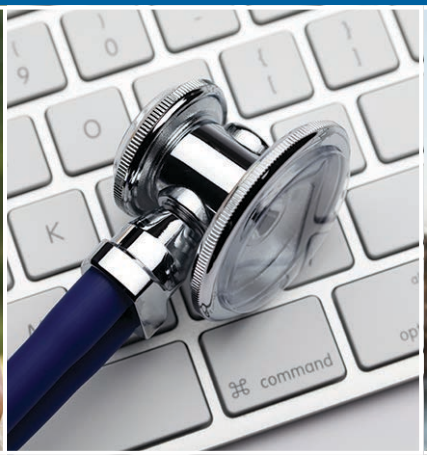
2013

Caregiver Resource Directory



OFFICE OF
WARRIOR CARE POLICY

While it is impossible to capture a complete list of resources, this directory includes the most commonly referenced resources for caregivers of recovering Service members, most of them at the national level. The National Resource Directory has vetted them; though it makes no recommendations or endorsements about the quality of services offered. All the resources and links included here were accurate and up-to-date at press time; however, it is unavoidable that some will become outdated over time. We recommend you always seek updated information using your preferred search engine.

For more comprehensive listings of state and local resources, please visit the National Resource Directory at *www.nrd.gov*.

If you have questions or feedback regarding the directory, please send an email to *info@NRD.gov.*

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To the caregivers of recovering Service members…

A serious wound, illness, or injury doesn't just significantly change a Service member's life. As the caregiver of a recovering Service member, your life has changed significantly as well and you are now facing new and demanding challenges. With many organizations offering different types of help and services, it can be difficult to sort out the specific type of help or services best suited for your needs. Therefore, this directory was formulated with you—the caregiver—as its primary focus. It was designed to provide information in a manner that enables you to quickly identify many of the available resources that address your particular needs and requirements. In addition, this directory serves as another tangible demonstration from a grateful nation that you are not in this alone!

Whatever particular challenges you are facing, or whatever specific help you need, we hope this directory can assist in the following ways:

- **Help you get the type of assistance you need.** This directory lists many government and nonprofit resources, which you can access both in-person and online, intended to address just about every conceivable need you may have. Most are free to you.
- **Help you get educated about your recovering Service member's medical condition.** Knowledge is power, and no one will advocate for your Service member the way you will. Plus, the more you learn about your loved one's condition, the more comfortable, prepared, and capable you'll become to handle any unexpected circumstances you may encounter.
- **Help you connect with others.** You'll discover, if you haven't already, that you're part of a larger community of caregivers and caregiver supporters who have made themselves available for contact, interaction, and networking. You are truly not alone.
- **Help you take care of yourself.** This is a subject often overlooked but vitally important. Unquestionably, the act of caregiving exacts a tremendous physical and mental toll on the caregiver. So, it's important that you make self care a top priority. With that in mind, look for the heart icon (♥), which designates resources specifically designed to help you do so.

Just remember, taking care of you is never a selfish act—
it's an act that helps you take care of your hero better now and in the future!

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How to Use this Directory

Find helpful resources to:

Get help in the middle of the night *(look for the icon for 24/7 support)*	**1** Helplines **77** Suicide Prevention **59** Online Social Networking
Connect with other caregivers	**59** Online Social Networking **63** Peer Support and Mentoring
Take care of yourself	**22** Caregiver's Mental Health and Wellbeing **71** Short Breaks for the Caregiver **45** Health Care Needs
Take care of your family responsibilities	**27** Children's Needs **69** Rest and Relaxation
Enable you to do the best caring for your loved one	**19** Caregiving Knowledge and Skills **48** Home-Based Health Care Assistance **46** General Medical Information
Find the "new normal"	**75** Sports and Recreation **11** Career Transitions and Employment **31** Education and Training
Seek disability benefits	**7** Advocacy and Benefit Information **45** Health Benefits and Coverage
Deal with dangerous, unwanted, or difficult behaviors	**1** Helplines **77** Suicide Prevention
Learn more about your loved one's medical condition or disease	**46** General Medical Information **48** TBI and PTSD Information and Programs **79** Women Veterans
Manage your finances	**37** Financial Support **31** Scholarships, Loans, and Grants
Access free transportation and temporary housing	**40** Temporary Lodging Expenses **41** Travel and Transportation Expenses
Get special accommodations	**53** Home and Automobile Modifications **67** Pet and Service Animal Assistance
Seek legal assistance	**57** Legal Assistance **7** Advocacy and Benefit Information

The following icons are used to help you more quickly find just what you are looking for:

Caring for the Caregiver	Indicates resources that emphasize caregivers' personal needs; all resources listed in this Directory support caregivers' everyday care of their recovering Service member and family
DoD Program	Indicates resources managed or sponsored by the Department of Defense (DoD)
VA Program	Indicates resources managed or sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Reserve/Guard Specific Resource	Indicates resources intended for Reservists and Guardsmen and their families/caregivers
Non-Profit Organization	Indicates non-profit organizations providing day-to-day support to recovering Service members, families, and caregivers
Veterans Service Organizations	Indicates Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) that are involved in a wide variety of veteran's issues and may be recognized by VA for claims processing
Military Children	Indicates resources that are military children and teen friendly
Español Available	Indicates resources available in Spanish/Español
24/7 Availability	Indicates resources with access to personnel available to talk or chat 24/7 (this icon only appears in the Helplines tab)
Smartphone App	Indicates resources with applications that are available for download to a smartphone or tablet device

"Like the wounded, ill or injured Service members they care for, caregivers have made **tremendous sacrifices** and face heartbreaking challenges. They often give up their own careers, work long hours, and still manage the household while **providing loving, excellent care** for their recovering hero and children. They don't complain, and they rarely ask for help. We must anticipate caregivers' needs and support them as they begin to shape the 'new normal' for their families. We must help them transition as their recovering hero transitions to civilian life."

Ms. Donna K. Seymour
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Office of Warrior Care Policy, OSD

Helplines Offering Information and Assistance

Air Force Wounded Warrior Program (AFW2) Works hand-in-hand with the Air Force Survivor Assistance Program and Airman and Family Readiness Centers to ensure Airmen and families receive professional support and care from the point of injury, through separation or retirement, for life; hours are M–F, 6:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (CT)	**800-581-9437**
American Red Cross Provides immediate assistance for emergency communications services and financial assistance, information and referral, and deployment services	**877-272-7337**
Army Wounded Warrior Program (AW2) Provides personalized local support to Soldiers, veterans, and their families through the assignment of an AW2 Advocate; refer to *wtc.army.mil/aw2* for program requirements	**800-237-1336**
Caregiver Support Line Connects caregivers with someone who offers answers, instead of endless menu options; local caregiver support can also be found online at *www.caregiver.va.gov;* hours are M–F, 8:00 a.m.–11:00 p.m. (ET), and Saturday 10:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. (ET)	**855-260-3274**
Coaching into Care Offers a free and confidential coaching service to help callers discover new ways to talk with their veteran about their concerns and treatment options; hours are M–F, 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. (ET)	**888-823-7458**
Defense Centers of Excellence (DCoE) Outreach Center *(Includes online chat at www.dcoe.health.mil/Families/Help and email at resources@dcoeoutreach.org)* Provides access to health resource consultants with expertise in psychological health and traumatic brain injury	**866-966-1020**

Caring for the Caregiver
DoD Program
VA Program
Reserve/Guard Specific Resource
Non-Profit Organization
Veterans Service Organizations
Español Available
Smartphone App
24/7 Availability

DoD Safe Helpline Sexual Assault Support *(Includes texting at 55247 and online chat at SafeHelpline.org)* Offers personalized advice and support; connects callers to sexual assault response coordinators, civilian rape crisis centers, the suicide prevention helpline, or Military OneSource	**877-995-5247**
DSTRESS Line *(Includes online chat at DStressLine.com)* Provides professional, anonymous counseling for Marines, attached Sailors, and families when needed most	**877-476-7734**
Federal Recovery Coordination Team Develops an individualized recovery plan; to qualify be referred by a member of your multi-disciplinary team, your commander, wounded warrior program, or through self-referral	**877-732-4456**
Fort Family Outreach and Support Provides relevant information and responsive support for Army Reserve Soldiers and families	**866-345-8248**
InTransition Mental Health Coaching and Support Assists Service members receiving mental health treatment make a transition between health care systems or providers by connecting them to the right resources	**800-424-7877 (CONUS)** **314-387-4700 (Overseas)**
Marine Corps Sergeant Merlin German Wounded Warrior Call Center Conducts outreach calls to offer assistance; assists Marines, families, and caregivers with benefits and referrals	**877-487-6299**
Military Crisis Line *(Includes texting at 838255 and chat at veteranscrisisline.net)* Hotline to help yourself or someone you know who might be in danger, or be a danger to others	**800-273-8255 (CONUS)** **0080012738255 or DSN 118* (OCONUS)**
Military OneSource Wounded Warrior ES Provides specialty consultation services; access to immediate assistance	**800-342-9647**
Military Spouse Employment Partnerships Provides career exploration opportunities; education and training to help identify academic, licensing, or credentialing requirements; employment readiness assistance; and employment connections; Spouse Career Center from M–F, 7:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. (ET), and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (ET)	**800-342-9647**

My HealtheVet Provides access to the VA's Personal Health Record via a toll-free number; M–F, 6:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. (CT)	**1-877-327-0022**
National Domestic Violence Hotline *(Email available at thehotline.org)* Provides anonymous crisis intervention	**800-7990-SAFE (7233)**
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline *(Includes online chat at suicidepreventionlifeline.org and texting at 838255)* Helps distressed warriors find a reason to keep living; connects individuals to a skilled, trained counselor at a local crisis center	**800-273-TALK (8255)** For veterans, press 1 En Español oprima el 2
National Veterans Foundation *(Includes online chat at nvf.org)* Provides crisis management, information and referrals for veterans of any era	**888-777-4443**
Navy Safe Harbor Program Provides personalized support and assistance to wounded, ill, or injured Sailors and their families	**855-NAVY-WWP (6289-997)**
OEF/OIF/OND Care Management Program Helps Service members and caregivers navigate local VA programs during their transition	**877-222-8387**
Rape, Abuse, Incest National Network *(Includes online chat at ohl.rainn.org/online)* Provides crisis intervention and support; information about medical issues; and referrals to resources in your area	**800-656-HOPE (4673)**
USSOCOM Care Coalition Program Provides opportunity for career transition for Special Operations Forces wounded, ill, or injured Service members who may not meet medical requirements of their Service	**877-672-3039** **813-826-8888**
Vet Center Combat Call Center A confidential call center where combat veterans and their families can talk with a staff of peers	**877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)**
Veterans Benefits Administration Portal for veteran health care, benefit programs, and services	**800-327-1000**

Veteran Crisis Hotline ♥ 🏠 *(Includes texting at 838255 and online chat at veteranscrisisline.net)* Call this hotline if there is a crisis or you are worried someone is in danger	**800-273-8255 (press 1)**
Vets 4 Warriors ♥ *(Includes online chat at vets4warriors.com; email contactus@vets4warriors.com)* Offers a confidential peer support service and does not discuss calls with the military, VA, or anyone else	**855-838-8255**
Women Veterans Call Center ♥ 🏠 Provides a single avenue for women Veterans to get the help they need	**855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636)**
Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline ♥ *(Includes email at wsfsupport@conus.army.mil)* Offers wounded, ill, and/or injured Soldiers and their families a way to share concerns on the quality of patient care	**800-984-8523**
Wounded Warrior Project Resource Center ♥ *(Includes email resourcecenter@woundedwarriorproject.org)* A contact center that actively reaches out to warriors and caregivers; M–F, 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (ET)	**888-997-2586**

National Resource Directory

www.NRD.gov

The National Resource Directory provides access to thousands of programs and services at the national, state, and local levels to assist in the recovery, rehabilitation, and community integration of wounded warriors, Service members, veterans, families, and caregivers.

Find information on:

Benefits & Compensation
- DoD Benefits
- VA Benefits
- Filing Claims & Appeals

Education & Training
- GI Bill & Educational Assistance
- Financial Aid
- Continuing Education
- Career Counseling

Employment
- Job Services
- Workplace Accommodations
- Transition Assistance

Family & Caregiver Support
- Family Support
- Children & Youth Resources
- Financial Information & Assistance

Health
- Medical & Rehabilitation Resources
- Psychological & Behavioral Conditions
- Health Care Provider Resources

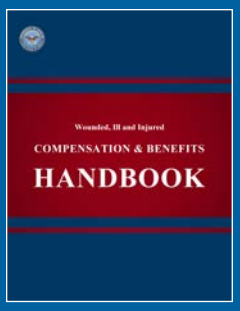
Homeless Assistance
- Government & Non-Profit Programs
- Shelters & Meals
- Emergency & Transitional Housing

Housing
- Housing Locators
- Loans & Financial Assistance
- Off-Base & Accessible Housing

Transportation & Travel
- Military Travel Pay
- Transportation Assistance
- Automobile Adaptations

Other Services & Resources
- Wounded Warrior Programs
- Women's Resources
- Financial Assistance

STAY CONNECTED!



DoD Compensation and Benefits Handbook for Wounded, Ill, and Injured Members of the Armed Forces, 2011

Download at: *turbotap.org*

The Compensation and Benefits Handbook can help you understand and make better use of the processes, procedures, and resources that wounded, ill, or injured Service members and their family/caregiver may need. Topic areas include Recovery, Medical Care, DoD Pay and Allowances, The Disability Evaluation System, Disability Compensation, Survivor Benefit Plan, Social Security, Reintegration, and VA benefits.

Many of the answers to your questions will depend on your specific, personal circumstances. Take advantage of the assistance of your Recovery Care Coordinator (RCC), Army Wounded Warrior (AW2) Program Advocate, Navy Safe Harbor Non-Medical Care Manager (NMCM), or Federal Recovery Coordinator (FRC) to find the answers to your questions or help you contact the appropriate experts.

Advocacy and Benefit Information

American Legion	www.legion.org	Provides access to Veterans Service Officers who offer free advice and guidance for veterans who need to deal with VA
American Red Cross ES	www.redcross.org	Assists veterans and their family members in preparing evidence to support claims for veterans' benefits; also assists with appeals
AMVETS	www.amvets.org	Provides direct representation when filing for benefits with VA, at no cost to the veteran
Benefits.gov ES	www.benefits.gov	Provides online pathway to government benefits; sponsored by DOL
Disability.gov	www.disability.gov	Provides comprehensive online information on disability programs and services in communities nationwide; searches can be narrowed to the caregiver audience; sponsored by DOL
Disabled American Veterans	www.dav.org	Provides help filing for VA disability compensation and benefits
DoD Compensation and Benefits Handbook for Wounded, Ill, and Injured Service Members	warriorcare.dodlive.mil	Provides a quick reference from rehabilitation to reintegration; links to resource sites; answers immediate questions and leads to additional answers
eBenefits	www.ebenefits.va.gov	Offers a central location for veterans, Service members, and their families to research, find, access, and manage benefits and personal information

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Non-Profit Organization
Veterans Service Organizations
Military Children
Español Available
Smartphone App

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors, 2011 Edition	www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp	Quick link about detailed and up-to-date information regarding veterans' benefits
Handbook of Injured Service Members and Their Families (2010)	www.fallenherofund.org	Offers concise information on various benefits available online at no cost
InTransition Mental Health Coaching and Support	www.health.mil/intransition	Helps Service members receiving mental health treatment make a successful transition between health care systems or providers
Military Order of the Purple Heart	www.purpleheart.org	Provides a network of National Service Officers (NSO) across the nation, usually co-located with a VA facility to help with VA issues; call 888-668-1656 to find the nearest NSO
National Veterans Foundation Resource Center	www.nvf.org/va-benefits	Explains the eligibility requirements for various benefits, how to apply for them, and how to get more information
Navy Family Ombudsman Program	ombudsmanregistry.org	Serves as the communication link between the Commanding Officer and family members
Paralyzed Veterans of America	www.pva.org	Assists veterans with spinal cord injury and disease as well as other veterans needing assistance with VA benefits, entitlements, medical care, and other benefits
Social Security Disability Benefits for Wounded Warriors	www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors	A site sponsored by the Social Security Administration that explains disability benefits for recovering Service members
Transition Assistance Advisors	www.taapmo.com	Lists statewide points of contact to assist members in accessing VA benefits and health care services
Veterans Benefit Administration	benefits.va.gov/benefits	Provides information needed to begin to file for VA benefits such as compensation, home loans, education, life insurance, pensions, etc.

Veterans' Families United Foundation	www.armedforces foundation.org	Helps guide caregivers to resources or answers to specific questions related to veteran or family issues; includes section on "How to intervene to help your veteran"
Veterans of Foreign Wars	www.vfw.org	Provides help filing for VA disability compensation and benefits
Wounded Soldier Family Hotline	www.armymedicine.army.mil/wsfh/index.html	Offers recovering Service members and their families a way to share concerns on the quality of patient care; call 800-984-8523; or email *wsfsupport@conus.army.mil;* available 24/7
Wounded Warrior Project	www.woundedwarrior project.org	Works closely with warriors to understand and apply for VA and DoD benefits

Language Translation Services

Military OneSource offers language translation services to caregivers who do not speak English. Its services include translation of Military OneSource content, document translation, and simultaneous language interpretation services. Search “language translators” and select from a long list of language translation services. Or call a Military OneSource consultant at 800-342-9647.

From outside the United States and Canada, call 800-342-9647 or call collect 703-253-7599.

Be sure to check out the resources in this Directory noted with the Español icon (ES), which highlights services with resources already available for Spanish speaking individuals.

For more information: www.militaryonesource.mil

Career Transitions and Employment

Career Guidance

Armed Forces Foundation	www.armedforces foundation.org	Offers career counseling
Defenders of Freedom	defendersoffreedom.us	Offers life and career mentoring, job search assistance, and general assistance transitioning to the civilian sector
Hero 2 Hired	www.H2H.jobs	Offers career exploration tools, military-to-civilian skills translators, and education and training resources
Hire Heroes USA	www.hireheroesusa.org	Provides dedicated assistance to each veteran from a highly-trained staff member to help them overcome barriers to employment; look into their VetNet program
Hope for the Warriors Above and Beyond Program	www.hopeforthe warriors.org	Explores "next step" options for a civilian or military career, higher education/advanced training, or a small business startup
International Franchise Association's VetFran Toolkit	www.vetfran.com/ veterans-toolkit	Fosters access to franchise opportunities for veterans and military spouses
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Career Pathfinder	iava.org/career-pathfinder	Includes resume builder, military skills translator, and career mapping tool
Job Opportunities for Disabled American Veterans	www.JOFDAV.com	Offers free career tips to job seekers

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Veterans Service Organizations
Military Children
Español Available
Smartphone App

Military One Source Spouse Career Center	www.militaryonesource.mil/seco	Provides high quality education and career services, resources, guidance, and consultations accessible online or by calling 1-800-342-9647
Military Spouse Employment Partnerships	msepjobs.militaryonesource.mil	Provides career exploration opportunities; education and training to help identify academic, licensing, or credentialing requirements; employment readiness assistance; and employment connections; join their Linkedin group for discussions, news, job postings, and more
Military to Federal Jobs Crosswalk	www.dllr.state.md.us/mil2fedjobs	Helps translate military occupations to federal jobs
Military Warriors Support Foundation	www.militarywarriors.org	Provides the link between partnering companies and veterans
MilSpouse eMentoring Program	www.ementorprogram.org/p/milspouse	Offers personalized career guidance and support from more experienced spouses, career mentors and veteran-friendly employers
Semper Fi Fund	www.semperfifund.org	Assists with books, fees, training, interview attire, and equipment; offers Veterans 2 Veterans Program at seven locations
Student Veterans of America	www.studentveterans.org	Provides veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education and following graduation
Tutor.com	www.tutor.com	Teaches resume writing
USA Cares	www.usacares.org	Offers career building and training; provides money for travel to job interviews
USO Warrior and Family Care Program	www.uso.org/warriorandfamilycare	Focuses on resume writing, mock interviews, professional work practices, and translating prior military experience into a civilian career
VA for Vets	vaforvets.va.gov	Offers career-search tools for veterans seeking employment at VA, career development services for our existing veterans, and coaching and reintegration support for Service members
Vet Power	www.vetpower.org	Helps veterans start and grow their own home-based and franchised businesses

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program	www.benefits.va.gov/VOW	Offers up to 12 months of retraining assistance to veterans who meet all the specific criteria
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment	www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre	Provides assistance in establishing employment and educational goals; vocational testing and counseling services, and training for independent living are also provided
Yellow Ribbon Fund	www.yellowribbonfund.org	Helps injured Service members build new lives through education and career guidance, networking, and job shadowing

Job Search

Defenders of Freedom	defendersoffreedom.us/jobs-for-dof.php	Provides a mentor to review resumes, match up potential jobs, set up a plan for submission of the resume to companies, and coach prior to interviews
Helmets to Hardhats	www.helmetstohardhats.org	Offers career opportunities in the construction industry that match military backgrounds
Hero 2 Hired	www.H2H.jobs	Allows job searches by city/state; offers career tools, military-to-civilian skills translations, education and training resources for Reserve component members
Hiring Heroes Program	godefense.cpms.osd.mil/veterans	Offers multiple avenues to ask questions and discuss employment with a career advisor; 888-DOD-4USA (888-363-4872) or TTY 703-696-5436
Hiring Our Heroes	www.uschamber.com/hiringourheroes	Helps veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment through the Chamber of Commerce network; look into their VetNet program
Job Explorer	www.mcjex.net	Free job search engine for military community
Job Opportunities for Disabled Veterans	www.JOFDAV.com	Provides job postings for disabled veterans
Military Spouse Employment Partnerships	msepjobs.militaryonesource.mil	Creates employment connections that provide companies with direct access to military spouses seeking career opportunities and spouses with direct access to employers who are actively recruiting
Military Warriors Support Foundation CEOs4Warriors	www.militarywarriors.org/ceos4heroes	Provides a link between partnering companies and veterans seeking employment opportunities
National Labor Exchange ES	us.jobs/national-labor-exchange	Provides free job-seeker services; job openings on more than 9,000 corporate career websites and from state job banks

National Veterans Foundation	www.nvf.org	Provides current job listings
Recruit Military	recruitmilitary.com	Hosts resume database and job board
USA Jobs	www.usajobs.gov	Official OPM website for government and federal jobs
Veterans Enterprise	www.veterans enterprise.com	Connects warriors with employers who recruit transitioning Service members
Warrior Gateway	www.warriorgateway.org	Connects Service members, veterans, and their families with government programs as well as local non-profit organizations
Yellow Ribbon Fund Mentoring Program	www.yellowribbonfund.org	Offers education and career guidance, networking, and job shadowing

Military Transition Programs

AF Wounded Warrior Program	www.woundedwarrior.af.mil	Provides professional services such as transition assistance and employment assistance
Army Career Alumni Program (ACAP XXI)	www.acap.army.mil	Provides pre-separation guidance, job assistance training, and interview skills
Career One Stop	www.careeronestop.org/ReEmployment/Veterans	Offers information on unemployment benefits, re-employment, and career assistance; sponsored by DOL
DoD Hiring Heroes Program	godefense.cpms.osd.mil/veterans	Offers avenues to ask questions and discuss employment with a career advisor; 888-DOD-4USA
Education and Employment Initiative (E2I)	warriorcare.dodlive.mil/wounded-warrior-resources/e2i	Finds employment opportunities and provides career planning support for recovering Service members before they transition
Feds Hire Vets	www.fedshirevets.gov	Provides information on federal job preferences and special job hiring authorities
G.I. Go Fund	www.gigofund.org	Provides assistance to military veterans by helping them find employment, access housing, and secure benefits
Marine Corps Transition Assistance Management Program	www.usmc-mccs.org	Provides career, education, and employment assistance to separating Marines and family
National Veterans Transition Services	www.nvtsi.org	Offers transition workshops to help veterans and spouses adjust to civilian life
Navy Transition GPS/TAP	www.cnic.navy.mil	Provides separating/retiring Service members and their families with the skills, tools, and confidence to re-enter the civilian work force
REALifelines	www.dol.gov/vets/programs/Real-life	Links Service members and their families with local community resources to support their recovery and reemployment

Safe Harbor Foundation Anchors Program	safeharbor.navylive.dodlive.mil/transition/anchor-program	Connects Sailors with mentors who assist with the challenges associated with returning to civilian life
Still Serving Veterans	www.stillservingveterans.org	Helps Service members and families transition to post-military lives
Transition Assistance Advisors	www.taapmo.com	Lists points of contact to assist members in accessing VA benefits and health care services
Turbo Transition Assistance Program	www.turbotap.org	Provides full transition resources
USSOCOM Care Coalition	www.socom.mil/CareCoalition	Provides career transition for Special Operations Forces warriors and their caregivers
VetNet	vetnethq.com	Includes information on companies looking to hire veterans and spouses
Vet Success	www.vetsuccess.gov	Provides a virtual employment resource center for veterans
Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program	www.yellowribbon.mil	Offers events where Reservists, Guardsmen, and their families can get information on health care, education/training opportunities, and legal benefits

DD Form 214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge"

The DD Form 214 is a very important document and is key to participation in all VA programs as well as state and federal programs.

Most states require the DD Form 214 be officially filed with the County Registrar's Office without charge, which provides a safe location and a way to go back later and get additional copies.

You can request a replacement copy of the DD Form 214 online at the National Personnel Records Center website, *www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records.*

Caregiver Support

Caregiving Knowledge and Skills

AARP	www.aarp.org	Offers free online seminars and educational resources
American Red Cross Family Caregiver Courses and Certifications	www.redcross.org/take-a-class	Teaches practical skills and coping strategies; classroom and self-study options available at the local chapter
American Red Cross First Aid, CPR and AED Training	www.redcross.org/take-a-class	Offers both certified and non-certified training options
Armed Forces YMCA	www.asymca.org	Implements local programs and services (family life, medical, recreation and fitness, education, CPR and First Aid Training)
Caregivers' Resources (USA.gov)	www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Health/caregivers.shtml	Helps finding nursing homes, assisted living, or hospice; checks eligibility for benefits; sponsored by General Services Administration
Caregiver's Journey	www.traumaticbraininjuryatoz.org	Caregiver's Journey: TBI Guide for Caregivers of Service members and veterans
Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress	www.cstsonline.org	Shares research and *Courage to Care* fact sheets
Coaching into Care	www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching	Provides support and problem solving assistance and information about available programs or enrolling in VA care

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Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury	www.dcoe.health.mil	Provides TBI information, tips for treating mild TBI and PTSD, integrative health and wellness, and provider resources; special section on “Supporting Your Service Member”
Easter Seals Caregiver Training Program	www.easterseals.com	Provides training to eligible caregivers on self care, home safety, caregiver skills, veteran personal care, managing difficult behaviors, and support resources
Family Caregiver Alliance National Center on Caregiving	www.familycaregiving 101.org	Provides caregiving 101 and fact sheets, discussion groups, telephone conferences, and other educational resources, including the Family Care Navigator, which provides state-by-state resources
Military Family Caregiving Online Training	www.extension.org/ militaryfamilies	Provides an interactive learning environment with caregiving skills training, tips, and resources; offered by the Military Family Extension-University of District of Columbia
My HealtheVet Caregiver Assistance Center	www.myhealth.va.gov/ mhv-portal-web	Designed to help caregivers take better care of themselves; offers information on VA benefits and services and community resources
National Alliance for Caregiving	www.caregiving.org	Provides free brochures on caregiving
National Military Family Association	www.militaryfamily.org/ your-benefits/wounded-warriors	Provides caregivers assistance with navigating DoD and VA support programs and health care; lists caregiver benefits
Network of Care	www.networkofcare.org	Offers community-based resources and tools for caregivers including a library of articles, fact sheets, and reports
Next Step in Care (Family Caregivers and Medical Professionals Working Together)	www.nextstepincare.org/ Caregiver_Home	Intended for both new and experienced caregivers, the guide offers nine practical first steps new caregivers should take and advice for pacing oneself for the long term

Prepare to Care (AARP Foundation)	aarp.org/home-family/caregiving	Family Caregiving Planning Guide includes information on how to get started, questions to ask, and where to find basic resources
Real Warriors Campaign	www.realwarriors.net/family/support/psychhealth.php	Provides information on how to support Service members with psychological health concerns
Strength for Caring	www.strengthforcaring.com	Includes articles and resource center
Support and Family Education (SAFE)	www.ouhsc.edu/safeprogram	Presents 18-session family education modules for people who care about someone living with mental illness or PTSD
TBI: Family Caregiver Curriculum	www.traumaticbraininjuryatoz.org	Trains individuals to provide care and assistance to members and former members of the Armed Forces with TBI
VA Caregiver Support	www.caregiver.va.gov/toolbox_landing.asp	Includes caregiver toolbox
VA Health Benefits and Services	www.va.gov/healthBenefits/resources/eligibility_check.asp	Support includes Caregiver Eligibility Check for VA program; assistance applying for VA's Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program at 877-222-VETS (877-222-8387)
Veterans' Families United Foundation	veteransfamiliesunited.org	Provides checklists to organize caregiving

Caregiver's Mental Health and Wellbeing

Afterdeployment	www.afterdeployment.org	Offers wellness resources for the military community
American Red Cross ES	www.redcross.org	Helps with food, clothing, and shelter, referrals to counseling services (e.g., financial, legal, mental health), respite care for caregivers, and other resources
Care for the Family Caregiver—A Place to Start	www.caregiving.org/data/Emblem_CfC10_Final2.pdf	This helpful and informative booklet serves family caregivers
Caregiver Stress	www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/caregiver-stress.cfm	Provides caregiver stress fact sheets; sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services
Child and Family Program of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress	www.couragetotalk.org	Courage to care, courage to talk; resources for family and friends to communicate more effectively about war injuries
Coaching into Care	www.mirecc.va.gov/Coaching/PostDeploymentStress_Families.pdf	Booklet on Post Deployment Stress—What Families Should Know, What Families Can Do
Coming Home Project	www.cominghomeproject.net	Offers free counseling in Northern California; provides information and referral services to others
Family Caregivers Briefcase (American Psychological Association)	www.apa.org/pi/about/publications/caregivers/final-report-2010.aspx	Includes 160 pages of information and resources for and about caregivers
Family of a Vet	www.familyofavet.com	Provides free download of "Taking Care of Me" packet and much more information

Give an Hour	www.giveanhour.org	Offers therapists who have signed up to "give an hour" a week for up to a year; use the "Provider Search" function to find a therapist nearby
Hearts of Valor	www.operationhomefront.net/servicedetail.aspx?id=1034	Provides female caregivers opportunities to build relationships, access resources, and enjoy brief moments of rest and respite
Joint Family Support Assistance Program	www.jointservicessupport.org	Provides support for families who are far from a military installation; services are delivered through collaborative partnership with Federal, State, and local resources
Military Crisis Line	www.veteranscrisisline.net	Free hotline; call 800-273-8255, text also at 838255 or chat online at *veteranscrisisline.net/activeduty*
Military and Family Life Counselor Program	www.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Booklets/MFLC_Program_Brochure.pdf	Provides support for relationships, stress management, grief, and other challenges; no cost to Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and family members
Military OneSource ES	www.militaryonesource.mil	Provides in-person and telephonic counseling; special category on "Caring for Injured Service Member"
Military Pathways	www.militarymentalhealth.org	Provides 24/7 access to free, anonymous online mental health self assessments
National Guard Bureau Psychological Health Services	www.jointservicessupport.org/resourcefinder/topic.aspx	Directors of Psychological Health are available in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia to provide telephone and face-to-face consultations; free and confidential; search website for local contacts and resources
Rand Corporation	www.rand.org/pubs/corporate_pubs/2008/RAND_CP535-2008-03.pdf	Booklet: Post Deployment Stress, What Families Should Know, What Families Can Do
Restore Warriors (Wounded Warrior Project)	www.restorewarriors.org	Offers questionnaire and online help for stress, loss, self esteem, relationships, etc.

The Soldier's Project	www.thesoldiersproject.org/getting-help	Offers free psychotherapy
TRICARE Telemental Health Services	www.tricare.mil/livewell/mentalhealth/treatments/telementalhealth	Offers a network of offsite providers who can evaluate, treat and refer you as necessary via video; contact TRICARE regional coordinator to request services
Special Operations Warrior Foundation	www.specialops.org/?page=Programs	Provides caregivers of Special Operations Forces personnel with spa services
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration	www.samhsa.gov	Offers treatment locations, downloads, videos, and publications
VA Caregiver Support	www.caregiver.va.gov/toolbox_landing.asp	Provides a caregiver toolbox, diagnosis care sheets, everyday tips, and help staying organized
Vet Centers	www.vetcenter.va.gov	Offers free individual and family counseling to eligible Veterans and families at 300 local Vet Centers

The veteran care recipients tend to be much younger than caregivers nationally, with **40%** of caregivers saying the veteran is between the ages of **18 and 54**…

…**96%** of caregivers of veterans are **women**, and 70% provide care to their spouse or partner.

National Alliance for Caregiving 2010
"Caregivers of Veterans—Serving on the Homefront"

Child Care Assistance for Families of Severely Injured Military Members

National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) have partnered to provide families of severely injured military members with assistance to find and pay for safe, licensed child care services for a period of six months during their period of recuperation. Extensions beyond the six-month period will be considered based upon physician reassessment. The program is available nationwide wherever the injured member is receiving either in-patient or out-patient medical care. NACCRRA will coordinate with state and local child care resources and referral agencies to help military families locate child care in the civilian community when a military program is unavailable. This will allow the spouse to be at bedside or to help with outpatient medical appointments. NACCRRA and DoD will provide an offset to the civilian child care fees during the recovery period.

For more information: www.naccrra.org/military-families

Children's Needs

Child Care Assistance

Armed Forces Foundation	www.armedforces foundation.org	Offers child care during illness, surgery, and recovery
Army One Source	www.myarmyone source.com	Gives child care referrals
AuPairCare	www.aupaircare.com	Provides live-in child care at affordable prices
Childcare Aware	www.childcareaware.org	Allows users to search for child care by zip code; includes general advice and resources
Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood	www.naccrra.org/ military-families	Provides fee assistance for Active Duty and civilian technicians who are unable to access on-post child care
Military OneSource ES	www.militaryonesource.mil	Provides assistance with any child care related services and counseling
Operation Military Child Care	www.childcareaware.org	Supports Reserve component and geographically dispersed military families; provides assistance while looking for employment
Operation Second Chance	www.operationsecond chance.org/support andassistance	Provides child care during illness or surgery
Respite Child Care	www.naccrra.org/ military-families	Offers 16 hours of respite child care per month at no cost; not intended to be a substitute for regularly scheduled child care (i.e., to go to work or attend school); limited to eligibility guidelines and funding availability

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Sitter City	www.sittercity.com/dod	Offers free membership to help find fee-based child care, housekeeping, and animal care services
Yellow Ribbon Fund	www.yellowribbonfund.org	Offers babysitting, kid matinees, and pool days

Children's Health and Wellbeing

American Legion	www.legion.org	Awards cash grants to minor children of veterans who are eligible for American Legion membership
Armed Services YMCA's Operation Hero Program	www.asymca.org/index.php/what-we-do-3/national-programs-services/operation-hero	Targets children ages six to 12 years who exhibit low self esteem or difficulty adjusting academically/socially in school
Child and Family Program of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress	www.couragetotalk.org	Courage to care, courage to talk; resources for family and friends to communicate more effectively about war injuries
Family of a Vet	www.familyofavet.com/parent_teacher_packet	Parent/teacher packet about PTSD
FOCUS Program	www.focusproject.org	Offers resilience training for children and teens
K2 Adventures Foundation	www.k2adventures.org/about-k2	Provides services, support, and funds for educational and medical enrichment for families with special needs and/or life changing medical circumstances
Military Child Education Coalition	www.militarychild.org	Advocates for military children's educational needs
Military Families Knowledge Bank	mfkb.nctsn.org	Includes useful resources available to assist traumatized children and their families

Military Kids Connect	militarykidsconnect.org	Connects online community of military children (ages 6-17) to informative activities, fun games, and helpful videos
MilKidz Club	www.bluestarfam.org/milkidz-club	Offers free tickets and other events for military children
Military OneSource ES	www.militaryonesource.mil/wounded-warrior	Distributes free booklet, “Honoring Our Babies and Toddlers”
Mission Sleep	www.missionsleep.org	Provides free, overnight newborn care when parent’s partner is deployed or wounded
Mission Youth Outreach	www.bgcaa.com	Allows geographically dispersed Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve youth to attend a local boys and girls club at no cost to the family
National Military Family Association	www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/operation-purple	Puts on Operation Purple Retreats
New Parent Support Program	www.militaryonesource.mil/parenting?content_id=266691	Helps parents and expectant parents develop skills needed to provide a nurturing environment; free service on most installations
Operation Homefront	www.operationhomefront.net	Offers assistance with baby food, diapers, formula, etc.
Operation Military Kids	www.operationmilitarykids.org	Supports military kids impacted by deployment and those geographically dispersed
Our Military Kids	www.ourmilitarykids.org	Pays for children's participation in extra-curricular activities
Rand Corporation	www.rand.org/pubs/corporate_pubs/2008/RAND_CP535-2008-03.pdf	Booklet: Post Deployment Stress, What Families Should Know, What Families Can Do
Semper Fi Fund	www.semperfifund.org	Provides a Kids Camps week where campers are matched up with high school student mentors
Sesame Street Connections	www.sesamestreet.org/tlc	Provides support and resources for military children between the ages of two and five; DVDs offered by USO at many centers

The General's Kids	www.thegeneralskids.org	Helps cover costs so children can participate in local activities such as sports, music, and dance
Trevor Romain Foundation, "Taking Care of You" Kit	www.uso.org/warriorandfamilycare	Distributes DVDs and books to support military children who are dealing with a "new normal"
Tutor.com	www.tutor.com	Provides online tutoring program
Yellow Ribbon Fund	www.yellowribbonfund.org	Offers babysitting, kid matinees, and pool days
Zero to Three	www.zerotothree.org	Distributes free booklet to support young children whose parent/caregiver has been injured

Education and Training

Scholarships, Loans, and Grants

Air Force Aid Society	www.afas.org/ed-loans	Distributes $2,000 need-based grants to full-time college undergraduates who are dependent children and spouses of Active Duty Air Force, retirees, or deceased members
Air Force Association Spouse Scholarships	www.afa.org/aef/aid/scholars	Encourages Air Force spouses to pursue undergraduate or graduate degrees
American Legion	www.legion.org/scholarships	Offers scholarships and other resources to assist young people in their pursuit of higher education, including kin of wartime veterans and participants in Legion programs.
AMVETS Scholarships	www.amvets.org/programs/scholarships	Awards scholarships to veterans/Active military, their sons, daughters, and grandchildren
Army Emergency Relief	www.aerhq.org/dnn563	Provides financial assistance for Army spouses and dependent children who are pursuing their first undergraduate degree
Federal Student Aid	studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/military	Offers scholarship information for military members and families; sponsored by the Department of Education
Fisher House Foundation Military Scholarships	www.militaryscholar.org	Open to sons and daughters of Active Duty, Reserve/Guard, or retired commissary customers
Folds of Honor	www.foldsofhonor.org	Offers scholarships not based on need or merit for spouses and dependents of Service members

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Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund	freedomalliance.org/programs/scholarship-fund	Funds scholarships for dependent children of Active Duty Service members who were killed or permanently disabled (100% VA rating)
Green Beret Foundation	greenberetfoundation.org/scholarships	Provides scholarships for children of wounded, ill, or injured U.S. Army Special Forces Soldiers
Hope for the Warriors	www.hopeforthewarriors.org	Provides caregivers/spouses scholarships at an accredited university, college, or trade school
Job Explorer	www.mcsfex.net	Allows users to search for military friendly scholarships for Service members and families
John and Betty Pope Scholarship Program	www.rosalynncarter.org/PopeFellowship/	Provides financial assistance for the online Caregiving Issues and Management Certificate Program at Georgia Southwestern State University
Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation	www.marine-scholars.org	Provides scholarships for children of active duty and veteran Marines
Mattie J. T. Stepanek Caregiving Scholarship	www.rosalynncarter.org/Mattie Stepanek/	Provides financial assistance to caregivers who are seeking training or education in specific skills, procedures, and strategies that lead to more effective care
Military Officers Association of America	www.moaa.org	Offers interest-free loans, scholarships, and grants for students seeking undergraduate degrees
Military Order of the Purple Heart Scholarship Program	www.purpleheart.org	Awards scholarships to select students who complete the application process and meet certain criteria
Military Spouse Career Advancement Account Program (MyCAA)	aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa	Scholarship program helps you get the credentials you need to achieve your career goal; provides up to $4,000 of financial assistance to eligible military spouses who are pursuing a license, certification or Associate's degree in a portable career field and occupation

Military Warrior Support Foundation Education 4 Heroes	www.militarywarriors.org/education4heroes	Helps cover tuition and educational costs at an accredited higher learning institution at the in-state fee level
National Military Family Association Military Spouse Scholarships	www.militaryfamily.org	Provides tuition, fees, and school room and board for GED/ESL, vocational training, professional certification, post-secondary, graduate school, in-class/online, and full/part time
Navy Marine Corps Relief Society	www.nmcrs.org	Assists eligible Sailors, Marines, and families to pursue academic goals by providing a source of education financing
No Greater Sacrifice	www.nogreatersacrifice.org	Provides scholarships and other educational resources for children of America's heroes
Post GI Bill	www.gibill.va.gov	Covers up to 36 months of education benefits, including monthly housing allowance; transferability of benefits to eligible dependents allowed
Post GI Bill Calculator (Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America)	newgibill.org/calculator	Calculates GI Bill benefits plus Frequently Asked Questions
Semper Fi Fund	www.semperfifund.org	Assists with costs of books, fees, and training; travel to job interviews; and equipment
ThanksUSA	www.thanksusa.org	Awards college, technical, and vocational school need-based scholarships to children and spouses
The Retired Enlisted Association Memorial Foundation Scholarship	www.trea.org	Awarded to dependent children, grandchildren, or great grandchildren of a TREA member; essay required
Tillman Military Scholarship Program	www.pattillmanfoundation.org/tillman-military-scholars	Offers direct study-related expenses such as tuition, fees, books, room and board, and other needs, such as child care
Veterans of Foreign Wars	www.vfw.org/Community/Programs	Provides scholarships to high school students through the VFW's Voice of Democracy audio-essay competition

Training, Rehabilitation, and Internships

Education and Employment Initiative (E2I)	warriorcare.dodlive.mil/wounded-warrior-resources/e2i	Finds employment opportunities and provides career planning support for recovering Service members before they transition
Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities (EBV)	whitman.syr.edu/ebv	Provides experiential training in entrepreneurship and small business management to post 9/11 veterans with disabilities, at no cost
Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans' Families (EBV-F)	whitman.syr.edu/ebv/programs/families	Integrates training in small business management with caregiver and family issues, at no cost
Mission Continues	missioncontinues.org	Provides community service fellowships for veterans followed by full time employment, pursuit of higher education, or permanent role in service
Operation Warfighter	warriorcare.dodlive.mil/wounded-warrior-resources/operation-warfighter	Federal internship program for active duty recovering Service members
PAVE (Paving Access for Veterans Employment)	www.PVA.org	Provides one-on-one support for coordinating rehabilitation needs with medical care and VA benefits
Troops to Teachers Program	www.proudtoserveagain.com	Helps eligible military personnel begin a new career as teachers in public schools
VA Work-Study Program	gibill.va.gov/resources/education_resources/programs/work_study_program.html	Offers part-time employment to students receiving VA education benefits related to VA; work at school or nearby VA facility
VetNet	vetnethq.com	Includes inside information on companies looking to hire veterans and spouses
Vet Power	vetpower.org	Offers a connection to nine universities who provide free entrepreneurial studies programs

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program	www.vetsuccess.gov	Provides up to 12 months of retraining for high-demand jobs; visit *ebenefits.va.gov* to apply
Veterans Upward Bound	www2.ed.gov/programs/triovub	Assists veterans with refreshing their academic skills to succeed in post-secondary schooling
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment	www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre	Offers assistance with employment, education, and training for independent living

Travel Benefits for Caregivers

If the recovering Service member is being treated away from his or her family, family members and caregivers may be able to travel at government expense to be with the recovering Service member. Travel is handled much like other military travel and requires submitting a travel voucher for payment.

Up to three members of the immediate family may be eligible to travel to the recovering Service member's location while he or she is an in-patient. When the recovering Service member becomes an outpatient, the local finance office can provide one family member orders to remain during recovery. Recent changes to the Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR) now allow more than one non-medical attendant present under extenuating circumstances.* Family members who are eligible for this travel include parents, spouses, children, and siblings. Like the military travel orders, incremental payments and extensions to the orders may be needed if the stay as an outpatient is an extended one. Family members' travel orders will cover the cost of travel, hotel bills, meals, and some incidental expenses up to a maximum daily amount determined by the location. Some expenses, like a rental car costs are not reimbursable. Each Service handles the process of issuing orders for family members and reimbursing them for expenses in a slightly different manner.

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* JFTR change 291 to JFTR U5250-C, dated 1 March 2011.

For more information, download the DoD Compensation and Benefits Handbook, 2011 at: turbotap.org

Financial Support

General Assistance

Air Force Aid Society	www.afas.org	Provides interest free loans and grants for basic living expenses, emergency travel, vehicle expenses, medical/dental, child care/respite, moving expenses, etc.
American Legion	www.legion.org	Awards cash grants to minor children of veterans who are eligible for American Legion membership for the cost of shelter, food, utilities, and health expenses
American Red Cross	www.redcross.org	Provides quality, reliable financial assistance to eligible applicants 24/7/365
America's Fund	americasfund.org	Provides direct financial assistance to all Service members and families for expenses during a long hospitalization or rehabilitation for travel and lodging expenses, child care, and out of pocket expenses
Armed Forces Foundation	www.armedforces foundation.org	Provides financial support with utilities, rent, and mortgage
Armed Forces YMCA	www.asymca.org	Offers grants for junior enlisted personnel
Army Emergency Relief	www.aerhq.org/dnn563	Army's own emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own"
Army One Source	www.myarmyone source.com	Offers tools such as Army Gold Game, and calculators

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Hope for the Warriors—Critical Care Coordination	www.hopeforthewarriors.org	Offers grants to cover household utilities, gas cards for vehicles to get to appointments, money for groceries, rent, mortgage, and rental deposits
Homeowners Assistance Program (Expanded)	hap.usace.army.mil	Assists eligible homeowners who face financial loss when selling their primary residence homes in areas where real estate values have declined
Lead the Way Fund	www.leadthewayfund.org	Provides spouses and children of deceased, disabled, or Active Duty 75 RGT Rangers with assistance for health and wellness programs and other services determined to be vital to the family's well being
Military OneSource ES	www.militaryonesource.mil	Helps with money management, financial counseling, and assistance
Military Warriors Support Foundation	www.militarywarriors.org/openhomes	Awards mortgage-free homes and three years of family and financial mentoring
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society	www.nmcrs.org	Provides interest-free loans or grants for transportation, medical/dental, food, rent, and utilities, child care expenses, essential vehicle repairs, and unforeseen family emergencies
Operation First Response	www.operationfirstresponse.org	Provides financial aid based on individual needs ranging from: rent, utilities, vehicle payments, groceries, clothing, and travel expenses
Operation Homefront	www.operationhomefront.net	Provides emergency food assistance, moving expenses, home items, and auto repairs
Operation One Voice	operationonevoice.org	Helps the financial needs of children and families of wounded and fallen Special Operation Forces
Operation Second Chance	www.operationsecondchance.org/supportandassistance	Financial assistance for those currently receiving care at a military health care facility; helps with rent/mortgage and utility bills (electric, gas, water, sewer)
Rebuild Hope	www.rebuildhope.org	National network that "connects" donors to beneficiaries

Reserve Aid	reserveaid.org	Provides grants for rent/mortgage, utility, car payments, car insurance, and Wal-Mart gift card for food/fuel
Special Operations Warrior Foundation	www.specialops.org	Provides immediate financial assistance to special operations personnel severely wounded in combat; provides $3,000 immediately to families so they can be bedside at the hospital with their loved ones
Turbo Transition Assistance Program	www.turbotap.org	Offers financial planning for transition
USA Cares	www.usacares.org	Pays basic expenses—mortgage/rent, food for family and home utilities
USO Warrior and Family Care Program	www.uso.org/warriorandfamilycare	Offers financial assistance 24/7
VA Home Loan Guarantee Program	www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans	Offers guaranteed home loans, refinancing assistance, and special grants
VA Work-Study Program	gibill.va.gov/resources/education_resources/programs/work_study_program.html	Offers part-time employment to students receiving VA education benefits related to VA; work at school or nearby VA facility
Veterans of Foreign Wars Unmet Needs Program	www.vfw.org	Provides emergency grants to military families who need temporary help making ends meet

Temporary Lodging Expenses

America's Fund	americasfund.org	Provides family support grants to enable all military families to spend time at loved ones' hospital bedsides, free from the financial pressures of travel, temporary lodging, and lost wages
AMVETS National Service Foundation	www.amvetsnsf.org	Healing Heroes Program
Fisher House	www.fisherhouse.org	Hotels for Heroes Program
Navy Safe Harbor Foundation	www.safeharbor foundation.org/ pdf/2011NSHF_ Brochure.pdf	Provides financial and legal support for travel expenses, court costs, and housing/rental support
Operation Homefront	www.operationhome front.net	Provides recovering Service member transitional family housing
Yellow Ribbon Fund	www.yellowribbon fund.org	Provides free, furnished apartments and hotel rooms for families

Travel and Transportation Expenses

Air Compassion for Veterans	www.aircompassionforveterans.org	Provides transportation through commercial airline tickets
America's Fund	americasfund.org	Provides family support grants to enable all military families to spend time at loved ones' hospital bedsides, free from the financial pressures of travel, temporary lodging, and lost wages
AMVETS National Service Foundation	www.amvetsnsf.org	Healing Heroes Program
Armed Forces Foundation	www.armedforcesfoundation.org	Pays car insurance, registration payments, and car payments
Armed Forces YMCA Jack Daniel's Operation Ride Home	www.asymca.org	Provides junior enlisted (E-4 and below) single Service members, military families, and families of deployed Service members the opportunity to travel home
Fisher House	www.fisherhouse.org	Hero Miles program
Hope for the Warriors	www.hopeforthewarriors.org	Provides gas cards for vehicles to get to appointments
Luke's Wings	www.lukeswings.org	Offers free transportation assistance for caregivers, Service members, and others
Navy Safe Harbor Foundation	www.safeharborfoundation.org/pdf/2011NSHF_Brochure.pdf	Provides financial and legal support for travel expenses, court costs, and housing/rental support
Operation Second Chance	www.operationsecondchance.org/supportandassistance	Assists with travel to include special circumstances, one-way flights, and urgent or short notice flights
Soldiers' Angels Tank Support	soldiersangels.org/tank-support	Provides gasoline gift cards to help ensure returning OEF/OIF veterans get the regular checkups and medical care they need

Veterans Airlift Command	www.veteransairlift.org	Provides free air transportation for medical and other compassionate purposes through a national network of volunteer aircraft owners and pilots
Yellow Ribbon Fund	www.yellowribbonfund.org	Provides free rental cars and taxi rides

Military Family Leave Provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

Eligible employees who are the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered Service member may take up to 26 weeks of FMLA leave during a single 12-month period to care for the Service member who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, and is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of Active Duty. This provision applies to the families of Active Duty, Reserve components, and veterans of the Armed Forces.

For more information: www.dol.gov

Enhanced Eligibility for Health Care Benefits for Five Years After Discharge

Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after 11 November 1998 are eligible for an extended period of eligibility for health care for five years post discharge. Under the "Combat Veteran" authority, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides health care services and community living care for conditions possibly related to military service and enrollment in Priority Group 6, unless eligible for enrollment in a higher priority group. Combat veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after 28 January 2003, are eligible to enroll in the VA health care system for five years from the date of discharge or release.

Veterans are strongly encouraged to enroll in the program within the enhanced eligibility period even if not in need of medical care at discharge.

For more information: www.va.gov/healthbenefits

Health Care Needs

Health Benefits and Coverage

Citizen Soldier Support Center Primary Health Care and Behavioral Health Provider Directory	www.warwithin.org	Connects Service members and their families to health care and behavioral health providers nearby who are trained in issues that affect military members and their families; sponsored by UnitedHealth Group (UNH)
Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA)	www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp	Offers health care coverage for eligible individuals who are not eligible for TRICARE
Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP)	www.tricare.mil/Welcome/SpecialPrograms/CHCBP	This premium-based health care program offers temporary transitional health coverage for 18–36 months after TRICARE eligibility ends
Foreign Medical Program	www.va.gov/HAC/forbeneficiaries/fmp/fmp.asp	Provides health care benefits to veterans with VA-rated service-connected conditions who are residing or traveling abroad (Philippines excluded)
InTransition Mental Health Coach and Support Program	www.health.mil/intransition	Provides recovering Service members with encouragement from a personal coach and access to other resources to help get started with a new mental health provider
Meds by Mail	www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/forbeneficiaries.asp	A voluntary service, which provides a safe, easy and cost-free way to receive non-urgent maintenance medications delivered at home
Military Medical Support Office	www.tricare.mil/tma/MMSO	Supports medical care to remotely located Active Duty and Reserve Component Service members
My HealtheVet	www.myhealth.va.gov	Access online records to manage health care, obtain information, and get facts about VA benefits and services

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VA Program
Reserve/Guard Specific Resource
Non-Profit Organization
Veterans Service Organizations
Military Children
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Smartphone App

Rebuilding America's Warriors	www.rebuildingamericaswarriors.com	Provides free reconstructive surgery to recently wounded and disfigured active service and veteran status warriors
Transitional Assistance Management Program	www.tricare.mil/Welcome/SpecialPrograms/TAMP	Provides 180 days of transitional health care benefits after regular TRICARE benefits end; premiums based on plan option selected
Transitional Care for Service-Related Conditions	www.tricare.mil/Welcome/SpecialPrograms/TAMP/TCSRC	Extends TRICARE coverage for certain service-related conditions beyond their regular 180-day Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) coverage period; available worldwide
TRICARE—Injured on Active Duty	www.tricare.mil/wii	Explains health care programs and benefits for Service members who were injured on Active Duty
TRICARE Telemental Health Services	www.tricare.mil/livewell/mentalhealth/treatments/telementalhealth	Offers a network of offsite providers who can evaluate, treat and refer you as necessary via video; contact TRICARE regional coordinator to request services

General Medical Information

Afterdeployment	www.afterdeployment.org	Outlines DoD/VA clinical practice guidelines
Blind Rehabilitation Service	www.va.gov/blindrehab	Includes adjustment to blindness counseling, patient and family education, residential inpatient training, and outpatient rehabilitation services
Hearing Center of Excellence	hearing.health.mil	Fosters and promotes the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, rehabilitation, and research of hearing loss and auditory injury
MedlinePlus ES	www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus	Provides information about diseases, conditions, and wellness issues in a language you can understand; offers reliable, up-to-date health information, anytime, anywhere, for free; sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Mental Health America Resource Center	www.mentalhealthamerica.net	Offers information regarding the realities of various mental health and mental illnesses
Military Pathways ES	www.militarymentalhealth.org	Provides military mental health screening and referrals
National Alliance on Mental Illness ES	www.nami.org/veterans	Distributes information about veterans and mental health illnesses for veterans and their families
National Institute of Mental Health	www.nimh.nih.gov	Offers a description of mental health diagnoses and how to locate resources for assistance
Polytrauma System of Care Centers	www.polytrauma.va.gov/support/training-and-education.asp	Includes interactive tool to guide families through the steps of the TBI/polytrauma rehabilitation process
Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Centers	www.sci.va.gov	Injured Service members may be approved by DoD for one of the 20 SCI centers available throughout the VA system; these centers provide specialized rehabilitative services to individuals with the onset of SCI
Vision Center of Excellence	vce.health.mil	Works with TRICARE, Military Health System, VA, and other Centers of Excellence to provide guidance for clinical practice, and maximize patient-centered support close to home, unit, and family
War Related Illness and Injury Study Center	www.warrelatedillness.va.gov	Provides a second opinion for veterans referred with difficult-to-diagnose war-related illnesses and injuries
Wounded Warrior Project Restore Warriors	www.woundedwarriorproject.org/programs/combat-stress-recovery-program/restore-warriors	Offers tools and self-help strategies, including videos of other warriors sharing their experiences, along with coping strategies

Home-Based Health Care Assistance

Home Telehealth	www.caregiver.va.gov/support_services.asp	Provides access to a care coordinator by using technology in the home; includes education and training or online and telephone support groups
Home-Based Primary Care Program	www.caregiver.va.gov/support_services.asp	Delivers routine health care services to the home when the veteran has medical issues that make it challenging for him or her to travel
Homemaker and Home Health Aide Program	www.caregiver.va.gov/support_services.asp	Provides a home health aide to come to the home on a regular schedule to allow the caregiver time to take care of their own needs
Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Visiting Nurse Program	www.nmcrs.org/v-nurse	Offered to all Navy and Marine Corps members and their family members within a 25-mile radius of the program site; the visiting nurse may also offer resource information by telephone or mail to individuals outside the driving area
Skilled Home Care	www.caregiver.va.gov/support_services.asp	Provides a medical professional who comes to the home to help care for a homebound veteran
TRICARE Respite Care Program	www.tricare.mil/LifeEvents/InjuredonAD/HealthBenefits	Provides rest and change for the primary caregivers; respite care benefits are limited to 40 hours each calendar week and no more than five days per calendar week; no more than eight hours per calendar day

TBI and PTSD Information and Programs

America's Heroes At Work	www.AmericasHeroesAtWork.gov	Educates employers about signs/symptoms of combat PTSD and TBI and how to support warriors who need assistance; sponsored by DOL
Armed Forces Foundation	www.armedforcesfoundation.org	"Hidden Battles on Unseen Fronts," authored by Foundation President Patricia Driscoll and Foundation Supporter/author Celia Straus

Brain Injury Association of America	www.biausa.org/living-with-brain-injury.htm	Provides direct support, information, resources, education, and advocacy for individuals living with brain injury
BrainlineMilitary	brainlinemilitary.org	Provides military-specific information and resources on TBI
Caregiver's Journey	www.traumaticbrain injuryatoz.org	TBI Guide for Caregivers of Service members and veterans
Center for American Military Music Opportunities	www.cammomusic.org	Offers music therapy programs and learn to play instruments (Guitar Stars, VIBEZ) that focus on service related conditions
Center for Deployment Psychology	deploymentpsych.org/training/training-catalog/course-119-online-the-fundamentals-of-traumatic-brain-injury-tbi	Offers free training about TBI; click on "Take for Free" and receive an up-to-date review of TBI and how it may be diagnosed and/or treated; in partnership with Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress	www.couragetotalk.org	Provides family resources, fact sheets, etc.
Centre for Neuro Skills ES	www.neuroskills.com	Provides resources and help for families related to Traumatic Brain Injury rehabilitation
Citizen Soldier Support Center Primary Health Care and Behavioral Health Provider Directory	www.warwithin.org	Connects Service members and their families to health care and behavioral health providers nearby who are trained in issues that affect military members and their families; sponsored by UnitedHealth Group
Cognitive Systems	www.Cog-Systems.com	Provides innovative treatment for mild TBI and other neurological injuries that can be done from home
DCoE for PH and TBI Psychological Health Information	www.dcoe.health.mil/PsychologicalHealth/Psychological_Health_Information	Includes resources on treatments for Major Depressive Disorder, TBI, and PTSD
Defense Veterans Brain Injury Center	www.dvbic.org	Distributes booklet: Talking to children about moderate/severe TBI

Disabled American Vets	www.dav.org/veterans/documents/PTSDBrochure.pdf	Distributes brochure: Living with Traumatic Stress
EEG (Neurofeedback) Information	www.eeginfo.com	Provides neurobiofeedback resources
EMDR Institute, Inc.	www.emdr.com	Offers information about Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing and its healing potential for TBI conditions
Family of a Vet	www.familyofavet.com	Provides general information on TBI, PTSD, and other post-combat issues written by warriors and loved ones with first-hand experiences
Health Journeys	www.healthjourneys.com	"Invisible Heroes: Survivors of Trauma and How They Heal," by Belleruth Naperstek
Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund NICoE Satellite Centers	www.fallenheroesfund.org	State of the art facility for treating wounded heroes suffering from TBI
Make the Connection	maketheconnection.net	Helpful resources and information about invisible wounds of war, and how to identify, get help, and understand them better
Medal of Honor Speak Out	www.medalofhonorspeakout.org	Medal of Honor recipients speak out about adjusting to life after combat, particularly for post traumatic stress
National Center for PTSD	www.ptsd.va.gov	Features information on PTSD and treatments, tools for screening and tracking symptoms, skills to handle stress symptoms, and links of support
National Intrepid Centers of Excellence Family Program	www.nicoe.capmed.mil/patientcare/SitePages/Home.aspx	Short-term, solution-focused therapies done in individual, marital, group, and family sessions
National Veterans Foundation	nvf.org	Provides personal assistance and advice
The Pathway Home	www.thepathwayhome.org	Offers private treatment for OEF/OIF veterans with PTSD

Project Victory Rehabilitation Program	www.projectvictory.org	Offers a military-focused reintegration model utilizing teams of professionals to manage the rehabilitative care of patients with brain injury and combat stress
Semper Fi Fund	semperfifund.org/resources	Movie: Cover Me (about combat operational stress)
Sidran Institute Traumatic Stress Education and Advocacy	www.sidran.org	Lists resources and provides a help desk that helps Service members/veterans find therapists or treatment centers for trauma recovery
Soldiers Heart	www.soldiersheart.net	Alleviates symptoms of PTSD through storytelling, purification, community forgiveness, and healing and restitution
Survivors of Traumatic Events—Managing Your Stress	store.samhsa.gov/product/NMH05-0209PUNJABI	Tips to relieve stress; describes how and when to seek professional help; provides accompanying resources
The Traumatic Brain Injury: The Journey Home	www.traumaticbraininjuryatoz.org	Provides an informative and sensitive exploration of TBI; includes information for patients, family members, and caregivers
Uniformed Services Medical University Clinical Research	www.usuhs.mil	Learn about research studies on brain injury
Veterans' Families United Foundation	veteransfamiliesunited.org	TBI resources/treatments; Booklet: Endless Journey Home (PTSD Symptoms and Resources)
Vet Centers ES	www.vetcenter.va.gov	Helps combat veterans and their families; 200 community locations
Warrior Canine Connection	www.warriorcanineconnection.org	Provides Service members and veterans with PTSD and TBI the opportunity to be part of a critical military-support mission helping fellow recovering Service members
What is TBI?	www.whatistbi.org	Offers general information, myths about TBI, and a screening tool and is also linked to "Resurrecting Lives" website

VA Grants for Home Modifications

Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant: The SAH grant is designed to help provide a barrier-free living environment that affords the individual a level of independent living he or she may not otherwise enjoy, such as a wheelchair accessible home. Veterans with specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a grant for the purpose of constructing or modifying a home to meet their adaptive needs. The grant is currently limited to $64,960.

Special Home Adaptation (SHA) Grant: The SHA grant is for modifying an existing home to meet adaptive needs, such as assistance with mobility throughout the home. Veterans and Service members with specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to this type of grant. The grant is currently limited to $12,992. A temporary grant may be available to veterans and Service members who are or will be temporarily residing in a home owned by a family member.

Home Improvement and Structural Alterations (HISA) Grant: The HISA program offers assistance for any home improvement necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. A HISA grant is available to veterans with service-connected and non-service connected disabilities who have received a medical determination indicating that improvements and structural alterations are necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of their disability.

For more information: www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptedhousing.asp

Home and Automobile Modifications and Special Equipment

Automobiles and Adaptive Equipment	benefits.va.gov/benefits	Provides a one-time payment of no more than $18,900 toward the purchase of an automobile or other transportation; additionally, VA will pay for adaptive equipment, or for repair, replacement, and reinstallation of automobile equipment required because of disability
Blind Rehabilitation Service	www.va.gov/blindrehab	Provides technology to regain independence and return to full activity; approved technology required by veterans is provided by VA Prosthetics Service at no cost
Clothing Allowance	www.va.gov/health	Reimburses the veteran if, because of a service-connected condition, clothing gets permanently damaged by a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance worn or a prescribed medication used on skin
Computer/Electronics Accommodations Program	www.cap.mil/wsm	Equips Service members with assistive technology devices, accommodations, and training to help individuals with dexterity impairments, cognitive difficulties, vision loss, and hearing loss recover and transition to employment
Help Our Military Heroes	www.helpourmilitary heroes.org	Provides recovering Service members with fully-equipped handicapped vehicles
Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) Grant	www.benefits.va.gov/ HOMELOANS	Provides assistance for any home improvement necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities; currently limited to $4,100 (see pg. 54)
Navy Safe Harbor Foundation	www.safeharbor foundation.org/pdf/ 2011NSHF_Brochure.pdf	Offers help for housing modifications, vehicle modifications, and other equipment

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Prosthetic Appliances	www.va.gov/health	Provides medically prescribed prosthetic and sensory aids to eligible veterans; these aids include artificial limbs, hearing aids, communication aids, eyeglasses, orthopedic braces and shoes, wheelchairs, crutches, and canes
Semper Fi Fund	semperfifund.org/assistance	Grants include visual enhancement devices for the visually impaired, software programs for those who cannot type, specialized wheelchairs, and therapeutic mattresses for those with multiple injuries and burns
Soldiers' Angels Project Valour-IT	soldiersangels.org/project-valour-it.html	Provides voice-controlled/adaptive laptop computers, iPads, personal GPS, Wii Video Game Systems, and other technology to support Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines recovering from hand wounds and other severe injuries
Special Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant	www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS	Provides assistance for constructing or modifying a home to meet recovering Service members' adaptive needs; grant limited to $64,960 (see pg. 54)
Special Home Adaptation (SHA) Grant	www.benefits.va.gov/HOMELOANS	Intended for modifying an existing home to meet adaptive needs; grant is currently limited to $12,992 (see pg. 54)

Special Compensation for Assistance with Activities of Daily Living (SCAADL)

Special Compensation for Assistance with Activities of Daily Living (SCAADL) was authorized by the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. This special monthly compensation is for Service members who incur a permanent catastrophic injury or illness and require assistance with activities of daily living or who require constant supervision. SCAADL helps offset the loss of income by a primary caregiver who provides non-medical care, support, and assistance for the Service member.

Contact a member of your recovery team (to include the Primary Care Manager, Nurse Case Manager, Recovery Care Coordinator, Non-Medical Care Manager, or unit leadership) for the SCAADL application and guidance.

For more information: militarypay.defense.gov

Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)

What They Are and How They Can Help

VSOs are not part of VA. VSOs are recognized national and state organizations that help veterans and their families with their claims. These services are provided free of charge. VSOs can help you with questions about your VA claims. They can also act on your behalf regarding your claim with VA.

A directory of VSOs can be found at: *www.va.gov/VSO*

Legal Assistance

Contact one of the many Veterans Service Organizations for free representation when appealing denied VA claims. See full directory of VSOs at *www.va.gov/vso.*

Employer Support of Guard and Reserve	www.esgr.mil	Helps resolve disputes or answer questions about employment related problems for Reservists and Guardsmen
Military OneSource ES	www.militaryonesource.mil	Offers legal assistance information
National Veterans Foundation	nvf.org	Offers legal aid referral services
National Veterans Legal Services Program	www.nvlsp.org	Offers legal aid referral services
Navy Safe Harbor Foundation	www.safeharbor foundation.org/pdf/ 2011NSHF_Brochure.pdf	Provides financial and legal support for travel expenses, court costs, and housing/rental support
Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program	www.vetsprobono.org	Helps with legal assistance to appeal veterans benefits claims
Yellow Ribbon Fund	www.yellowribbon fund.com	Provides pro bono legal services

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Active duty spouses report the greatest interest **(93%)** in receiving information **through the internet."**

2010 National Survey of Veterans, Active Duty Service Members, Demobilized National Guard and Reserve Members, Family Members and Surviving Spouses

Word of mouth is the source of information caregivers of veterans most commonly turn to when they look for caregiver resources and information."

National Alliance for Caregiving 2010
"Caregivers of Veterans—Serving on the Homefront"

Online Social Networking

Facebook Pages

Most organizations included in this directory have Facebook pages. The Facebook pages listed in this section are some of the most commonly used Facebook pages by caregivers. Connecting to one of more of them is highly recommended to get the most up-to-date sources of information and support.

Battling Bare	www.facebook.com/BattlingBare
Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury	www.facebook.com/DCoEpage
Family of A Vet/Life After Combat	www.facebook.com/LifeAfterCombat
Green Beret Foundation *(Steel Magnolias)*	www.facebook.com/GreenBeretFoundation
Her War/Her Voice	www.facebook.com/HerWarHerVoice
Hope for the Warriors	www.facebook.com/HopeForTheWarriors
Make the Connection	www.facebook.com/VeteransMTC
Military OneSource	www.facebook.com/military.1source
Military Pathways	www.facebook.com/militarypathways
Not Alone: Life After War	www.facebook.com/LifeAfterWar
Operation Homefront Hearts of Valor	www.facebook.com/heartsofvalor
Real Warriors Campaign	www.facebook.com/realwarriors
Semper Fi Fund	www.facebook.com/semperfifund
Sesame Street for Military Families	www.facebook.com/SesameStreetForMilitaryFamilies

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SpouseBUZZ	www.facebook.com/spousebuzz
USSOCOM Care Coalition	www.facebook.com/ussocom?fref=ts
Veteran Caregiver	www.facebook.com/pages/Veteran-CareGiver/116044328407998?fref=ts
Veterans Affairs	*www.facebook.com/VeteransAffairs*
Veterans' Families United Foundation	www.facebook.com/pages/Veterans-Families-United-Foundation/117619665868
Warrior Care	www.facebook.com/WarriorCare
Wounded Warrior Project	www.facebook.com/wwpinc.fans
Yellow Ribbon Fund	www.facebook.com/YellowRibbonFund

Blogs (Web Logs)

Afterdeployment	www.afterdeployment.org/blog
Battling Bare	battlingbare.blogspot.com
Caring Bridge	www.caringbridge.org
Family of a Vet	blog.familyofavet.com
Learning by Accident ES	www.brainline.org/rosemary
Military OneSource Blog Brigade	www.militaryonesource.mil
Military Pathways	www.mentalhealthscreening.org
National Veterans Foundation	nvf.org
Not Alone	www.notalone.com/blogs
Operation Homefront Hearts of Valor	www.wifeofawoundedsoldier.com

Tutor.com	blog.tutor.com
Warrior Care Blog	warriorcare.dodlive.mil
Wounded Warrior Project Connect	www.woundedwarriorproject.org/connect

Online Chat Rooms/Forums/Groups

Afterdeployment—Peer to Peer Forum	www.afterdeployment.org/forums/peer-2-peer
Armed Forces Crossroads—Air Force Spouse Forum	www.afcrossroads.com
Caring Bridge	www.caringbridge.org
DCoE Outreach Center	www.dcoe.health.mil/Families/Help
Family Caregiver Alliance	lists.caregiver.org/mailman/listinfo/caregiver-online_lists.caregiver.org
Google for Veterans	www.googleforveterans.com
Marine Family Network	marinefamilynetwork.com
Marine Parents	www.marineparents.com
Military Kids Connect	militarykidsconnect.org
Not Alone	www.notalone.com
Operation Homefront Hearts of Valor	www.heartsofvalor.org
Restore Warriors	www.restorewarriors.org
Veteran CareGiver	www.veterancaregiver.com
Vets 4 Warriors	www.vets4warriors.com
Wounded Warrior Project Connect	connect.woundedwarriorproject.org

Personal Stories

Family Caregiver Alliance	lists.caregiver.org/mailman/listinfo/caregiver-online_lists.caregiver.org
Naval Center for Combat and Operational Stress Control Success Stories	www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcsd/nccosc/servicemembersv2/successstories
Not Alone	www.notalone.com
Restore Warriors	www.restorewarriors.org
VA Caregiver Connections Program	www.caregiver.va.gov
Veteran CareGiver	www.veterancaregiver.com

Peer Support and Mentoring

Alcoholics Anonymous	www.aa.org	Offers the AA 12-step program, healing tools, and meetings
Coaching into Care	www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching	Provides support and problem solving assistance to family members and others; contact 888-823-7458, M–F, 8:00 a.m–8:00 p.m. (EST)
Codependents Anonymous	www.coda.org	Designed for people who live with someone who is using any addictive substance or activity and their use is negatively affecting their home, financial, work, or social life
Coming Home Project	www.cominghomeproject.net	Offers group support and stress management retreats; they are free, confidential, and scholarships are offered for travel and lodging for those outside of San Francisco
Google for Veterans	www.googleforveterans.com/veterans	Connect with fellow veterans through free calls, group video chat, record videos, collaborating, and sharing tools
Green Beret Foundation (Steel Magnolias)	greenberetfoundation.org	An exclusive group of female caregivers, spouses, and Gold Star wives of Special Forces soldiers
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Community of Veterans	iava.org	Largest online social network exclusively for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans
Make the Connection	maketheconnection.net	Provides a connection based on life events or experiences to get information, stories, and resources for support

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Marine Parents	www.marineparents.com	Offers Regional Support Groups, Start a Support Group, Purple Heart Hero Support™, Gold Star Family Support™
MilSpouse eMentor Program	www.ementorprogram.org/p/milspouse	Offers personalized career guidance, advice, support and inspiration from more experienced military spouses, career mentors, and military spouse-friendly employers
Narcotics Anonymous ES	www.na.org	Offers a 12-step program and meetings for people who are using any narcotics for other than prescribed reasons and have an addiction that is negatively affecting their home, financial, work, or social life
Not Alone	www.notalone.com	Provides online support groups and in-person support groups and counseling
Operation Homefront Hearts of Valor	www.heartsofvalor.org/SupportGroups	Hosts support groups in several locations; led by the members of Hearts of Valor who are willing to serve as facilitators
Paralyzed Veterans of America Caregivers Circle	www.pva.org	Shares caregiver stories, resources and links
Restore Warriors	www.restorewarriors.org/online-help	Offers resources and self-help strategies for warriors living with PTSD, combat and operational stress, or depression
Safe Harbor Foundation Anchors Program	safeharbor.navylive.dodlive.mil/transition/anchor-program	Mentors are available to lend an ear—and a hand—to a Sailor as he or she grapples with the challenges associated with returning to civilian life
United We Stand at E.A.S.E. (Equine Assisted Self-Exploration)	www.unitedwestandat-ease.com	Quantum Leap Farm's At E.A.S.E. program hosts W.O.W. (Women of Warriors) retreats
Veterans' Family United Foundation	veteransfamiliesunited.org	Requests for help will be reviewed by a veteran's family member or VFU trained volunteer who will attempt to provide links to appropriate resources

Vets 4 Warriors ★	www.vets4warriors.com/services	Toll free peer support line 855-838-8255 (855-VET-TALK) is available 24/7 for National Guard and Reserve Service members
Wounded Warrior Project Peer Mentoring	www.woundedwarriorproject.org/programs/peer-mentoring	Helps Soldiers develop one-on-one friendships with fellow warriors who are further along in the recovery process; peer mentors are also available to visit with warriors' families
Yellow Ribbon Fund Mentoring Program	www.yellowribbonfund.org	Helps injured Service members build new lives through education and career guidance, networking, and job shadowing

Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) Disposition Findings

When the PEB makes its decision on medical fitness for duty, there are **five possible outcomes.**

1 Return to Duty: If the conditions are not considered severe enough to make the Service member unfit for duty, the Service member will be returned to his/her job and Service. No disability benefits would be paid while continuing to serve, but the Service member may be eligible for VA benefits after leaving the military.

2 Separate without Benefits: Some injuries are determined to be "not in the line of duty" if they are a result of intentional misconduct or willful negligence or took place when not on orders if a member of the National Guard or Reserve. If the injury is found "not in the line of duty," but is "unfitting," the member could be separated without benefits for those injuries. If the injury or illness resulted from a medical problem before entering the service, and the injury or illness was not permanently aggravated by service, the member may be separated without benefits.

3 Separate with Severance Pay: If one or more of the member's conditions are considered "unfitting" for continued service, but the combined disability rating for all the unfitting conditions is less than 30 percent, the member may be separated from Active Duty and be awarded severance pay based on their time in service and current pay grade.

4 Transfer to the Temporary Disability Retirement List (TDRL): The TDRL allows the Service to ensure a medical condition stabilizes before making a final disability determination. If the Service member is eligible for permanent disability retirement, but the condition is not considered stable, the member will be temporarily retired and placed on the TDRL for a maximum of five years. Every 12–18 months the Service member will be medically reevaluated to determine if the condition remains unstable, or has either changed (improved or worsened) or has stabilized. Benefits while on the TDRL are the same as those for the Permanent Disability Retirement List (PDRL). While on the TDRL, disability retirement compensation will be at least 50% of retired base pay. If during those five years, the Service determines the condition is stable and the member is fit for duty, the Service will offer the member the chance to return to duty. If the condition stabilizes, but the member is not able to return to duty, the member will be either separated with severance pay or transferred to the PDRL, depending on the final disability determination.

5 Transfer to the Permanent Disability Retirement List (PDRL): If all the unfitting conditions resulted in a combined disability rating of 30 percent or higher, and the condition is considered stable (meaning the disability rating is unlikely to change within five years), the member will be permanently retired for disability and placed on the PDRL. This provides the member with disability retirement pay, access to TRICARE for the member and dependents, commissary and exchange privileges, and all other benefits or regular military retirement. If the Service member has more than 20 years of service and the combined disability rating is less than 30 percent, the member will be allowed to retire with all the regular military retirement benefits.

For more information, download the DoD Compensation and Benefits Handbook, 2011: turbotap.org

Pet and Service Animal Assistance

Assistance Dogs International	www.assistancedogs international.org	If you would like to apply for an assistance dog, go to “program search” to find an assistance dog program in your area; ADI is a coalition of these programs and does not train assistance dogs
Guardian Angels Soldiers Pet	guardianangelsfor soldierspet.org	Reunites pets with their owners after a deployment or for any emergency or hardship impacting their ability to retain their pet ownership rights
Guide and Service Dogs	www.va.gov/health/ ServiceAndGuide Dogs.asp	Veterans approved for service dogs are referred to Assistance Dogs International-accredited agencies; there is no charge for the dog or the associated training; veterans with working service dogs are provided veterinary care and equipment through VA Prosthetics and Sensory Aids
Operation Freedom Paws	operationfreedompaws.org	Offers a lifeline to disabled veterans through a service dog (no charge); instructs veterans on training their own service dog; typically uses shelter dogs to save a dog’s life too
Puppies Behind Bars	www.puppiesbehind bars.com	Trains service dogs with the 85 commands that are standard in the industry (i.e., retrieving objects, turning on and off lights, opening doors), as well as five specific commands to assist Service members returning with PTSD and TBI
Semper Fi Fund Canine Companions	semperfifund.org/ assistance	Unites injured Service members with service dogs and ensures the dogs are trained and continually cared for despite the financial difficulties
SitterCity	www.sittercity.com/ pet-sitting.html	Helps find local pet sitters who are: skilled in areas like training and housebreaking; licensed, bonded, and insured; and available for drop-in to extended stay

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Southeastern Guide Dogs	www.guidedogs.org	Helps create and nurture a partnership between a visually impaired individual and a guide dog
Warrior Canine Connection	www.warriorcanine connection.org	Provides Service members and veterans with PTSD and TBI the opportunity to be part of a critical military-support mission helping fellow recovering Service members

Rest and Relaxation

Retreats and Vacations

Coming Home Project—Stress Management Retreats	www.cominghomeproject.net	Offers community-building experiences; workshops are free and confidential; offers travel and lodging scholarships
Boulder Crest Retreat	bouldercrestretreat.org	Provides a free, first-class rural retreat (2-14 days) for seriously wounded warriors and their families to reconnect and recover
Hope for the Warriors Counseling Retreats	www.hopeforthewarriors.org/story/18720877/family-support	Weekend counseling retreat at Holliswood Hospital in Queens, NY; all program costs, including travel, are free of charge
Lone Survivor Foundation	www.lonesurvivorfoundation.org	Offers education, counseling, support, and inspiration using short-term retreats and medium-term, in-house care and advocacy programs
Operation Black Hills Cabin Vacation	operationblackhillscabin.org	Offers a week's vacation to qualifying wounded veterans and their families, at little or no expense to them, with the exception of transportation
Operation Homefront Hearts of Valor—Retreats for Caregivers	www.operationhomefront.net	Two-day retreats for caregivers; all retreat costs, including travel, accommodations, meals, and seminar activities are provided
Operation Second Chance—Retreats	www.operationsecondchance.org/retreats	Offers two different types of retreats depending on the individual's injuries and their ability to get away; there are short local overnight trips and also week-long retreats
Semper Fi Fund—Odyssey Camp	semperfifund.org/assistance	A six-day, holistic transition assistance program for injured and critically ill Service members

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Smartphone App

USO Warrior and Family Care Program—Couples Seminars ♥	www.uso.org	Helps wounded, ill, and injured couples strengthen their relationship and work on tough issues in a fun and non-threatening environment
USO Warrior and Family Care Program—Healing Adventure Retreats ♥	www.uso.org	Brings together families who have a parent who is wounded, ill, or injured to participate in a four-day camp experience
Women of Warriors (W.O.W) at E.A.S.E. (Equine Assisted Self-Exploration) ♥	www.unitedwestandat-ease.com	Focuses on education, support, and self exploration for individuals, couples, and groups in a two hour weekly, or full-day workshop/retreats format, for the family and/or Service members
Wounded Warrior Family Support—Vacations ♥	www.wwfs.org	Five fully furnished condominium units available for vacation reservation; four are in the Bahama Bay Resort in Orlando, FL; passes are provided to families free of charge
Wounded Warrior Project—Family Support Retreats ♥	www.woundedwarrior project.org/programs/ family-support/family-support-retreat	Provides weekend all-expense-paid retreats hosted at numerous locations around the country; all travel expenses to and from the retreat are free of charge

Short Breaks for the Caregiver

For caregivers who are reluctant to leave their recovering Service member alone without nearby medical assistance, check out the Home-Based Health Care Assistance resources on pg. 48.

Cause	www.cause-usa.org	Organizes programs that provide recreation, relaxation, and resiliency, such as massage, reiki, and spa programs, hospital game carts, and sporting event broadcasts
Childcare Aware	www.childcareaware.org	Allows users to search for child care facilities by zip code and other options; also includes general advice and other resources such as fee assistance
Hope for the Warriors Caregiver Dinners	www.hopeforthewarriors.org/story/18720877/family-support	Provides dinners near major military medical centers to bring caregivers and families together for a relaxing evening
Operation Second Chance Day Trips and Nights Out	www.operationsecondchance.org/daytrips	Offers warriors, caregivers, and guests trips away from the hospital
Respite Care Program	www.caregiver.va.gov/support_landing.asp	Eligible caregivers can receive up to 30 days of respite care per year; support also provided in response to a family caregiver's unexpected hospitalization, a need to go out of town, or a family emergency
Respite Child Care	www.naccrra.org/military-families	Offers 16 hours of respite child care per month at no cost; not intended to be a substitute for regularly scheduled child care (i.e., to go to work or attend school); limited to eligibility guidelines and funding availability
USO Warrior and Family Care Program Day Rooms	www.uso.org	Can be a temporary home or respite for warriors and families; equipped with TVs, furniture, gaming systems, refrigerators, or other comfort necessities
VA Caregiver Support Adult Day Health Care Centers	www.caregiver.va.gov/support_landing.asp	Provides safe and active environment for veterans to get out of the home and participate in activities while the family caregiver gets time for themselves

Wounded Warrior Family Support—Caregiver Respite Program	www.wwfs.org	Provides short-term and temporary relief (child care, secondary caregiver assistance, respite aid for remote areas, and supplemental caregivers as needed)
Yellow Ribbon Fund Family Caregiver Program	www.yellowribbonfund.org	Offers child care and family-oriented activities, plus stress-relieving massages and spa visits, mutually supportive dinners out, empowering horseback rides, and more—at no charge

Smartphone Apps

Note: Applications may not be available across all smartphone and tablet platforms. Please check your app store for availability.

American Red Cross First Aid

Connects with Red Cross and community resources through a network of chapters in communities; offers both certified and non-certified options for first aid, CPR, and automated external defibrillator training

Breathe2Relax

Portable stress management tool

Hero 2 Hired

Offers career exploration tools, military-to-civilian skills translators, and education and training resources

ICE Standard—The Emergency Standard Card

Helps first responders and emergency room personnel locate a person's updated medical information, contacts, insurance information, blood type, name, address, and a photo verification of the individual

Life Armor

Offers information on 17 topics, including sleep, depression, relationship issues, and PTSD

My Military Life

Created by the National Military Family Association to help military spouses navigate the many adventures of military life

Operation Reach Out

Aimed at preventing suicide among military personnel and veterans

Project FOCUS on the Go

Fun and interactive military/veteran family resilience gaming and resources for iPhone and iPad

Psych Help

An easy-to-use, quick, and convenient way to find a therapist near you

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PTSD Coach

Provides education about PTSD, information about professional care, a self assessment, and stress management tools

PTSD Support for Veterans

Includes videos and testimonials discussing PTSD, links to resources, and a fan wall for people to support each other

Sesame Street for Military Families

Puts all of Sesame's bilingual (English & Spanish) resources for military families right in your pocket; engaging videos, articles, storybooks, parent guides, and more

T2 Mood Tracker

Users can monitor, track, and reference their emotional experiences associated with common deployment-related behavioral health issues

Tactical Breather

Help gain control over physiological and psychological responses to stress

Wounded Warrior Regiment

Up-to-the-minute news and information for Marines and their families

Sports and Recreation

Adaptive Adventures Military Operations	adaptiveadventures.org/program/adaptive-adventures-military-operations	Addresses the veteran's current abilities and helps to build physical and mental strength
The Armed Forces Foundation—Classic Outdoor Sports Program	www.armedforcesfoundation.org	Plans hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational events around the country
Center for American Military Music Opportunities	www.cammomusic.org	Offers music therapy programs and learn to play instruments (Guitar Stars, VIBEZ) that focus on service related conditions
Easter Seals—Camping and Recreation	www.easterseals.com	Provides children and adults extracurricular, educational, and personal development activities
Hope for the Warriors—Outdoor Adventures Program	www.hopeforthewarriors.org/story/18727106/outdoor-adventures	Provides adaptive opportunities for wounded heroes to participate in sporting activities in the great outdoors
K2 Adventures Foundation	www.k2adventures.org/about-k2	Provides services, support, and funds that are used for educational and medical enrichment
Lone Survivor Foundation—Ranch Retreats and Therapeutic Activities	www.lonesurvivorfoundation.org	Provides short-term retreats and medium-term, in-house care through health, wellness, and therapeutic support
Military Warriors Support Foundation—Skills 4 Life	www.militarywarriors.org/skills4life	Provides recreational outings and family mentoring with hunting, fishing, golf, sporting events, and vacations

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Operation One Voice—Wounded Warrior Bike Program	operationonevoice.org	Provides a variety of bikes to wounded Special Operations warriors to aid in the warrior's rehab and quality of life
Semper Fi Fund—Horsemanship Program	www.semperfifund.org	Provides confidence-building horsemanship clinics to wounded Service members and their families across the nation
Semper Fi Fund—Recovery Through Sport	www.semperfifund.org	Access to Service men and women who have embraced a fighting, athletic spirit on their road to recovery
Semper Fi Fund—Therapeutic Arts	www.semperfifund.org	Provides grants for therapeutic arts such as musical instruments, arts supplies, and art education
U.S. Olympic Committee Paralympic Military & Veteran Programs	www.teamusa.org/US-Paralympics/Military	Introduces Service members and Veterans with physical injuries to adaptive sport techniques and opportunities through clinics and camps
USO Warrior and Family Care Programs—Ride to Recovery Program	www.uso.org/warriorandfamilycare	Improves the health and wellness of wounded troops through Spinning® and outdoor cycling activities
USO Warrior and Family Care Programs—Rivers of Recovery	www.uso.org/warriorandfamilycare	Offers small fishing retreats
Wounded Warrior Project—Project Odyssey	www.woundedwarrior project.org/programs/combat-stress-recovery-program/project-odyssey	Offers horseback riding, canoeing, whitewater rafting, kayaking, rock climbing, and other activities at retreats
Wounded Warriors in Action—Outdoor Sporting	www.wwiaf.org	Provides world-class outdoor sporting activities consisting of hunting and fishing

Suicide Prevention

Military Crisis Line	*www.militarycrisisline.net*	800-273-8255 (press 1)
Military OneSource Wounded Warrior ES	www.militaryonesource.mil/wounded-warrior	800-342-9647 Provides free service available to all Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve members and their families; consultants provide information and referrals on a wide range of issues
National Veterans Foundation	nvf.org	Provides assistance and advice from veterans with experiences from Vietnam to Iraq
Operation Reach Out	militaryfamily.com/downloads/apps/military-suicide-prevention-operation-reach-out	Aims to preventing suicide among military personnel and veterans
Suicide Prevention Action Network	capwiz.com/spanusa/home	Provides a bibliography on various topics concerning suicide
Wingman Project ES	wingmanproject.org	Raises suicide awareness by encouraging every Guard member and their family to know the ACE (Ask, Care, Escort)suicide intervention method
You Matter	www.youmatter.suicideprevention lifeline.org	National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-TALK (800-273-8255); sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHA)

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DEFENSE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE
For Psychological Health & Traumatic Brain Injury

dcoe.health.mil
Support Line: 866-966-1020

The mission of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) is to improve the lives of our nation's Service members, families, and veterans by advancing excellence in psychological health and traumatic brain injury prevention and care.

Find information on:

DCoE Centers
- Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center
- Deployment Health Clinical Center
- National Center for Telehealth and Technology

Psychological Health
- Psychological Health Information
- Integrative Health & Wellness
- PTSD Treatment Options
- Tips for Treating mTBI and PTSD

Traumatic Brain Injury
- Accessing Services and Resources Housing
- Tips for Treating mTBI and PTSD
- TBI Clinical Documents
- TBI Case Management

Service Members and Families
- 24/7 Help
- Suicide Prevention
- Before and After Deployment Resources
- inTransition
- Guard and Reserve
- Adjusting to Changes
- Taking Care of Yourself
- Locating Health Care

Media Center
- News Room
- Blogs
- Social Media
- Info Kit
- Videos and Podcasts

Training and Conferences
- Continuing Education
- Leadership Training Toolkit
- Conferences
- Webinars
- Educator Resources
- Training Effectiveness Toolkit

Women Veterans

American Women Veterans	www.americanwomenveterans.org	Offers retreats, conferences, and outreach campaigns
Grace After Fire	www.graceafterfire.org	Provides treatment links and options
Trauma Informed Care for Women Veterans	www.dol.gov/wb/trauma	Addresses psychological and mental needs of women veterans
Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-WISE)	whitman.syr.edu/vwise	Provides the tools women veterans, Active Duty, and female family members need to become successful entrepreneurs
Women Organizing Women Veteran Advocacy	www.vetwow.com	Provides advocacy for sexual trauma victims including support for related PTSD
Women Veterans Call Center	www.womenshealth.va.gov/WomensHealth/wvcc.asp	Offers a call center that receives and responds to questions from women veterans, their families, and caregivers across the nation about available VA services and resources
Women Veterans Health Care	www.womenshealth.va.gov	Provides comprehensive health care services for women veterans at VA health facilities nationwide

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www.militaryonesource.mil/wounded-warrior
Support Line: 800-342-9647

The Military OneSource Wounded Warrior Program can help you understand benefits, research independent living options, and identify counseling and advocacy resources. Use these resources, tools, and articles to find the support you and your family need.

General Information
- Family Readiness System
- Wounded Warrior Acronyms
- Wounded Warrior Programs

Keeping It All Together Handbook
Free download; find information on:
- First Questions and Answers
- Keeping a Medical Journal
- Support and Resources
- The Recovery Team
- Travel and Lodging Information

Independent Living
- Accessing Services and Resources for Housing
- Independent Living Skills
- Paying for Care
- Technology Resources

Living with a Disability
- Advocacy
- Emotional Well-Being
- Information and Resources

Severely Injured Service Members
- Taking Care of Yourself When Your Spouse Has a Combat Stress Injury
- Care and Benefits
- Family Impacts
- Vocational Training and Rehabilitation

Caring for an Injured Service Member
- Coping with Compassion Fatigue
- Coping with a Traumatic Event
- Preparing a Child to See an Injured Service Member for the First Time
- Recognizing the Signs of Combat Stress
- When You Become Your Spouse's Caregiver

Tools & Resources
Free downloads; must log in to order
- Honoring Our Babies and Toddlers: Supporting Young Children Affected by a Military Parent's Injury
- I'm Here for You Now
- Keeping It All Together Handbook
- Special Care Organizational Record (SCOR) for Adults

VA Caregiver Support

www.caregiver.va.gov

Support Line: 855-260-3274

Learn more about how VA's trained professionals can help you find the services and support that are right for you and the veteran you care for.

General Services

- Caregiver support coordinators
- In-home services
- Respite care
- Services for caregivers of post 9/11 veterans
- All caregiver services

Medical Resources

- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Alzheimer's

Caregiving Resources

- Resources for new caregivers
- Staying organized
- Diagnosis care sheets
- Everyday tips and checklists

Additional copies of this directory are available from:

THE OFFICE OF WARRIOR CARE POLICY

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