

Executive Order 13822 Fact Sheet

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

The first year of transition is critical for Service members and Veterans moving from the military to civilian life. VA research shows the year following discharge from active duty military service can pose many transition-related challenges — such as homelessness, family reintegration, employment, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance misuse — that can increase the risk for suicide. To address these transition-related challenges, provide seamless high-quality mental health care, and reduce suicide rates among the Service member and Veteran population, President Trump signed Executive Order 13822, “Supporting our Veterans During Their Transition from Uniformed Service to Civilian Life” on January 9, 2018.

The Executive Order directs the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA), Defense (DoD), and Homeland Security (DHS) to work together to ensure newly discharged Service members and Veterans have access to any needed mental health care for at least one year following their discharge from military service. To achieve this, the Executive Order required the agencies to develop a Joint Action Plan. The “Joint Action Plan for Supporting Veterans During their Transition from Uniformed Service to Civilian Life” was submitted to the White House on May 3, 2018.

Collaborative Goals

The Joint Action Plan targets three key, collaborative goals, as follows:

- **Goal 1:** Improve actions to ensure ALL transitioning Service members are aware of and have access to mental health services.
- **Goal 2:** Improve actions to ensure the needs of at risk Veterans are identified and met.
- **Goal 3:** Improve mental health and suicide prevention services for individuals that have been identified in need of care.

Strategic Efforts

To meet these goals, several strategic efforts are being developed, including:

- **Outreach:** Establishing early and consistent contact through several activities, such as communication campaigns, peer support groups, community outreach, and using multiple channels via VA, DoD, DHS, Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), and other partnerships.

- **Transition:** Offering VA health care registration pre-transition and supporting registration by modifying the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) guidelines and increasing VSO involvement.
- **Monitoring:** Identifying those most at risk with improved monitoring through mental health screening and predictive analytics.
- **Access:** Increase access via various VA and DoD programs and partnership expansion, creating a “no wrong door” approach.

What this Means for Veterans

- Service members will learn about VA benefits and start the application process *before* becoming Veterans.
- Any newly transitioned Veteran who is eligible can go to a VA medical center (VAMC), Vet Center, or community provider and start receiving mental health care *right away*.
- Former Service members with other than honorable (OTH) discharges may receive emergent mental health care from VA, and certain former Service members with OTH discharges are eligible for mental health care for conditions incurred or aggravated during active duty service.
- Some DoD resources available to Service members, such as Military OneSource, will now be available to Veterans for one year following discharge.
- Veterans will have access to Whole Health Orientation groups, giving them the opportunity to connect with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and, if needed, receive a referral for VA mental health care.
- After the first year, eligible Veterans may *still receive mental health care support* through VA, Vet Centers, the Veterans Crisis Line, or from a referred community resource.
- Veterans will be able to receive support through VA partners, like Vet Center referrals, and community resources outside of VA, like Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs).

Learn More

For more information please visit: <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/transitioning-service/resources.asp>