

# Veterans and Military Families

## Focus Area

Issue Areas outlined by the Serve America Act

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In, 2009, Congress called on CNCS to “recognize the expertise that veterans can offer to national service programs, expand the participation of the veterans in the national service programs, and assist the families of veterans and members of the Armed Forces on active duty” [Sec. 2(a)(19)]. The SAA identified eight specific areas that CNCS grantees should address through their programs in order to increase the involvement of veterans and military families in national service:

1. **Services and Support to Military Families.** Promote community-based efforts to meet the unique needs of military families while a family member is deployed and upon that family member’s return home.
2. **Volunteer Opportunities for Veterans.** Recruit Veterans, particularly returning Veterans, into service opportunities, including opportunities that utilize their military experience.
3. **Education and Certifications.** Assist Veterans in developing their educational opportunities (including opportunities for professional certification, licensure, or credentials), coordinating activities with and assisting state and local agencies administering Veterans’ education benefits.
4. **Employment.** Coordinate activities with and assist entities administering Veterans’ programs with internships and fellowships that could lead to employment in the private and public sectors.
5. **Access to Benefits.** Promote efforts within a community to serve the needs of Veterans and active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including helping Veterans file benefits claims, and assisting federal agencies in providing services to Veterans.
6. **Military Children.** Provide mentoring to military children, and assist Veterans to develop mentoring relationships with economically disadvantaged students.
7. **Wounded Warriors.** Develop projects to assist Veterans with disabilities, unemployed Veterans, older Veterans, and Veterans in rural communities, including assisting them with transportation.
8. **Wellness and Other Support Services.** Assist Veterans and their family members through establishing or augmenting programs that assist them with access to legal assistance, health care (including mental health care), employment counseling or training, education counseling or training, affordable housing, and other support services.