

VA's Strategic Plan for Expanding Reach to Transitioning Service Members

The transition from military to civilian life is widely recognized as challenging and stressful for service members, their families, and caregivers. One of Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) goals is to ensure every service member benefits from a seamless and personalized transition process that creates a lasting and trusting Veteran health experience. Transitioning Service Members (TSM) face a personal, psychological, and cultural evolution as they reorient to civilian life. VHA seeks to guide TSMs and Veterans toward total wellness during this time — especially the first year — when transition periods leave TSMs and Veterans most vulnerable to suicide.

Our Vision – delivering exceptional personalized health care, one Veteran at a time.

Due to the many challenges associated with transition, TSMs and Veterans face the highest risk of suicide during the first year after military service. VA is stepping up efforts to provide TSMs access to the best quality care. We are expanding upon current services and creating new programs to reach service members at the right time and in the right place, during early transition and throughout life. We do this by looking at the whole person, and we work with TSMs to create comprehensive, personalized treatment plans.



Some specialized programs include Women's Health Transition Training; VA Concierges for Care; Transition Assistance Programs; and Separation History, and Mental and Physical Exams. These approaches empower TSMs, Veterans, caregivers, and family members to choose programs that address their own unique challenges.

VHA Delivers Comprehensive Health Care to Transitioning Service Members

- » Increase Provision of Proactive Health Care Services: VA will prioritize the continuity of care for TSMs and Veterans by ensuring all enrolled in VA services receive a timely primary care and/or mental health appointment after separation to create a care plan, particularly for the first year of transition.
- » Improve Veteran Trust and Confidence: VA will expand, simplify, and implement robust communication and outreach efforts to improve awareness of VA services by developing tailored communication messages that address the Veteran's concerns and highlight the importance of enrolling in health care.
- » Continue Improvements: VA will use existing DoD strategies to integrate person-to-person connections, referrals, and wrap-around opportunities to all TSMs and Veterans. This approach will incorporate communications with TSMs early in the transition process, beginning in active duty to connect them high-quality community programs.

Always at the Service of Veterans



Our Path Forward

In collaboration with federal and community partners, VA will:

- » Grow clinical and community interventions to ensure TSMs and Veterans experience fewer reintegration difficulties, feel more connected, and have the skills required for a successful transition.
- » Proactively connect eligible TSMs and Veterans to comprehensive care and resources focused on prevention and whole health, rather than only focusing only on disease identification and management.
- » Ensure every TSM and Veteran has access to supplementary programs and services tailored to their desired transition plan at the right time in their transition process.

Reaching Underserved Communities

As TSM and Veteran populations continue to vary, VA will evolve programs and services to implement transition processes for this diverse base of Veterans. This process will be tailored to address the needs of TSMs and Veteran populations including racial and ethnic minorities, women, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) and related identities. VHA's efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to build trust with our Veterans; create streamlined transition processes; and deliver exceptional personalized health care one Veteran at a time.



VA is bringing its many capabilities, partnerships, and resources to bear to help Veterans before and during their greatest times of need. No Veteran or family should struggle alone, and VA can help.

If you are a Transitioning Service Member or Veteran in need of resources, please visit <https://benefits.va.gov/transition/transition-home.asp>.

The Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act (Hannon Act) builds upon VA's existing services and broadens mental health care and suicide prevention programs to effectively evaluate and treat Veteran mental health conditions. Developing a comprehensive, strategic plan for a seamless transition process of service members is one of the Hannon Act's 34 sections. The Hannon Act will improve access options for Veterans and follows VA's holistic public health approach, combining community and clinical interventions to prevent Veteran suicides for those inside and outside of VA.