

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Veterans Services	(2) MEETING DATE 12/16/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Dana Cummings / 781-5766	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a resolution amending the Position Allocation List for Fund Center 186- Veterans Services to add 2.0 FTE Limited Term Assistant Veterans Services Officer positions in support of the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program, approval of the corresponding budget adjustment in the amount of \$101,374, and approval of a contract between the County and the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo (CAPSLO) to provide staffing for the program. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt the attached resolution approving the addition of two Limited Term Assistant Veterans Service Officer positions in support of the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program. 2. Authorize a Budget Adjustment in the amount of \$ 101,374 for FY 2014-15. 3. Approve a contract with CAPSLO to provide staffing to meet the requirements of the SSVF program. 			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) SSVF Grant Funding via CAPSLO	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$101,374.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT FY 2014-15 \$101,374.00 FY 2015-16 \$136,684.50 FY 2016-17 \$138,736.00 FY 2017-18 \$34,812.75	(9) BUDGETED? No
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { } Consent { } Presentation { } Hearing (Time Est. ____) { x } Board Business (Time Est. <u>10 min.</u>)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { x } Resolutions { x } Contracts { } Ordinances { } N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) NA		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: 1415058 { x } 4/5 Vote Required { } N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP NA	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? N/A	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { x } N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW <i>Robert D. Cone</i>			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Veterans Services / Dana Cummings / 781-5766

DATE: 12/16/2014

SUBJECT: Submittal of a resolution amending the Position Allocation List for Fund Center 186- Veterans Services to add 2.0 FTE Limited Term Assistant Veterans Services Officer positions in support of the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program, approval of the corresponding budget adjustment in the amount of \$101,374, and approval of a contract between the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo (CAPSLO) to provide staffing for the program. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board

1. Adopt the attached resolution approving the addition of two Limited Term Assistant Veterans Service Officer positions in support of the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program.
2. Authorize a Budget Adjustment in the amount of \$ 101,374 for FY 2014-15.
3. Approve a contract with CAPSLO to provide staffing to meet the requirements of the SSVF program.

DISCUSSION

San Luis Obispo County has the 4th highest percentage of unsheltered homeless individuals of any Continuum of Care in the nation, as reported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in October of 2014, and roughly 12% of this population consist of veterans and their families. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made a commitment to end veterans homeless by the end of 2015. To accomplish this effort, in January of 2014, the VA offered a Request for Proposal (RFP) to agencies within Continuums of Care (CoC) around the country, including San Luis Obispo's CoC, to request funding through the VA's Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program. The mission of the SSVF program is to assist very low-income veteran families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing with wrap around supportive services from several agencies in an effort to promote housing stability.

Agencies within San Luis Obispo County's CoC could request funding up to \$6,000,000 over three years from the SSVF program. In March 2014, the San Luis Obispo Homeless Oversight Council (HSOC), which oversees the County's CoC, endorsed proposals from two local non-profits: the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO) and the Five Cities Homeless Coalition. CAPSLO applied for the funding and was awarded a 3 year grant in the amount of \$4,899,717 to carry out an SSVF program. As part of their grant application, CAPSLO requested to have the San Luis Obispo County Veterans Services Office (CVSO) provide 2 Assistant Veterans Services Officers more commonly known as Veterans Services Representatives (Vet Reps). The Vet Reps would perform case management and advocacy for the veterans in the program as it relates to the veterans' ability to receive benefits and services from the Federal, State, and local level based upon their military service and type of discharge. The CVSO is expected to receive a total of \$411,607 in grant funding to recover the costs related to the salaries and benefits for these two limited term positions. The 5Cities Homeless Coalition also applied for an SSVF grant in partnership with the Good Samaritan Shelter based out of Santa Maria. They were awarded the remainder of the funding, and did not request similar support from the CVSO. They have reported they will be working with the Santa Barbara CVSO in Santa Maria to provide these services.

The Vet Reps' role will be to conduct outreach to veterans and to help determine a veteran's eligibility for services through

the SSVF program as per 38 CFR 62.2, the governing legislation for the program. Enrolling participants in SSVF requires that grantees (CAPSLO via the Vet Reps) verify veteran status to determine program eligibility. This entails an extensive documentation collection and verification process that can take weeks. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) recognizes that the crisis nature of SSVF services often means that veterans and families require immediate intervention. In an effort to resolve this, the Vet Reps may make a determination of the veteran's status at the time of screening, pending future verification. This determination allows for the immediate provision of supportive services, other than temporary financial assistance (TFA).

However, this process has the following restrictions:

1. TFA cannot be offered during the period of pending verification of veteran status. TFA can only be offered once veteran status is confirmed.
2. Pending verification of veteran status must be documented by an affidavit of eligibility signed by the participant.
3. Until veteran status is confirmed, pending verification of veteran status must be re-certified at least once every 90 days. If participant is found to be ineligible for SSVF, the participant must be discharged with appropriate community referrals.
4. Client data is required to be uploaded into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for all SSVF clients and included in monthly reports.
5. Service data will count towards program outcomes and final service numbers, regardless of final determination of Veteran Status.

Once eligibility is established the Vet Reps will provide advocacy and case management as it relates to the veterans receiving his or her benefits and services from the DVA, The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) and local agencies that offer benefits to veterans. These benefits and services include housing, health benefits, behavioral health services, service connected disability compensation, pension, aid & attendance and educational benefits. The Vet Reps will be working with the veterans to complete necessary forms, review military medical records, financial documents and to assemble claims packages that will facilitate optimal results. The Vet Reps will also perform intensive case management work ensuring that the veteran makes and attends all necessary DVA appointments, meets required deadlines for DVA claim activity, and complies with all Federal and State regulations in applying for benefits.

CAPSLO is the lead agency for the SSVF program and will be ultimately responsible for the overall success of the program, as well as responsible for the reporting of measures of the program's success. The program intends to serve 247 unique participant households over the life cycle of the grant, with an average total participant household grant cost of \$19,756. Participating veterans with families will be within the County of San Luis Obispo's CoC, and will have earnings of less than 50% of the median income level. The program will assist the veteran and their family in obtaining services such as health care, personal finance, transportation, income support, fiduciary, legal, child care, housing search and counseling, education and employment search. The goal for the first year of the program is provide supportive services for 27.6 veterans and their families. This increases to 79.8 in the second year, and to 140.3 in third, for a total of 248 veterans and their families being provided services through the program, as outlined in the table below:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
<u>Homeless Vets</u>				
Veteran - single	13.32	37.64	66.46	117.42
Veteran & Family	1.48	10.96	21.44	33.88
Total	14.8	48.6	87.9	151.3
<u>At-Risk</u>				
Veteran - single	3.84	10.36	15.72	29.92
Veteran & Family	8.96	20.84	36.68	66.48
Total	12.8	31.2	52.4	96.4
Grand Total	27.6	79.8	140.3	247.7

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

Human Resources created the resolution amending the positional allocation list and County Counsel reviewed the attached contract for form and effect. This program will involve and have an impact on several County departments in

addition to other outside agencies. The new staff will be working in cooperation with the Department of Social Services, the Health Agency and potentially the Sheriff's Department, Probation and the District Attorney's Office. The Vet Reps will also be working with outside agencies including CAPSLO, Transitions- Mental Health Association (TMHA), the DVA, the Vet Center, and the San Luis Obispo Housing Authority. These duties are identical to that of current staff, however these Vet Reps will be dedicated to helping the homeless and at risk veterans of the county in the SSVF program. They will also be able to provide more intensive case management as the number of veterans being supported through the SSVF program is a smaller percentage of veterans than those served by the CVSO's regular Vet Reps.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

SSVF grant funds via CAPSLO will provide funding to the County for salaries and benefits for two positions over a three year period based on the Federal Fiscal Year which runs October 1st – September 30th. The financial impact for the County through each funding year of the grant is as follows: FY 2014-15 is \$ \$101,374 for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters, FY 2015-16 is \$136,684, FY 2016-17 is \$138,736, and FY 2017-18 1st quarter is \$34,812. The positions will be Assistant Veterans Services Officers, more commonly known as Veterans Services Representatives who provide case management and veterans advocacy to assist the veterans in obtaining benefits and services from the Federal, State, and local level based on their military service and character of discharge.

RESULTS

The results of this program will be that 247 veterans with families in San Luis Obispo County will receive wrap around services, including housing, to assist them in being able to become self-sufficient and remain in a home. This program will also result in increased availability of other program resources in the county so that they may be directed at the other members of our community who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. These results will contribute to the County's goals of being a healthy, safe, livable, prosperous, and well-governed community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Contract between the County and CAPSLO to provide staff in support of SSVF program.
2. HR Resolution to add new Limited Term positions for the SSVF program
3. SSVF Grant Program Guide Part 1
4. SSVF Grant Program Guide Part 2
5. SSVF Grant Program Guide Part 3
6. SSVF Grant Program Guide Part 4
7. SSVF Grant Program Guide Part 5
8. SSVF Grant Program Guide Part 6
9. SSVF Grant Program Guide Part 7
10. SSVF Grant Program Guide Part 8
11. SSVF Grant Program Guide Part 9