



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2016

VA Announces Partnership With Non-Profit Organization, Leanin.org

VA and Leanin.org Partnership Seeks to Empower Women Veterans

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Center for Women Veterans today announced a partnership with LeanIn.Org, the nonprofit organization founded by Facebook Chief Operating Officer, Sheryl Sandberg, to empower women to achieve their ambitions. Building on the successful launch of [LeanIn.Org circles](http://LeanIn.Org/circles) within the Department of Defense, VA is following the same model to increase support to women Veterans.

The VA initiative is called the LeanIn.Org [Women Veterans' chapter](http://LeanIn.Org/WomenVeterans). The Women Veterans Chapter is comprised of two distinct pilot programs: the Veteran-to-Veteran program, a virtual program, which allows any woman Veteran to participate, no matter where she is located; meetings will be moderated and attended by women Veterans throughout the United States. The second is a face-to-face pilot circle. The face-to-face program is created in partnership with the existing LeanIn.Org chapter in Seattle, WA. This circle is an innovative hybrid of women Veterans and non-military members providing an environment for both to learn and share leadership skills.

"We are thrilled to have LeanIn.Org as our collaborative partner," said Kayla M. Williams, Director of VA's Center for Women Veterans. "For many years, women Veterans have expressed to us that they need to have a mechanism to engage with their fellow women Veterans to make a difference in their community and we believe this is the perfect match. VA is pleased to be a part of these two pilot programs."

"Women are the fastest growing population of our nation's Veterans and through this Circles program, these women will have the peer support and community they need to reach their goals," said Ashley Finch, LeanIn.Org, Head of Partnerships. "Leanin.Org is proud to be a part of this groundbreaking and important initiative."

For more information about the LeanIn.org Women Veterans' chapter, visit LeanIn.Org/womenvets or <http://leaninseattle.org/veterans>.

###