FINDING HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE: 2 in 3 families say it is “very hard” or “somewhat hard” in Northeastern Minnesota*

VETERANS’ NEEDS in Northeastern Minnesota*

COLLECTING THE DATA
Working collaboratively with United Way of Northeastern Minnesota, Wilder Research gathered information from 126 people through 17 in-depth phone interviews and 99 web surveys, including:

88 veterans
34 veterans’ family members
10 service providers

Veterans said they experience significant challenges with:

CIVILIAN LIFE CULTURE SHOCK

“In civilian life, you’re on your own. You feel lost, you have no direction.”
— Phone interview with a veteran (Korea)

“Emotional bonding levels are challenging. They want to know exactly what happened, what I did, but I get frustrated telling the story over and over again…”
— Web survey from a veteran (served 2001 or later)

FINANCIAL STABILITY & EMPLOYMENT

“I got side jobs here and there...minor jobs, but nothing steady. No steady work. It’s not a lack of trying.”
— Phone interview with a veteran (Iraq)

“There were no jobs. I thought I would get into the mines when I got back but they weren’t hiring if you didn’t have at least a 2 year college degree and the military didn’t count for squat.”
— Phone interview with a veteran (Gulf War era)

HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

“... if a guy has never gotten service, the red tape is more and more difficult.”
— Phone interview with a veteran (Vietnam)

— Layered bureaucracy
— Long wait times
— Long distance travel
— Few qualified service providers or knowledge of those available
— Poor communication and technology
— Few services offered by veterans for veterans
— Social stigma and confidentiality

Veterans said they experience many challenges with the culture, system, and process of care.

OVERALL

* This graphic represents some of the results of an assessment to determine the greatest needs for veterans and their families in the service territories of Upper Saint Louis County and parts of Itasca County.
** Please see summary report on tinyurl.com/veteransneeds for more details on themes and quotes.
SUPPORTING VETERANS’ NEEDS
in Northeastern Minnesota

Through collaborative efforts with:

Veterans & Their Families
Service Providers
Community Stakeholders
Funders

We will WORK TOGETHER TO:

Enhance Coordinated Care
— Improve military-friendly service delivery
— Intensify marketing of veteran services available locally
— Increase number of service providers who are veterans

SUPPORT Financial Stability
— Create basic needs emergency assistance fund for veterans and their families

Build Strong Families and Communities Together
— Support local marital, family, and individual veteran counseling services
— Host military families’ retreats to support the civilian lives of veterans
— Promote social opportunities to connect veterans

Our Vision:
All veterans in Northeastern Minnesota will have access to health care, financial stability and employment, as well as to high quality and culturally competent support. This access and care will support veterans, their families, and our communities to flourish, grow, and thrive.

For more information contact Erin Shay, Community Impact and Engagement Director at 218-254-3329 or by email at erin@unitedwaynemn.org

Wilder Research
Information. Insight. Impact.
451 Lexington Parkway North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104
651-280-2700
www.wilderresearch.org

May 2015

Veterans & Their Families
Service Providers
Community Stakeholders
Funders

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