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VA Funds Central California Agency in Battle to End Homelessness *Initiative Targets 115,000 Homeless and At-Risk Vets and Families Nationwide*

FRESNO – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald announced today the award of a \$2 million homeless prevention grant to Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Tulare counties.

The grant will serve homeless and at-risk Veteran families as part of the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program associated with WestCare California, Inc., one of the 301 community agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands receiving grants.

“By working with community non-profit organizations, we have enlisted valuable partners in our fight to end homelessness,” McDonald said. “The work of SSVF grantees has already helped thousands of homeless Veterans and their families find homes and thousands more have been able to stay in their own homes.”

As part of the SSVF program, VA awards grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that provide services to very low-income Veteran families living in – or transitioning to – permanent housing. Those community organizations provide a range of services that promote housing stability among eligible very low income Veteran families.

Under the terms of the grants, homeless providers will offer Veterans and their family members outreach, case management, assistance in obtaining VA benefits and assistance in receiving other public benefits. Community-based groups can offer temporary financial assistance on behalf of Veterans for rent payments, utility payments, security deposits and moving costs.

VA estimates these grants will serve approximately 115,000 homeless and at-risk Veteran families nationwide. This is the program’s fourth year.

More information about VA’s homeless programs is available at www.va.gov/homeless. Details about the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program are online at www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp.

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