

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.39
(ID # 30039)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, March 03, 2026

FROM : SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL AND SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR KAREN SPIEGEL AND SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ:
Support for Increased Subvention Funding for County Veterans Services Offices

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Chair to sign a letter of support advocating for increased subvention funding for County Veterans Services Offices in the state budget, resulting in increased benefits for veterans in our community; and
2. Direct the Executive Office to track related legislation related to veterans' services funding.

ACTION:Policy



Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Supervisor 4th. District 2/26/2026


Supervisor Karen Spiegel, Supervisor 2nd District 2/27/2026

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Spiegel, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Perez, and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: Washington
Date: March 3, 2026
xc: BOS-D2, BOS-D4, EO

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

BACKGROUND:

Summary

Riverside County is home to over 116,000 veterans and has the third largest veteran population in the state. Further, the total veteran, dependent and surviving spouse population is over 16% of the county's population.

County Veterans Services Offices (CVSOs), like our own Department of Veterans Services (DVS), assist veterans, their dependents, and survivors in obtaining veteran's benefits from local, state and federal agencies. CVSOs aim to enhance the lives of veterans, their dependents and survivors through providing customer-centric, high-quality service and promoting healthy communities. DVS and CVSOs in other jurisdictions serve as the primary access point for veterans, dependents, and survivors to obtain the benefits they earned through military service. While CVSO operations are largely funded by counties, the State of California currently provides \$11 million statewide in General Fund subvention funding administered through CalVet.

Although this funding has proven highly effective, it has not kept pace with increasing demand driven by an aging population, expanded outreach to underserved veterans, growing complexity of federal benefit programs, and the PACT Act (landmark legislation expanding benefits to veterans exposed to toxic substances). As a result, many eligible veterans remain unserved, leaving substantial federal benefits unclaimed each year.

Statewide performance data shows that with \$11 million in subvention funding, DVS and other CVSOs generated approximately \$579 million in new federal VA benefits in a single fiscal year, equating to roughly \$52 in direct veteran benefits for every \$1 invested by the State. Despite this return on investment, current funding levels limit staffing capacity and constrain service delivery at the county level.

Based on documented statewide performance data:

- Increasing statewide funding to \$20 million would generate an estimated \$468 million in new federal VA benefits statewide, translating to approximately \$45–50 million annually in direct benefits to Riverside County veterans.
- Increasing statewide funding to \$30 million would generate nearly \$1 billion statewide, with approximately \$95–100 million annually flowing directly to Riverside County veterans and their families.

Further, an increase in funding would also allow DVS to expand its accredited Veterans Service Representative (VSR) workforce. A statewide increase of \$20 million in statewide funding would allow DVS to hire 4 or 5 additional VSRs, and an increase of \$30 million would allow for an additional 8 to 10 VSRs. This expanded capacity would reduce wait times, improve claims accuracy, expand outreach to high-need communities, and protect veterans from predatory, unaccredited claim companies.

In recognition of this shortfall, it is important for the Board of Supervisors to advocate for additional funding in the state budget to support this vital work, with a proven return on investment. We would like to see an increase in the statewide CVSO subvention funding of at least \$20 million, with a long-term target of \$30 million, and urging action by the Governor, the Legislature, and CalVet.