



Dear Supporters,

None of us has experienced a pandemic in our lifetimes and, like most of us, Swords to Plowshares was not prepared for something of this nature and scope. However, we have been working tirelessly to provide the critical services that our veteran clients rely on, while protecting staff and thereby our community at large.

Swords to Plowshares provides housing for over 475 veterans – 75% are seniors and many have chronic health conditions, making them the most vulnerable to serious health complications if they contract COVID-19. Last month, we opened a new housing site in Mission Bay, the Edwin M. Lee Apartments. We continue to move in new residents amid this crisis because being unhoused is a crisis as well.

Additionally, the unsheltered veterans we serve at our Drop-in Centers in San Francisco and Oakland rely on our doors to be open for mail, which includes income checks and medications.

At present, here is how we are providing services:

• Residential services:

At our eight housing programs where over 475 veterans reside, we continue to provide 24/7 Program Monitor coverage, meals, and limited case management.

• Drop-in services:

At our Drop-in Centers in San Francisco and Oakland, we continue to offer triage services for veterans in crisis and mail services to our unsheltered clients. We are open M, W, F from 1 pm – 4:30 pm.

- **Legal services:**

Our Legal team continues to provide intakes to veterans in need of VA benefits and discharge upgrade help. These intakes are being conducted via phone for the time being.

- **Employment services:**

Our Employment team continues to provide case management and job placement support. We anticipate a spike in unemployment, and we will be here to serve.

- **Housing placement services & eviction prevention:**

We continue to move veterans and their families into permanent housing. Working remotely, staff are helping to identify affordable rental units and provide rental checks and security deposits to landlords. And we continue to provide assistance for late rental and utility payments.

- **Street Outreach:**

We know that the unsheltered are among the most vulnerable to COVID-19. Our dedicated team continues to outreach to veterans in tent encampments and on the streets to provide critical services.

Every day we are adapting to new situations during these very difficult times. As we stay nimble, we are committed to serving our veteran clients in the best ways possible while keeping the well-being of our veteran clients and staff always in mind.

We are grateful for your support and partnership during this difficult time. Be well, stay healthy and please remember communities like ours that are deeply impacted.

Michael Blecker
Executive Director
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U.S. Army 1967 - 1970