



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 3, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I request community project funding for the Veterans PTSD Justice Involvement Prevention Support Battle Buddy App project. The entity to receive funding for this project is Great Lakes DryHootch, Inc. located at 1030 E. Brady St., Milwaukee, WI 53202.

The project aims to help support veterans struggling with PTSD/Substance Use Disorder who are more likely to interact with law enforcement/justice system through use of a BattlePeer app to provide veteran peer-to-peer support in a digital format. Veterans and peer mentors can connect with each other in a protected, veteran only environment to enhance socialization, normalization of problems, and to improve anywhere/anytime access (e.g. when VA clinics are closed). Peer mentors will receive specific training on referral strategies and resources for veterans who are justice system involved, as well as strategies to coach veterans to reduce interpersonal friction with law enforcement in the event of a stop or arrest.

The peer mentor app will collect data on the justice system/law enforcement risk for each of the veterans, for example recording if they the veteran has had any police contact or had a justice system issue. This will allow the peer mentor to better track trends with each veteran they work with in the legal risk domain specifically.

Dryhootch has a 15+ year history of providing veteran mental health peer support. The downstream effects of this program will include improving outcomes for veteran families, children, and reducing justice involvement for the 140 plus veterans who will participate.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 501 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10152).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Gwen Moore
MEMBER OF CONGRESS