



Service Members, Veterans and their Families

Draft Goals, Objectives & Strategies
September 2014



Priority Area #1: Criminal Justice

Goal: To decrease the number of service members and veterans incarcerated in jails and prisons.

Objective 1. Improve identification of veterans and service members involved in DC's criminal justice system.

Strategy 1.1 Incorporate the essential questions developed by the Department of Justice into intake documentation across agencies.

Strategy 1.2 Implement the Veterans Referral Support System (VRSS) in DC Jail.

Objective 2. Educate law enforcement, corrections officers, judges and other staff on the unique issues faced by SMVF population.

Strategy 2.1 Revise existing training materials as necessary.

Strategy 2.2 Expand implementation.

Objective 3. Ensure that veterans and service members are represented on advisory bodies.

Strategy 3.1 Amend establishment order to add a seat on the Commission on Re-Entry and Returning Citizens Affairs for a veteran or a veteran service provider.

Objective 4. Improve awareness of and access to resources that serve criminal justice-involved SMVF.

Strategy 4.1 Update information and populate 211 and the CJCC Resource Locator annually.



Priority Area #2: Economic Security and Employment

Goal: To ensure economic security and self-sufficiency by connecting service members, veterans and their families to employment opportunities and benefits.

Objective 1. Improve identification of SMVF population by District agencies, contractors and grantees.

Strategy 1.1 Adopt standard language to be used on all government forms that ask about military service or relationship to service members or veterans.

Objective 2. Ensure Districts residents who are SMVF are maximizing benefits for which they are eligible.

Strategy 2.1 Compare District (PARIS) and Federal (VA, DoD, OPM) data sets annually and help eligible residents access VA programs where appropriate.

Objective 3. Improve awareness of and access to employment resources for the SMVF population.

Strategy 3.1 Update information and populate 211 annually.

Strategy 3.2 Develop a dissemination plan.

Objective 4. Assist veterans with finding and maintaining employment in the private and public sectors.

Strategy 4.1 Establish a military service mentoring program for DC government employees.

Strategy 4.2 Connect eligible veterans with existing external mentorship programs.

Strategy 4.3 Add a course within the DCHR's Center for Learning and Development for Service Members who are looking to transition from the military to the private/public sector.

Strategy 4.4 Train human resource advisors within DCHR to translate military service skills and experiences to language relevant to civilian jobs.

Strategy 4.5 Host SMVF-specific targeted recruitment and orientation events for veterans each year at DOES.



Priority Area #3: Housing and Homelessness

Goal: To end chronic homelessness for veterans.

Objective 1. Improve awareness of and access to homeless prevention and housing resources for the SMVF population.

Strategy 1.1 Update information and populate 211 annually.

Objective 2. Identify resources to expeditiously house homeless veterans.

Strategy 2.1 Pilot a coordinated entry and housing placement system as part of the Veterans NOW and 25Cities initiatives to prioritize the most vulnerable residents, including veterans, for housing services.

Strategy 2.2 Use a combination of VASH vouchers and local funds to house and provide case management to chronically homeless veterans.

Objective 3. Support veterans who transition from homelessness into housing.

Strategy 3.1 Continue existing and establish new partnerships to provide furniture for formerly homeless veterans.



Priority Area #4: Education

Goal: To enhance opportunities and resources for service members, veterans and their families to pursue meaningful education and training.

Objective 1. Improve awareness of and access to local and federal education-related offerings for service members and veterans.

Strategy 1.1 Update information and populate 211 annually.

Strategy 1.2 Develop a dissemination plan.

Objective 2. Increase the number of service members and veterans who are 'college-ready' when they begin higher education.

Strategy 2.1 Apply for funding to begin a Veterans Upward Bound program during the next US Department of Education funding cycle.

Strategy 2.2 Explore other funding opportunities and programs for college-readiness and success.

Objective 3. Increase awareness of ability to receive college credit for military service.

Strategy 3.1 Create a document accessible online that outlines the college credit service members and veterans could earn for military experience.

Objective 4. Facilitate a smooth transition from the military to college.

Strategy 4.1 Create mentorship programs for veterans and service members at UDC/CCDC.

Strategy 4.2 Connect veterans to existing external mentorship programs.

Objective 5. Facilitate timely school enrollment, student placement, qualification and eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities and on-time graduation for school-age children in military families.

Strategy 5.1 Ensure compliance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.



Priority Area #5: Healthcare

Goal: To improve access to quality healthcare that addresses the needs of service members, veterans and their families.

Objective 1. Increase awareness of healthcare resources that serve veterans.

Strategy 1.1 Inventory and map healthcare resources that serve veterans and make them available through 211, DC Health Search and the Access Helpline.

Objective 2. Expand awareness among private sector medical professionals, DC Government grantees and contractors, and school-based mental health staff of the unique challenges faced by SMVF.

Strategy 2.1 Revise existing training materials as necessary.

Strategy 2.2 Expand implementation.

Objective 3. Ensure that veterans and service members are represented on advisory bodies.

Strategy 3.1 Amend establishment order to add a seat on the Behavioral Health Council for a veteran or a veteran service provider.