



County of El Dorado

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Legislation Text

File #: 15-0196, **Version:** 1

Veteran Affairs recommending the Board approve and authorize the Chair to sign a letter to support the County Veterans Service Officers Local Assistance (subvention) funding level be reverted to \$5.6 million by the State of California.

FUNDING: State Funding.

Fiscal Impact/Change to Net County Cost

The letter of support has no financial impact to the County.

Background

The Governor released his proposed budget for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year. The funding level for CVSO Local Assistance (subvention) has reverted to \$2.6 million, as in years past. It is being requested to again raise this amount up to \$5.6 million. As in the past few years, there will be fighting to make this \$5.6 million funding level permanent. This past year the Legislature approved additional funding for CVSOs from \$2.6 million to \$5.6 million. The veterans need this additional funding so that CVSOs can continue to provide the additional help and assistance that these additional dollars have done in past years. El Doardo County has over 15,000 veterans. El Dorado County Veteran Affairs Office wants to help all our Veterans procure the benefits and programs that they have earned by serving our country.

The new Chair of the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs, Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin (D-Camarillo) and the committee consultant John Spangler will be introducing legislation to again increase the funding to \$5.6 million and make it permanent.

Many counties, including El Dorado County, have submitted letters of support for this increase over the past 2 to 3 years. Last year, the state provided additional funding. These letters are needed to keep doing this (urging the passage of a bill to permanently increase CVSO funding to the \$5.6 million dollar level) until the entire legislature and the governor understand the great need for this additional funding and vote for passage of the bill Assemblywoman Irwin presents for passage.

Reason for Recommendation

It is critical that CVSOs again receive an increase in this allocation. For the past two years, funding has been \$5.6 million. If funding returns to \$2.6 million as noted in the Governor's budget, new efforts that have been implemented to care for our veterans, including new hires, will be in jeopardy. Additionally, there continues to be a large number of underserved veterans and their dependents who are not aware of the federal and state benefits available to them as a result of their military service.

Clerk of the Board Follow up Actions

Provide Veteran Services, with two (2) signed copies of letters of support signed by the Chair.

Contact

William Schultz, Interim Director, Veteran Affairs