

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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May 7, 2025

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi

90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: Support for Community Project Funding – Home For Good: Aging in Place for High-Acuity Veterans

Dear Speaker Emerita Pelosi,

On behalf of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), I write in strong support of Swords to Plowshares' request for \$2.5 million in Community Project Funding for Home For Good: Aging in Place for High-Acuity Veterans.

CalVet has had the privilege of partnering with Swords to Plowshares on the Veterans Support to Self-Reliance (VSSR) pilot—a \$25 million, three-year state-funded initiative designed to meet the needs of aging and high-acuity veterans in permanent supportive housing. Swords to Plowshares not only designed and successfully advocated for the creation of this pilot, but also serves as the lead agency, working in close collaboration with CalVet to implement and refine the model. CalVet administers the grant and values the strong partnership and on-the-ground leadership Swords has demonstrated from day one.

The VSSR pilot, which sunsets in 2026, has laid a strong foundation for the next phase of this work. Home For Good builds directly on the lessons and impact of the pilot, applying what we've learned to ensure aging veterans with complex health and behavioral health needs can remain stably housed with dignity. While our long-term goal remains the adoption of this model by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, we also recognize that federal adoption and scaling at that level will take time—particularly in the current environment of budget constraints and potential changes to veteran care. In the meantime, CalVet supports Swords to Plowshares' continued work and leadership in advancing this model at the community level.

We believe Home For Good is a necessary next step—and one that reflects California's commitment to innovation, evidence-based care, and housing

HONORING CALIFORNIA'S VETERANS

stability for those who have served. We urge your support of this critical funding request to help bridge the gap and sustain this important progress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsey Sin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lindsey Sin
Secretary
California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet)



May 7, 2025

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

**RE: Support for Community Project Funding – Home For Good: Aging in Place
for High-Acuity Veterans**

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I'm writing to express my strong support for Swords to Plowshares' request for \$2.5 million in Community Project Funding for Home For Good: Aging in Place for High-Acuity Veterans.

As Director of San Francisco's Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS), I worked closely with Swords to Plowshares. Together, we've built a strong partnership rooted in shared values and a deep commitment to serving older adults and individuals with disabilities—particularly those who have experienced chronic homelessness and behavioral health challenges.

Swords to Plowshares is a trusted DAS partner, currently delivering on-site service assistants, community organizers, therapeutic groups, and congregate meals for low-income veterans in permanent supportive housing. Together, we also administer CalVet-funded legal services for veterans with mental health conditions, with Swords managing operations and DAS serving as the administering and referral agency. We've successfully amended these contracts to receive state funds and are well-positioned to do the same with federal funding.

The Home For Good initiative builds on this foundation. We know firsthand how bare-bones PSH funding often falls short for residents with serious health conditions, mobility challenges, or behavioral health needs. This program addresses that gap by embedding community-based support where it's needed most. It's a smart, scalable model that will help aging and high-acuity tenants stay housed and connected, with the care and dignity they deserve. I strongly urge your support for this vital initiative.

Sincerely,



Daniel Lurie
Mayor

Kelly Dearman
Executive Director, DAS



SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

**Department of Disability
and Aging Services**

P.O. Box 7988
San Francisco, CA
94120-7988
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Kelly Dearman

Executive Director, San Francisco Department of Disability and Aging Services
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May 8, 2025

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: Support for Community Project Funding – Home For Good: Aging in Place for High-Acuity Veterans

Dear Speaker Emerita Pelosi,

I write to express my strong support for Swords to Plowshares' request for \$2.5 million in Community Project Funding for *Home For Good: Aging in Place for High-Acuity Veterans*.

During my tenure as Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Gavin Newsom, I had the privilege of working closely with Swords to Plowshares and NextGen Policy in 2021 to help secure state funding for what would become the *Veterans Support to Self-Reliance (VSSR)* pilot—a bold \$25 million, three-year initiative to address the complex and growing needs of aging and high-acuity veterans in permanent supportive housing.

Now in its final year, the VSSR pilot has demonstrated that it is not only possible—but essential—to deliver embedded, trauma-informed care directly within housing. As an advisory board member at Swords to Plowshares, I have seen firsthand the organization's unmatched ability to design and deliver solutions rooted in compassion, evidence, and decades of direct service to vulnerable veterans.

Home For Good is the natural next step: a continuation of the state-funded pilot that will adapt the model based on outcomes, tailor it to local needs, and ensure a seamless transition when state funding ends in September 2026. A federal investment at this critical juncture will allow us to sustain and expand a proven model—while building the long-term case for national adoption.

This is a timely and necessary investment in systems-level change. I urge your support for this important funding request.

Sincerely,

Jason Elliott

Advisory Board Member, Swords to Plowshares
President, Verus Solutions
jason@versus.solutions



May 9, 2025

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker Emerita, U.S. House of Representatives
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: Support for Community Project Funding – Home For Good: Aging in Place for High-Acuity Veterans

Dear Speaker Emerita Pelosi,

On behalf of NextGen California, I am writing in strong support of Swords to Plowshares' request for \$2.5 million in Community Project Funding for Home For Good: Aging in Place for High-Acuity Veterans.

In 2021, NextGen proudly partnered with Swords to Plowshares and successfully advocated for state funding to launch what is now the Veterans Support to Self-Reliance (VSSR) pilot—a groundbreaking \$25 million, three-year initiative aimed at improving care for aging, high-acuity veterans in permanent supportive housing.

Swords to Plowshares has long recognized that critical service and program gaps in our supportive housing system can ultimately lead to certain individuals becoming homeless. Drawing from decades of on-the-ground experience, they designed the pilot VSSR program to embed trauma-informed, wraparound services directly into housing sites. Their leadership in developing, advancing, implementing, and evaluating this initiative has been exceptional, and NextGen strongly supports and remains supremely confident in their ability to drive policy innovation and systems change.

The Home For Good initiative is a direct extension of this work—an essential next step to apply the lessons learned from the pilot program and build a path from one-time funding to long-term impact. While full federal adoption will take time, we must act now to preserve and scale what is working.

NextGen California is deeply committed to honoring the sacrifice of the men and women who have risked their lives to serve, protect, and defend our country and strongly supports this request for federal investment to ensure continuity of services and to further a model that exemplifies smart, compassionate, and data-driven care for our most vulnerable veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arnold Sowell Jr." in a cursive, flowing script.

Arnold Sowell Jr.
Executive Director, NextGen California



May 8, 2025

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: Support for Community Project Funding – Home For Good: Aging in Place for High-Acuity Veterans

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

On behalf of Hospitality House, a long-time community partner, I am pleased to offer our enthusiastic support of Swords to Plowshares' **Community Project Funding request for *Home For Good: Aging in Place for High-Acuity Veterans***.

At Hospitality House, we've spent decades working with people who've lived through chronic homelessness, mental health issues, substance use, and deep poverty. We know that Swords To Plowshares understands what it takes to help people not only get into housing—but stay there. Unfortunately, the way supportive housing is currently funded leaves huge gaps for many of those with the most complex needs.

Swords to Plowshares are trusted partners in the ongoing struggle to ensure America's veterans have the resources they need. Without question, Swords to Plowshares' groundbreaking work on behalf of veterans, especially its innovative housing models, has influenced so many of us in San Francisco's human services field, and beyond. This new initiative isn't just a good idea—it's long overdue. Aging residents, especially those with disabling conditions or behavioral health challenges, need real day-to-day support to stay housed. That means people on site who can build trust, respond early to issues, and help navigate care before things spiral.

This program won't solve everything, but it's exactly the kind of smart, grounded approach we need more of—led by people who understand the stakes and the population. I urge you to support this request so that our veterans have a real shot at housing stability and dignity as they age. We at Hospitality House can think of no better choice for this project than Swords to Plowshares.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. Wilson
Executive Director, Hospitality House
(415) 749-2111 / jwilson@hospitalityhouse.org



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May 8, 2025

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi
90 7th Street, Suite 2-800
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: Support for Community Project Funding – Home For Good: Aging in Place
for High-Acuity Veterans

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

I'm writing to express my strong support for Swords to Plowshares' Community
Project Funding request for *Home For Good: Aging in Place for High-Acuity Veterans*.

At DISH, we serve some of San Francisco's most vulnerable residents—people with
long histories of homelessness, serious health issues, and trauma. We see every day
how hard it is to keep folks stably housed when the supportive housing system is
stretched thin. The reality is, we're often asked to do more than what current funding
allows, especially for residents with high needs.

That's why efforts like *Home For Good* are so important. This initiative fills a real gap—
providing hands-on, community-based support for tenants who are aging, disabled, or
facing behavioral health challenges. It's the kind of care that can truly make the
difference between someone staying stably housed or falling through the cracks.

Swords to Plowshares has been a leader in this space for decades, and their
commitment to advancing real, practical solutions is unmatched. As co-chairs of the
Supportive Housing Provider Network, our organizations have worked side by side to
push for the kind of system changes that are urgently needed. This project reflects
that shared vision—and real potential for impact.

I urge you to support this request so we can give our most vulnerable neighbors the
support they need to age in place with dignity and stability.

With appreciation,

Lauren Hall
Co-Executive Director, Delivering Innovation in Supportive Housing (DISH)
lauren@dishsf.org ; (415) 345-4572