



William Boehm
U.S. Navy, 1967-1971

"When you go from the military to civilian life, it's like two different worlds. A lot of veterans end up on the streets. After the Vietnam War I ignored my invisible wounds of war for decades and

went on to own a business, home and have a family until it crumbled around me. I never thought I would become homeless, but I spent three years wandering the desert. I had no direction until I found the support I needed through veteran-specific supportive housing."



Marco Concepcion
U.S. Marine Corps, 2006-2010

"Before my deployment to Iraq, I felt like your average proud Marine, but when I got back I was a different person. I ignored what was really going on with me and turned to drugs and alcohol. Once I faced the truth, I decided to get help. I feel great knowing that I finally found something I am good at—being a hardworking tradesman. I feel confident in my future now that I have a new career path and great job."



Star Lara
U.S. Army, 1995-2007

"I believed that the transition to my career after earning my degree would be seamless. I expected employers to be knocking down my door offering me the highly sought after

management positions. Unfortunately, I had to learn the hard way that veterans have to work even harder to translate their soft skills and transferable skills before I could sell myself and my resume. For me, seeking veteran-specific services and relying on peer support was critical and helped me find my footing in life. I now have a very rewarding career that allows me to utilize all the skills I learned during my twelve years in the Army."

Our Mission

CAVSA's mission is to address and promote the employment, training, education, housing, medical and business development needs of veterans and their families.

www.CaliforniaVeterans.org

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www.CaliforniaVeterans.org



Community-Informed Advocacy
to Meet the Needs of
California's Veterans

CAVSA Members

California Veterans Assistance Foundation
Bakersfield, CA
www.cavaf.org



New Directions for Veterans
Los Angeles, CA
www.ndvets.org



Swords to Plowshares
San Francisco, CA
www.swords-to-plowshares.org



U.S. VETS
Los Angeles, CA
www.usvetsinc.org



Veterans Resource Centers of America
Santa Rosa, CA
www.vetsresource.org



Veterans Village of San Diego
San Diego, CA
www.vvsd.net



California Association of Veteran Service Agencies

Who We Are

Founded in 1995, the California Association of Veteran Service Agencies (CAVSA) is a consortium of six non-profit veteran service providers working in partnership to address the needs of California's veterans. CAVSA's geographic diversity facilitates the delivery of direct services in both urban and rural regions throughout the state, stretching from Eureka to San Diego.

What We Do

CAVSA is dedicated to ensuring that veterans of all eras have the understanding, tools, and support from their communities to provide for a successful transition back home. We advocate for reform at the state, local and national level to increase access to care, and improve services for all veterans and their families.

Why It Matters

- California is home to the largest veteran population with 1.85 million veterans and thousands more returning from military service each year to our communities.
- Veterans are disproportionately represented among California's homeless population, and experience employment challenges far greater than their peers.
 - California is 1 of 5 states where the majority (63%) of homeless veterans live in unsheltered locations.
 - Veterans face unique employment challenges, including: translating their military skills into the civilian workplace, overcoming stigma and stereotypes, and employers' hesitation to hire veterans.
- California has a backlog of nearly 50,000 VA disability claims, and nearly 45,000 veterans have waited more than a year for a resolution.

CAVSA's Expertise

As community-based direct service providers, we draw upon our experience working directly with veterans to inform policy and advocate for adequate and accessible services and support. We understand that the obstacles veterans face—including homelessness, poverty, unemployment and disability—are interrelated and require an integrated network of support within the community and continuum of care. Together we work to improve services for California's veterans and educate our communities about the unique needs of military veterans and their families.

CAVSA's Collective Impact



Comprehensive Care

We serve over **25,000** veterans in our communities each year

Supportive Housing Programs
We operate over **2,500** units of stabilization, transitional and permanent housing



Supportive Services for Veteran Families
We help **17,000** veteran families obtain or retain permanent housing each year



Employment & Job Training
We place nearly **2,000** veterans in jobs each year



Mental Health Services

We help nearly **10,000** veterans access counseling and mental health services