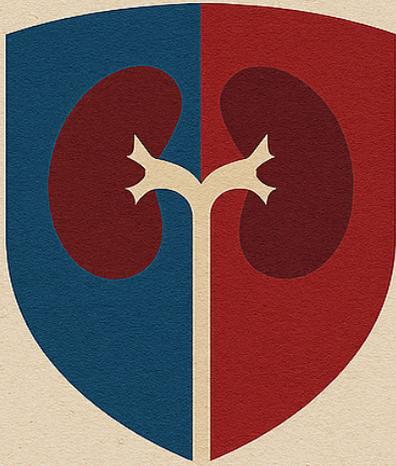




Nephro Warriors

Nephro Corps Initiative





THE NEPHRO CORPS INITIATIVE

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A Veteran-Led Shield for Kidney Health

Mission

To provide specialized peer support, education, and advocacy for military veterans and their families navigating the challenges of kidney disease. We foster resilience through a veteran-led "Nephro Corps" that facilitates access to comprehensive care and bridges the gap between medical treatment and the unique veteran experience.

Vision

Every veteran impacted by kidney disease has a dedicated "Nephro Corps" of support, empowering them to live fulfilling lives with dignity and optimal health.

Strategic Framework: The Veteran Advantage

1. Veteran-Led Oversight & Operations

The Nephro Corps is built on a "By Veterans, For Veterans" command structure.

- **Veteran Command Council:** The initiative is directed by veterans who provide administrative oversight, ensuring the program remains aligned with military values and culture.
- **Nephro Corps Buddies:** We connect veterans with trained veteran volunteers who have personal lived experience with kidney disease.
- **Specialized Training:** Volunteers undergo rigorous training on the unique challenges of service, including PTSD awareness, service-connected disabilities, and navigating the VA healthcare system.
- **Precision Matching:** Veterans are meticulously matched based on branch of service, disease stage, and treatment modality to ensure instant trust and camaraderie.

2. The Coalition Strategy

Nephro Warriors serves as the "Lead Element" in a broader coalition of organizations dedicated to veteran health.

- **VSO Alliances:** We actively seek and maintain partnerships with Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) like the American Legion and VFW to expand our outreach and screening capabilities.
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- **Advocacy & Research:** We collaborate with specialized organizations to advocate for veterans exposed to Agent Orange and burn pits, ensuring kidney health is a priority in toxic exposure research.
- **Force Multiplier Model:** By partnering with other nonprofits and advocacy groups, we provide a unified front to influence policy and resource allocation for veteran kidney care.

3. Formal VA Integration

We view the Veterans Administration (VA) as a primary strategic partner, not a hurdle.

- **Phase 1 (Direct Engagement):** We propose pilot "Nephro Corps Buddy" programs within local VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) to augment existing social work and nephrology services.
 - **Phase 2 (National Integration):** We work toward formal Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) to become an integrated peer-support partner for the VA on a national level.
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Why This Initiative is Mission-Critical

- **Combatting Stigma:** Veterans often face distinct psychological hurdles; peer support from fellow veterans reduces barriers to seeking help.
 - **Navigating the Complex:** We help veterans understand service-connected disability claims and manage kidney disease alongside conditions like TBI or hypertension.
 - **Holistic Resilience:** We address the emotional, informational, and practical needs that are vital for a veteran's overall well-being and survival.
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