

Supporting Florida's Veterans



Many veterans face major challenges transitioning back into civilian society and may have service-related health issues that can severely impact their family and work lives.

Transition challenges include reconnecting with family and re-establishing family roles, becoming part of the community, entering the civilian workforce (perhaps for the first time) or returning to a job and trying to catch up, adjusting to a different pace of life and work, and creating structure and adjusting to providing basic necessities (e.g., food, clothing, housing) previously provided by the military.

Veterans also suffer disproportionately from post-traumatic stress disorder, alcohol and drug abuse, depression, homelessness, traumatic brain injury, chronic pain, and other health and behavioral health issues.

Ease of transition to civilian life



Source: Veterans Employment Challenges, Prudential (205) (2015)

Veterans who felt ready to transition to the civilian workforce



Source: Veterans Employment Challenges, Prudential (2015)

Combined, these issues can result in a diminished quality of life for veterans and their families and inability to fully engage in the civic lives and new careers they desire and deserve.

Florida's United Ways support numerous efforts to assist the Sunshine State's 1.5 million veterans. MISSION UNITED is an initiative at some United Ways that supports US military veterans and their families as they re-acclimate to civilian life. MISSION UNITED supports employment services, legal assistance, education, financial services, health, housing support, and mentorship. We believe the Florida Legislature should do the same.

Transitional Challenges Reported by Veterans



Veterans in the Workplace, US Chamber of Commerce Foundation (2016)

PROPOSED CHANGES

Florida's United Ways urge the 2019 Florida Legislation to: ADDRESS challenges US military veterans face relating to their health (including behavioral health), affordable housing, and employment.