

From: [Cole Cameron](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#); acolecam@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for VSO additional headcount, Agenda item #15 b and 41. They obtained \$15 M in service benefits for our Veterans with a budget of only \$2.6 M, a ~6x RIO
Date: Friday, February 2, 2024 1:14:46 PM

As a Veteran I served and have received good support from our VSO team, having them nationally certified as Veteran Service Representatives (VSRs) Counselors. We are blessed to have Darlyn Escalante who has been elevated to our Director, after going thru the gruelling nationally certification program and then training while managing her team.

Our relatively small team of only 10 VSRs supports over ~60,000 Veterans in our area, and their families, which makes that ~120,000! As stated in the subject line, they bring in to the county \$15 million with a budget of only \$2.6 million, a 6x return on investment. The funds the Veterans received are then respent in our county. During their Walk-in-Tuesdays, they have had as many as 170 appointments to deal with. The average caseload is 350-400 per VSR. They have been going to the South County 2x/month, expanding hours to between 8 and 2 pm.

The added 3 VSRs will spread the case load from their existing small team, and allow for even more support for VSR case management and Outreach into the community in our South County that has ~5,000 Veterans. Their teams have done outreach into the encampments in various parts of the county to connect with the un-housed Veteran population.

As an ol corporate finance guy, it makes it easier to support them because compared to their operating budget, the amount of Veteran benefit money they acquire for our Veterans that is then returned and spent in our community is beneficial in so many ways. In the recent state report Veteran benefits received \$44 for every \$1 of general funds spent!.

I look forward to your agreement to approve these additions so more benefits can be obtained in a faster manner while providing a more reasonable VSR case load.

Thank you for you for your support, cole

A. Cole Cameron

Veteran, US Army, 1st Lt, Viet era
Chair, SCC Veterans Commission

CERT BOD, Council, Instructor where we support individual preparedness in neighborhoods
BOD, where we support our NGOs for their disaster preparedness