

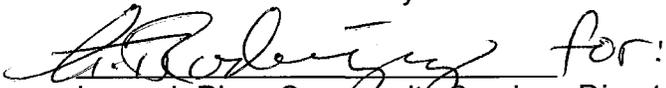


# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

## memo

DATE: December 16, 2014

TO: Finance Committee/City Council Members

VIA:  for:  
Isaac J. Pino, Community Services Director

FROM: A. Terrie Rodriguez, Youth and Family Services Division Director 

### ITEM AND ISSUE:

At the beginning of 2013 the City of Santa Fe received an allocation of funds from the Veteran's Administration. Resolution 2013-2 (see attached) which outlines the process of how the City of Santa Fe worked with the VA to expand the capacity of the National Cemetery. The Resolution directs staff to establish a fund, which was accomplished as the Veteran Programs in special Revenue, fund 2602, revenue 21602 and expense 22605. The additional requirements of the Resolution have been met with the establishment of a fund and the community assessment that was completed last year.

A community wide process of examining services available at the Federal, State and local level which included nonprofit organizations, shows that a wide continuum of services is available, however many services must be accessed in Albuquerque or Rio Rancho. A persistent gap is getting the information out to veterans and their families about transition assistance, workforce development, housing assistance and health care. In house, the City of Santa Fe adopted special clauses for employment and for affordable housing programs. It is important to move forward with Mayor Gonzales' request to establish a Veteran's Committee. This Committee could be the conduit to ensure that information gets out to individuals and families as well as secure additional counseling services, housing opportunities and workforce development for all veterans. There is a \$20,000 contract pending that will be used to assist with outreach, counseling and stabilizing homeless veterans who are presenting at the Interfaith Community Shelter. The Life Link is the contractor who will collaborate with the VA Homeless Counselor to reach the veterans presenting at both the night shelter and during the day activities. This contract is in line with the community assessment needs and was determined as one of the priority uses of these funds.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Respectfully request a budget increase of \$150,000 to allow the Veteran Program money become available for use. The new Veteran's Committee can build on the community assessment to recommend how best to serve this population with these one-time funds. Please approve a budget increase and transfer of \$150,000 into Veteran Project fund 22605-510400. Thank-you.

cc: Cal Probasco, Budget Director





1 CITY OF SANTA FE that the funds received from the NMDVS this time forward in accordance  
2 with the New Mexico Veterans' National Cemetery Fund be designated solely for veteran programs.

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that staff is directed to:

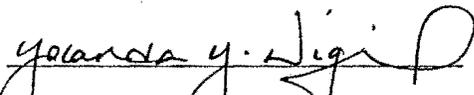
- 4 1. Establish a fund in the budget for the monies received from the NMDVS from this  
5 time forward to be deposited in;
- 6 2. Enter into an MOU with NMDVS to designate a date specific on an annual basis in  
7 which the NMDVS would transfer the balance of funds collected by the State and  
8 deposited into the New Mexico Veterans' Cemetery Fund to the City; and
- 9 3. Schedule a summit with the NMDVS and other veterans' service providers to  
10 establish a process in which to disseminate the funds received from the NMDVS and  
11 deposited by the City for veteran programs.

12 PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2013.

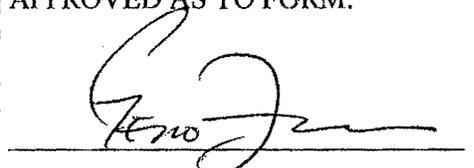
13 

14 DAVID COSS, MAYOR

15 ATTEST:

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17  
18   
19 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

20 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

21   
22  
23 GENO ZAMORA, CITY ATTORNEY

24  
25 M/Melissa/Resolutions 2013/2013-2 Veterans Service Funds

The veteran's services in Santa Fe are wide and varied. We have several layers of organizations that have as their mission to assist veterans.

**State Services: Transition Assistance, Workforce Development** *The Mayor, Councilor Calvert, Andrew Black representing Senator Heinrich, and Michele Jacquez Ortiz representing Senator Udall and staff met with Secretary Hale on 03/06/13. On 03/13/13 attended a Federal workshop hosted by NM Community Foundation on Veteran's Issues and Military Families by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff*

The State of NM has a Veteran's Services office at the cabinet level and their outreach to veterans includes their families. The hope is to work with veterans as soon as they know they are coming back to Santa Fe. There is a Veterans Transition Assistance program which is a three day seminar which has skill development for job seeking and has each person set up an account in Work Force Development to continue to seek job opportunities.

The Veteran's Services office also wants to develop volunteer opportunities to re-engage people in the community. The idea of improving our school systems, computer systems, infrastructure and construction are all areas that could effectively use veterans.

Workforce Development in Santa Fe works at being a hub for coordination and networking among employers. There is a FTE that is Veteran's Services Representative whose job includes job skills development and disseminating information about employment opportunities. He works to remove barriers to employment such as transportation with assistance from the VFW to provide a month bus pass or other temporary assistance. Santa Fe Workforce Development also works with the NM Veterans Integration Center in Albuquerque to work with folks who have more difficult issues to overcome such as homelessness and substance abuse. It is clear that local communities who partner with veterans and veteran's services will have more success integrating people back into community if they can intervene before it becomes a crisis service for the individual.

The Governor has advertised a couple of initiatives where counselors throughout the State have volunteered their time to provide Vet services, has signed legislation to allow veterans skill licensures to transfer into civilian life and is recruiting veterans to train and fight wild land fires this summer.

The Secretary Hale has provided information that they have 250 manufactured housing units that are ready for acquisition. To use these facilities for homeless shelter and services would require: zoned location, infrastructure, determination of use (emergency shelter, transitional, permanent) willing service provider to provide appropriate services.

**Federal and Municipal Level: Veterans Integration Center, Veteran's Hospital, Behavioral Health Counseling, Santa Fe's Veterans Health Clinic** *Met with Santa Fe Vets Services on 3/14/13 and met with Elinor Reiners, Program Director of Veteran Integration Center*

The Veterans Integration Center (in Albuquerque) stated that they often use five different organizations to meet one person's needs. They feel the community pulls together well but there is continued frustration with the VA approving benefits at a slow pace.

Santa Fe Vet Center provides behavioral health and is affiliated with a health clinic. They work with veterans who have combat experience only and must have standard paperwork (Military ID & DD-214.) The Center has three clinicians and has a position open for a family therapist. They will do 12 week cognitive therapy, use evidence based therapy, and hold about five group meetings weekly. This organization has a mobile van that is based out of Santa Fe which goes to rural areas, does a StandDown Project each year and works with the Rancho Viejo church to do memorial and burial services. This organization identified items and costs that they cannot cover: bus passes, train passes to go to Albuquerque VA health center, resource directory, access to a computer with fax and printer for veteran's use.

**Local Nonprofit Services: VASH housing vouchers, Shelter + Care housing, Outreach Case Manager**

PMS is currently not doing veteran's services in Santa Fe. If they had space they could do behavioral health and family services to all veterans. PMS is a FQHC and can do sliding fee, Medicaid qualifications, SCI applications as well as uncompensated care services. They can use the SF Guidance Center for case management. They are finding that they are providing more basic life needs and skills and less therapy for veterans. The basic services include shelter, and medications, and psycho-social rehabilitation such as those services offered at the Spirit Club and the Clubhouse at The Life Link. They are also doing job skill development, transportation and mental health counseling.

The Life Link has provided services to veterans including housing for a number of years. They have Shelter + Care vouchers through the City and also work with County Housing for the VAS housing vouchers. In addition, there is a special veteran rental assistance program The Life Link has through MFA. St. Elizabeth Shelter also provides Shelter + Care vouchers and works with Life Link to access VASH vouchers for veterans. The housing staff works with John Herman the Vet Outreach Case Manager (he provides services at the ROC) for referrals specifically for these funds, which are only for a six month period. Solace does counseling for veterans regardless of their status. The clinical director indicated that service providers have met many times about coordinating services, with little follow up and would not recommend another meeting.

Ending Veterans homelessness remains possible with the right investments at the right time: investments that connect Veterans experiencing homelessness to housing, that ensure that Veterans in need of support are identified and connected with the right services, and that leverage mainstream benefits for Veterans experiencing homelessness.

A continuum of services would most likely consist of:

- Transition services where a soon to be released veteran would meet with Workforce Development to assess if the person holds or because of military experience could earn licensure that would be needed in a civilian job, job seeking skills, registration with Workforce Development.

- Connection with appropriate physical and behavioral health services.
- Connection to down-payment assistance for home ownership, rental assistance for first time renters, shelter plus care rental for those needing additional services to maintain housing.
- Connection to volunteer opportunities to reconnect to the community and its needs.

Recommendations for services to support:

- Assist Santa Fe Veteran's Service with items that cannot be paid for with federal funds: bus passes, train passes to go to Albuquerque VA Hospital and Veteran's Integration Center, resource directory, access to a computer with fax and printer for veteran's use
- Assist local nonprofits who work with individuals to access Social Security benefits; Investigate SOAR, Washington State's program to streamline application process to access Social Security benefits
- Work with PMS to bring in more life skills and behavioral health capacity
- Work with SF Community Foundation to develop and coordinate appropriate volunteer opportunities
- Work with County, service providers to determine if manufactured housing units is a possible housing prospect
- Work with State of NM Workforce Development to promote existing services, make the ROC available for collaborative outreach efforts to veteran's experiencing homelessness
- Support Senator Heinrich's efforts to have the Santa Fe health clinic expand its operations

The development or expansion of these services could require part time personnel or partial support of existing personnel.

Please contact me if you'd like additional information. Thank you.

# City of Santa Fe, New Mexico

## BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUEST (BAR)

DEPARTMENT / DIVISION / SECTION / UNIT NAME				DATE		
Community Services/Youth and Family Services				12/17/2014		
ITEM DESCRIPTION	BU / LINE ITEM	<--(Finance Dept Use Only)-->		INCREASE	DECREASE	
		SUBLEDDGER / SUBSIDIARY	DR / (CR)			
Donation/Contribution	21602.470100			150,000		
Grants and Services	22605.510400			150,000		
<b>JUSTIFICATION:</b> (use additional page if needed) --Attach supporting documentation/memo				<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 300,000	\$ -

Community Assessment Completed. Pending formation of the Veteran's Committee. These funds need to become available for use.

Please see attached memo.

Edith Martinez 12/17/14 Prepared By Date	<b>CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL</b> City Council Approval Required <input type="checkbox"/>  City Council Approval Date <input type="text"/>  Agenda Item #: <input type="text"/>	Cal Pineda 12/17/14 Budget Officer Date
<i>[Signature]</i> 12/17/14 Division Director Date		<i>[Signature]</i> 12-18-2014 Finance Director Date
<i>[Signature]</i> for Isaac Pineda Department Director Date 12/17/14		City Manager Date