

**Kings County
Military and Veterans Coalition
February 13, 2024 - 2pm PST**

Microsoft Teams Meeting Agenda

**Meeting ID: 266 004 589 548 Passcode: d3WSa9
Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 323-433-2320,,839169384#](#) United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 839 169 384#

Introductions

Previous Items

- **Veterans Service Office Status – M/Th, 8:00am – 5:00pm and Friday, 8:00am – 12:00pm**
 - **Lobby Hours:**
 - ***** M-Th 8:00 am – 5pm; Friday 8am - Noon*****
 - Certain questions may be answered by support staff, without having to speak with a VSR. Feel free to call anytime to ask for assistance. The Kings County Veterans Service Office can still complete the DMV Veteran Status Verification Form (VSD-001) for the Veteran Designation on your California driver's license/ID Card. We are no longer issuing the locally-generated Veteran I.D. cards.
- **Veterans Upward Bound - (See Attached)**
- **DAV Drivers - (See Attached)**
- **Veterans Support Group - (See Attached)**

Speaker Topic:

VACCHCS Women's Programs – Kim Booze, Program Manager

New Items –

- **New Beginnings Equine Therapy - (See Attached)**
- **The Wall That Heals - (See Attached)**
- **Suicide Prevention Grant Funding - (See Attached)**

Round Table –

Next Meeting – March 12, 2024 – Location: MS Teams Meeting



Veterans

UPWARD

BOUND

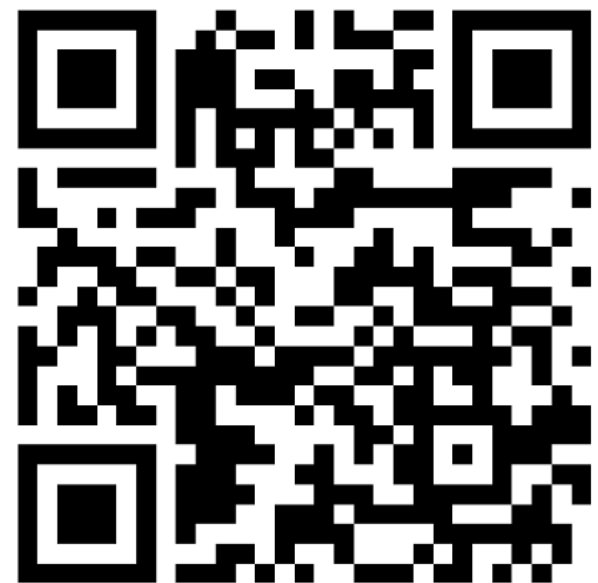
What VUB has to offer:

- Individualized career assessment and planning
- College Application assistance
- Financial aid and GI Bill® information
- Help obtaining Military and other Transcripts
- Academic Counseling
- Access to other resources: study area, computer labs, student union

Some Eligibility Criteria

- Meet military service requirements
- Received other than a dishonorable discharge
- Completed a minimum of 180 days of active service
- U.S. Citizen, resident or applying for residency
- Low-income and/or first-generation
- Was a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces called to active duty for a period of more than 30 days; or was a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of a contingency operation on or after September 11, 2001

**SCAN TO
START AN
APPLICATION**



VOLUNTEER DRIVE



to help veterans



**OUR
VETERANS
IN
CALIFORNIA
NEED YOU!**

**DO YOU HAVE A CURRENT
DRIVER'S LICENSE & ONE DAY
A WEEK AVAILABLE?**

**VISIT THE DAV
TRANSPORTATION
COORDINATOR
OR SCAN TO
SIGN UP!**



**Volunteers use VA-provided
vehicles to transport patients
from their homes to their VA
appointments and back. A
background check & physical
are required, at no cost.**



Kings County Veteran's Support Group

Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Veteran's Memorial Hall
401 N. Irwin Street
Hanford, CA 93230



KINGS COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**For more information call (559) 852-2444
or visit kcbh.org**





New Beginnings at Circle T Ranch is a non-profit organization formed with a mission to improve the quality of life for people who suffer from PTSD, depression, addiction, and other psychological conditions. Participants of our program interact with horses in a safe, peaceful environment in ways that can help reduce stress, teach productive coping mechanisms, and facilitate solutions to real-life struggles. Participants will work with a certified Equine Specialist to guide you through a safe, positive experience with our horses.

The Horse Is The Key!

Horses have a unique way of making humans feel peaceful and calm. Their herd animal characteristics enable them to be:

- Non-judgmental
- Unbiased
- Sensitive
- Perceptive

The Connection

There is significant evidence of horses having a calming and healing effect on humans. Research suggests that activities and therapies involving interactions with horses can reduce symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and many other psychological conditions. Interactions with horses can improve the quality of life for people who are suffering. Our program aims to provide equine-therapeutic interventions to heal trauma, provide wellness, and provide positive coping strategies.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
[\(559\) 288-9537](tel:5592889537)



THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER



A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

March 28 - 31, 2024
(Free to the public)

Merced College
3600 M Street
Merced, CA 95348

Presenting Sponsors:

**Mike and Lori Gallo
&
Linda and Kenny Jelacich**

Rotary 
Merced Sunrise
District 5220



For additional information, please visit
www.thewallthatheals-merced.com

**SIGN UP TO
VOLUNTEER:**



VA to award \$52.5 million in grants to local organizations working to prevent Veteran suicide

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2024

9:00 am

WASHINGTON — Today, VA [announced](#) the availability of \$52.5 million in funding for grants to community-based organizations that provide or coordinate suicide prevention services for Veterans and their families — including conducting Veteran mental health screenings, providing case management and peer support services, delivering emergency clinical services, reaching out to Veterans at risk of suicide, and [more](#).

These grants will be awarded through VA's [Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program](#). The [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) provides information about the program, eligibility, and award process. Applications are due by 11:59 pm E.T., April 26 and awards will be granted to eligible entities by Sept. 30, 2024. The funds will be used by the selected organizations in fiscal year 2025.

Ending Veteran suicide is [VA's top clinical priority](#) and a key part of fulfilling President Biden's [Unity Agenda](#) for the nation. Since 2021, VA has worked aggressively to expand support for Veterans in crisis, including [offering no-cost health care to Veterans in suicidal crisis at VA or non-VA facilities](#); [launching the 988 \(then press 1\)](#) to help Veterans connect more quickly with caring, qualified responders through the Veterans Crisis Line; [partnering with community-based suicide prevention organizations](#) to provide Veterans with on-the-ground support; expanding [firearm suicide prevention efforts](#); and encouraging Veterans to reach out for help through a [national Veteran suicide prevention awareness campaign](#). Moving forward, VA and the [Biden-Harris Administration](#) will continue to work urgently to end Veteran suicide through a [public health approach](#) that combines both community-based and clinically based strategies to save lives.

“Veterans in crisis should always have access to the services and support they need – including mental health screenings, peer support, emergency services, and more,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “There are countless great organizations across America that work side-by-side with VA to do this life-saving work, and we are proud to support their efforts.”

This will be the third round of grants awarded as part of VA's [Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program](#). In September 2023, VA [awarded grants](#) totaling \$52.5 million to 80 community-based organizations in 43 states, Washington, D.C., Guam, and American Samoa. The grant program is named after Parker Gordon Fox, a sniper instructor who died by suicide at the age of 25.

Grant funding will be divided into two priorities. Under Priority 1, VA will provide opportunities for funding to those entities with existing SSG Fox SPGP awards. Under Priority 2, new organizations can apply for grants worth up to \$750,000. Following the selection of Priority 1 grantee applicants, any remaining funds will be awarded according to Priority 2. VA may prioritize the distribution of suicide prevention services grants under this priority to: (i) Rural communities; (ii) Tribal lands; (iii)

Territories of the United States; (iv) Medically underserved areas; (v) Areas with a high number or percentage of minority Veterans or women Veterans; and (vi) Areas with a high number or percentage of calls to the Veterans Crisis Line.

If you or someone you know is having thoughts of suicide, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Dial 988 then press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or text 838255.

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