



Working with Military Families
Cross Committee Program Meetings
August 24, 2011

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Action Plans

I. Subject Matter: Retooling, Retraining and Reentry

Goals: Preparing returning veterans for successful reentry into the general society and workforce.

Objectives:

1. Provide training through mentorship
2. Help communities understand the special needs and concerns of military families.
3. Develop entrepreneurial skills.

Process:

1. Develop a staffing plan
2. Conduct a geographic environmental scan
3. Implement a pilot program
4. Select and include military families

II. Subject Matter: Health, Nutrition and Financial Education

Identified Projects: Educational program with Mobile Veteran Clinic

States' Committed to Collaboration and Participation: Program resources

Goals: Educate veterans and families in area of nutrition, exercise and financial management

Objectives:

1. Veterans and family members gain knowledge and skills to eat more nutritious meals
2. Veterans and family members gain knowledge and skills to become financially stable

Process:

1. Establish the partnerships with Veterans Mobile Clinic
2. Schedule and implement educational programs
3. Evaluate

III. Identified Projects: Beach Retreat

States' Committed to Collaboration and Participation: Georgia-held at 4H camp on the beach-Tybee or Jekyll island

Goals: Offer a parent/child camp experience at the beach

Objectives:

1. Give families opportunities to get away
2. Educate children and parents together and separately

Process: Organized jointly by military liaisons and guard contacts

State Comments:

Challenges:

- **Recruiting and/or identifying military families.** Methods for recruiting families:
- **Written directives in regard to actual program deliverables** would be helpful. I feel we are just winging it because we were a state with a large number of military personnel.
- My biggest concern is making sure we are credited and noted for our efforts considering the difficulty we and others face with identifying military families.
 - Developing a trust level
 - Learning the military acronyms
 - Working through their chain of command.
- Observation made by Extension Specialist: Given the fact that a partnership exists between Extension and the Department of Defense, should it not stand to reason that activities which are in the implementation process should be moved quickly without going through local chains of command? WVSU Extension-Military Partnership has experience roadblocks within the state level military systems.
- What challenges do you face working with the Extension staff from other Land Grant institutions?
 1. The most pressing challenge as WVSU partnered with other Land Grant institutions existed in each institutions policies and procedures. It should never take four to five months for an institution of higher learning to place one signature on a second tier sub-award for an amount of \$8,000.00. This glitch caused serious delays in advancing the project in a timely manner.

Part of the solution needs to come through the 1890/1862 administrators have a unified plan to handle partnership of this nature. Upon receiving grant funding the clock begins ticking immediately and time is of the utmost importance.
- 1890 lead institution not having a RFA to prepare a their proposal
- Lead institutions lack understanding of the accountability measures prior to the beginning the project.
- States with small county staff/should build in additional funds to hire staff for new programs
- Family Abused issues: reasons for child abused and/or spousal abuse
- Families have financial issues
- Drugs are a problem
- Stress
- Deployment issues: i.e., Physical and Mental Health problems

Accomplishments:

- Improved working relationship between 1890 and 1862 Extension Programs
- Ability to serve more communities
- Increase diversity in both 1890 and 1862 Extension Program
- Opportunity to increase the number of programs provided to military families
- Increase the number of military families that can be served by these programs
- Opportunity for Extension to organize programs for military families
- Provide these families with an opportunity to seek help for challenges and other family problems
- Help them with access to community resources
- Becomes an opportunity for Extension to Partner with Dept. (s) of child and families