

April 23, 2019

Mr. Jeffery L. Quarles, Director
VA Homeless Providers GPD Program Office
10770 N. 46th Street, Suite C-200
Tampa, FL 33617

RE: Swords to Plowshares' Grant and Per Diem – Case Management Services Grant

Dear Mr. Quarles,

On behalf of San Francisco's Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB), the lead entity of San Francisco Continuum of Care (CoC), I am writing to endorse Swords to Plowshares' Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Case Management Services Grant Program grant application. Swords to Plowshares' is requesting \$225,000 for a 2 year period. If awarded, this funding will support 1 FTE *STP Mobile Case Manager*, and provide supportive services that build the capacity of formerly homeless veterans to obtain and maintain housing stability.

Swords to Plowshares has successfully served homeless and low-income veterans in the San Francisco Bay Area for 44 years. A highly-regarded veteran service organization, locally and nationally, Swords to Plowshares' extensive programs, collaboration with local government and community partners, and model wraparound approach to ending veteran homelessness has contributed to a significant reduction in homeless veterans in San Francisco. Swords to Plowshares works in close partnership with regional staff from the VA's Homeless Veterans' Programs, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Housing Authority, and other San Francisco community stakeholders to help move homeless veterans into permanent housing and reduce veteran homelessness in the city to a functional zero.

Swords to Plowshares' leadership has been a major factor in our progress in implementing the US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Federal Criteria and Benchmarks and developing the Coordinated Entry System (CES) for homeless veterans. In partnership with the San Francisco Mayor's Office and Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, Swords to Plowshares piloted and helped launch the city's new Online Navigation and Entry (ONE) System to ensure standardized and integrated screening, assessment, and referrals for services for homeless veterans. As the sole provider of SSVF services in San Francisco, Swords to Plowshares has been a critical partner in San Francisco's Homes for Heroes initiative. Swords to Plowshares' Outreach Team assists with entering homeless veterans into the By-Name registry and ONE system; their organization also participates in weekly coordination meetings and bi-weekly case conferencing meetings to evaluate San Francisco's Coordinated Entry activities and progress.

Swords to Plowshares has long been a leading advocate for homeless veterans in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1974, providing supportive housing for homeless veterans since 1988, SSVF services since 2014, and operating a GPD Services Center since 2018. We encourage you to award the proposed GPD-funded case management services to increase housing stability for veterans. If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board