

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Marin Services for Women to Help Female Veterans Overcome Employment Barriers Related to Trauma and Substance Abuse

Greenbrae, CA., April 1st, 2009 – [Marin Services for Women](#) today announced that they received a [Veterans' Employment Assistance Program \(VEAP\)](#) grant (a part of the [Workforce Investment Act](#)) from the California Employment Development Department (EDD). According to the EDD [California's unemployment rate rose to 10.5](#) percent in February, it's highest in nearly 26 years. This grant provides female veterans, who have unique and pressing needs, the critical help they need to overcome obstacles preventing them from returning to the civilian workforce. The services that MSW will provide through this new grant are more important than ever given the state of the California job market.

MSW's program integrates employment readiness with the addiction and trauma recovery treatment currently provided at MSW and prepares clients for high wage/growth professions. The types of services include: case management, comprehensive assessments, class work training, access to an onsite computer lab, vocational readiness, and employment counseling. According to the [National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) an annual average of 5.8 percent of female veterans aged 18 or older (an estimated 1.5 million women) met the criteria for Substance Abuse Disorder as defined by the NSDUH. This number is alarming but is likely to be even higher since many women may be afraid to seek treatment and may keep their substance abuse a secret due to feelings of guilt, shame, or fear.

Marin Services for Women's 29-year history of treating women with substance abuse issues has demonstrated that most of the women entering our programs have a history of personal trauma and/or active Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The [National Council on Disability](#) currently estimates, between 10 and 30 percent of military service members will develop PTSD within a year of leaving combat. When we consider a range of mental health issues including depression, generalized

MSW Veterans Grant Press Release

Page 2 of 2

anxiety disorder, and substance abuse, the number increases to between 16 and 49 percent. MSW is one of the few treatment providers that include an innovative Trauma Services Program Component to help women learn to cope with their trauma and PTSD. MSW's goal is to help 100 female veterans over the next two years through this unique gender-specific program.

For over 30 years, Marin Services for Women has advanced community health by providing a full continuum of superior quality chemical dependency recovery services and trauma treatment for women and their children in Marin County. MSW is dedicated to meeting the community's need to understand the nature, treatment and prevention of alcohol and other drug abuse. MSW's philosophy links recovery from addiction with relational, social and economic empowerment.

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