



# VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES



## SNAPSHOT



CFF staff has been involved in research and planning activities that are focused on the children of veterans who are no longer on active duty but who have been affected by their parents' deployment. The background statement describes the rationale for CFF's role in this area and can be found at: <http://www.cffutures.org/projects/veterans-collaborative>

View our webinar series on this subject: <http://www.cffutures.org/presentation/s/webinars/category/veterans-and-military-families>.



## VISIT OUR WEBPAGE



Find information about upcoming webinars, background information and helpful resources by visiting us at: <http://www.cffutures.org/projects/veterans-and-their-families>

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



To learn more about how we can support you and your vision to improve the lives of children and families, contact:

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## ABOUT US

Children and Family Futures (CFF) has been involved in the Veterans and Military Families area for some time, drawing upon:

- The personal experience of its staff;
- The overlap between veterans' needs;
- Its role in providing technical assistance; and
- The evaluation services to state and local collaborative teams working across child welfare, treatment agencies and the courts.

As the contractor operating the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare, CFF works with more than 100 sites, including several in states and localities that are significantly affected by Veterans and Military Families issues. Family drug courts, which CFF support through Department of Justice funding, overlap with veterans' treatment courts in over 10 sites. CFF has been a member of the Orange County Veterans' Collaborative since its formation in 2011, providing assistance in developing an inventory and screening tools to improve identification of veterans' family service needs.

# KEY NUMBERS IN UNDERSTANDING VETERAN FAMILIES

- Total number of veterans leaving service after deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan: 1.48 million or 60% of all service members serving in OIF/OEF.
- Estimated number of children of separated veterans: 1.18 million.
- Estimated % of OIF/OEF veterans with effects of trauma or substance use disorders: 30%.
- Estimated number of children affected by veterans; trauma or substance use disorders: 354,000.
- Total number of veterans not receiving healthcare from VA: 45%.
- Total number of non-elderly veterans without any health insurance or access to VA health service: 10.5%.

## KEY / MAJOR PROJECTS

### RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN OF VETERANS; DECEMBER 2012

A group of agencies and organizations concerned with veterans, and their families, assembled on December 13, 2012 in Washington D.C. to review approaches to responding to the needs of children of veterans. Discussions included the prevalence of child maltreatment, trauma effects, and substance abuse among veterans and their children. Senior VA officials, representatives of veteran-serving organizations such as the National Military Family Association, America's Promise, and policy research organizations such as RAND, Zero to Three, and Children and Family Futures attended. Included in the meeting materials was a background paper that describes some of the issues addressed in the meeting.

### RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN OF VETERANS; APRIL 2013

The 2nd meeting on *Responding to the Needs of Children of Veterans* was held April 17, 2013 in Washington, DC. This meeting convened those that attended the December 2012 meeting, as well as new representatives from interested agencies. See our website for full meeting agenda and materials.

Additional meeting materials include:

- Presentation on Collaborating at the Local Level to Serve Veterans
- Bibliography of Key Sources on Veterans and their Families
- Key Numbers in Understanding Children of Veterans

### VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES DISTINCTION

“Military Families” is a term that embodies those families with members on active duty, in the National Guard, and in the Reserve, but can also encompass the families of separated veterans as well.

But the children of veterans are far less visible than those living in families whose parents are on active duty, because the children of veterans are not eligible for most of the services provided to military families; and services that respond directly to the significant needs of veterans' children are rare.