



SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

**Department of Disability
and Aging Services**

P.O. Box 7988
San Francisco, CA
94120-7988
www.SFHSA.org

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Veteran's Community Center for Homeless, Senior &
High Acuity Veterans**

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I write to support a Community Project Funding request that will provide San Francisco with a Veteran's Community Center for homeless, senior, and high acuity veterans. The proposed project would be operated by long-time veteran service provider, Swords to Plowshares, in the heart of San Francisco's South of Market district.

The Veteran's Community Center would go above and beyond case management and related services already in place in the community. There is a great need for additional mental health services and supports for all of San Francisco's homeless population and severely impoverished residents. The need among veterans is further complicated and compounded by service-related trauma and commonly misunderstood notions of what VA can and cannot provide and to which veterans, which often limits other resources dedicated to serve veterans.

An accessible, supportive and welcoming "one-stop-shop" for veterans as proposed will serve as a cornerstone of service to this community, offering prevention efforts and community-based, culturally competent mental health supports.

Swords to Plowshares has been the go-to for homeless and low-income veterans – including those veterans ineligible for VA care – since 1974. The City's Department of Disability and Aging Services has partnered with Swords to Plowshares for services in the community for many years now and we know them to be a compassionate, competent, and effective organization.



London Breed
Mayor

Shireen McSpadden
Executive Director



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I urge you to support this investment and help San Francisco once again lead the nation in supporting our veterans, ending homelessness, and promoting healthy communities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone or email via my contact info below.

Sincerely,

Shireen McSpadden

Shireen McSpadden
Executive Director
Department of Disability and Aging Services

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