**Women Veteran Task Force (WVTF) Strategy Plan Outline**

**Introduction**

* **Mission Statement**: To support, research, collaborate, and advocate for the needs and wellbeing of women veterans.
* **Vision**: To create an inclusive environment where all women veterans receive the support they need to thrive and are recognized for their service and sacrifices.

**Pillars of the WVTF Strategy**

**Pillar 1: Research**

**Objective**: Stay up to date with the most recent research on women veterans as a subpopulation, with a focus on local demographics, especially women veterans of reproductive age, with children, or trying to conceive.

1. **Research Committee**
   * Form a committee dedicated to reviewing and analyzing current research on women veterans.
   * Recruit experts in veteran studies, sociology, psychology, public health, and local community leaders.
2. **Research Initiatives**
   * **Local Demographics**: Conduct comprehensive research on the demographics of women veterans in Manatee County and surrounding areas.
   * **Focus on High-Risk Groups**: Prioritize research on women veterans of reproductive age, with children, or trying to conceive, identifying factors contributing to higher suicide risk.
   * **Trauma-Informed Approach**: Ensure all research considers trauma-informed care, recognizing barriers women veterans face, especially related to trauma by men.
3. **Centralized Information Hub**
   * Gather all available programs and services into a centralized, accessible location specifically for women veterans.
   * Ensure the information hub is updated regularly and easily accessible.

**Pillar 2: Support**

**Objective**: Ensure all basic needs of women veterans are met, including childcare assistance, which is critical for accessing employment and healthcare services.

1. **Basic Needs Assessment**
   * Conduct surveys and interviews to identify the primary needs of women veterans.
   * Develop a comprehensive needs assessment report.
2. **Support Services**
   * **Food Assistance**: Partner with local food banks and meal service programs.
   * **Shelter and Housing**: Collaborate with housing authorities and shelters to provide temporary and permanent housing solutions.
   * **Clothing**: Organize clothing drives and distribute essential clothing items.
   * **Transportation**: Establish partnerships with transportation services to offer free or discounted rides.
   * **Healthcare**: Ensure access to medical, mental health, and dental services.
   * **Childcare Assistance**: Provide support for childcare services to remove barriers to employment and healthcare.
3. **Support Centers**
   * Establish support centers in key locations to provide on-the-ground assistance and resources.
   * Implement a 24/7 helpline for emergency support.

**Pillar 3: Collaborate**

**Objective**: Collaborate with all relevant organizations to enhance resources and support for women veterans.

1. **Partnership Development**
   * Identify and reach out to potential partners, including veteran organizations, government agencies, nonprofits, and private sector entities.
   * Formalize partnerships through MOUs and collaboration agreements.
2. **Resource Sharing**
   * Create a centralized database of resources available for women veterans.
   * Facilitate resource sharing and information exchange among partner organizations.
3. **Collaborative Representation**
   * Ensure every organization dealing with women's services and veteran support has a representative or liaison for women veterans.
   * Establish points of contact for women veteran issues, ensuring continuous availability for communication and information dissemination.
4. **Collaborative Events**
   * Organize joint events such as job fairs, health clinics, and educational workshops.
   * Host an annual summit to bring together partners and stakeholders to discuss challenges and solutions.

**Pillar 4: Advocate**

**Objective**: Advocate for policy changes and raise awareness about the challenges women veterans face.

1. **Policy Advocacy**
   * Identify key policy areas affecting women veterans (e.g., healthcare, employment, housing).
   * Develop policy briefs and position papers.
   * Engage with lawmakers and government officials to promote policy changes.
2. **Awareness Campaigns**
   * Launch campaigns to raise public awareness about the unique challenges faced by women veterans.
   * Use various media platforms to disseminate information and personal stories of women veterans.
3. **Community Engagement**
   * Host town hall meetings and public forums to discuss women veterans' issues.
   * Encourage community support through volunteerism and local initiatives.
4. **Breaking the Stigma**
   * Develop programs to educate the public and break down stereotypes about women veterans.
   * Promote positive narratives and success stories of women veterans.
5. **Establish Women Veteran Committees**
   * Form women veteran committees at the county, city, and state levels to ensure representation and advocacy.
   * Ensure these committees meet regularly and have a direct line to policymakers and stakeholders.

**Implementation and Evaluation**

1. **Implementation Plan**
   * Develop a detailed timeline and action plan for each pillar.
   * Assign specific tasks and responsibilities to team members and committees.
2. **Monitoring and Evaluation**
   * Establish metrics and indicators to assess the effectiveness of programs and initiatives.
   * Conduct regular evaluations and adjust strategies as needed.
3. **Reporting**
   * Produce quarterly and annual reports on progress and outcomes.
   * Share reports with stakeholders, partners, and the public to maintain transparency and accountability.

**Conclusion**

* Reaffirm the commitment to supporting and empowering women veterans.
* Encourage continuous feedback and community involvement to ensure the WVTF remains responsive to the needs of women veterans.