



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Findings from the Santa Barbara County Veterans Assessment Report Revealed

NOVEMBER 9, 2017 - The Santa Barbara Foundation led a community-wide effort to conduct an assessment of veterans and those who provide services to veterans throughout Santa Barbara County. As part of its efforts to best serve and engage others most effectively in service to veterans in Santa Barbara County, the Santa Barbara Foundation commissioned Nancy Berglass, project consultant and Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security, to conduct an assessment of the county's veteran population.

The project aimed to define the demographic and other attributes of the local veteran population, describe the landscape of services available to them, and identify opportunities through which the local community can make an impact on the lives of those who have served in uniform.

Using a mixed-method approach, the authors included: extensive review of national, state and local literature relating to veterans; compilation and review of government data; compilation and review of nonprofit data; analysis of existing literature describing the national veteran population, California-specific studies, and local reports and stories from Santa Barbara-based public agencies and media; facilitation of two large-scale, geographically-based working groups of stakeholders in Santa Barbara County; and scores of individual interviews.

The findings show the following:

- Identified stakeholders providing services for the veteran population in Santa Barbara County
- Provided a comprehensive understanding of specific demographics of veterans living here and identified gaps in service or inefficiencies
- Identified the needs and assets of the veteran population

From these results, we anticipate that the community will work to develop tools and recommendations to better support Santa Barbara County veterans.

"Never before has such data been compiled to address the landscape of veterans in Santa Barbara County," said North County Director Kathy Simas. "We believe it is an opportunity for collaboration on creating community-based solutions for Santa Barbara County's veterans."

For access to the full report, click [here](#). For more information, please contact Kathy Simas (805) 880-9395 ksimas@sbfoundation.org.

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About the Santa Barbara Foundation

The Santa Barbara Foundation was established in 1928 to enrich the lives of the people of Santa Barbara County through philanthropy. As the largest community foundation in the county and a major source of funding for local nonprofits, the foundation is committed to building philanthropy, strengthening the nonprofit sector and solving community concerns.

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