

\$25 Million Grant Program Included for Veterans in Governor's California Comeback Plan

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The Veterans Support for Self Reliance Grant Ensures Services for California's Most Vulnerable Veterans

SACRAMENTO – Along with historic investments in small businesses, housing, education, infrastructure and climate change, Governor Newsom's California Comeback Plan includes the establishment of the Veterans Support for Self Reliance grant program. Administered by CalVet, this funding will support California's most vulnerable veteran population, including aging veterans and veterans with disabilities who have experienced chronic homelessness.

The Governor's plan, if approved, will provide a higher level of on-site supportive services, such as in-home support to help with habitability; peer specialists to encourage veterans to engage in mental health care; and geriatric social workers to identify behavioral issues related to early onset dementia or similar cognitive issues.

"We are grateful for Governor Newsom's leadership regarding support for our most vulnerable veterans. This program closes a crucial gap in care for veterans who are in need of supportive services for daily living, yet do not meet the level of skilled nursing or assisted living," said CalVet Secretary, Dr. Vito Imbasciani.

Steve Peck, President of the California Association of Veterans Service Agencies said that supportive services have always played a vital role in effectively serving veterans and ensuring housing stability. "The California Association of Veterans Service Agencies applauds Governor Newsom for his investment in supportive services for veterans' housing," added Peck. "This is an unprecedented opportunity to provide much-needed additional support."

The program is proposed as a three-year competitive grant that CalVet will administer to qualified grantees who serve veterans through permanent supportive housing. The program will primarily target those projects supported by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development—VA Supportive Housing, also known as HUD-VASH.

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