

THE BENEFITS OF HAVING A VETERANS UNIT IN YOUR LOCAL JAIL

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EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

Every community has a unique demographic and needs based on a wide range of factors. In El Paso County Colorado, there are five active duty military installations and a 1:5 ratio of active military, guard/reserve, retired military and veterans to the non-military population. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office saw a need to address this unique military demographic within their Jail. The need was evident to not only create an internal program, but to strategically partner with the community for comprehensive involvement.



Who is the demographic

population that needs attention?



What is the problem

these individuals are facing?

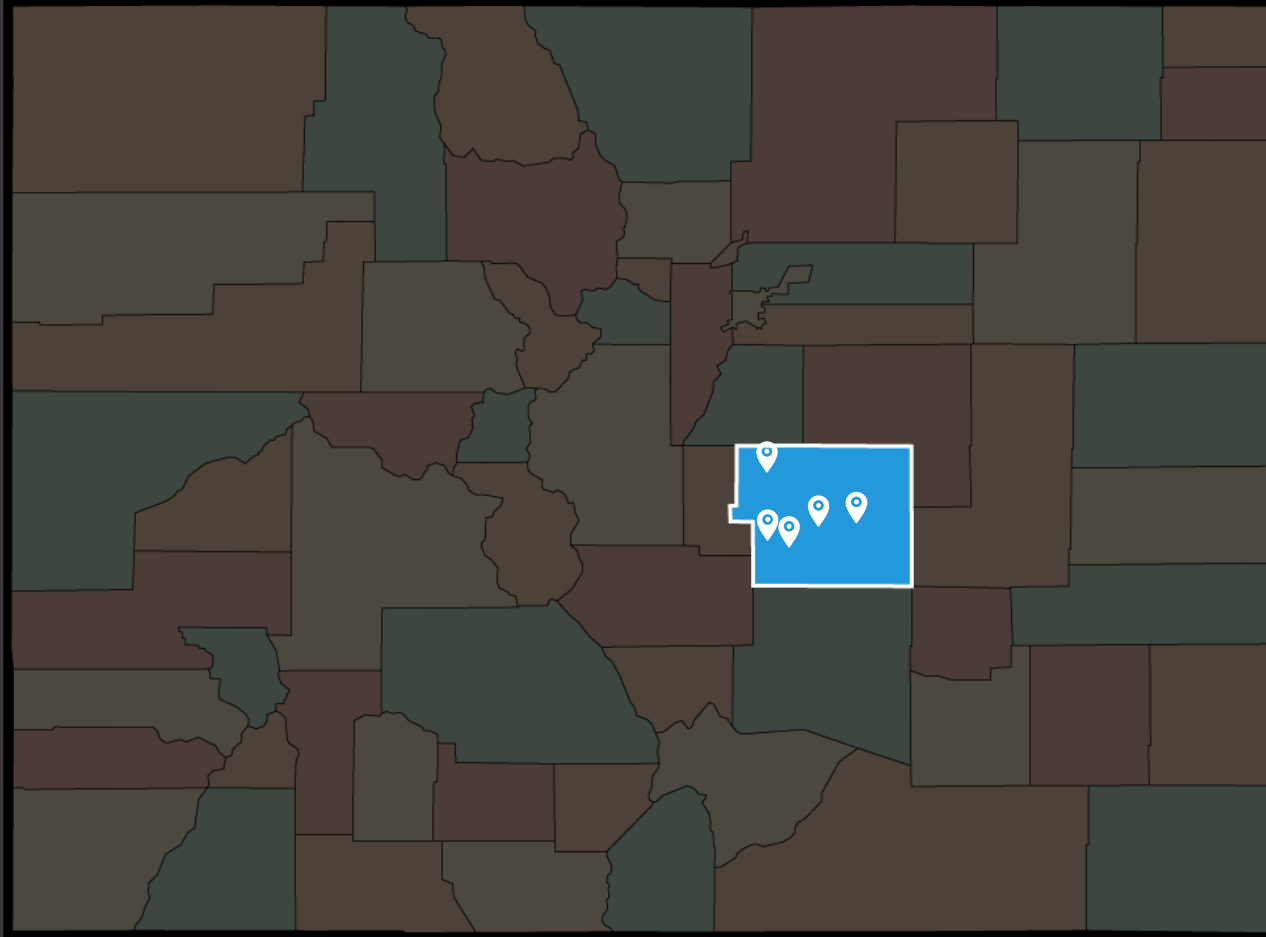


Why is this an issue





That our community cares about?

IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS

of the unique demographic, problem, and community issue.



EL PASO COUNTY'S MILITARY PRESENCE

-  Fort Carson
-  Peterson Air Force Base
-  Schriever Air Force Base
-  United States Air Force Academy
-  Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station - NORAD

MILITARY & VETERAN POPULATION

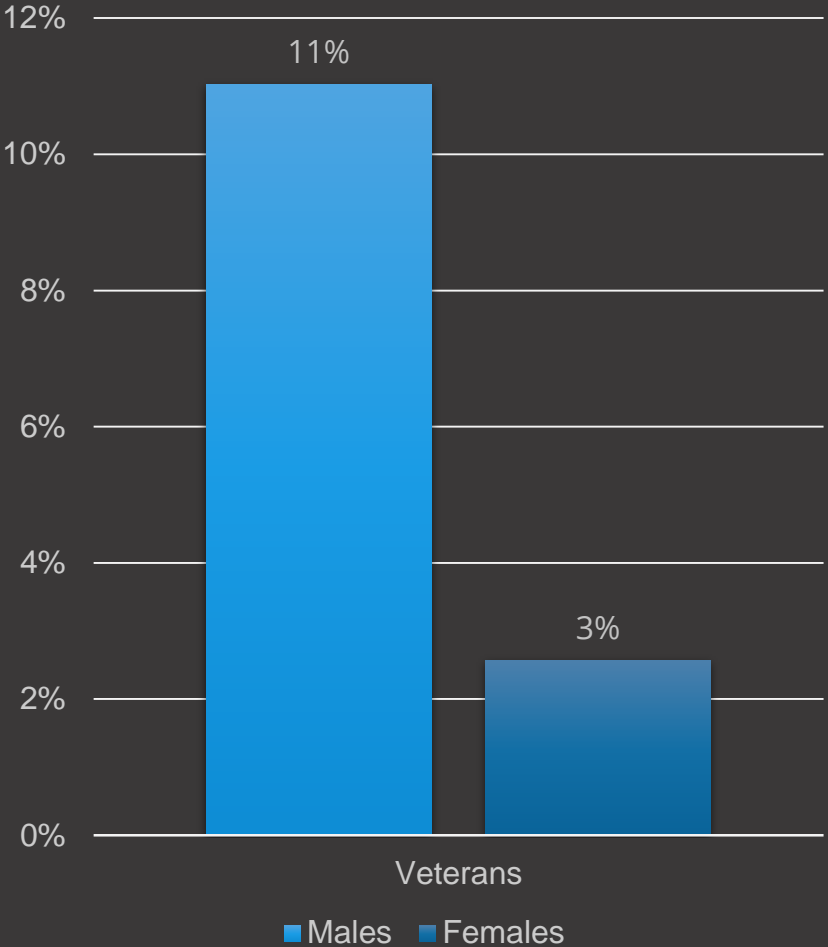
Over 128,200 of the 688,284 El Paso County residence

≈ 20%

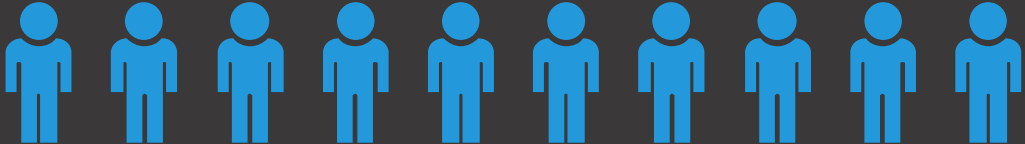
Active Duty, Reservists or Veterans



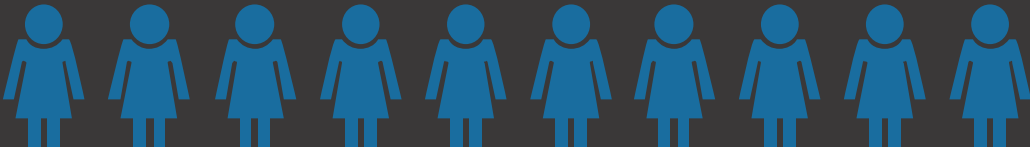
CURRENTLY AT THE EL PASO COUNTY JAIL



11.03 % OF MALES AT CJC ARE VETERANS,
Active Duty, Reservists, or National Guard members



2.57 % OF FEMALES AT CJC ARE VETERANS
Active Duty, Reservists, or National Guard members



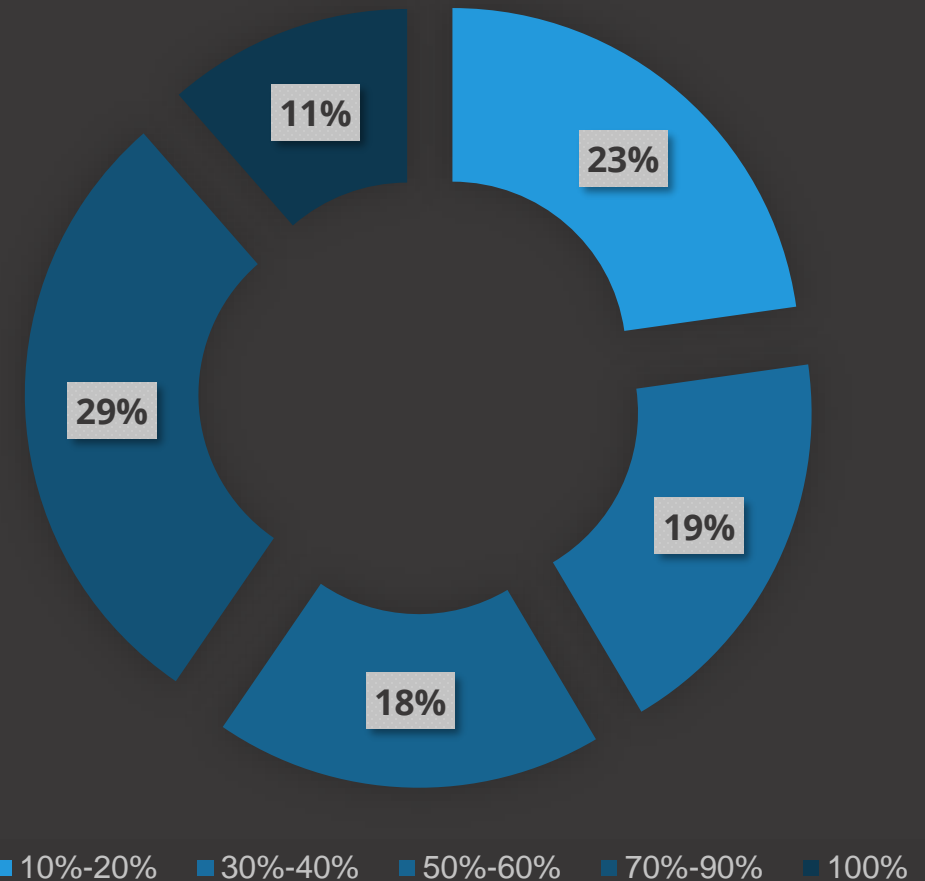
UNIQUE CHALLENGES FACED

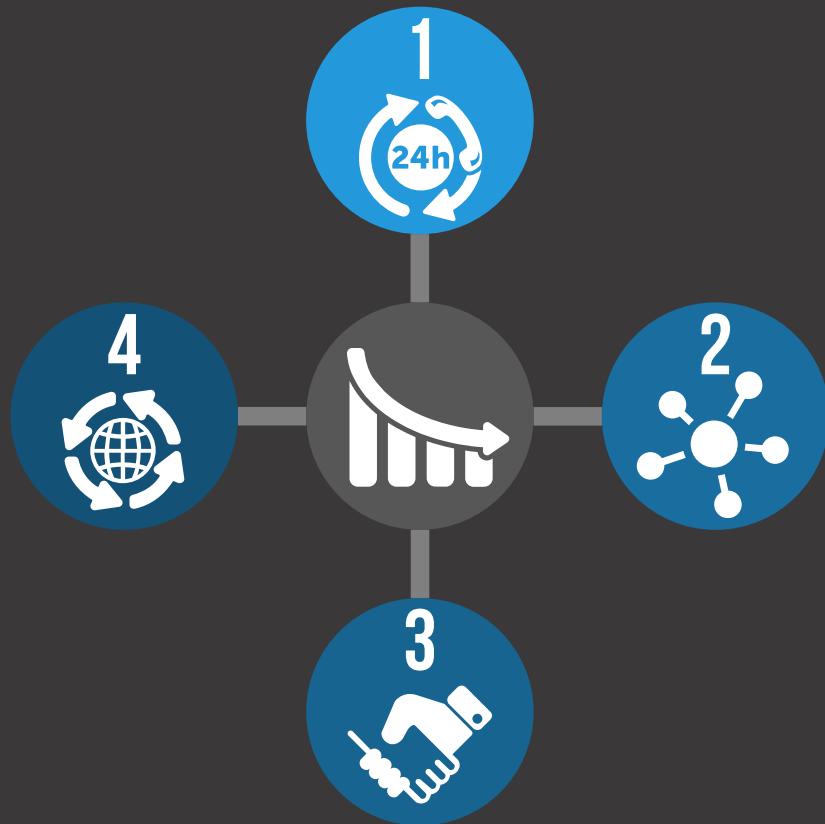
WHEN WORKING WITH THE VETERAN POPULATION

Warriors returning home from deployment may experience challenges when reintegrating into civilian life due to survival skills they have developed while living in a combat environment. Veterans may also have mental health concerns, physical disabilities, or other personal issues that can impact their personal and professional lives.

- 1 PTSD, TBI, Disability
- 2 Substance Abuse
- 3 Prone to Violence
- 4 Unemployment & Homelessness

PERCENTAGE OF COMPENSATION
FOR THE 37% OF VETERANS IN EL PASO COUNTY COLLECTING DISABILITY





THE GOAL IS TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM

WITHIN THE VETERAN JAIL POPULATION BY

- 1 Addressing veterans needs during and after incarceration.
- 2 Looking at the totality of the veteran's situation with consideration to their needs.
- 3 Having community based partnerships working with veterans in the criminal justice system.
- 4 Pool resources and streamline processes to help veterans.

What community partners can help

are there already some non-profit organizations addressing these issues

Is it scalable

what will be needed to grow this program successfully

What organizations can help

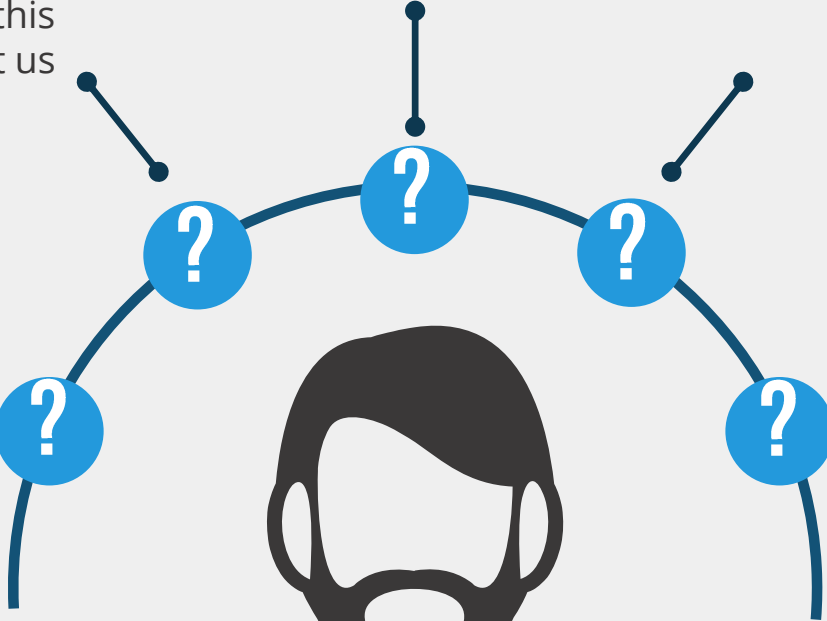
are there professionals in this area that can assist us

Is it sustainable

can this program maintain a level of success going forward

What can we do internally

is there current staffing and resources available to us



Internally

there was a need to keep active military away from foreign born nationals

Externally

veterans services was spread thin having to visit many different wards

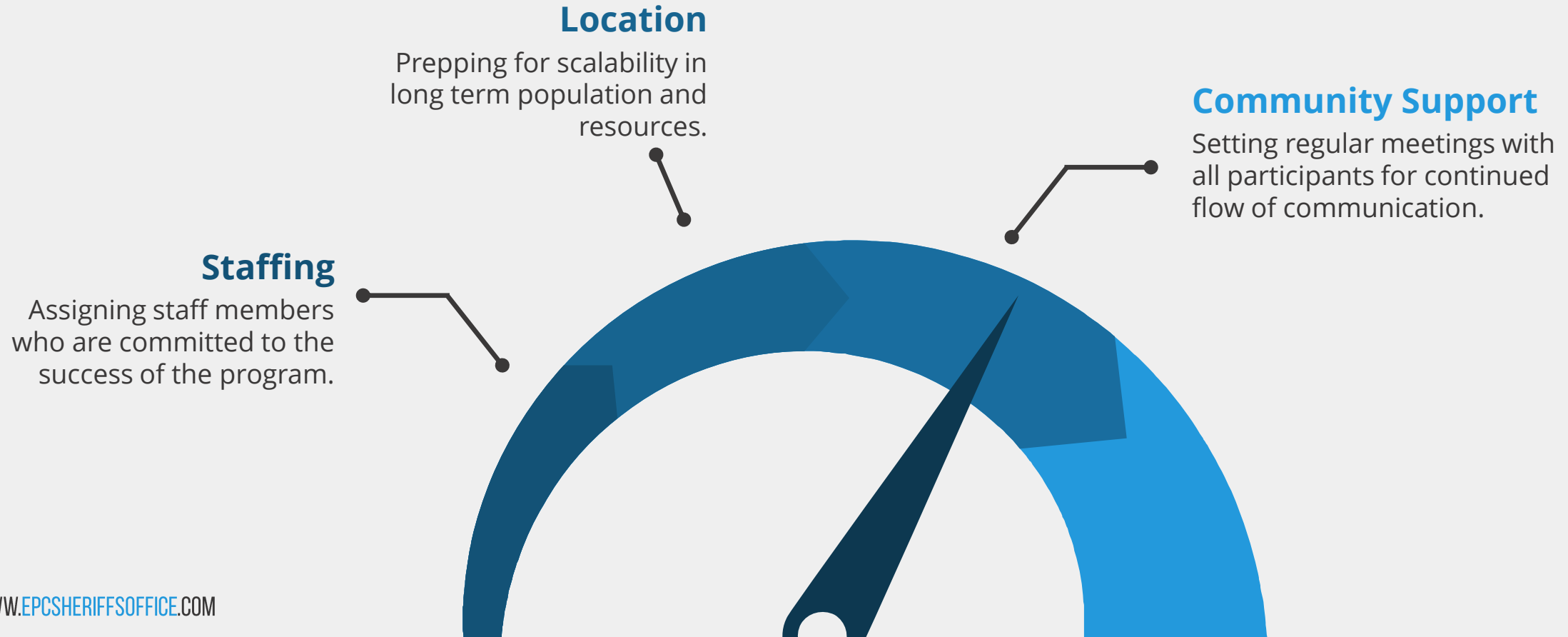


HAVING ONE LOCATION WHERE ONLY VETERANS WERE HOUSED WAS A PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO BOTH

Creating a ward that was dedicated to housing only veterans and active military inmates solved both these issues and was an easy solution.

IMPLEMENTING THE PLANS

by managing and determining which resources are necessary



SWORN STAFFING

Preferred military background to facilitate successful program management & oversight

- Qualified to Instruct Time For Change (T4C)
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)
- Therapeutic Intervention
- Further screen and scrutinize eligible veterans past initial jail classification

WARD POPULATION

- Active Duty with Military Confinement Order
- Active Duty with Civilian Criminal Charges
- Veterans
- Minimum Classification Inmates
- Non Disruptive Behavior
- Med & Max Inmates on case by case basis



It's not a class or program, it is simply a safe environment for fellow veterans to come together and begin to build the camaraderie and friendship we once had while serving.

Since transitioning out of the service or coming home from combat overseas, we are losing Veterans to suicide, addiction, and incarceration at an alarming rate. These losses are unacceptable.

By creating camaraderie we hope to find our purpose again and realize that the battle for our lives has just begun... No matter where we go or what mistakes we make we must remember that we will always be WARRIORS FIRST!

S

Strengths

- Low Recidivism
- Strong Community Ties
- One Stop Shop

W

Weaknesses

- Possible Funding Issues
- Misaligned Community Goals

O

Opportunities

- Public Awareness
- Stronger Military/Law Enforcement Ties

T

Threats

- Internal Inconsistency
- Politics
- Veteran Offender Non-Interest

WHAT ARE VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS AND PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS



- Best practice is to use evidence based practices for behavior modification
- Vet courts follow the “Ten Key Components for Veterans Treatment Courts”
- Most of the key components mention “integrated responses” or “coordinated responses”



**DRUG
COURTS**



**TREATMENT
COURTS**



**SPECIALTY
COURTS**

IMPLEMENTING THE PLANS

by managing and determining which resources are necessary

WORKING WITH OUR VETERANS WARD

Since 2011



404 Participants



262 Graduates



85 Currently in the Program



16 Pending Entry, 12 Referrals Done

Key component #3: Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the VTC program

Want them in program within 50 days of arrest

Find them early

Jail daily targeted classification report

“Go fishing where the fish are”

Key component #10: Forging partnerships among VTC, VA, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances the VTC’s effectiveness

Develop coalitions within the CJS

VA, community services, employment, housing

Common need to provide wrap services

In program – sanctions, treatment planning

Who picks them up at the door?

IDENTIFYING THE NEEDS

of the unique demographic, problem, and community issue.

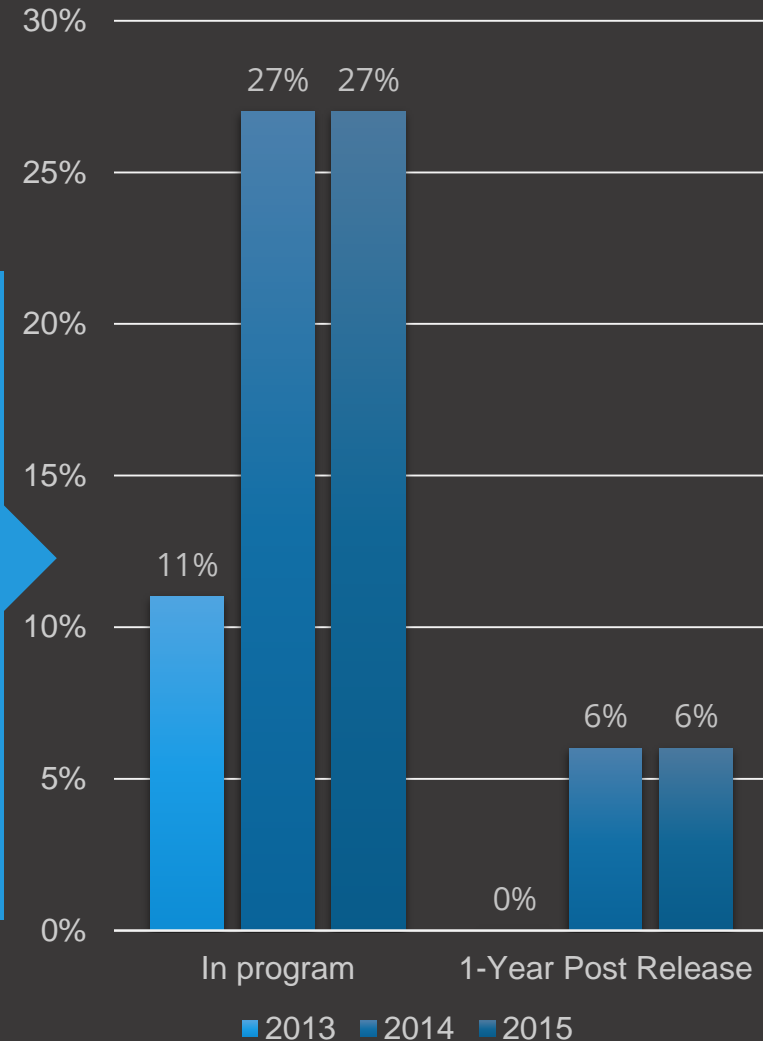
HOW WE KNOW THIS WORKS

A RETURN ON AN INVESTMENT

- Jail Diversion Savings
- Simplified Cost Savings Estimate
 - \$1.38 million per year

- 2014 - NIC selected as one of six Veterans Treatment Courts in US with "Best Promising Practices"
- 2016 - We are a Justice for Vets National Mentor Court
- If interested in visiting us: www.JusticeForVets.org

RECIDIVISM



DEFINING THE GOALS

by clearly stating what you intended achieve with action-oriented terms.

INCARCERATED

VETERANS

OVERSIGHT

COMMITTEE

INCARCERATED VETERANS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

ESTABLISHED AUGUST 2015

- 1 Community based partnership between Governmental and Non Governmental Organizations working with veterans in the criminal justice system
- 2 Addresses veteran needs during and after incarceration
- 3 Looks at the totality of the veteran's situation with consideration to substance abuse, physical health needs, mental health needs, housing needs, employment needs
- 4 Interacts to pool resources and streamline processes to help veterans

DEFINING THE GOALS

by clearly stating what you intended achieve with action-oriented terms.



MEMBERS OF

IVOC

- 4th Judicial District Veterans Trauma Court (VTC)
- El Paso County Sheriff's Office
- Family Care Center
- Rocky Mountain Human Services (RMHS)
- Veterans Healthcare Administration (VA)
- El Paso County Veteran Service Office (Providing Services Outside Of IVOC)
- Pikes Peak Workforce Center
- Operation TBI Freedom / Craig Hospital
- Mt. Carmel Veterans Services Center
- Fort Carson
- University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

QUESTIONS

comments or concerns?



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