



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Unveils Cultural Competency Training to Expand and Improve Coordination of the County's Service Delivery for Justice-Involved Veterans**

LOS ANGELES, CA- The Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) has unveiled a new cultural competency training for county departments to better provide services for justice-involved veterans (JIVs).

This new training initiative will prioritize raising awareness about JIVs, highlighting the complexities they encounter due to their military service and legal involvement. It will also address the distinct challenges veterans face during their transition from military to civilian life, emphasizing the need for tailored support and resources.

Los Angeles County is home to approximately 232,000 veterans, and JIVs face unique challenges that differentiate them from their civilian counterparts, including higher rates of trauma, mental health issues, and substance use disorders. These issues, intensified by justice involvement, place JIVs at an increased risk for homelessness and suicide.

By equipping county departments with knowledge and tools to effectively assist veterans and military personnel, the training aims to foster a workplace environment that is not only empathetic but also proactive in meeting the diverse needs of those who have served our country. This holistic approach seeks to promote inclusivity and enhance collaboration across Los Angeles County offices.

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*The LA County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) provides assistance to L.A. County veterans, active service members and their families with resources, programs, services and state and federal benefits, including: compensation and pension claims, burial benefits and services, medical and mental health referral, education and vocational rehabilitation, home loans and grant applications, employment and job placement assistance, DMV veteran designation, legal service referrals, appeal processes, programs for incarcerated veterans, as well as aid and attendance.*

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