



Northern Santa Barbara County

United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County
AmeriCorps Program
1660 S Broadway, Suite 201
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 922-0329



Peter Adam, Chair
County Board of Supervisors
Adriana de Bruin, Business Manager, County Executive Office
County Administration Building
105 E Anapamu Street, 4th Floor
Santa Barbara CA, 93101

RE: Request for supplemental funding for new Santa Barbara County AmeriCorps Partnership for Veterans and People Experiencing Homelessness

Dear Chair Adam and Board of Supervisors,

This letter is a request for the County Board of Supervisors to consider supplemental funding for the new Santa Barbara County AmeriCorps Partnership For Veterans and People Experiencing Homelessness a special project of the United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County (UWNSBC). This project will draw down \$313,807 of federal dollars in the first year and has the potential to draw down similar or increased amounts annually to help the county meet the needs of veterans and people experiencing homelessness.

AmeriCorps is a national service program, a domestic Peace Corps that engages more than 80,000 volunteers each year in intensive service to meet an identified critical need in a local community. AmeriCorps grantees have the responsibility to recruit, select, train and manage their own AmeriCorps members, and design and operate their program. The UWNSBC, in collaboration with the Central Coast Collaborative Homelessness (C3H), Common Ground Santa Barbara County (CGSBC) and many non-profit service providers, created an AmeriCorps partnership for "Veterans and People Experiencing Homelessness." UWNSBC submitted a grant to CaliforniaVolunteers, the state office that manages programs and initiatives aimed at increasing the number of Californians engaged in service and volunteering, and was successful in securing funding through the competitive process.

The members of this program will serve at partner agencies that outreach to people experiencing homelessness and provide emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing, and supportive services. They will serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness and veterans in need of services.

Santa Barbara County AmeriCorps Partnership For Veterans and People Experiencing Homelessness

- A County-wide AmeriCorps Partnership (program) starting September 2016.
- Fiscal Agent is the United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County.
- 20 FTE AmeriCorps members in Santa Barbara County to address homelessness and its impacts.
- Address the community needs of providing services to veterans, families and individual experiencing homelessness.
- Members serve at nonprofits, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups.
- Best practice trainings that will be open to local service providers.
- Outcomes include housing acquisition and/or retention.
- Allowable activities include outreach, housing placement, housing retention, volunteer recruitment, veteran services and housing development and repair activities.
- AmeriCorps members participate in the recruitment of volunteers for community volunteer activities in local communities (like the Point In Time Count/Vulnerability Index Survey and the Santa Barbara County Veterans Stand Down)

The AmeriCorps budget covers most of the expenses of administering the grant. But as we meet with agencies we have determined some additional needs. Specifically \$44,392 for:

- Funds to support a veteran serving agency placement of a full time and minimum time AmeriCorps member.
- Expenses related to the travel of AmeriCorps members across Santa Barbara County.
- Countywide office space.
- Training expenses that are not covered by the AmeriCorps grant.

The program is primarily funded through the AmeriCorps grant and the participating agencies cash match. However, as this is a new program there are additional costs that we have determined will be critical to achieving success in the first year. If the program is successful in the first year there is potential to further expand it in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddie Taylor, Executive Director, United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County
Emily Allen, Program Director, AmeriCorps Program, United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County
Tom Spadoro, Program Manager, United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County

Outside Agency Funding Request Form Application

Total Request: \$ 44,392

Name of Organization: United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County

Title of Program: **Santa Barbara County AmeriCorps Partnership For Veterans and People Experiencing Homelessness**

New or ongoing program? New

Location(s) of services delivered: Countywide.

Name of Agency Executive Director: Eddie Taylor

Phone #: 805-922-0329 Email: contact@liveunitedsbc.org Website: <http://www.liveunitedsbc.org>

1. Briefly summarize the purpose of the program, why the funds are needed, and the benefit to the community:

The Purpose Of The Program: Address the community needs of providing services to veterans, families and individual experiencing homelessness. Members serve at nonprofits, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups and are trained in “best practices.” Outcomes include housing acquisition and/or retention. Allowable activities include outreach, housing placement, housing retention, volunteer recruitment, veteran services and housing development and repair activities. AmeriCorps members also participate in the recruitment of volunteers for community volunteer activities in local communities (i.e. Point In Time Count/Vulnerability Index Survey PIT/VI and the Santa Barbara County Veterans Stand Down).

Why The Funds Are Needed: Too many individuals and families are experiencing homelessness in our communities. Based on our HUD PIT/VI on any given night, over 1454 individuals are living on our streets, in emergency shelters or transitional housing facilities in Santa Barbara County. Of those our Continuum of Care has identified 198 veterans in need of outreach. The members of our program will serve at partner agencies that outreach to people experiencing homelessness and provide emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing, and supportive services. They will serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness and veterans in need of services. Funds are needed to:

- Support a veteran serving agency placement of a full time and minimum time AmeriCorps member.
- Expenses related to the travel of AmeriCorps members across Santa Barbara County.
- Countywide office space.
- Training expenses that are not covered by the AmeriCorps grant.

Support A Veteran Serving Agency Placement: In addition to expanding services for people experiencing homelessness this AmeriCorps partnership emphasizes services to veterans. For this reason, we are requesting funds to ensure that AmeriCorps members are placed at agencies serving veterans. At this time we have veteran serving agency interest in hosting an AmeriCorps members but not the funds to ensure this placement.

Travel of AmeriCorps Members: In meeting with public agencies and nonprofits who would like to host AmeriCorps members the need to be able to transport veterans and individuals experiencing homelessness to service and housing appointments has been identified as an important type of “assist.” Therefore, we have determined that we need to increase the budget line item related to the travel of AmeriCorps members across Santa Barbara County.

Office Space: As of this time we have not been able to secure donated office space in South County and may need to rent office space in North County. We are requesting funds to allow for countywide office rental.

Training Expenses: Finally, the multi day AmeriCorps training in September is an opportunity to provide best practice training not only to AmeriCorps members but also to partner agency staff. The training included in our proposal includes best practices like Mental Health First Aid and Critical Time Intervention as well as training in the VI-SPDAT assessment tool that C3H has identified for the purpose of Coordinated Entry. The AmeriCorps grant will cover the cost of most of the training but additional funds are needed.

Benefit To The Community: 20 new FTEs working with public agencies and nonprofits to increase outreach, housing placement and housing retention for people experiencing homelessness and services to veterans. Volunteer recruitment activities also allow partner agencies to expand their capacity to meet this important community need.

2. Briefly summarize the service to be provided and how many people will be served: A minimum of 300 individuals will receive housing services. A minimum of 40 of the minimum 300 individuals that successfully completed one or more housing acquisition or retention activities will move into a housing unit with secure tenure. A minimum of 60 of veterans will receive assistance by successfully completing one or more housing acquisition or retention activities to enable them to transition into or retain safe, healthy, affordable housing. Housing acquisition and retention are improved when veterans increase income, obtain health care, increase financial literacy, etc. 400 volunteer will be recruited for one-time activities. And 8,800 volunteer hours will be logged for ongoing activities.

3. Detail the timeline for providing the service: The AmeriCorps Partnership is scheduled to start Sept 1, 2016. AmeriCorps members serve for 11 months and can complete up to four terms of service. If successful, The AmeriCorps Partnership can continue for many years.

4. Describe key outcomes to be achieved with the funding and how they will be measured: The priority outcome of the grant is connecting people experiencing homelessness with housing. Activities that support housing retention and serving veterans are also outcomes of the AmeriCorps Partnership. AmeriCorps members will be trained on the use of the VI-SPDAT for assessing individuals experiencing homelessness. They will track qualifying “assists” to both people experiencing homelessness and veterans.

5. Describe if this is a one-time or ongoing request, and if funded in prior years and amounts: This funding request is for the first year of the AmeriCorps program. Consideration for annual requests for funding is appreciated given the local opportunity to draw down significant federal dollars.

6. Describe the agency’s expertise and capacity to deliver services including fiscal stability: The United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County has served the region for nearly 60 years, first partnering with local nonprofits and jointly fundraising to support organizational needs. That process continues through the United Way workplace designation program in United Way employee campaigns, distributing more than a quarter million dollars to frontline agencies annually. A new "community impact" business model was introduced in 2008. Today, the United Way focuses on developing programs/partnerships in a collective effort to address issues identified as the underlying causes of community problems in education, financial stability and the basic needs. Our United Way serves all of Northern Santa Barbara County, as well as participating in countywide partnerships in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

The program Director is Emily Allen an attorney who served as an AmeriCorps VISTA before going to law school and who works under the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County’s federal Violence Against Women Act grant. Emily supervises the Common Ground Santa Barbara County volunteer effort (CGSBC). CGSBC partners with C3H in conducting the Vulnerability Survey and Point In Time Count and recruits hundreds of volunteers for that purpose. Through CGSBC Emily has also managed staff and volunteers who do street outreach and housing support.

Tom Spodoro the Manager of the program has worked as an AmeriCorps Program Specialist for the only local AmeriCorps program. He successfully managed the program for several years and is “AmeriCorps fluent” in all the necessary administrative and management functions required to operate a program.

The program is fiscally stable, as most of the costs are covered by the AmeriCorps grant and the agencies matching funds. However, because this is a new program there are some additional funding needs that have become apparent to make this program successful.

7. Agency staff responsible for application:

Eddie Taylor, Emily Allen and Tom Spodoro

Agency: United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County

Program Name: Santa Barbara County AmeriCorps Partnership For Veterans and People Experiencing Homelessness

Amount \$\$ Requested: 44,392

Program Budget Funding Sources/Revenues	FY 2016-17		
	Committed	Uncommitted	
CaliforniaVolunteers (AmeriCorps)	313,807		
County of Santa Barbara		44,392	
Private Donations	30,000	20,000	
Foundations		20,000	
Agency Match For Members		145,000	
Total	343,807	229,392	573,199

Funding Uses/Expenses	Budget		
AmeriCorps Placement at Veteran Services Provider		10,800	COUNTY
Office Rent (SB & SM)		18,000	COUNTY
Program Director	20,000	55,000	
Program Manager	58,000		
Program Assistant	35,000		
Personnel Fringe Benefits	35,392		
Milleage (Staff & Member)	5,675	4,342	COUNTY
Office Supplies (binders, paper, printer ink)	1,800		
Member ID badges	285		
Member pins & service gear with AmeriCorps logo	570		
Dedicated AmeriCorps Computer w/software	600		

*1 full time
and 1 min
time

Training for Members & Agencies	3,750	11,250 COUNTY	
Development of Program Evaluaiton System	1,000		
Copying	600		
Postage	300		
Printing	250		
Live Scan (State & FBI), TB test, background checks (men	5,244		
Live Scan (State & FBI), TB test, background checks (staff	276		
Phone & Fax	201		
AmeriCorps Living Allowance	123,000	145,000	
Other Member Costs (WC, FICA, Health)	10,704	21,418	
Reserve		5,000	
Total	<hr/> 302647	270,810	573457