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## Veterans Helping Veterans USA, Inc.

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Division of Consumer Certificate of Exemption  
CH 40306

FL Consumer Certificate of Exemption  
85-8012876070C-0

April 29, 2021

(HAND DELIVERED)

Mounir Bouyounes, PE  
Marion County Administrator  
601 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Ocala, FL 34471

Dear Administrator Bouyounes:

As you know, Vets Helping Vets has become one of the largest social service providers in North Florida for veterans and their families. We provide a full range of social services including transportation assistance, utility assistance, food, clothing, emergency housing, rent assistance and a variety of other services that most other agencies do not provide. In fact, we have become the subject of a number of media stories because of our uniqueness in providing services with a very low overhead cost. In addition, we have become the model for a number of other counties, including counties from other states who want to provide services for veterans. While many agencies and businesses shut their doors during the Corona Virus crisis, Veterans Helping Veterans stayed open and served veterans and their families.

The partnership between Marion County government and Vets Helping Vets is unique and is recognized by the residents of Marion County as an essential service for veterans and their families. However, we are expanding our services and those services require dollars. Please note that 100% of the \$24,000 we are requesting will be spent on social services with no administrative costs included. These services will be spent to provide social services to needy and homeless veterans and their families.

We are looking forward to Marion County continuing the positive and unique partnership between Vets Helping Vets and Marion County and therefore are requesting a continuation of funding in the amount of \$24,000 in a pass-through manner in your 2021-2022 budget.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in the past and, hopefully, in the future.

Sincerely,



Henry L. Whittier  
Executive Director

cc: Marion County Board of County Commissioners  
Jeffrey Askew, Director, Marion County Veterans Services