Veteran Connect Research Project (VCRP)

Debrief

Project Overview

The Veteran Connect Research Project successfully gathered, analyzed, and developed data on South Carolina's Veteran population. The project focused on discharge categories, service periods, and resource access, identifying key areas for improvement in outreach, coordination, and transition support for Veterans across the state. Key observations highlighted the necessity of enhancing discharge upgrade outreach, improving TAP effectiveness, and optimizing resource coordination.

Key Findings & Recommendations

Discharge Upgrades & Outreach

- **Finding:** Need for increased education and outreach regarding the discharge upgrade processes.
- **Recommendation:** Expand outreach efforts and leverage County Veteran Service Offices (VSOs) as key resources.

Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

- **Finding:** TAP is informative but lacks strong connections to navigation and local resources.
- **Recommendation:** Integrate local resources into TAP and navigation support.

County Veteran Service Offices (VSOs)

- **Finding:** VSOs are valuable but underutilized due to limited awareness.
- **Recommendation:** Connect TAP participants with local VSOs and highlight the impact of Veteran Experience Action Centers and Claim Clinics.

Homelessness & SSVF Coordination

- **Finding:** Reduction in homeless Veterans, but SC-502 region has the highest count with overlapping SSVF grantees.
- **Recommendation:** Consolidate to a single SSVF grantee for better coordination.

Employment & Transition Challenges

- **Finding:** Veterans appreciate SC's employer environment. Many face employment challenges post-service.
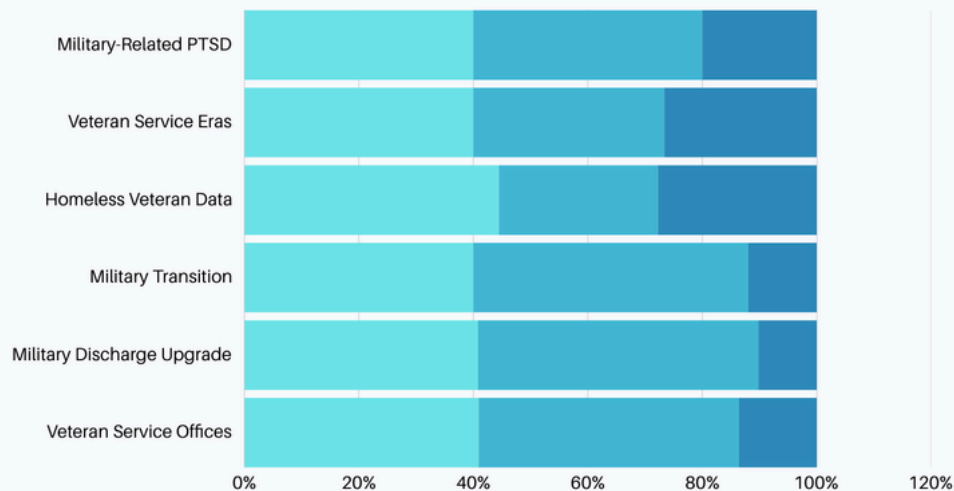- **Recommendation:** Emphasize career focus, education, and job search skills in transition programs.

Technology & Resource Access

- **Finding:** Technology has improved access, but some Veterans face digital barriers.
- **Recommendation:** Ensure accessible technology and training to improve resource access for all Veterans.

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