

VETERAN MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH

1. INTRODUCTION/SERVICES

- A. This is an Agreement in which the County of Nevada, hereafter referred to as the Contractor shall provide mental health outreach services, as specified within Exhibit A-1, in accordance with the Mental Health Services Act, for the California Department of Veterans Affairs, (CalVet).
- B. Contractor must be able to perform the tasks associated with providing services under the scope of their license. Contractor will provide services in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations and CalVet policies.
- C. Contractor is not authorized to disperse or promise any services as described in the Agreement until written approval has been obtained from CalVet Contract Manager and Contractor has received an executed Agreement from CalVet. Any delivery or performance of service commenced prior to Contractor obtaining all written approvals shall be considered voluntary on the part of Contractor.

2. CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Contractor shall provide the following services.

- A. Expand and/or enhance mental health services to include treatment, and other related recovery programs to veterans currently residing in or returning to the community from their military service as they transition back to civilian life.
- B. Provide the following performance measures on a quarterly and annual basis:
 - 1. Provide eight (8) quarterly progress reports to include the following:
 - a) Performance table that includes the goal for each performance measure and the source of collecting the performance measure (See Exhibit B – Budget Detail and Payment Provisions for periodic progress report/metric due dates).
 - b) Any narrative related to Performance Assessment and Data.
 - 2. Provide a mid-program review at the end of the 1st funding year, as well as a final report at the end of the 24-month grant cycle. Both the mid-program review and final report must summarize information from the quarterly reports, describe the accomplishments of the project, and describe next steps for implementing any plans for additional work identified during the funding period.

3. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS

- A. Contractor shall be considered "Independent Contractors" in relation to CalVet and the State. Therefore, Contractor shall not be considered employee(s) of CalVet and shall not be entitled to any employee benefits from CalVet or the State including, but not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Premium Pay, Overtime Pay, or Holiday Pay
 - 2. Medical Insurance
 - 3. Vacation or Sick Leave
 - 4. Worker's Compensation
 - 5. Other employee benefits

4. **CONTACT INFORMATION**

A. The Contract representatives during the term of this Agreement will be:

1. **CalVet Home Representative:**

Veterans Services- Headquarters
Phillip Leggett, Mental Health Coordinator
1227 O Street
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Phone: (916) 503-8327
Email: phillip.leggett@calvet.ca.gov

2. **Contractor Representative:**

County of Nevada
David West II
988 McCourtney Rd
Grass Valley, CA 95949
Phone: (530) 265-1446
Email Address: David.West@nevadacountyca.gov

B. Contract Representatives, addresses, and phone/fax numbers may be changed by issuing a 20-day prior written notification and shall not require a formal amendment to this Agreement. The notifying party shall provide complete contact information for the replacement Contract Representative including, name, title, mailing address, phone/fax numbers, and email address.

All other changes require a formal written amendment to this Agreement.

Appendix A – Program Narrative

Section A Statement of Need

Nevada County is in the Sierra Nevada foothills of California with a person per square mile rate of 103, compared to 251 in California. The rural population of 102,293 lives across a 974-square-mile region that spans from the foothills, over the Sierra Nevada's and extending east to the California/Nevada border. The three incorporated cities (Nevada City, Grass Valley, and Truckee) comprise approximately 32,000 residents, leaving more than 66,000 persons living in very rural areas. Veterans comprise more than 7% of the county population.

According to the 2021, VetPop data, there are 6,962 Veterans who call Nevada County home. The 2019, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Point in Time count identified 34 homeless Veterans within Nevada County. As of December 2023, the county has three homeless veterans and are in the process of validating data to announce that the county has reached functional zero. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 20 to 25% of the homeless population in the United States suffers from some form of severe mental illness.

Most Nevada County residents live 60-90 miles from the closest VA Medical Center. A small VA outpatient clinic in Auburn, CA is located 30 miles from Grass Valley. This clinic is where many of our Veterans are seen for their primary care and currently the wait time is in excess of two months to be seen by a therapist. The clinic is associated with the Mather VA Medical Center, which is 56 miles away. Traveling to this location can be difficult for our low-income and homeless veterans.

Previously, the Nevada County Veterans Services Office (NCVSO) had the ability to submit referrals to the Citrus Heights Vet Center, which has contracted with a local therapist to provide services. However, in October of 2022, the NCVSO was notified that the Citrus Heights Vet Center would no longer accept referrals and that local veterans would be required to travel in excess of 90 minutes to self-refer. This change in policy further limited the resources that were available locally.

Sierra Family Therapy Center (SFTC) is an organization that provides mental health services within Nevada County and is staffed with 18 therapists. These therapists are competent in both military culture and in treatment of military related psychological trauma, and they offer an opportunity for Veterans to receive treatment locally in Nevada County. SFTC is an established provider for Tri-West, CHAMPVA, Medicare, Medi-Cal, and recently became a

VA Choice Provider. This diversity in billing options allows for veterans and family members to receive mental health services, including individual, group, and supervised peer-support therapy.

The Nevada County VSO has received the Prop 63 Grant continuously from fiscal year 2018/19. This has directly led to the referral of 135 veterans since July 1, 2022, to receive free quality mental health services that otherwise would have left their symptoms untreated. The funding received from this grant has been instrumental in reducing our homeless veteran population to our current count of three homeless veterans in Nevada County. to receive mental health services, including individual, group, and supervised peer-support therapy.

The Nevada County VSO has received the Prop 63 Grant continuously from fiscal year 2018/19. This has directly led to the referral of 135 veterans since July 1, 2022, to receive free quality mental health services that otherwise would have left their symptoms untreated. The funding received from this grant has been instrumental in reducing our homeless veteran population to our current count of three homeless veterans in Nevada County.

Section B: Proposed Service/Project

Immediately upon separating from military service, many Veterans focus on providing for their family, starting a new career, or continuing their education. During this new journey, many Veterans fail to file for

benefits or seek treatment for the psychological trauma they experienced during their service. For some Veterans in Nevada County, it has been 30 years or more since they left the military. This same group of Veterans are just now coming to terms with the impact of their service and are seeking benefits and treatment.

The purpose of the NCVSO is to educate and assist all Veterans and family members during their transition, link them to services and improve the mental health and well-being of all Veterans in Nevada County. The key to success is increasing outreach and referrals to mental health services. The service will continue to meet this purpose by:

1. Ensuring the public knows the mission of the organization and sees the consistent promotion of services and mental health treatment.
2. Identifying more minority and underrepresented Veterans that may need support in Nevada County.
3. Continuing and expanding existing programs to eliminate Veteran homelessness.
4. Increasing the collaboration among non-profits and government agencies serving Veterans.
5. Continuing a peer model support system.

The Nevada County VSO, in partnership with SFTC, Sierra College, multiple divisions of Nevada County Department of Social Services (DSS), Nevada County Department of Behavioral Health, Nevada County Stand Down, Nevada County Court System, local Senior Services, Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, and the Tahoe Forest Health System, propose to continue the Nevada County Veterans Outreach and Wellness (VOW) Program. This program includes reaching out and connecting Veterans within Nevada County to behavioral health support and other services.

The Nevada County VSO will educate Veterans and their dependents covering all services and resources available to Veterans within the county. Additionally, the VSO will continue to build upon the successful outreach that has been established, which include:

- Maintaining the Veterans Resource Center within Sierra College – Truckee and Grass Valley Campuses. Continue to be available at least one day a week to provide referrals and support.
- Continue to work with the Nevada County Court Administrator to identify Veterans in the court system and provide therapy while incarcerated.
- Work with the county's Continuum of Care program to help serve the homeless Veteran population.
- Continue relationships with local media outlets to publicize programs available to Veterans.
- Maintain relationships with non-profits and programs serving Veterans in Nevada County.
- Maintain the peer counseling program.
- Assist in transition classes at Beale AFB.
- Attend local events to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and promote treatment.
- The goals and objectives listed above have proven to be effective and are evidence-based in increasing the number of Veterans seeking mental health and/or substance abuse treatment, and thus improving the mental health of Veterans in Nevada County.
- Outreach: Early identification of PTSD and other stress reactions is critical. Quickly referring people to treatment can shorten their suffering and lessen the severity of their functional impairment.
- Treatment for Military Related Trauma: Available PTSD treatment can address the primary symptoms of PTSD by helping the client bring under control the vivid re-experiencing of the trauma and continual re-appraisal of the event so they can feel better about themselves and their actions. In addition to addressing the symptoms, treatment addresses functional limitations such

as relationship and trust issues, anger management, feelings of alienation, sleep disturbances, and other limitations.

- Peer Support: A variety of peer-consumer-run models exist in the community and the VA system, such as: support groups, drop-in centers, consumer-run organizations, warm lines and Internet support groups and message boards. Research on consumer-run services has consistently yielded positive results.
- Family Support: Family support is fundamental to a service member's recovery from military-related trauma. According to a 2005 Department of Defense (DOD) survey, 74 % of DOD active-duty personnel cope with stress by talking to a friend or family member. Spouses and family members are often the first to recognize when service members require professional assistance and play a key role in influencing service members to seek help.

As stated in section A, 34 Veterans (less than 1% of our Veteran population) were identified as being homeless in 2019, and the possibility of eliminating Veteran homelessness in Nevada County became a real possibility. In July of 2021, Nevada County announced that it was committed to reducing veteran's homelessness to functional zero when it successfully decreased our number of homeless veterans to 29. The Nevada County VSO's partnership with SFTC has been instrumental in further reducing our number of homeless veterans to our current population of three. The Nevada County VSO has effectively used the data collected from its Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and its available resources to provide wrap-around services to our homeless veterans and ensure that their new housing opportunities are permanent. Additionally, Nevada County's partnership with SFTC has been instrumental in developing solid housing plans for 60 of our homeless veterans since July of 2021.

Finally, national statistics show that 22 veterans are successful in their attempts to commit suicide every day. Since 2018, when the Nevada County VSO began receiving this funding to provide mental health services to our veterans, the county has not had a single reported case of a veteran suicide. This is yet another example of how effective of a resource this has been to the veterans of Nevada County in ensuring that every veteran has access to the resources that they need.

Section C: Proposed Implementation Approach

As stated in section B, the Nevada County Veterans Services Office has continued to provide outreach to Veterans and their family members in the places that are most convenient to them. This new partnership with Sierra Family Therapy Center has provided new and exciting options to treat the Veterans of Nevada County and their family members. The ability for SFTC to bill multiple forms of insurance provides opportunities for more Veterans and their family members to receive mental health treatment locally than in previous years. For instance, if a veteran is currently receiving Medi-Cal benefits, SFTC can bill Medi-Cal directly and any co-pays that the Veteran may have will be covered through the funding of this program. Additionally, this partnership allows for more members of the Veterans family to receive services, which only serves to strengthen the support system of the Veteran. The NCVSO's increased efforts on outreach have provided an opportunity for more Veterans to receive the therapy, which aims to provide our Veterans with the tools needed to be successful in life after service.

The successful collaboration between the Nevada County Veterans Services Office and Sierra Family Therapy Center is building a successful model of what can be accomplished when using federal, state, and local funding sources to provide free quality mental health services to a specific target population in rural Northern California. Additionally, SFTC has both in-person and virtual appointment capabilities, which further allows for our Veterans to receive services in a setting that they are both comfortable and aligns with their work schedule.

Sierra Family Therapy Center has continued the NCVSOs partnerships with the local service providers listed in section B has provided input and continue to support this proposal. Sierra Family Therapy Center has reached out to other Nevada County Veteran centric non-profits to establish collaborative measures reaching even more Veterans and to build trust in their services within the local Veteran community.

Most screenings are conducted by the VSO and referrals are made to SFTC for an initial meeting. It is at this initial meeting that a follow-up screening is conducted to ensure that proper documentation is recorded for therapy services. The SFTC screener / interviewer is well versed in the indicators of mental health issues and substance abuse, and regularly communicates with the NCVSO if additional resources are needed. Additionally, when the NCVSO initiates a referral, SFTC is notified if the veteran has healthcare coverage and the Veteran is informed that he or she can receive up to 10 free quality mental health sessions, per the conditions of this funding. However, they are also informed that if they currently have access to the healthcare coverage that we can bill their insurance, cover any co-pays and extend the amount of sessions needed based on the progress of their individual treatment plan. To date, no veteran has complained about these options and prefer to that their healthcare provider be billed so that more Veterans and their family members can receive services.

The NCVSO attends monthly meetings with the county, city chamber commerce, local fraternal organizations and local Veteran Service Organizations. The Veterans Services Office provides information on planned outreach activities and upcoming events to share success stories. The NCVSO works with the Beale AFB Family Support Squadron and is a presenter in their Transition Assistance Program. This is yet another effort to educate those separating from the military about the services available to Veterans who plan to reside in Nevada County.

The expectation is that this program will continue to meet and exceed its goal of providing information about available mental health and substance abuse treatment services to at least 300 unduplicated Veterans annually. The NCVSO will continue to educate staff members of partner agencies on available services and referral options available to Veterans.

Additionally, the NCVSO will meet annually with at least 10 agencies to address gaps and coordinate system changes in the outreach and referral process among agencies and non- profits in Nevada County.

Potential barriers to the success of providing services to Veterans in Nevada County include:

- Unfamiliarity of personnel in other agencies with the identification of Veterans in need of services coordinated by the Veterans Services Officer. This will continue to be addressed by the Nevada County Veterans Services Officer through collaboration with these agencies to develop and maintain relationships that will enable the establishment of a formal referral process.
- With the majority of Nevada County being un-incorporated, making connections with those who live in these areas will be difficult. The NCVSO will ensure that each small town has literature of Veteran services placed in the Post Office lobby, frequented stores, and marketplaces. Quarterly radio interviews discussing program services and success stories, will also assist in reaching these Veterans.
- Reluctance of Veterans in need of treatment to engage in treatment. This will continue to be addressed by the Veterans Services Officer, who will collaborate with service providers on the concept of a proper warm hand-off of a Veteran to the appropriate agency provider.

The continued financial support that is provided through CalVet's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding source provides access to free quality mental health services to a community of Veterans in rural Northern California where resources are severely limited.

Additionally, with Prop 1 on California's March ballot partnering with Sierra Family Therapy Center has provided an opportunity for the NCVSO to build its own mental health network of federal, state, and local funding should future funding be limited due to results of the upcoming Sierra Family Therapy Center measure.

The NCVSO's Veterans Outreach and Wellness program has been a successful for all the individuals that it has served. Many Veterans and family members that have received therapy through this program have

volunteered their time to promote the NCVSO and its programs. This is a way that they can give back to help the program that helped them.

SFTC has a measurement of success of keeping Veterans local and the therapy they receive continues to keep Veterans from attempting or committing suicide.

To treat even more Veterans, SFTC has recently become a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Choice provider. This is an additional effort by the organization to provide services to more veterans locally and possibly lower operating costs and reach as many Veterans as possible. Additionally, SFTC has an established non-profit office and regularly fundraise to fill the financial gaps that many veterans and family members experience during these difficult economic times.

Section D: Performance Assessment and Data

Collection of data associated with metrics will be the responsibility of the Sierra Family Therapy Center Intake Coordinator and office staff. With the scope of the program and 18 therapists on staff, the Sierra Family Therapy Center Intake Coordinator and office staff will stress to all key personnel the importance of accurate data collection. The VOC will educate staff on the required data elements, and the importance of accurate data collection for the metrics.

Collected data associated with metrics will be reviewed quarterly by the Nevada County Veterans Services Officer and SFTC's Intake Coordinator. Any missing or data affected by elements outside the control of the Veterans Services Officer will be annotated in the Performance Assessment and Data table. The completed Quarterly Progress Reports and/or narratives will be reviewed by the Nevada County Veterans Services Office before submission to CalVet. Evidence of review will be kept in the form of a signed copy of the report.

Quarterly review of the metrics by VSO staff and SFTC's Intake Coordinator will provide concrete evidence of the success of the program but will also show where behavioral health disparities of the Veterans we reach out to can affect how the program is seen to be performing.

Outreach Performance Assessment

Performance Measurement #1: Provide information about available mental health services and substance abuse services to at least 300 unduplicated Veterans.

Performance Measurement #2: Identify and provide services or referrals to 30 minority and underserved Veterans.

Performance Measurement #3: Meet with at least 10 collaborative partners annually to address gaps and coordinate system changes in the referral process among agencies and non-profits within the county.

1. STANDARD BUDGET DETAIL AND PAYMENT PROVISIONS

A. Invoicing and Payment

1. For services satisfactorily rendered, and upon receipt and approval of the invoices, the CalVet agrees to compensate Contractor for services rendered in accordance with the rate specified in Exhibit B-1-Budget Form/Narrative.
 - a) Total cost of the contract is \$150,000.00.
 - b) The first quarterly payment shall be made upon approval of the contract in the amount of \$18,750.00, the remaining seven (7) payments shall be made upon receipt of quarterly invoices by the CalVet Contract Manager.
 - c) Quarterly invoices shall be submitted no later than the following dates:

| | |
|--|---|
| | FY24/25 starts July 1, 2024 |
| 1 st Quarter Invoice and Metrics (07/01/2024 – 9/30/2024) | Due October 31, 2024 |
| 2 nd Quarter Invoice and Metrics (10/01/2024 – 12/31/24) | Due January 30, 2025 |
| 3 rd Quarter Invoice and Metrics (01/01/2025 – 03/31/2025) | Due April 28, 2025 |
| 4 th Qtr. Invoice and Metrics Annual Progress Reports (04/01/25 – 06/30/25) | Due July 31, 2025 The mid-program report must summarize information from the quarterly reports, describe the accomplishments of the project, and describe next steps for implementing any plans for additional work identified during the funding period (mid-program reports are due with 4 th Quarter invoices and metrics.) |

| | |
|--|---|
| | FY25/26 starts July 1, 2025 |
| 1 st Quarter Invoice and Metrics (07/01/2025 – 9/30/2025) | Due October 31, 2025 |
| 2 nd Quarter Invoice and Metrics (10/01/2025 – 12/31/25) | Due January 30, 2026 |
| 3 rd Quarter Invoice and Metrics (01/01/2026 – 03/31/2026) | Due April 28, 2026 |
| 4 th Qtr. Invoice and Metrics Annual Progress Reports (04/01/26 – 06/30/26) | Due July 31, 2026 The final report must summarize information from the quarterly reports, describe the accomplishments of the project, and describe next steps for implementing any plans for additional work identified during the funding period (Annual Progress Reports are due with 4 th Quarter invoices and metrics.) |

- Quarterly payments shall only be approved upon quarterly invoices that shall include the Agreement Number, County name, address and telephone number. Quarterly invoices shall also be accompanied by the quarterly reports identified in Exhibit A – Scope of Work, and shall be submitted in duplicate not more frequently than listed above to:
- Invoices shall include the Agreement Number and shall be submitted in not more frequently than monthly in arrears to:

Original Invoice

Approval Copy

| | |
|--|--|
| Department of Veterans Affairs Cal/Vet Accounting Office 1227 O Street, Room 402 Sacramento, CA 95814 | Department of Veterans Affairs Attn: Phillip Leggett 1227 O Street Sacramento, CA 95814 |
|--|--|

B. Budget Contingency Clause

- It is mutually agreed that if the Budget Act of the current year and/or any subsequent years covered under this Agreement does not appropriate sufficient funds for the program, this Agreement shall be of no further form and effect. In this event, the State shall have no liability to pay any funds whatsoever to Contractor or to furnish any other considerations under this Agreement and Contractor shall not be obligated to perform any provisions of this Agreement.
- If funding for any fiscal year is reduced or deleted by the Budget Act for purposes of this program, the State shall have the option to either cancel this Agreement with no liability occurring to the State, or offer an Agreement amendment to Contractor to reflect the reduced amount.

C. Prompt Payment Clause

Payment will be made in accordance with, and within the time specified in, Government Code, Chapter 4.5, commencing with Section 927.

2. SPECIAL BUDGET DETAIL AND PAYMENT PROVISIONS

A. Submissions of Invoices/Claims

1. All invoices/claims must be completed thoroughly and legibly, with all applicable fields completed. Invoices/claims that are submitted to the appropriate location but have been altered, or are inaccurate, or do not provide all necessary information will not be accepted and will be returned to the Contractor for correction.
2. Any changes to this provision relating to the invoice/claim submittal process, including but not limited to an address, form, or process change, shall be an administrative change managed through the appropriate designated CalVet office and shall not require a contract amendment.
3. Invoices/claims submitted shall include the following information in order to be considered complete and acceptable for processing, or the invoice/claim will be returned:
 - a) Contractor's Company name
 - b) Contractor's Company address, phone number and e-mail
 - c) Date of invoice/claim
 - d) Invoice/claim number
 - e) CalVet location where services were performed
 - f) Agreement Number
 - g) Date(s) of Service
 - h) Total dollar amount being billed
 - i) First and Last name of Contractor or Provider performing services, if applicable
 - j) Contractor's or Provider's Classification, whichever is applicable
 - k) When applicable, contractors shall include the following information on the invoice/claim submitted for hourly reimbursement:
 1. Hourly Rate
 2. Time in and time out
 3. Total hours worked
 4. Any other information or documentation reasonably required to verify and substantiate the provision of services and the charges for such services.

BUDGET FORM/NARRATIVE

The Budget Form/Narrative may not represent the actual dollar amount allotted for this Agreement. The Budget Form is the Contractor’s response to Program’s Request for Application and shall be attached as a reference for Contractor’s proposal of how expenses will be addressed as part of this agreement.

Appendix A – Budget Form

| Nevada County Veterans Services Office Veterans | | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Outreach & Wellness Program (VOW) | | | | |
| Budget Form | | | | |
| A. Personnel | | | | |
| Position | Hourly Wage | Hrs/Mo Spent on Program | Mo/Yr Spent on Program | Cost |
| N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | | | Total | \$0.00 |
| B. Fringe Benefits | | | | |
| Component | Rate | Annual Wage | Cost | |
| N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| | | Total | \$0.00 | |
| C. Travel | | | | |
| Location | Purpose | Rate (Mileage Only) | Cost | |
| Outlying Areas of Nevada County | Outreach to Veterans & Collaboration with Partner Agencies | 300 miles per month x 12 @ \$.67 | \$2,412.00 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | Total | \$2,412.00 | |

| D. Supplies | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| Items | Rate (Cost x Months) | | Cost |
| Outreach Materials | \$.55 x 6,524 | | \$3,588.00 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | Total | | \$3,588.00 |
| E. Contracting | | | |
| Name | Service | Rate (Cost/Individual x Individual x Days) | Cost |
| Therapist | Psychotherapy | \$125 hr. x 352 hrs. | \$44,000.00 |
| | | | |
| | | Total | \$44,000.00 |
| F. Other | | | |
| Item | Rate | | Cost |
| N/A | N/A | | N/A |
| N/A | N/A | | N/A |
| N/A | N/A | | N/A |
| | Total | | \$0.00 |
| Totals | | | |
| Section A: Personnel | \$0.00 | Section D: Supplies | \$3,588.00 |
| Section B: Fringe Benefits | \$0.00 | Section E: Contracting | \$44,000.00 |
| Section C: Travel | \$2,412.00 | Section F: Other | \$0.00 |
| | | Total Requesting | \$50,000.00 |

Appendix D – Budget Narrative

| Nevada County Veterans Services Office | |
|--|--|
| Veterans Outreach & Wellness Program (VOW) | |
| Budget Narrative | |
| Section A: Personnel | |
| N/A | |
| Section B: Fringe Benefits | |
| N/A | |
| Section C: Travel | |
| The Veterans Services Officer will travel to partner agencies and organizations throughout the entirety of Nevada County, as well as Sacramento. The estimated amount of travel based on mileage as great as 60 miles one-way will average approximately 300 miles a month at \$.67 for a total cost of \$2,412.00 | |
| Section D: Supplies | |
| Outreach materials including informational brochures, flyers, postcards, and large posters outlining services available to Nevada County Veterans and collaborative partners. Printing costs for outreach materials will be approximately \$.55 x 6,524 for a total cost of \$3,588.00. | |
| Section E: Contracting | |
| Therapy will be provided to Veterans and their family members. Therapy will be \$125/hr. x 352 hours, for a total cost of \$44,000.00. | |
| Section F: Other | |
| N/A | |

Appendix C – Budget Narrative

1. EXCISE TAX

The State of California is exempt from Federal Excise Taxes, and no payment will be made for any taxes levied on employees' wages. The State will pay for any applicable State of California or local sales or use taxes on the services rendered or equipment or parts supplied pursuant to this Contract. California may pay any applicable sales or use tax imposed by another state.

2. STATUTORY AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

A. This Contract shall be governed and construed in accordance with all applicable statutory and regulatory provisions including, but not limited to:

- 1) Title XVIII of the Federal Social Security Act
- 2) Title XIX of the Federal Social Security Act
- 3) Chapters 7 and 8 (commencing with Section 14000), Part 3, Division 9, Welfare and Institutions Code
- 4) Division 3, Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR)
- 5) Health and Safety Code Section 1340 et seq.
- 6) All applicable Federal provisions which regulate the administration of health care programs and budget revisions, as contained in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 42, and Title 45, Part 74, Title 42 United States Code, Sections 1395 et seq. and 1396 et seq.
- 7) Sub-chapter 13 (commencing with Section 6800), Chapter 4, Part 1, Title 17, CCR; and
- 8) All other applicable laws and regulations.

B. Any provision of this Contract in conflict with the applicable laws and regulations is hereby amended to conform to the provisions of those laws and regulations. Such amendment of the Contract shall be effective on the effective date of the statutes or regulations necessitating it, and shall be binding on the parties even though the amendment may not have been reduced to writing and formally agreed upon and executed by the parties. If, due to amendment in laws or regulations, Contractor is unable or unwilling to comply with the provisions of the amendment(s), State or Contractor may terminate this Contract in accordance with the Termination provision of this Contract.

3. EXAMINATION AND AUDIT

A. Contractor shall allow the State and its related entities, the Comptroller General of the United States, Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud, or their duly authorized representatives, to inspect or otherwise evaluate the quality, appropriateness, and timeliness of services performed under this Contract, and to inspect, evaluate, and audit any and all books, records, and facilities maintained by the Contractor and Subcontractors pertaining to services under this Contract at any time during normal business hours.

B. Contractor shall be subject to the examination and audit of the State Auditor for a period of three (3) years after final payment under this Contract in accordance with *Government Code, Section 85467.7*. The examination and audit shall be confined to those matters directly connected with the performance of the contract, including, but not limited to, the costs of administering the Contract.

C. Books and records include, but are not limited to, all physical records originated or prepared pursuant to the performance under this Contract, including working papers, reports, financial records, and books of account, Medical Records, prescriptions files, Subcontracts, and any other documentation pertaining to medical and non-medical services for residents of the Home. Upon request, at any time during the term of this Contract, the Contractor shall furnish any record or copy.

4. RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

- A. The Contractor may dispute and appeal a decision or action by the State arising out of the Interpretation or administration of this Contract. A written dispute notice shall be submitted to the Contract Manager within thirty (30) calendar days from the date the Contractor receives notice of the decision or action in dispute.

The Contractor's dispute notice shall state the following, based on the most accurate information available to the Contractor:

- 1) That it is a dispute pursuant to this Section.
 - 2) The date, nature, and circumstances of the conduct, which is the subject of dispute.
 - 3) The names, telephone numbers, function, and activity of each contractor, subcontractor, State official, or employee involved in or knowledgeable about the conduct.
 - 4) The identification of any documents and the substance of any oral communications involved in the conduct. Copies of all identified documents shall be attached.
 - 5) The reason why the Contractor is disputing the conduct.
 - 6) The cost impact to the Contractor directly attributable to the alleged conduct, if any.
 - 7) The Contractor's desired remedy.
- B. The State and the Contractor agree to try to resolve all contractual issues by negotiation and mutual agreement at the Contract Manager level. The parties recognize that the implementation of this policy depends on open-mindedness, and the need for both sides to present adequate supporting information on matters in question. The Contract Manager, in a written decision stating the factual basis for the decision, will decide any disputes concerning performance of this Contract. Before issuance of the Contract Manager's decision, informal discussions between the parties by the individuals who have not participated substantially in the matter in dispute will be considered by the parties in efforts to reach mutual agreement.
- C. The Contract Manager will render a decision or request additional substantiating documentation from the Contractor within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Contractor's appeal. A copy of the decision will be provided to the Contractor. The decision shall be final and conclusive unless, within thirty (30) days from the date of the decision, the Contractor files a written appeal addressed to the Undersecretary, California Department of Veterans Affairs.
- D. The Undersecretary's decision shall be final and conclusive unless the decision is arbitrary, capricious, grossly erroneous or if any determination of fact is unsupported by substantiating evidence. The Undersecretary's decision will be in writing and may encompass facts, interpretations of the Contract, and determination or application of law. The Contractor may, prior to the Undersecretary's decision, present oral or documentary evidence, and arguments in support of the Contractor's appeal. The decision will either:
- 1) Find in favor of the Contractor, in which case the Undersecretary may:
 - a) Countermand the earlier conduct which caused the Contractor to file a dispute; or
 - b) Reaffirm the conduct and, if there is a cost impact sufficient to constitute a change in obligations pursuant to the payment provisions, direct the State to comply with that Section.
 - 2) Deny the Contractor's dispute and, where necessary, direct the manner of future performance; or
 - 3) Request additional substantiating documentation in the event the information in the Contractor's dispute or appeal is inadequate to permit a decision to be made under paragraphs (1) or (2) above, advise the Contractor as to what additional information is required, and establish how that information will be furnished. The Contractor shall have thirty (30) days to respond to the Undersecretary's

request for further information. Upon receipt of this additional requested information, the Undersecretary will have thirty (30) days to respond with a decision. Failure to supply additional information required by the Undersecretary within the time period specified above shall constitute waiver by the Contractor of all claims.

- E. Attorney's fees and costs for any dispute or subsequent trial shall be borne by the respective parties. Both parties waive trial by jury, and any trial in superior or municipal court shall be by a judge alone. Any litigation arising out of this Contract shall be conducted in a California Court pursuant to California law.
- F. Contractor shall continue with the responsibilities under this Contract during any dispute.

5. AGENCY LIABILITY (Applies only to Federally Funded Contracts)

The Contractor warrants by execution of this Contract, that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this Contract upon Contract or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Contractor for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this warranty, the State shall, in addition to other remedies provided by law, have the right to annul this Contract without liability, paying only for the value of the work actually performed, or otherwise recover the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee.

6. POTENTIAL SUBCONTRACTORS

For all Agreements, with the exception of Interagency Agreements and other governmental entities/auxiliaries exempt from bidding, nothing contained in this Contract or otherwise shall create any contractual relation between the State and any subcontractors, and no subcontract shall relieve the Contractor of Contractor's responsibilities and obligations hereunder. The Contractor agrees to be as fully responsible to the State for the acts and omissions of its subcontractors and of persons either directly or indirectly employed by any of them, as it is for the acts and omissions of persons directly employed by the Contractor.

The Contractor's obligation to pay its subcontractors is an independent obligation from the State's obligation to make payments to the Contractor. As a result, the State shall have no obligation to pay or enforce the payment of any moneys to any subcontractor.

7. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Upon contract award, contractor must furnish to the State an original certificate(s) of insurance stating that the contractor has the following types of coverage, if applicable:
 - 1) Commercial General Liability: Combined Single Limit (CSL) for no less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage. The policy must include coverage for liabilities arising out of premises, operations, independent contractors, products/completed operations, personal & advertising injury, and liability assumed under an insured contract. This insurance shall apply separately to each insured against whom claim is made or suit is brought subject to the contractor's limit of liability.
 - 2) Professional Liability: (Applies to any contract in which the work is of a professional nature such as, but not limited to, physicians, architects, engineers, accountants, or consultants) Covering any damages caused by an error, omission, or any negligent acts. Limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 aggregate.
 - 3) Automobile Liability (Applies to any contract in which the contractor will likely use a vehicle to complete the project or drive a vehicle onto State property): Limits of not less than \$1,000,000 per accident. Such insurance shall cover liability arising out of an automobile including owned, hired, and non-owned autos.
 - a) MCS90 endorsement on the Automobile policy **(required whenever contractor will be transporting Hazardous materials i.e. Pest Control and Waste contracts.)**

- 4) Pollution Liability/Environmental Impairment Liability (Applies only to Pollution Contracts – i.e. Pest Control and Waste Contracts): In addition, the certificate evidencing general liability must include evidence of one of the following if applicable to the service:
 - a) Pesticide/Herbicide Endorsement, OR
 - b) An endorsement deleting the general liability pollution exclusion, OR
 - c) A separate environmental/pollution liability policy with limits not less than \$1,000,000 covering bodily injury and property damage from pollution and related clean-up costs incurred arising out of the work or services to be performed under this contract.
- 5) Workers' Compensation (Mandatory for all Contractors who have at least one employee): Contractor shall maintain workers' compensation and employer's liability coverage for all its employees who will be engaged in the performance of the contract, including special coverage extensions where applicable. Contractor shall furnish a certificate for Workers' Compensation issued by an insurance carrier licensed to write Workers' Compensation insurance in the State of California, including the name of the carrier and the date of expiration of insurance, or a Certificate of Consent to Self-Insure issued by the Department of Industrial Relations.
- 6) Fidelity Bond/Crime Insurance: (Applies only to contracts handling State money or securities – i.e. Armored Car Service Contracts) Contractor shall maintain Employee Dishonesty and, when applicable, Inside/Outside Money & Securities coverages for state-owned property in the care, custody and control of the Contractor. Coverage limits shall not be less than the amount scheduled in the contract. The policy shall include as Contractor. Coverage limits shall not be less than the amount scheduled in the contract. The policy shall include as loss payee the California Department of Veterans Affairs
- 7) The certificate(s) of insurance shall be on an ACORD form, or equivalent, and must show "occurrence" coverage. The certificates of insurance must also contain all of the following provisions:
 - a) Name and address of the insurance company, policy number, and beginning and ending dates of the policy.
 - b) Statement that the insurer will not cancel the insured's coverage without 30 days prior written notice to the State.
 - c) Statement that the State of California, its officers, agents, employees, and servants are included as additional insured on the policy, but only insofar as the operations under this contract.
- 8) Contractor agrees that any insurance herein provided shall be in full force and effect at all times during the term of the contract. In the event said insurance coverage expires at any time during the term of this contract, Contractor agrees to provide, at least ten (10) days prior to said expiration date, a new certificate of insurance evidencing insurance coverage as provided for herein for not less than the remainder of the term of the contract, or for a period of not less than one (1) year. In the event contractor fails to keep in effect at all times insurance coverage herein provided, State may, in addition to any other remedies it may have, terminate the contract upon the occurrence of such event, subject to the provisions of the contract.
- 9) Contractor shall notify the State within five (5) days if any insurance coverage identified in the contract is altered in any way.

8. RIGHT TO TERMINATE

- A. The State reserves the right to terminate this Contract subject to thirty (30) days written notice to the Contractor. Contractor may submit a written request to terminate this Contract only if the State should substantially fail to perform its responsibilities as provided herein. However, the Contract can be immediately terminated for cause. The term "for cause" shall mean that the Contractor fails to meet the

terms, conditions, and/or responsibilities of the contract. In this instance, the contract termination shall be effective as of the date indicated on the State's notification to the Contractor.

- B. This Contract may be suspended or cancelled without notice, at the option of the Contractor, if the Contractor or State's premises or equipment are destroyed by fire or other catastrophe, or so substantially damaged that it is impractical to continue service, or in the event the Contractor is unable to render service as a result of any action by any governmental authority.

9. FORCE MAJEURE

Neither party shall be liable to the other for any delay in or failure of performance, nor shall any such delay in or failure of, performance constitute default, if such delay or failure is caused by "Force Majeure." As used in this section, "Force Majeure" is defined as follows: Acts of war and acts of god such as earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters such that performance is impossible.

10. EVALUATION OF CONTRACTOR

Performance of the Contractor under this Agreement will be evaluated. The evaluation shall be prepared on Contract/Contractor Evaluation Sheet (STD 4), and maintained in the Agreement file. For consultant agreements, a copy of the evaluation will be sent to the Department of General Services, Office of Legal Services, if it is negative and over \$5,000.

11. SB/DVBE PARTICIPATION

In accordance with requirements set forth by the State, the CalVet shall enforce all laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to this program. It is the Contractors responsibility to provide CalVet with all required documents as outlined in this agreement. The CalVet reserves the right to contact each SB and DVBE identified by the Contractor to verify compliance. Failure to meet SB/DVBE requirements under Exhibit B, and Exhibit C (GTC 04/2017), paragraphs 19.a and 19.b. may deem the Contractor to be non-responsible and rejected from future bid and contract opportunities with the CalVet.

12. LICENSES AND PERMITS

The Contractor shall be an individual or firm licensed to do business in California and shall obtain at his/her expense all license(s) and permit(s) required by law for accomplishing any work required in connection with this contract.

If you are a Contractor located within the State of California, a business license from the city/county in which you are headquartered is necessary; however, if you are a corporation, a copy of your incorporation documents/letter from the Secretary of State's Office can be submitted. If you are a Contractor outside the State of California, you will need to submit to the California Department of Veterans Affairs a copy of your business license or incorporation papers for your respective State showing that your company is in good standing in that state.

In the event any license(s) and/or permit(s) expire at any time during the term of this contract, Contractor agrees to provide agency a copy of the renewed license(s) and/or permit(s) within 30 days following the expiration date. In the event the Contractor fails to keep in effect at all times all required license(s) and permit(s), the State may, in addition to any other remedies it may have, terminate this contract upon occurrence of such event.

13. CONSULTANT – STAFF EXPENSES

The Contractor represents that it has or shall secure at its own expense, all staff required to perform the services described in this Agreement. Such personnel shall not be employees of or have any contractual relationship with any governmental entity.

14. HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT (HIPAA) STANDARDS FOR PRIVACY OF INDIVIDUALLY IDENTIFIABLE HEALTH INFORMATION

For the purpose of this contract, contractor shall comply with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), as well as State and Federal requirements for privacy protection. The definitions and obligations required by the HIPAA Standards for Privacy of Individually Identified Health Information (U.S.C. 1320d et seq.), and implementing regulations including but not limited to 45 Code of Federal Regulations parts 142, 160, 162, and 164, hereinafter referred to as the Privacy Rule, remain enforce and applicable for access to protected health information, including electronic protected health information.

15. LEGAL CONTRACTS (applies only to Legal Services Contracts)

In accordance with (Public Contract Code Section (10353.5) The Contractor shall:

- A. Agree to adhere to legal cost and billing guidelines designated by the State.
- B. Adhere to litigation plans designated by the state agency.
- C. Adhere to case phasing of activities designated by the state agency.
- D. Submit and adhere to legal budgets as designated by the state agency.
- E. Maintain legal malpractice insurance in an amount not less than the amount designated by the state agency.
- F. Submit to legal bill audits and law firm audits if requested by the state agency. The audits may be conducted by employees and designees of the state agency or by any legal cost control providers retained by the state agency for purpose.
- G. Submit to a legal cost and utilization review, as determined by the state agency.