



Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Community Blueprint?

- The Community Blueprint is a tool that will help local community leaders assess and improve their community's support for veterans, service members, and their families.
- The goal of the Community Blueprint is for local communities to better synchronize and coordinate services between government, nonprofit, and other stakeholders across eight areas: Behavioral Health, Education, Employment, Family Strength, Financial/Legal Problems, Homelessness, Reintegration, and Volunteerism.
- The Blueprint is designed to help community leaders and citizens gain a more precise and locally focused understanding of how they can contribute to an improved support matrix, including offering opportunities for civilians, service members, veterans, and their families to volunteer and serve alongside one another.
- The Blueprint will provide community leaders with information about the primary challenges returning veterans, service members, and their families may face.
- The Blueprint will offer advice based on practices worthy of replication and experience about setting priorities, adopting strategies that work, and building coalitions to implement those strategies.

Who is working on the Community Blueprint?

The nonprofits on the Community Blueprint Advisory Council cover a wide range of areas of focus and expertise: American Legion Auxiliary, American Red Cross, America's Promise Alliance, Armed Forces Services Corporation, Blue Star Families, Give an Hour™, Military Child Education Coalition, Military Officers Association of America, National Military Family Association, Operation Homefront, Points of Light Institute/HandsOn Network, ServiceNation: Mission Serve, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, and the Veterans' Innovation Center.

Who does the Community Blueprint serve?

- Veterans, Active Duty service members, members of the National Guard and Reserve, and their families.

How can I get a copy of the tool?

- Contact any of the Community Blueprint partner organizations or send an e-mail to Emily Vincent at evincent@giveanhour.org.

Why do you think it's important for communities to be involved in the care of military members and their families?

- While the government, including DoD and VA, do offer many services, government cannot and should not be solely responsible for the care of our service members and their families.
- These are our neighbors, our coworkers, our brothers and sisters, and we should bear responsibility for their care in our communities.

When will the initiative launch nationwide?

- The work of the Community Blueprint is already happening in several communities across the country. A national launch is slated for fall 2011. Give an Hour™ is working in two demonstration sites: Fayetteville, North Carolina, and Norfolk, Virginia, where they will implement the Blueprint and refine the model for use by communities everywhere.
- MOAA launched three Community Blueprint pilot efforts during May 2011. Aided by its chapters in Huntsville and Tyler, Texas, and Valdosta, Georgia, Community Blueprint presentations in each of these communities were well received by local leaders, and work continues on programs to help veterans and their families. The Community Blueprint was presented as one more tool that could be used by communities already active in the support of veterans to take their programs to the next level. MOAA will monitor the pilot efforts and plans to incorporate the Community Blueprint concept into other signature events with chapter leaders planned for September 2011 in Kansas City, Missouri, and during October 2011 in San Antonio, Texas.

I represent a VSO; how can we get involved?

- The Community Blueprint was designed to bring in as many stakeholders as possible. Contact any of the Community Blueprint partner organizations or send an e-mail to Emily Vincent at evincent@giveanhour.org and we will connect you with the most appropriate partner organization.

Are businesses, nonprofits, educational institutions, and other NGOs able to get involved?

- Yes. Contact any of the Community Blueprint partner organizations or send an e-mail to Emily Vincent at evincent@giveanhour.org and we will connect you with the most appropriate partner organization.

There are plenty of services available to our military men and women and their families. Why is there a need for the Community Blueprint?

- Though the government has vast resources, there is an upper limit to what they can do. In a resource constrained environment, it's our duty to stand in the gap.
- We're not here to replace services provided by DoD or VA; we're here to augment the work they are doing and fill in the gaps as needed.
- Community-based organizations often provide much-needed services that are not available through the military or other government entities.
- The Community Blueprint aims to coordinate services and connect resources to better serve the needs of our military and veteran communities and their families.

What are the unique needs of our National Guard and Reserve families?

- Many members of the National Guard and Reserve and their families are not located near a military installation, limiting their access to services typically provided on base.
- Unlike Active Duty service members, the Guard and Reserve are comprised of civilians who are embedded in the community and come in and out on a regular basis, i.e., they are called away from their regular job to serve a tour in Afghanistan and then come back to their regular job. These unique circumstances come with a unique set of challenges and problems.