



**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEM
AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

Control: 26001249

MEETING DATE: 05/19/2026

LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Supervisor Wagner

DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Tara Campbell
George Boutros, 714-834-3330

SUBJECT: Allocation of Third District Discretionary Funds to Veterans Legal Institute

CEO CONCUR	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	CLERK OF THE BOARD
N/A	No Legal Objection	DISCUSSION 3 Votes Board Majority

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Approve the allocation of \$250,000 from Third District discretionary funds to the Veterans Legal Institute.
2. Find under Government Code section 26227 that this expenditure is necessary to meet the social needs of County residents.
3. Authorize and direct the County Executive Officer, or designee, to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the Veterans Legal Institute as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this allocation, including, but not limited to, the allocation of funds to the Veterans Legal Institute.
4. Authorize and direct the Auditor-Controller, or designee, to make related payments as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this allocation, including, but not limited to Cal-Card, electronic fund transfers or check payments.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

This allocation of \$250,000 from Third District discretionary funds to the Veterans Legal Institute is to establish a veterans legal clinic for Orange County veterans. This will cover funding for the clinic from June 2026 through December 2028.

Veterans across Orange County are navigating housing instability and struggling to attain benefits they have earned. Too often, they reach crisis before getting help due to fragmented systems and delayed access to legal services. Through strong partnerships with the court system, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the

Orange County Veterans Service Office, and various community providers, the Veterans Legal Institute delivers coordinated, community-based legal care that reaches veterans early, before issues become crises.

This effort will supplement the work of our Orange County Veterans Service Office. The Veterans Legal Institute provides early, preventative legal intervention that stabilizes veterans, and therefore reduces reliance on County-funded emergency systems. This veterans legal clinic will be grounded in a community-based model that meets veterans where they are and will prioritize warm referrals to ensure continuity of care with lasting outcomes.

The Veterans Legal Institute plans to operate primarily out of the Tierney Center in Tustin. They would also provide services online. At the same time, they would ensure accessibility for veterans with limited mobility by providing services at additional locations as needed. This investment is designed to increase access to legal services for veterans who are not currently reached through the Orange County Veterans Service Office's clinic and referral structure. With this investment, the Veterans Legal Institute approximates serving an additional, unduplicated 160 individuals annually. Additionally, the Veterans Legal Institute will submit a written report every six months that tracks the number of veterans served, cases opened, types of services provided, case outcomes, and related metrics.

ATTACHMENTS:

N/A