



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 9/10/2019

Agenda Placement: 6C

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Shelli Brobst for Jennifer Yasumoto - Director
Health & Human Services Administration

REPORT BY: JoAnn Melgar, Staff Services Analyst II - 707-253-4722

SUBJECT: Renewal Certifications regarding State Veterans Services Allocation

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign the renewal of the following Certifications to enable the County to receive funding from the California Department of Veterans Affairs:

1. Agreement No. 170769B Annual Subvention Program Certificate of Compliance for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 for State subvention funding for the County Veterans Services Office; and
2. Agreement No. 170770B Annual Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Program Certificate of Compliance for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 committing the County to assist veterans in obtaining benefits from non-Medi-Cal funding sources.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State Department of Veterans Affairs allocates funding to assist County Veterans Services offices. To obtain these funds, the County must:

1. agree to provide veterans services;
2. designate a Veterans Services Officer in compliance with California Code of Regulations, Title 12, Subchapter 4; the person so designated must be qualified under the Military and Veterans Code; and
3. sign an Annual Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Program Certificate of Compliance that certifies that the activities of the County's Veterans Services Officer (CVSO) will reasonably benefit the Department of Health Services (DHS) or achieve cost avoidance for the Medi-Cal program authorized by Military and Veterans Code Section 972.5.

Approval of the requested actions is recommended as execution of these annual certificates will enable Napa

County to receive approximately \$62,000 in Federal and State funds from the California Department of Veterans Affairs for services provided by the County's Veterans Services office to Napa veterans and their families. The subvention funds only cover a small portion of the County Veterans Services Officer's costs. The County provides the majority of financial support to provide these vital services in our community.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Health & Human Services Comprehensive Services for Older Adults
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Mandatory
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	None
Consequences if not approved:	If the requested actions are not approved, Napa County will not receive approximately \$64,000 to supplement budgeted County General Funds used to pay for the operations of the County's Veterans Services Office. The Napa County's Veterans Services Officer (CVSO) assists veterans in receiving benefits to which they are entitled. Without his services, Napa County veterans will not be able to access benefits at the current level. Veterans would either have to work with the Veterans Administration on their own or go to another county for information and services relating to the particular benefits to which they or their family members are entitled.

Additional Information:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Napa County's Veterans Services Office serves eligible veterans, spouses and dependent children, dependent parents, surviving family members, and anyone with questions, concerns or interest in veterans services. Information and assistance on all available benefits and entitlements for veterans and their dependents and/or survivors can be obtained at the office located at 650 Imperial Way, Napa, California. The Napa County Veterans Services Officer and staff provide information regarding claims assistance, client advocacy waiver and appeal process, case maintenance, referral to outreach services at Veterans Administration service centers, education, compensation and pension programs, dependents and survivor benefits, Cal-Vet Home Loan programs, medical benefits, life insurance, and burial benefits. The Veterans Service Officer advocates to the state and federal governments for increased benefits and eligibility for veterans and their families.

Statistics for the past fiscal year indicate that through the Veterans Service Office, Napa County veterans and their

dependents received \$4,870,592 in new monies. Additionally, 68 college-bound students (veterans themselves, and dependents and/or survivors of veterans) received tuition/state fee waivers totaling \$411,408, enabling them to attend California community colleges, state colleges, and state universities tuition-free.

Additionally, the Napa County Veterans Service Office coordinates and hosts the Vet Connect program which is held the second Thursday of each month, linking a dozen service providers with veterans and their families. For additional outreach, the office offers an orientation to veterans benefits every Tuesday afternoon. The Veterans Service Officer also writes a monthly column, "Vet 2 Vets" that runs in the Napa Register in both the print and online editions.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Susan Kuss