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**ORGANIZATION'S NAME**: AMVETS Dept. of California Service Foundation

**PROJECT NAME**: Welcome Home

**WEBSITE ADDRESS**: <https://amvetscasf.org>

**PROJECT BUDGET**: $430,200

**AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM RSFWF**: $25,000

**ORGANIZATION’S ANNUAL BUDGET**: $4,035,898

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**: The *Welcome Home Program* provides basic furnishings and new household items to recently homeless veterans who have the HUD/Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (HUD/VASH) voucher. Itprovides free delivery of furniture, small appliances, and other household items to formerly homeless Veterans. A residence is made a home by moving in beds, sheets, pillows, bedding, a dresser, a nightstand, couches, a coffee table, an end table, a dining room table and chairs, refrigerators, pots and pans, special requested items, such as dishes or towels. The addition of basic furniture and kitchen supplies turns a house into a home, enabling formerly homeless Veterans to function more normally. This program increases the chances of a successful housing placement through basic functionality, normalcy, and safety.

**NEED/SOLUTION**: Because of the increasing needs of homeless Veterans, the AMVETS Thrift Stores, which formerly provided all financial support for the *Welcome Home Program*, are no longer able to keep up with the demand. This past year has seen AMVETS initiate a campaign to diversify funding for the program, including foundation and government grants, as well as support from service clubs and individuals. The *Welcome Home Program* Manager documents the number of formerly homeless Veterans in California that receive basic home furnishings from the *Welcome Home Program* using an Excel database tracking the number of Veterans served (including others in the household), the number of items delivered to each home, the value of each item delivered, and the basic demographics of each Veteran served (including but not limited to age, race, time served in military, branch, income levels, and length of homelessness).

**IMPACT**: We anticipate that the *Welcome Home Program* will ultimately contribute to reducing homelessness among San Diego Veterans by increasing stability among HUD-VASH recipients. This grant request is part of a larger effort to expand the capacity of the *Welcome Home Program* and end the need for a waiting list. The funds will be used 100% for direct services to veterans, purchasing the necessary items needed to transform an empty apartment into a “home”. *Welcome Home* services are for 25 Veterans and their families.

**SITE VISIT DETAILS:**

**RSFWF SITE VISIT LEADER:** Staci Fournier

**Date/Time:** Monday,March 4 at 10 AM