

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN AND ROBBIE C. WALKER – VA ACCREDITED CLAIMS AGENT, LLC FOR COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION ASSISTANCE

This Agreement is entered as of September 25, 2023, by and between the County of Champaign, Illinois (“County”), with an address of 1776 E. Washington Street, Urbana, IL 61802 and Robbie C. Walker – VA Accredited Claims Agent, LLC (“VA”), with an address of 601 South Century Boulevard, Suite 1503, P.O. Box 5791, Rantoul, IL 61866; collectively “the Parties.”

WHEREAS, the County is in receipt of funds pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2 (“ARPA Funds”); and

WHEREAS, the County is authorized by Section 603 of the Social Security Act and the United States Department of Treasury Final Rule 31 CFR Part 35 to transfer ARPA Funds to respond to the pandemic public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including community violence interventions; and

WHEREAS, the VA is a limited liability company that is an affiliate of the Veterans Benefit Administration, which provides a variety of benefits and services to Service members, Veterans, and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to enter into this Agreement to recognize the roles and responsibilities for each Party in assisting with costs of conducting a needs assessment, providing training, education, support, and capacity building to reduce violence in Champaign County caused by post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in Veterans;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. **Purpose and Scope.** The Parties intend for this Agreement to provide the foundation and structure for assisting Initiative costs through the following understanding:
 - a. **“Initiative” Defined:** The VA will conduct activities between August 24, 2023 and December 31, 2024 directly related to conducting a needs assessment of Veterans in Champaign County and providing those results to the County by December 31, 2024, as well as providing training, education, support, and capacity building to reduce violence in Champaign County; with proposed Initiative details and budget included in Attachment 1 (“Initiative”).
 - b. **Funding:** The County will transfer ARPA funds to the VA in an amount of up to \$165,000 to conduct the Initiative, according to the projected budget in Attachment 1. The transfer of funds provided to the VA shall be made in quarterly installments. Installments may be paid more frequently pending documentation of the program being successfully implemented. In order for funds to be released, the VA must submit a Risk Assessment Form and detailed cost projection for the first installment; followed by documentation of funding from the first installment,

detailed cost projection, and Reporting Form for remaining installment(s) prior to release of funds. Documentation of funding from the final installment and final Reporting Form shall be submitted after release of all funds. The County shall provide the Risk Assessment Form and Reporting Form templates to the VA.

2. Roles and Responsibilities of the VA.

a. Oversight

- i. The VA agrees to cooperate with meetings conducted by Champaign County Board Members and/or County staff, as requested, to review Initiatives in progress.
- ii. The VA will adhere to the ARPA Funds fiscal, accounting, and audit procedures that conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and the requirements of federal Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200).
- iii. The VA will submit reporting information to the County as required by the Department of Treasury, upon request of the County. Information will include but is not limited to: Unique Entity ID (UEI) Number, Tax identification number, Initiative details and purpose, Initiative timeline and status, Initiative impact, expenditure information and status, copy of General Ledger (G/L) for ARPA-funded expenses for each reporting time period, copy of additional documentation as needed to support ARPA-funded transaction details, capital expenditure amounts and details, impacted populations, public health or economic impact experienced due to the pandemic, Initiative response to public health or negative economic impact due to the pandemic, Davis Bacon and Labor Reporting for capital expenditures over \$10 million if applicable. Reporting requirements will be specified by the County.
- iv. The VA will provide to the County, upon reasonable notice, access to and the right to examine such books and records of the VA as related to the Initiative and will make such reports to the County as the County may reasonably require so that the County may determine whether there has been compliance with this Agreement.
- v. No person shall be excluded from participation in initiatives the County is funding, be denied the benefits of such initiative, or be subjected to discrimination under any initiative or activity funded in whole or in part with the funds provided under this Agreement on the ground of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, or on any other ground upon which such discrimination is prohibited by law. The VA understands that Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, applies to the use of ARPA Funds.
- vi. The VA will comply with all applicable statutes, ordinances, and

regulations. The VA will not use any of these ARPA Funds for lobbying purposes. If it is determined by the County that any expenditure made with the ARPA Funds provided under this Agreement is prohibited by law, the VA will reimburse the County any amount that is determined to have been spent in violation of the law.

- vii. The VA will enforce all applicable terms and requirements of this agreement with any subgrantees or partners of this Initiative and is liable for all subgrantee and partner activity related to this specific Initiative agreement.

b. Initiative

- i. Services: The VA shall conduct activities toward development and operation of the Initiative under the following requirements:
 - 1. The VA shall incur costs directly related to the Initiative between August 24, 2023 and December 31, 2024.
 - 2. The VA shall conduct Initiative costs in accordance with the proposed budget and details provided in Attachment 1.
- ii. Governance: The Initiative activities shall be overseen by the VA board of directors with the following responsibilities:
 - 1. Review reports and Initiative adherence.
 - 2. Approve significant changes in Initiative prior to implementation.

3. Roles and Responsibilities of the County.

- a. The County shall provide ARPA Funds to the VA in the amount of up to \$165,000. The transfer of funds shall be provided to the VA based on documentation and reporting for related project costs.
 - b. The County shall provide oversight as described in this Agreement for the purpose of ensuring that ARPA Funds are spent in compliance with federal law, and in compliance with the intended purpose of the funds as set forth in this Agreement.
 - c. The County is not responsible in any way for the operations of the VA.
4. **Term.** This Agreement shall commence upon its execution between the Parties.
5. **Termination.** The Agreement may be terminated by either party upon a thirty-day notice in writing to the other party. Upon termination, the VA shall provide to the County an accounting of the ARPA Funds and shall remit unspent ARPA Funds to the County. Additionally, if the VA does not spend the ARPA Funds in accordance to the regulations and requirements specified in this Agreement, the VA will be required to repay the County in the amount of ARPA funds that were utilized incorrectly.
6. **Amendments.** This Agreement may be amended only by an agreement of the parties executed in the same manner in which this Agreement is executed.

7. **Representations and Warranties.** Both Parties represent that they are fully authorized to enter into this Agreement. The performance and obligations of either Party will not violate or infringe upon the rights of any third-party or violate any other agreement between the Parties, individually, and any other person, organization, or business or any law or governmental regulation.
8. **Indemnity.** The VA agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the County, its respective affiliates, officers, agents, employees, and permitted successors and assigns against any and all claims, losses, damages, liabilities, penalties, punitive damages, expenses, reasonable legal fees and costs of any kind or amount whatsoever, which result from the negligence of or breach of this Agreement by the VA, its respective successors and assigns that occurs in connection with this Agreement. This section remains in full force and effect even after termination of the Agreement by its natural termination or the early termination by either party.
9. **Limitation of Liability.** UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL EITHER PARTY BE LIABLE TO THE OTHER PARTY OR ANY THIRD PARTY FOR ANY DAMAGES RESULTING FROM ANY PART OF THIS AGREEMENT SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, LOSS OF REVENUE OR ANTICIPATED PROFIT OR LOST BUSINESS, COSTS OF DELAY OR FAILURE OF DELIVERY, WHICH ARE NOT RELATED TO OR THE DIRECT RESULT OF A PARTY'S NEGLIGENCE OR BREACH.
10. **Severability.** In the event any provision of this Agreement is deemed invalid or unenforceable, in whole or in part, that part shall be severed from the remainder of the Agreement and all other provisions should continue in full force and effect as valid and enforceable.
11. **Waiver.** The failure by either party to exercise any right, power or privilege under the terms of this Agreement will not be construed as a waiver of any subsequent or further exercise of that right, power or privilege or the exercise of any other right, power or privilege.
12. **Conflicts.** In the event of an unresolvable dispute, both parties agree to participate in a mediation process and to split equally any costs associated with such. Any outcomes of mediation shall be in writing and binding on the parties.
13. **Legal and Binding Agreement.** This Agreement is legal and binding between the Parties as stated above. The Parties each represent that they have the authority to enter into this Agreement.
14. **Entire Agreement.** The Parties acknowledge and agree that this Agreement represents the entire agreement between the Parties. In the event that the Parties desire to change, add, or otherwise modify any terms, they shall do so only by an agreement of the parties executed in the same manner in which this Agreement is executed.

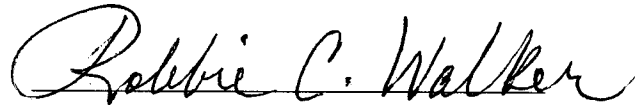
The Parties agree to the terms and conditions set forth above as demonstrated by their signatures as follows:

THE COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN

**ROBBIE C. WALKER - VA
ACCREDITED CLAIMS AGENT,
LLC**



Steve Summers, County Executive



Robbie C. Walker, LLC Manager

March 24, 2023

Robbie C. Walker
VA Accredited Claims Agent, LLC
601 S. Century Blvd
Suite 1503
P.O. Box 5791
Rantoul, IL 61866

Kyle Patterson, Champaign Board Chair.
Jeff Wilson, Champaign County Board Member- District 1.
Champaign County Board
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 East Washington Street
Urbana, Illinois 61802-4581

Subject: Stop the Violence Program for Veterans and Their Families

Dear Honorable Kyle Patterson and Honorable Jeff Wilson:

This letter of intent outlines a proposal that will provide transformative training and a pathway for healing and support for primarily veterans and their dependents on the dangers of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) illness. Targeting Champaign County Citizens, we are seeking \$500,000 annually over a three-year period that will provide a combination of training, education, support and capacity building that will reduce the violence in Champaign County caused by PTSD. The funding will support the following programmatic goals:

- Educate veterans and their families by providing mental health resources and training that will help implement community violence and intervention strategies to reduce violence in Champaign County.
- Increase the leadership and capacity of veterans and veteran supporters to lead and facilitate guided discussions focused on the cause and effects of PTSD and its direct connection to violent behavior.
- Provide interactive workshops and training for veterans and their families focused on mental health and PTSD.



Program Components

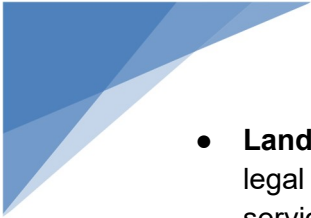
Based on the goals above, below are the major program components that will be implemented over a three-year period. In the first year, the implementation of core programmatic components, but also help build a sustainable model.

- **Outreach and Recruitment:** A team of staff and partners will focus on recruiting 50 veterans and their families (a total of about 180 people) in the first year to participate in training and workshop opportunities. A broader awareness campaign with materials and resources will target all veterans and the community in Champaign County.
- **Trauma and Trauma Informed Care/Seeking Safety:** On a quarterly basis, training will be offered to veterans and families about mental health and PTSD, with a focus on violence prevention. This will cover PTSD and substance abuse disorders. In addition, TBRI and Making Sense of Your Worth will be offered on a quarterly basis, Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training will be provided and on an annual basis, the Making Sense of Your Worth program will be provided.
- **Peer Support Groups:** This program will build the leadership skills and capacity of veterans and others to help facilitate peer support groups for veterans and their families.
- **Steering Committee:** A steering committee representing the Veterans Administration, other partners and lived experience representatives will be convened on a regular basis to guide the implementation and evaluation of the program.

Team Expertise and Background

Our effort will include a team of experts and partners who will provide leadership, training, facilitation and resources to people served in this program.

- **Robbie C. Walker VA Accredited Claims Agent, LLC** is an affiliate of the Veterans Benefit Administration located in Chicago, IL., and has over 30 years of dedicated service in State & Federal Agencies. Also has over 20 years in connection with the Veteran Healthcare Administration located in Danville, IL. Agent, Walker is a 20-year member of VFW & The American Legion serving at Post, County, District, State and National levels. Robbie C. Walker will provide leadership and direction over this program, and will serve as a conduit in assisting veterans with determining eligibility.
- Our **Community Partners from VA Medical Center Danville Public Affairs Office**, will provide a program booth with paraphernalia. License Clinical Staff available.

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- **Land of Lincoln Legal Services through Attorney Nicole Massey** will provide free legal advice to qualified veterans. Land of Lincoln Legal Aid provides free civil legal services to qualifying Veterans to address housing and financial instability issues. Services include assistance with criminal record expungement and sealing, social security and VA Benefits issues, and family and eviction matters. Attorney Nicole Massey earned her Law Degree from the University of Illinois.
 - **Bishop Byron Smith**, will be retained as a consultant to provide mental health and PTSD training with a focus on its impact on community violence. He has over two decades in the areas of mental health and community development. In addition to being a pastor at Gethsemane Christian Love Church, he has been an adjunct professor and mental health clinician along with his involvement with the Drew Child Development Center and Chabad Residential Treatment Center for Men. In addition, he has been a professor at Claremont School of Theology, Azusa Pacific University, Argosy University, and Antioch University provided considerable guidance and instruction in strategies to aid both believers and nonbelievers.
 - **Grace Weltman, Communities in Motion**, will be retained as a consultant to provide awareness about Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) and deliver on an annual basis, Making Sense of Your Worth (MSOYW), which will allow participants to understand how past trauma impacts their own self-worth and how they can create a path to healing. Ms. Weltman has over two decades in the area of facilitation, training and community development, helping to address complex social and economic challenges in different communities. With expertise in homelessness, foster care and early childhood education, Ms. Weltman understands the effects of trauma on people and communities. She has a program evaluation background and will assist with evaluating the program on an annual basis.

Program Budget

The budget below is a preliminary 12-month budget that illustrates what it would take to implement the program. It is anticipated that in Year 2 and 3 that expenses will increase as more program participants increases.

12-Month Budget for Stop the Violence for Veterans Project	
Personnel	
Robbie Walker, Executive Director	\$55,000
Total Personnel	\$55,000
<u>Program Costs</u>	
Supplies	\$500
Training Materials (printing and purchases)	\$1,000
Food and Refreshments	\$1,500
Total Program	\$3,000
<u>Consultants</u>	
Bishop Byron L. Smith Program Director of Psychoeducation/Group Facilitation for Military Veterans and Families	\$55,000
Grace Weltman, Program Director Planning, Communication, Program Sustainability, Needs Assessment and Evaluation	\$52,000
Total Consultant Cost	\$107,000
Grand Total	\$165,000

Personnel: Robbie Walker, Executive Director, will assume leadership in the comprehensive management of the program. His responsibilities will include vital tasks such as collaborating with key stakeholders, representing Stop the Violence at community events, and fortifying partnerships with both the Veterans Administration and the Champaign County Veterans Advisory Commission. Additionally, Robbie will play a central role in overseeing the entire Stop the Violence team, actively participating in the coordination of training sessions and local events intended to raise awareness and support for the program throughout Champaign County. His close collaboration with Champaign County will ensure the fulfillment of all administrative and program requirements.

Program Costs: Program costs will primarily support training, planning, and meetings, with a significant portion of the budget allocated to veterans' training initiatives. This allocation includes funding for 2-3 half to full-day, in-person training sessions with additional online follow-up and training as needed. Furthermore, we intend to seek partnerships with other organizations to augment program expenses as needed.

Consultant - Bishop Byron L. Smith, Program Director of

Psychoeducation/Group Facilitation for Military Veterans and Families: Bishop Byron L. Smith will assume the following responsibilities: He will lead the development and oversight of trauma-focused psychoeducational programs and support groups, with a strong emphasis on trauma-informed care, substance abuse, mental health, culturally sensitive, and evidence-based approaches. In addition, he will provide strategic direction to drive the program's growth and impact. Bishop Smith will lead and direct group facilitation, conducting sessions, workshops, and training programs in welcoming and inclusive settings where participants can share and heal. His expertise will guide discussions, offer coping strategies, and nurture personal growth among participants. Bishop Smith will cultivate partnerships with faith-based leaders/organizations, community groups, and stakeholders. These collaborations will integrate faith-based practices and community resources into program offerings to foster holistic healing. To ensure ongoing program improvement, Bishop Smith will co-design and monitor program outcomes, collecting participant feedback for refinement. He will stay updated on the latest research and best practices in trauma-informed care and group facilitation. As a team leader, he will supervise and support program staff, ensuring their readiness to provide top-quality care, facilitation, and engage effectively with faith communities.

Consultant - Grace C. Weltman, Program Director: As the Program Director, Grace Weltman assumes a pivotal role in planning, evaluating, and orchestrating communication strategies for the program, with a strong emphasis on long-term sustainability. Her responsibilities encompass conducting a thorough needs assessment and crafting a sustainability plan. Grace will advance partnerships with local and national organizations, aiming to diversify funding sources for Stop the Violence. Additionally, she will oversee the creation of communication and marketing materials while expanding the program's online presence to bolster its outreach capabilities. Grace Weltman will be responsible for coordinating fundraising efforts,