



SAMHSA ★ SMVF TA CENTER

Service Members, Veterans, and their
Families Technical Assistance Center

SAMHSA's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance Center

SMVF TA Center Fact Sheet

SAMHSA's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance (SMVF TA) Center works with states, cities and territories to strengthen their behavioral health systems serving service members, veterans, and their families (SMVF). This initiative provides support through the provision of technical assistance and the promotion of ongoing interagency collaboration.

This initiative builds on SAMHSA's 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016 and 2018 SMVF Policy Academies, through which 49 states, 8 cities, 4 territories, and the District of Columbia have established operational, interagency teams that (1) developed strategic plans to accomplish the above goal and (2) committed to sustaining and expanding the teams and implementing and enhancing the plan. Since 2011, the SMVF TA Center has provided technical assistance to the 54 Policy Academy graduates, facilitating plan implementation, interagency collaboration within teams, and state-to-state information exchange. The SMVF TA Center works with the Policy Academy state and territory team, as well as with states and territories that are interested and engaged in receiving support for this work.

The target audiences for SAMHSA's SMVF TA Center are state and territory interagency teams that have graduated from one of SAMHSA's SMVF Policy Academies. Within those teams are senior-level representatives from governors' offices and tribal leaders; senior-level representatives from state/territory/tribal agencies responsible for mental health, substance abuse, veterans affairs, housing, labor/employment, Medicaid and/or Social Security, and criminal justice; the National Guard; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; statewide initiatives (e.g., Joining Community Forces, Community Forces, and Community Blueprint); and other stakeholders (including, but not limited to, veteran service organizations, military and veteran family support organizations, and providers) who are working with states, territories, and tribes to improve behavioral health systems for SMVF.

Key objectives for the SMVF TA Center include the following:

- Providing a centralized mechanism for states and territories to utilize when they have questions about strengthening their behavioral health systems for SMVF;
- Increasing awareness of and promoting integrated responses to the behavioral health needs of SMVF among agencies, providers, and stakeholders in the states and territories receiving technical assistance;
- Increasing awareness of and access to resources and programs that strengthen behavioral health care systems for SMVF;

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- Increasing the number of states and territories that implement promising, best, and evidence-based practices in suicide prevention, mental health, substance use treatment, peer recovery support services, homelessness prevention, and employment;
 - Strengthening ongoing collaboration at the state and territory level among key public and private agencies and stakeholders concerned with the behavioral health needs of SMVF; These include agencies responsible for and experts in mental health, substance use, emergency and crisis services, primary care, veterans affairs, labor/employment, housing/homelessness, children and families, and criminal justice; National Guard and Reserves; Medicaid and/or Social Security benefits; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN); veterans service organizations; and veterans (including Reserve components) and their families; and
 - Providing a platform for state and territory behavioral health systems to learn, connect, and share with experts and peers.

The SMVF TA Center facilitates peer consultation and supports peer involvement in technical assistance activities, such as: promoting the adoption of promising, best, and evidence-based practices in suicide prevention, mental health, and substance use treatment; veteran jail diversion; homelessness prevention; workplace/employment; interagency data sharing; telepsychiatry; outreach to the National Guard and Reserves; coordinating diverse public and private organizations that are reaching out to SMVF; optimizing financing mechanisms to increase system capacity; improving data-sharing across agencies; training community behavioral health providers in military culture and evidence-based, trauma-informed care; and other critical issues related to the behavioral health needs of SMVF.

The SMVF TA Center provides training and technical assistance to states, territories, and tribes, and supports state-to-state peer sharing and knowledge transfer through activities such as:

- Webinars
- Learning communities
- Telephone and on-site individualized consultation, technical assistance, and/or training
- Policy Academies
- Resource provision (e.g., publications, fact sheets, etc.)



For more information, contact:
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