximately 900 unduplicated clients for MHS. Out of the 900, approximately 100 incarcerated veterans are anticipated to receive assistance in avoiding criminalization due to mental illness and be referred to treatment in collaboration with the VJO. The 900 veterans will receive full services from the CVSO and staff in evaluating for PTSD/MST and TBI and will be referred to the best agency for their needs along with any application assistance. The CVSO is also currently collaborating with the county's local bases which currently have 4,000 active members to provide early assistance to those returning to civilian life.

Organization Partnerships

Many eligible referrals are sent to the Vet Center that is housed in the same building complex. Due to the locations proximity, the CVSO has built a strong partnership with the Vet Center. Not only do veterans get referred over to the Vet Center, The Vet Center refers veterans in need to the CVSO. The Vet Center assists veterans and their families through many of the major adjustments in lifestyle that often occur after a veteran returns from combat. Services for a veteran at the center includes individual and group counseling in areas such as PTSD, MST, TBI, alcohol and drug assessment, and suicide prevention referrals. The Vet Center has also been a connection for legal services through their co-op with Central California Legal Services (CCLS). Twice a month CCLS is onsite at the Vet Center to provide pro bono legal service to veterans for issues in housing, employment, discharge upgrades, criminal law and consumer law. These services allow veterans to move forward with their lives.

The CVSO has established a unique partnership with the Fresno VA hospital that grants regular access to Homeless Veteran Monthly Briefings, assessing for PTSD, TBI and MST, as well as other VA benefits issues. This regimented outreach is completed monthly and targets Mental Health, homeless issues and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) veterans. The CVSO is also a regular presenter at The Fresno VA Hospital New Employee Orientation to educate staff on what the Fresno County Veterans Service Office provides.

The CVSO in partnership with the Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) specialist work together to assist veterans with avoiding criminalization due to mental illness and assists the veteran in getting the mental health support they need. The VJO specialist provides direct outreach to incarcerated veterans and with the CVSO they assist veterans with connecting to the proper mental health treatment. The CVSO will work with the veterans in completing any applications and submissions for claims.

The CVSO serves as a Benefits Instructor, for California State University of Fresno. The CVSO conducts presentations, in a classroom setting, to veteran students six times per school year offering information on benefits, resources, and assistance available to aid them in the transition to civilian life. In addition, the CVSO performs outreach at Veteran Resource Centers at the three Community Colleges.

The CVSO has established a working relationship with the not-for-profit organization, San Joaquin Valley Veterans, a project of WestCare (SJVV). SJVV has administered for the past 5 years the Supportive Services for Veterans and Families Grant. SJVV services include; life skills, education, employment readiness, family development and counseling for PTSD and MST. SJVV also manages two Transitional Housing Projects, one for women veterans and one for male veterans and a Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) housing complex. The CVSO conducts outreach to these three facilities and implements a two way referral

system with SJVV.

Another partnership the CVSO has created is with the Central Valley Veterans (CVV) organization; this is a non-profit organization that works with homeless veterans. CVV assists with delinquent bills that could cause veterans to be evicted or lose services. The organization also provides assistance with providing furniture, moving expenses, food and clothing. With this partnership the CVSO is involved with all PTSD, MST and TBI referrals that CVV comes into contact with on a daily basis, in turn the CVSO refers veterans to CVV for their services when needed.

Potential Barriers

The greatest potential barrier to the success of the proposed project is the lack of awareness. Many veterans do not have knowledge of the available services. In an effort to be proactive, the CVSO is focusing on attending Yellow Ribbon and Muster Briefing events so that soldiers are educated on resources before deployment rather than upon their return. In addition, at every outreach opportunity, the CVSO and staff are trained to identify and expertly refer all targeted veteran groups to appropriate resources. To further expand outreach, the CVSO will compile and distribute comprehensive information packets addressing Mental Health issues, Women Veteran Issues, Homeless and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) veteran issues at many other local events such as Job Fairs for veterans.

Other barriers will also occur but the staff are ready to assist veterans to overcome their issues or concerns. The CVSO has worked to build an environment that not only will provide information and assistance with claims but a relationship of trust and safety. These relationships will help veterans open themselves up to talking which can provide staff information to decipher on what is not being said if a veteran is afraid of admitting they need care or when they seem to be feeling that getting help is a sign of weakness. Talking will also open the veteran up to discussing if there are any legal concerns they may have, at which point the CVSO's team can help by referring them for legal aid with Central California Legal Services (CCLS) that was mentioned above as a partner through the Vet Center.

Mental Health Service Future Plan

Once the funding period ends the CVSO and his team will continue to provide outreach for veterans at many major events listed above. The CVSO has also created a new website that will provide veterans access to Mental Health resources and request for referrals as a new method for outreach. The CVSO will continue to work on establishing new and stronger partnerships with organizations to provide MHS to veterans. The Veterans Service Office has also been spending time developing cross training and procedures so that when there is any staff changes they are prepared to continue services without any adverse effects to veterans.

Section D: Performance Assessment and Data (1000 words max)

The CVSO will use multiple methods to track MHS provided to veterans using logs and VetPro. The CVSO and Staff will utilize a referral tracker and update on a weekly basis, all incoming and outgoing referrals, describing the action taken. The goal is to inform and assist veterans in getting the services they need, which will be tracked using event logs and referral screening logs.

Event Log

Throughout the year the CVSO team will be attending at least 40 outreach events to provide presentations to veterans and service members returning to the civilian world. During the events veterans and service members will be informed about what services are available to them and how the CVSO team can assist with accessing the services and completing claims for services. At each event staff will keep a log which includes event information such as date, event title, type of event, number of veterans participating, CVSO staff attending and time spent. With the log staff are able to analyze the reach of how many veteran/service members are being seen. The CVSO has enough experience to anticipate effective outreach events and to target outreach appropriately, however, if an event is not productive for mental health assessments, an analysis will be conducted with partners for improvements. In addition to the log providing CVSO data on how many veterans/service members are seen this information will be used, if awarded this grant, to report hours spent at outreach events and the cost associated to attend the event.

Referral Screening

All referrals for health care services will be tracked in the VetPro system. This will include referrals for MHS such as PTSD, MST and TBI. Staff will also complete a referral screening log for each veteran/service member in which a referral for MHS is completed. Each staff member will complete the log when an assessment is completed with the date, veteran name, last 4 of the Social Security Number, Branch of Service, Type of Screening given (PTSD/MST/TBI), indicating that referral was done and who the veteran was referred to. This log will assist with evaluating if expectations are being met of the number of veterans screened (goal 2000) and referred (goal 900). With the evaluation of success the CVSO can review whether action is needed to improve outreach for getting the veterans in for screening and assistance. In addition this information will be used, if awarded this grant, to report hours spent completing screenings (30 minutes per a veteran) and the cost associated in completing the MHS screening.

VetPro

The CVSO will assist 900 veterans and their families in application/submittal of Service Related Disability Compensation claims & Non-Service Related Disability Pensions related to PTSD. These claims will be filed on VetPro which data will be collected via an adhoc report that will indicate the number of PTSD claims that are filed for a period of time.

The CVSO will assist 100 veterans along with the VJO in avoiding criminalization due to mental illness with MHS. Along with working in assisting this population with MHS claims the CVSO will also assist with verifying the completion of the MIL100 forms. Claims for this population will be recorded in VetPro in which data will be provided on an adhoc report from VetPro indicating the number of veterans that are incarcerated and track the MIL100 forms.

Financial System

The tracking method for costs related to the CVSO will be recorded in Fresno's PeopleSoft financial system. Administrative Staff will use the labor distribution for each quarter to determine the CVSO hourly rate related to an event and referral participation cost. Any cost for travel & supplies will be tracked using cost account types. Support staff cost will also use the labor distribution for each quarter to determine the staff members

hourly rate that will support the CVSO for 3 hours a week with phone calls, photocopies, follow-ups and any other receptions needs in office for the veterans in need of MHS.

Performance metrics and data logs for tracking are listed in Attachment A

Appendix B – Budget Form

Fresno County Veterans Service Office Veterans Outreach Proposition 63 Budget Form				
A. Personnel				
Position	Hourly Wage	Hrs/Mo Spent on Program	Mo/Yr Spent on Program	Cost
County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO)	\$ 41.94	37	12	\$ 18,621.36
Veterans Service Representative (VSR) II	\$ 20.86	5	12	\$ 1,251.60
			Total	\$ 19,872.96
B. Fringe Benefits				
Component	Rate	Annual Wage	Cost	
SDI (CVSO)	7.41%	\$ 18,621.36	\$ 1,379.84	
UIB & WC (CVSO)	0.07%	\$ 18,621.36	\$ 13.03	
Retirement (CVSO)	48.55%	\$ 18,621.36	\$ 9,040.67	
Health/Life (CVSO)	9.10%	\$ 18,621.36	\$ 1,694.54	
SDI (VSR)	6.63%	\$ 1,251.60	\$ 82.98	
UIB & WC (VSR)	0.15%	\$ 1,251.60	\$ 1.88	
Retirement (VSR)	55.45%	\$ 1,251.60	\$ 694.01	
Health/Life (VSR)	22.54%	\$ 1,251.60	\$ 282.11	
		Total	\$ 13,189.06	
C. Travel				
Location	Purpose	Rate (Mileage Only)	Cost	
Various Outreach Locations	Outreach	\$ 0.54	\$ 5,196.75	
Various Collaborative Events	Collaborative	\$ 0.54	\$ 2,598.38	
		Total	\$ 7,795.13	
D. Supplies				
Items	Rate (Cost x Months)		Cost	
Printing Cost for Brochures	\$109*12		\$ 1,308.00	
Mailing Costs	\$53*12		\$ 636.00	
Promotional Items	\$123*12		\$ 1,476.00	
	Total		\$ 3,420.00	
E. Contracting				
Name	Service	Rate (Cost/Individual x Individual x Days)	Cost	
N/A				
		Total		
F. Other				
Item	Rate		Cost	
Support Staff Cost	\$35.90*156		\$ 5,600.40	
	Total		\$ 5,600.40	
Totals				
Section A: Personnel	\$ 19,872.96	Section D: Supplies	\$ 3,420.00	
Section B: Fringe Benefits	\$ 13,189.06	Section E: Contracting	\$ 0.00	
Section C: Travel	\$ 7,795.13	Section F: Other	\$ 5,600.40	
		Total Requesting	\$ 49,877.55	

Appendix C – Budget Narrative

Fresno County Veterans Service Office Veterans Outreach Proposition 63 Budget Narrative

Section A: Personnel

CVSO (David Rose) and VSR's (Joshua Christopherson, Rebecca Hawkins, Theresa Reese and Aimee Taylor) salary cost for 504 outreach hours which consist of 275 hours of outreach at Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program events, Stand Downs, Job Fairs, Muster Briefings, Retirement Briefings, local college presentations, homeless veterans program presentations and National Guard Reserve Armories events/presentations in the area and 168 hours of one-on-one follow up with veterans and 61 hours of preparation and planning.

Section B: Fringe Benefits

The CVSO & VSR's benefit cost for 480 outreach hours. Benefits include Retirement, Unemployment and State Disability Insurance, Workers' Compensation, Life and Health Insurance and Administrative Benefits. Rates used to calculate benefit cost are based off of the County's benefit rates for FY 2018-19.

Section C: Travel

Travel is required because the events are held outside of the Veterans Service Office. Travel costs include mileage cost (at the current Fresno County rate) for the CVSO to attend approximately 55 outreach events including but not limited to: Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program events, Stand Downs/Up, Job Fairs, Muster Briefings, Retirement Briefings, local college presentations, homeless veterans program presentations and National Guard Reserve Armories events/presentations.

Section D: Supplies

Supply cost for the printing of tri-fold color brochures and business cards to be distributed at the various outreach events. Promotional items costs (pens, pencils, bags, banners, tarps, etc.) to be given away at outreach events to promote the VSO mental health outreach activities. Postage cost for mailing follow up materials, appointment letters and informational flyers. The calculation for these totals are based on the average of actuals divided by the percent of time spent on mental health outreach and collaborative events (23%).

Section E: Contracting

N/A

Section F: Other

Average support staff salary and benefit cost (\$35.90 per hour) for 3 hours of administrative support a week (e.g. phone calls, photocopies, follow-up).

Section D. Performance Assessment and Data

Performance Metric	Data Source	Goal	Actual (Qtr 1)	Actual (Qtr 2)	Actual (Qtr 3)	Annual
Cost per Veteran Served	Actual project expenditures from county accounting reports, veterans served from case management files.					
Attend outreach events	Travel log which indicates the date, event, attendee and cost.	40				
Mental Health screenings to identify veterans in need of referrals	Case Management files- PTSD/MST/TBI Screening log which includes information on client screened, whether a referral was done and where the client was referred.	2000				
Mental Health referrals	Case Management files- PTSD/MST/TBI Screening log which includes information on client screened, whether a referral was done and where the client was referred.	900				
Application/submittal of Service Related Disability Compensation claims & Non-Service Related Disability Pensions related to PTSD	Adhoc Report from VetPro indicating the number of PTSD claims filed.	1000				
Discussions or meetings related to veterans treatment court	MIL 100	100				
VJO Collaboration	Mental Health referrals for Incarcerated Veterans	100				

7110 - Veterans Service Office
Mental Health Funds - Outreach

Hourly Rate	
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	Date of Event	Event Title	Type of Event	# of Veterans Listening to Presentation	Staff Attended	Number of Hours Spent	Cost
1							\$ -
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
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41							
42							
43							
44							
45							
46							
47							
29							
48							
49							
50							
			TOTAL	D. Rose		\$	-

OUTREACH		\$	-
COLLABORATIVES		\$	-

7110 - Veterans Service Office

Mental Health Funds - Outreach

0 Referrals

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

PSTD / MST / TBI Questionnaire

<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>QUESTIONS</u>
☐	☐	• Have you served in a combat zone or suffered a personal trauma while in the service?
☐	☐	• Did you experience or witness a life-threatening event that caused intense fear, helplessness, or horror?
☐	☐	• Do you experience repeated and disturbing memories or dreams of the stressful experience?
☐	☐	• Do you experience repeated and disturbing memories or dreams of the stressful experience?
☐	☐	• Do you experience repeated and disturbing memories or dreams of the stressful experience?
☐	☐	• Do you act or feel as if the event were happening again (flashbacks or a sense of reliving it)?
☐	☐	• Do you try to avoid certain thoughts or situations that might remind you of the event?
☐	☐	• Do you feel detached from others?
☐	☐	• Do you have the inability to feel positive emotions?
☐	☐	• Do you have problems sleeping?
☐	☐	• Do you have irritability or anger outbursts?
☐	☐	• Do you have problems concentrating?
☐	☐	• Do you have the feeling of being “on-guard”?
☐	☐	• Do you startle easily?

TBI Questions

		• Describe the incident.
☐	☐	• Was there a head injury?
☐	☐	• Was there a loss or alteration of consciousness or memory



FRESNO VET CENTER
Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS)
1320 E. Shaw Avenue, Suite 125
Fresno, CA 93710
(559) 487-5660

January 25, 2019

California Department of Veteran Affairs
1227 O Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95814

To whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the staff of the Fresno County Veteran's Service Office who are applying for the Mental Health Service Act grant to assist them in their on-going outreach efforts and providing services to our veteran population. I am honored to do so as I have had the pleasure of working closely with the Fresno County Veteran's Service Office staff for the last 28 years. This collaboration and our co-location has served our mutual clients well and is a win-win for all concerned. I am particularly grateful for Mr. David Rose, the current CVS Officer, who has maintained and enhanced the range of services that are provided to our veteran community.

In my employment as a Readjustment Counselor and as the current Director of the Fresno Vet Center, I have come to depend on the array of services available to veterans through the CVSO. The Fresno Vet Center is an agency of the Department of Veteran Affairs that provides readjustment counseling services to combat veterans of all eras as well as to veterans who suffer from military sexual trauma, who worked in graves and registration, or who were drone operators. Through the years, I have had the privilege to witness the positive consequences of our shared mutual collaboration and a similar mission statement.

In working with Mr. Rose and the staff of the Fresno CVSO, we have assisted veterans who were referred to us after they presented with possible mental health issues at the CVS office. Conversely, we have also had the opportunity to refer several of our veteran clients to the CVSO where they have been able to address their service connected disabilities by filing a claim in a timely manner thus, greatly reducing barriers to access mental health services. Often, we hear from many of our mutual clients how valuable our co-location and collaboration are to them.

Some of our clients suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Military Sexual Trauma, and Traumatic Brain Injury. In addition, some face legal issues. Again, through a close collaboration with Mr. Rose and the Central California Legal services (CCLS) we have hosted attorneys who have provided free monthly legal clinics (Senior Estate Planning and Criminal Records Expungement) to eligible veterans. We have also referred to the CVSO personnel many veterans to have their discharge status upgraded. We also work very closely with the Central California Health Care System (VACCHCS) personnel of the Veterans Justice Outreach program in assuring that our veteran clients have the necessary resources to be successful in their rehabilitation and resolution of their legal cases before the Fresno County Veterans Treatment Court.

In closing, I trust that I have adequately expressed the value that the staff of the Fresno County VSO are to us and to all veterans and how granting the Mental Health Service Act grant to their office will be a very valuable investment, one that I am certain will benefit many more veterans and their families.

Respectfully,


Herman Barretto, LCSW, ACSW
Director: Fresno Vet Center



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Central California Healthcare System
2615 East Clinton Avenue
Fresno CA 93703-2286

January 22, 2019

Fresno County Veterans Service Office
David Rose, Fresno County Veterans Service Officer
1320 E. Shaw Ave. #105
Fresno CA, 93710

Dear Mr. Rose,

It is my pleasure to provide you with this letter of support for the California Veterans Service Office Proposition 63 Grant. We have had a working partnership over the past six years to assist our Justice-involved Veterans with access to VA mental health services.

As the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Coordinator, I believe receipt of proposition 63 grant funds is essential to assist with outreach activities related to our Veterans involved in the criminal justice system. We have collaborated on many Veteran-activities that provide needed information and resources to link this population to mental health and substance use disorder services. We work annually on our Central Valley Stand Down event where we organize and support an annual Veterans Court that assists Veterans with resolving active misdemeanor cases and unpaid fines. The Fresno County Veterans Service Office also verifies VA eligibility for Veterans applying for the Military Misdemeanor Diversion (PC 1001.80) program and for Veterans applying for the Veterans Treatment Court (PC 1170.9) program. We also refer several of our Veterans with legal issues to the bi-monthly Veterans Legal Clinic for estate planning and criminal expungements. Due to the increasing volume of applicants to these legal programs, the support of the Veterans Service Office is needed to assist with functions that promote access to mental health care. We also appreciate the assistance of this office in helping Veterans to upgrade "Other Than Honorable" discharges and to help Veterans file claims for service-connected disabilities.

The VA is committed to a continuing partnership to serve Veterans enrolled in the Veterans Justice Outreach program. We provide homeless housing, emergency resources and a weekly VJO Walk-in-Clinic. We distribute printed materials at our office and clinics, referring Veterans to the County VSO's office for assistance with eligibility and disability claims.

The support of the Fresno office has been extremely instrumental in assisting us with Veteran-access to mental health care and community resources. I highly recommend Proposition 63 funding for our local Veterans Service Office so that we may continue to collaborate at the same level, to provide deserved, exceptional services to our Justice-Involved Veterans.

Sincerely,


Susan Basmajian, LCSW

Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator
VA Central California Health Care System
2615 E. Clinton Avenue Bldg. 27
Fresno, CA 93703
(559)836-8810



MILITARY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
9800 Goethe Road
Sacramento, California 95827-3561

BHO

January 10 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR SUPPORT OF FRESNO COUNTY SERVICE OFFICE

SUBJECT: SUPPORT LETTER FOR FRESNO VSO

1. The Fresno County Veteran Services Office (VSO) has been a great collaborator in helping Veterans, soldiers, and military families with various veteran related issues. As the region's California Military Department's Behavioral Health Liaison, I have seen first-hand all the soldiers and veterans that Fresno County VSO has helped with VA claims, employment help, and even those in behavioral health crisis.
2. On numerous occasions, I have worked with the VSO staff on preventing a behavioral health crisis. The Fresno VSO has expedited VA claims to help in getting higher priority treatment and additional federal stability resources like VASH housing, VA health care, and vocational rehabilitation funds.
3. Each month, our program works in conjunction with county resources like VSOs, county mental health, and county emergency services. Our relationship prevents the loss of life, decreases the risk of potential homelessness, and improves the lives of many soldiers, veterans, and their families. With the war on terror going into its 18th year, this population is only growing in need and scale. I encourage any support for the Fresno County Veteran Services Office in its efforts to support vulnerable populations.
4. Any questions regarding this memorandum can be directed to myself, CPT Daniel L. Burns, at (559) 341-9001 and email at daniel.l.burns31.mil@mail.mil. For more information on our program, please contact our Agency Coordinator Col Susan Pangelinan at (916) 317-1685 or email at susan.i.pangelinan.nfg@mail.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel L. Burns", is positioned above the printed name.

Daniel L. Burns
Captain, California Army National Guard
Central Area Behavioral Health Liaison

Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator
Rebecca Calleja
5575 E. Airways Blvd.,
Fresno, California 93727
559-347-5819

December 19, 2018

Ref: Proposition 63 Funding Mental Health Outreach and Services

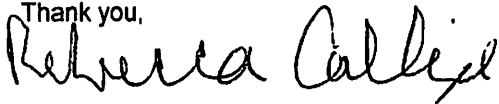
I am writing this letter in support of the Fresno County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO): David Rose.

The Survivor Outreach Support Services (SOSS) Program which is located in Fresno County, has a very positive and effectively close working partnership with the Fresno CVSO. We have been working collaboratively for approximately 8 years now and have seen an extensive increase in the amount of separating service members whom are experiencing a variety of different mental health issues.

Our partnership includes, but is not limited to, referring any and all mental health issues to the Fresno CVSO for assessment as well as connecting the various service members to them for their personal mental health care. We always refer any of our transitioning service members (located in Fresno) to the Fresno CVSO for the filing of their claims and other services in order to remove any and all barriers that may come up while our service members are in transition. The Fresno CVSO is continuously presenting to the community as a whole what their program has to offer and as well as to all of our Military Retirement Seminars and any transitional type event. At the Survivor's Outreach Services Program, we also assist the Fresno CVSO with any and all services that are available at our disposal and together we are always working and connecting any transitioning service members to other supportive agencies that can and will continue to provide Discharge Upgrade Services and Employment Services, as well as assistance to any barriers that they may possibly encounter along the way.

I will and do support the Fresno County Veteran Service Officer completely in obtaining the Prop 63 Grant so that we may continue to expand the outreach services not only for mental health services, but also to expand assistance for all connections that are available to any other barriers in the mental health services field.

Thank you,



Survivor Outreach Support Services Coordinator
Rebecca Calleja
5575 E. Airways Blvd.
Fresno, California 93727
559-347-5819
Rebecca.p.calleja.ctr@mail.mil

12/19/2018

Gia D. Smith
CA Army National Guard Family Program/SRI Contractor
5575 E. Airways Blvd, Fresno CA 93727

Ref: Proposition 63 Grant Proposal

Greeting Sir or Ma'am

As a Family Assistance Specialist for the California National Guard I have had the opportunity to work with David Rose both one on one and in more formal group settings at events such as Yellow Ribbon, Retirement Seminars, and the monthly Veterans Economic Committee meetings, which he is currently responsible for coordinating.

I would like to offer my support for David Rose as I have worked collaboratively with Mr. Rose for nearly a year now. David has been at every event that I attend for the California National Guard Family Program, and the briefings that he presents are always very informative, comprehensive, and engaging. As a Veteran Service Officer he has been my go to for various Veteran's needs ranging from benefits to mental health issues because of his knowledge and connections. As someone who has previously worked in Suicide Intervention and the mental health field, I have seen the frustrations and sometimes hopelessness that comes along with Veteran's feeling like they are not getting the help they need, and acknowledge the importance of someone like David. He has my complete trust when referring Veteran's his way. He is not only well connected with the community but also well respected throughout. I believe that David Rose and the benefit he has provided to this community is immeasurable and my hope is that the proposal at hand is given full consideration.

Thank you for your time,
please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,
Gia D. Smith
gia.d.smith.ctr@mail.mil
CA ARNG Family Program/SRI Contractor

Gia D. Smith