



Welcome to the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative

Introduction



Background

- U.S. at war for over a decade
- 2.8 Million Deployed → Drawdown
- 325,000 veterans currently in Los Angeles
- 12,000 more per year estimated
- “Sea of Goodwill”





Disconnected

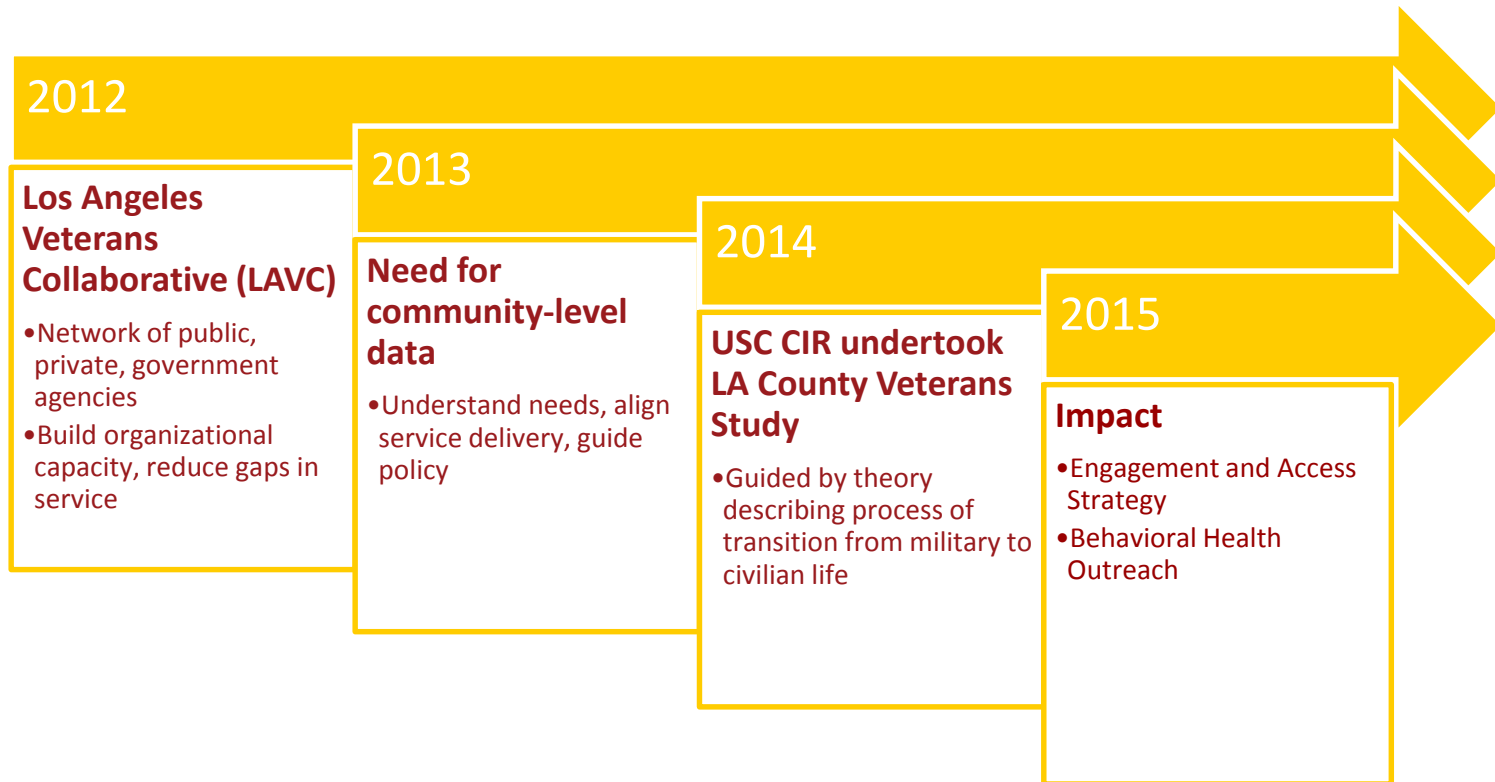


- Less than 1% of the Population has served in the last 13 years
- “Whatever their fond sentiments for men and women in uniform, for most Americans the wars remain an abstraction, a distant and unpleasant series of news items that do not affect them personally”

- Secretary Gates, 2012



Background (Cont'd)





Los Angeles Collaborative

Data



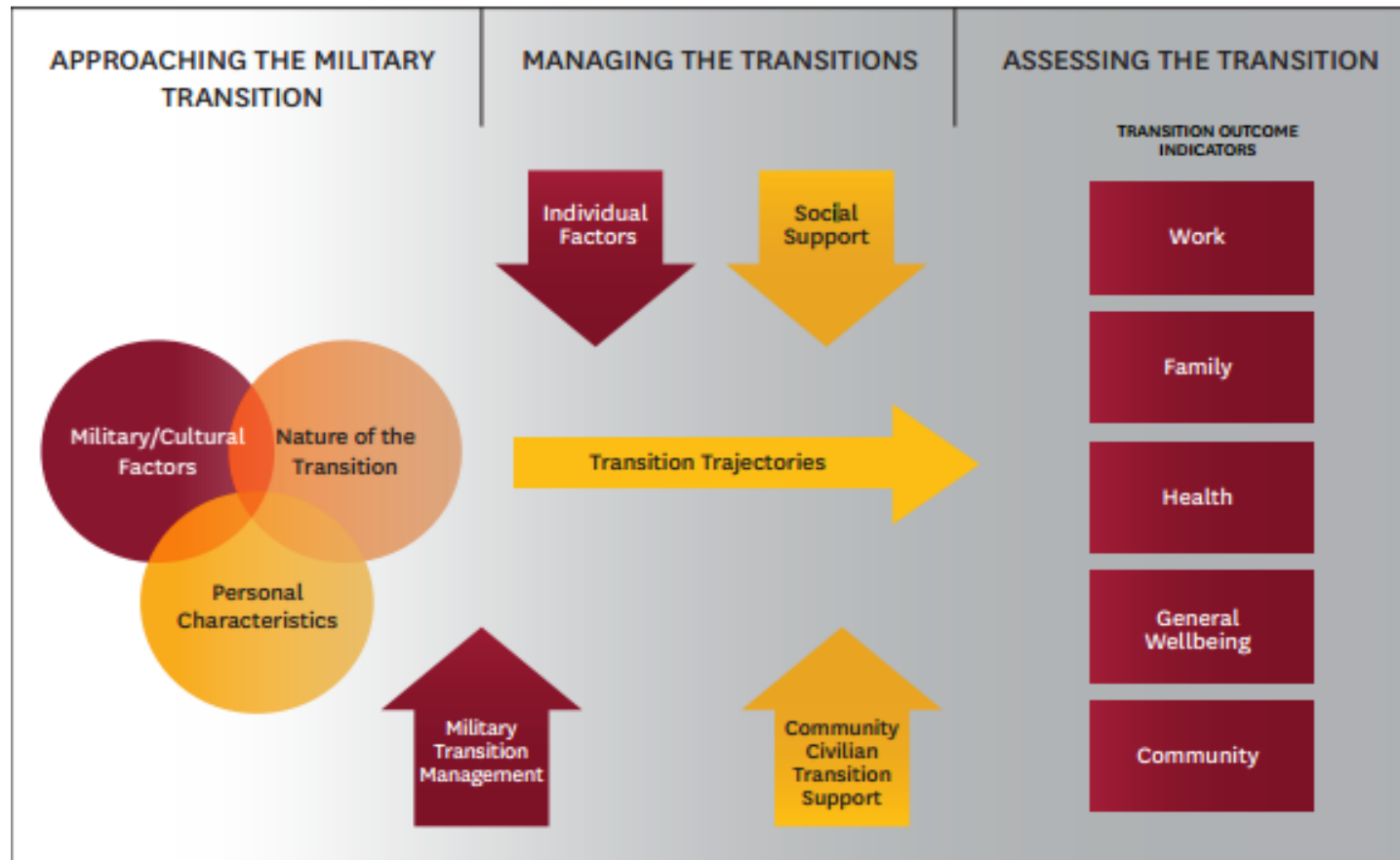
Action



Impact



Military Transition Theory





Results

Survey: 1,356 LA County veterans

- 50% Served **prior** to September 11, 2001
- 38% Served **after** September 11, 2001
- 12% did not provide date of service

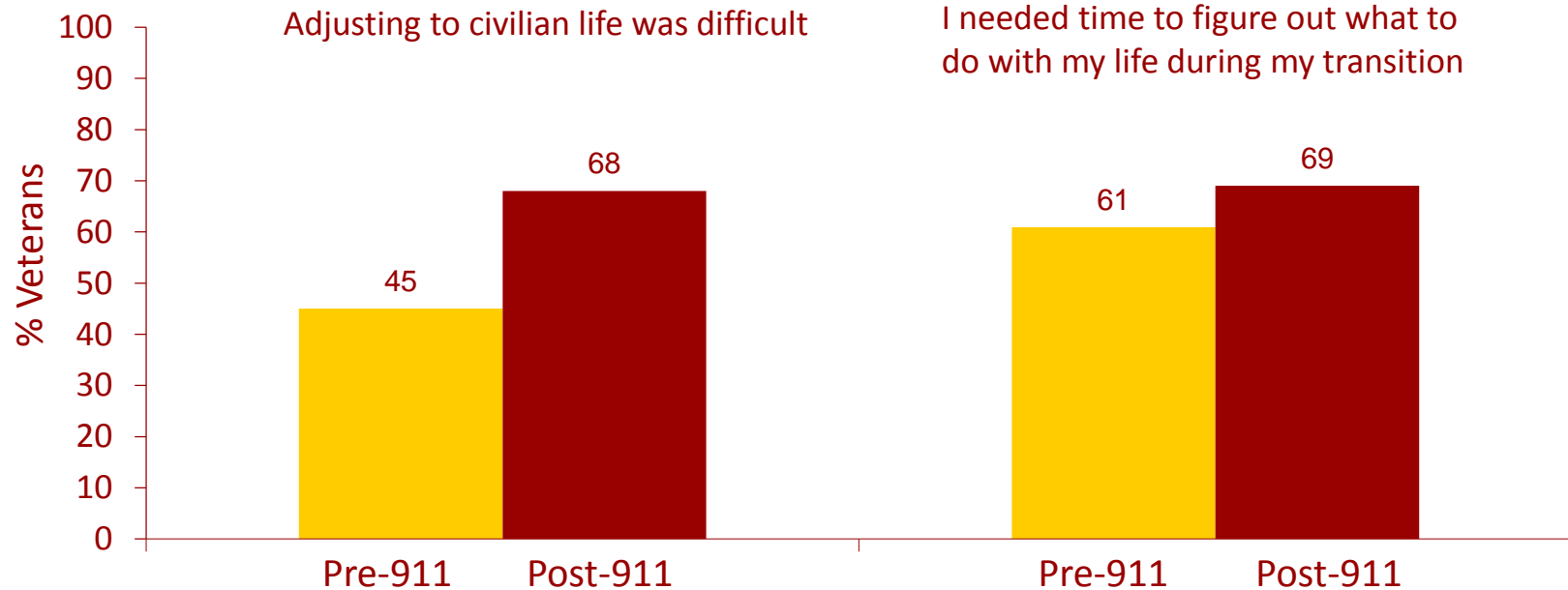
Focus Group Interviews

- 72 participants



Transitioning Out of the Military

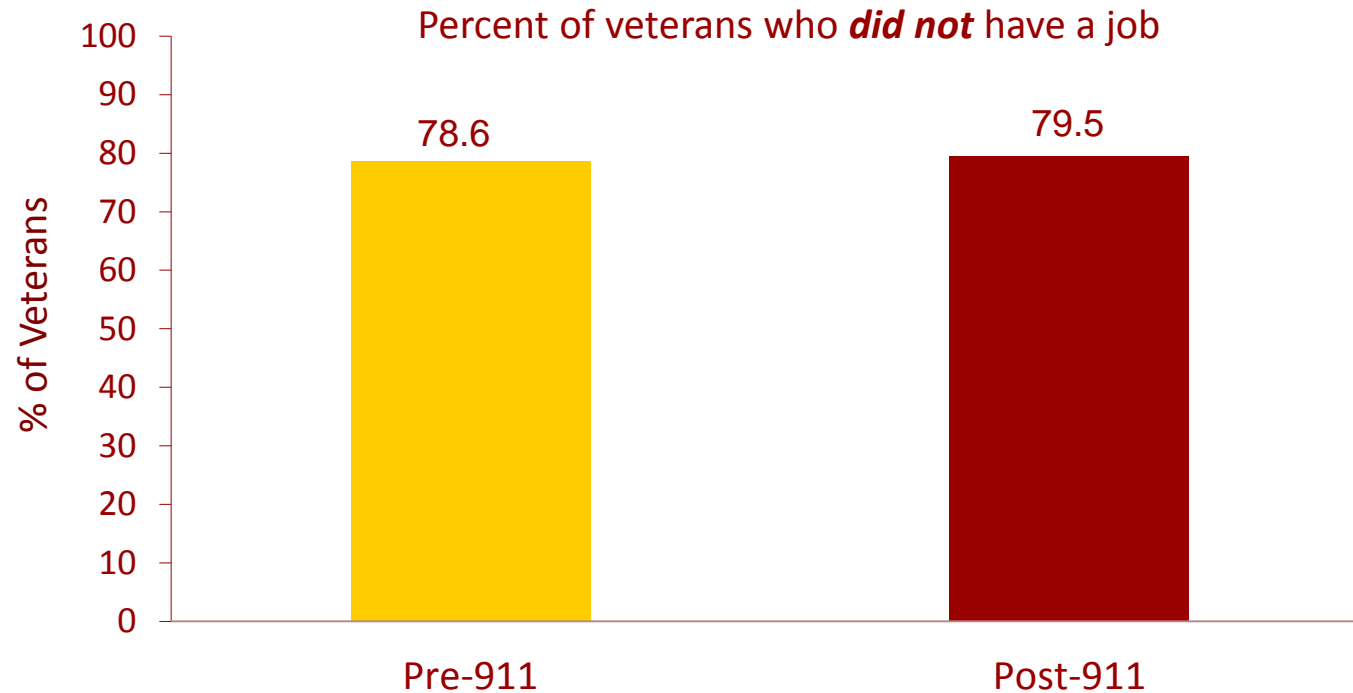
Today's veteran reports greater difficulty transitioning from the military back to civilian life compared to previous veterans.





Job Prospects

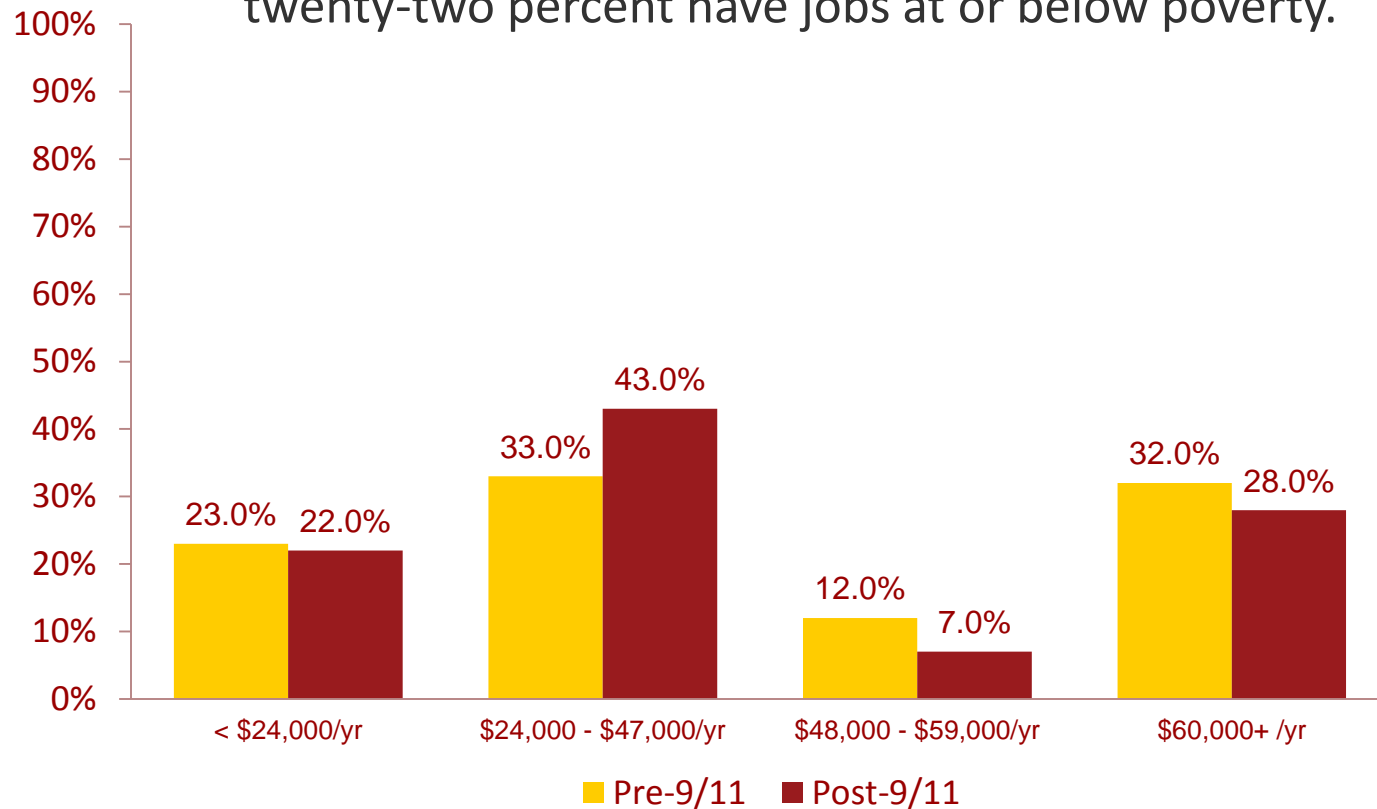
Most veterans did not have a job when they left military service.





Median Income

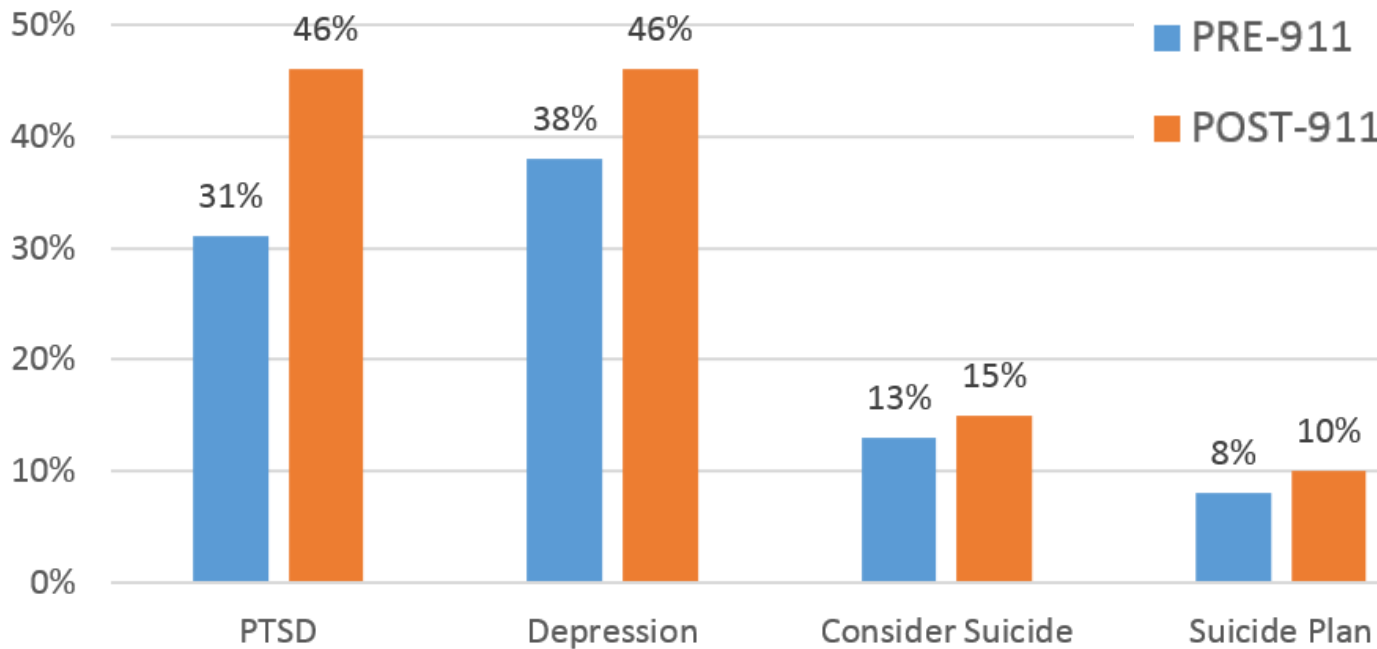
Of the veterans who do work full-time (44%),
twenty-two percent have jobs at or below poverty.





Mental and Behavioral Health

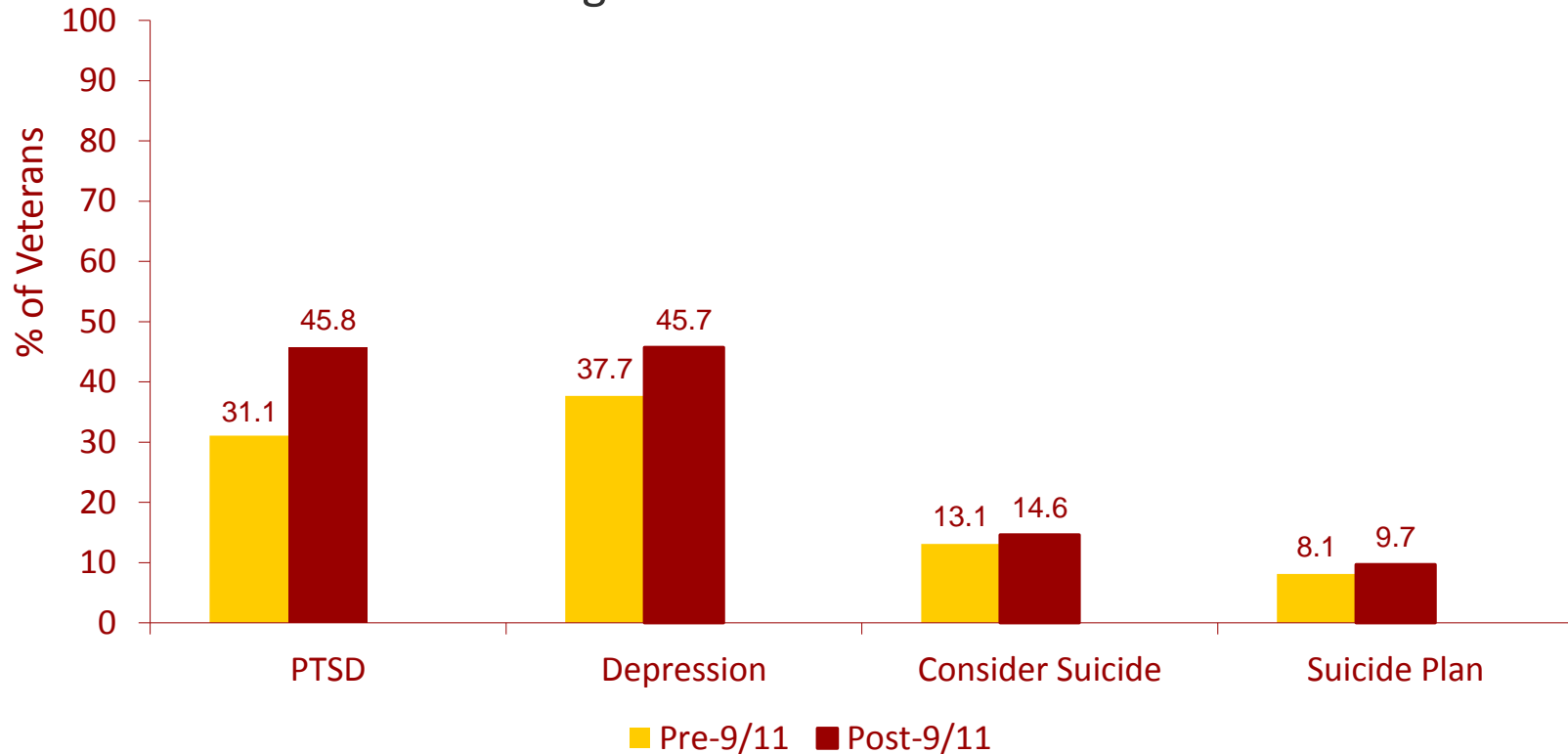
Most veterans **believe** their mental health is **pretty good** when they leave the military, then **later realize** they have significant unmet issues.





Psychological Health of Veterans

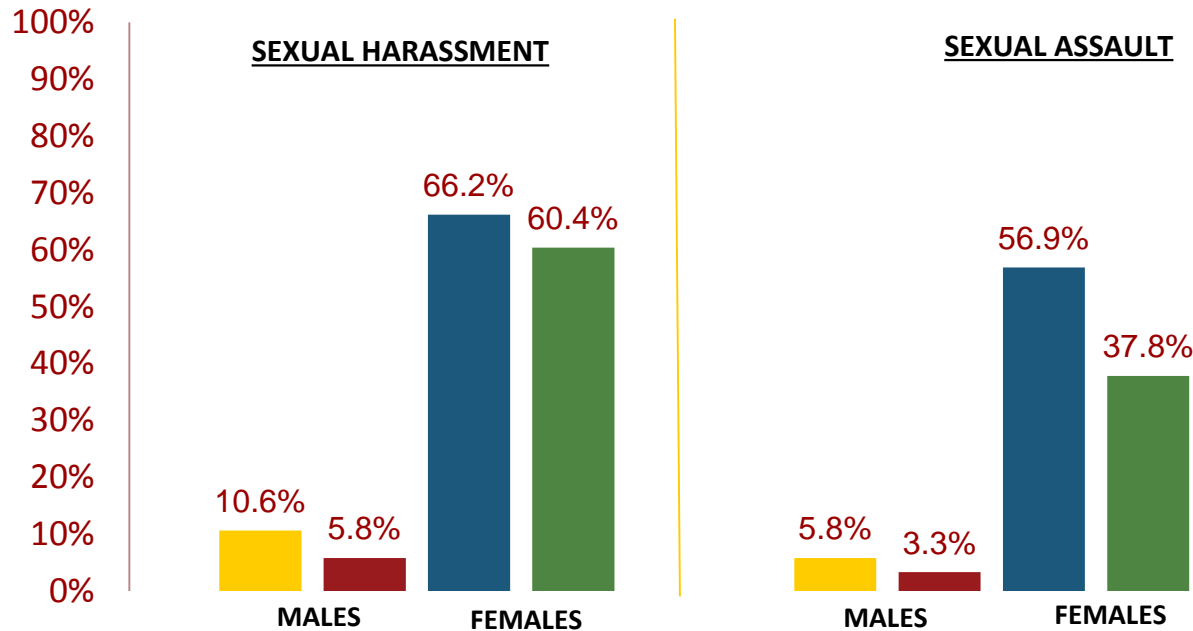
Veterans have significant psychological health issues, including PTSD and suicidal ideation.





Sexual Harassment & Sexual Assault

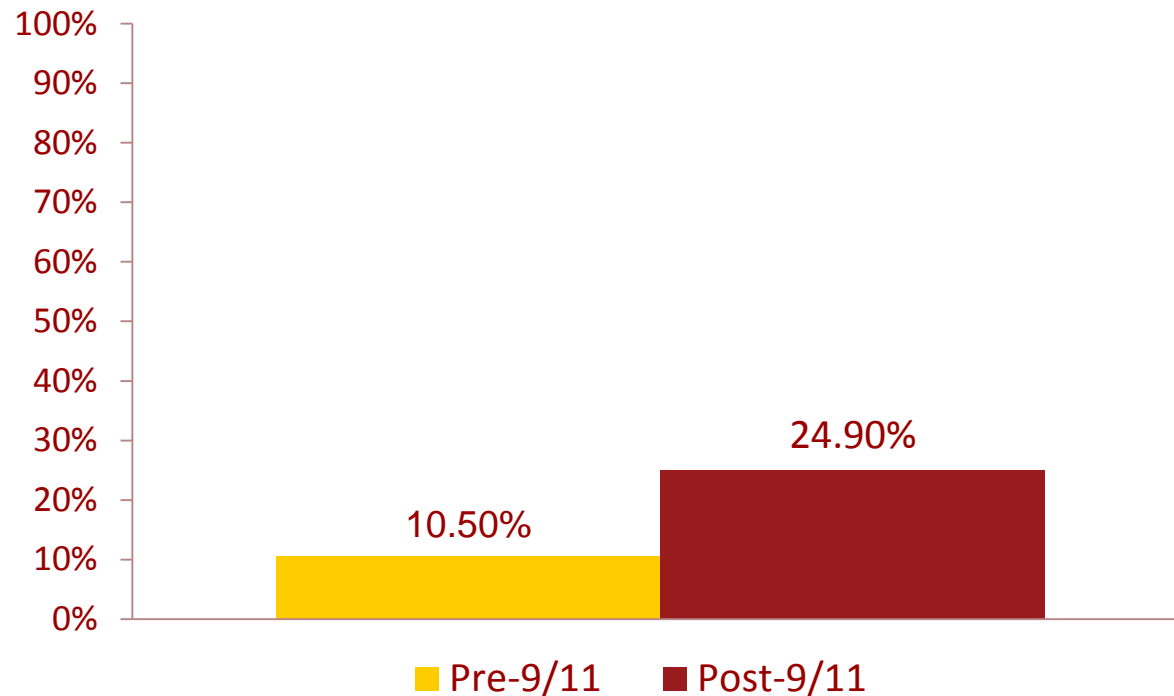
Percent of male and female pre-9/11 and post-9/11 veterans who were sexually harassed or assaulted during military service.





Veterans with Alcohol Concerns

Percent of pre-9/11 and post-9/11 veterans who screened positive on the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) alcohol consumption scale.





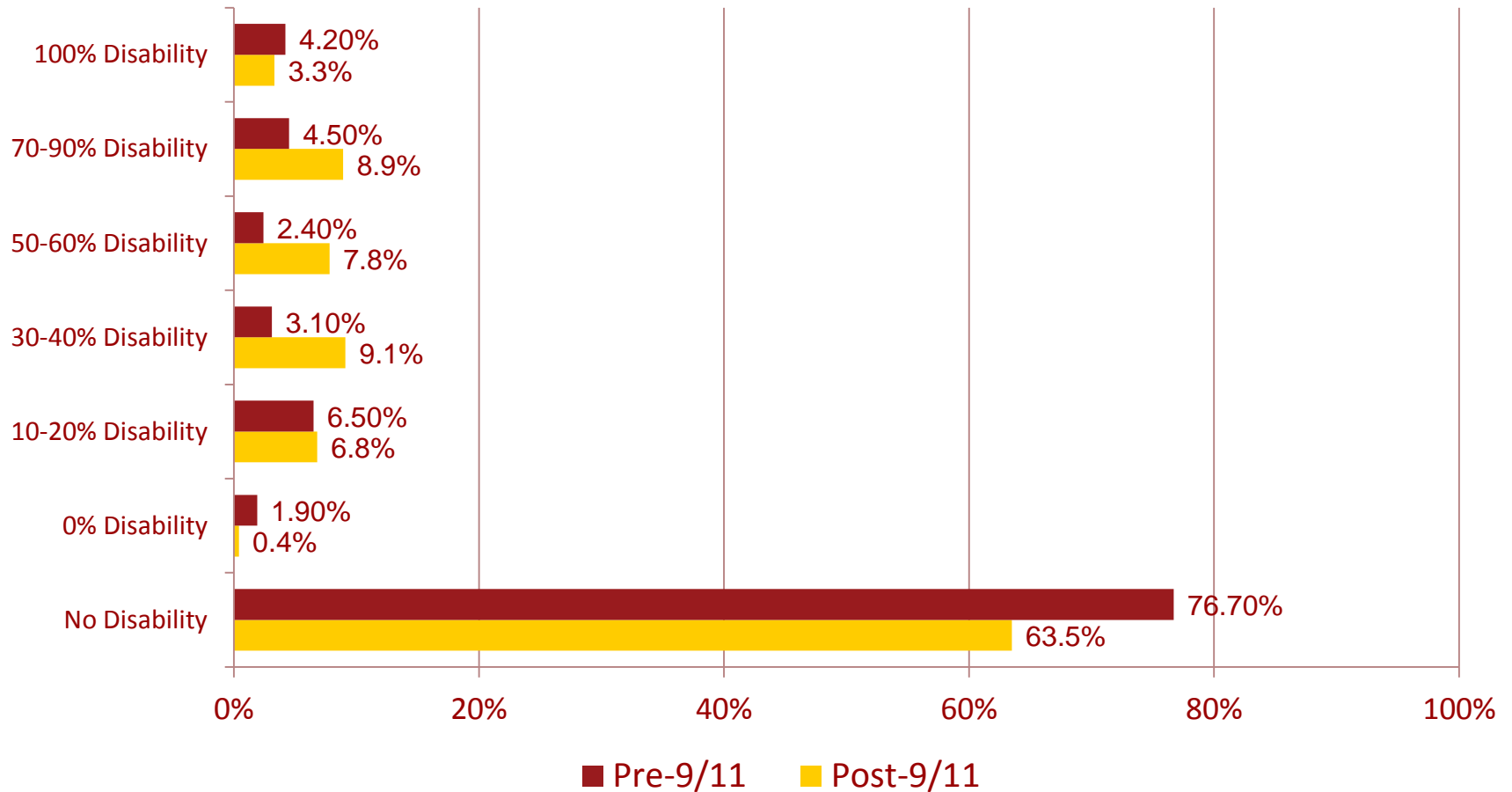
Physical Health

- Over **50%** report significant physical health conditions that **impair their daily functioning**, which is not necessarily reflected in a VA disability rating.





VA Disability Rating





Veterans Administration (VA)

- Over **70%** of veterans **use VA services**, primarily for medical care and education.
- Of those that use the VA, **50% believe** the VA needs to significantly **improve** their services.
- In particular, veterans are unhappy with:
 1. Wait time for appointments
 2. VA disability rating system
 3. Support for the GI Bill for Education



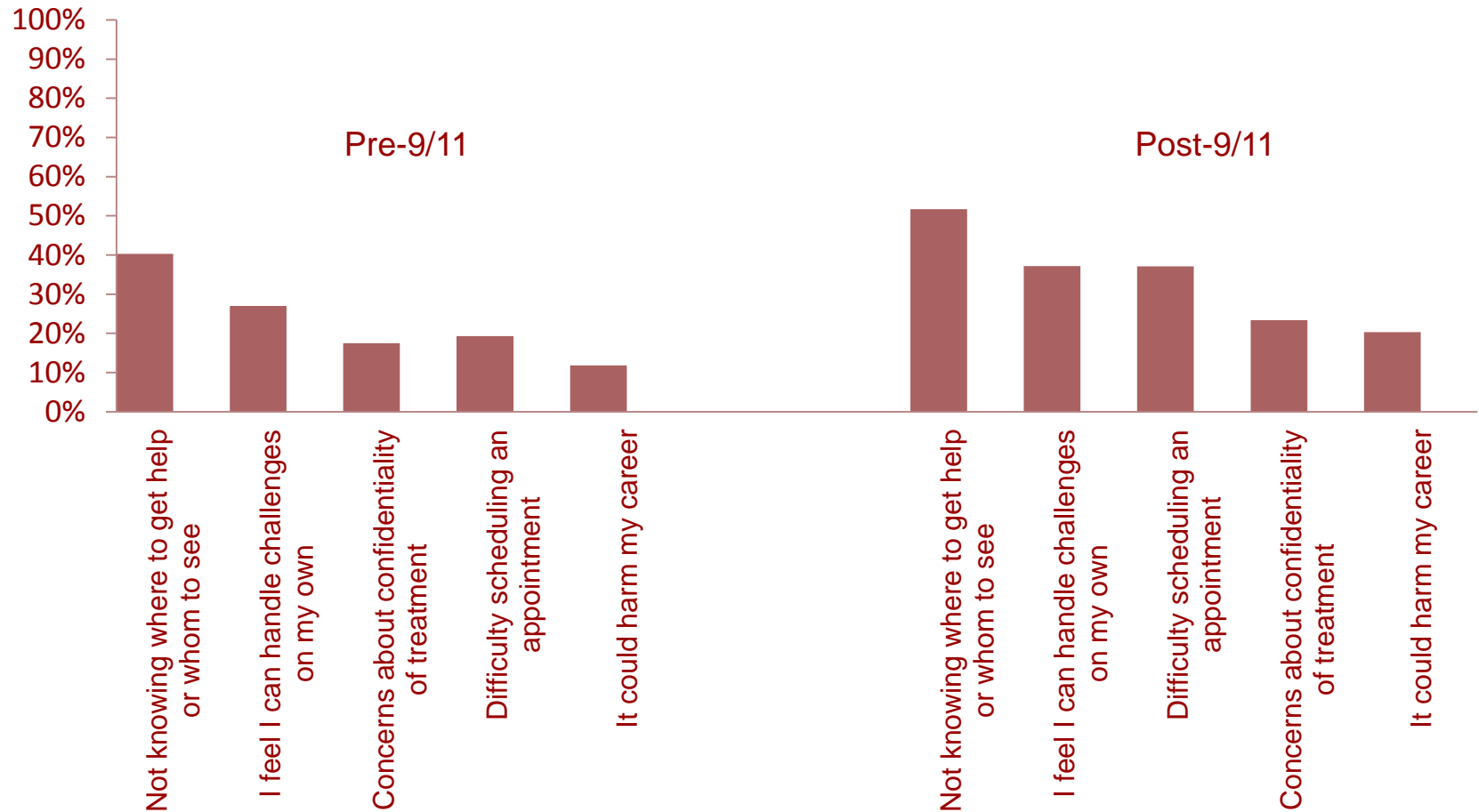


Financial & Legal Issues

- Over **40%** of veterans face significant **financial issues** stemming primarily from low-paying jobs.
- Legal issues, although not frequently encountered by veterans, **range from misdemeanor** offenses such as traffic violations, **to more serious issues** such as domestic violence and drug or alcohol offenses.



Veterans Barriers to Care





Veteran Service Needs

Veterans identified a **wide range of services needed** during transition, including employment, healthcare, mental health, housing, education and others.

Recommendations

- Establish a **veteran community support network**
 - Comprehensive and **holistic** plan to engage and support veterans in transition, which can take up to 2 years
- Utilize a **peer-to-peer** strategy through creation of civilian military transition mentors



Military Identity

Today's veterans have **strong** personal and social **military identities** that, while admirable and desirable, **can interfere** with a successful civilian transition.



Recommendations

- Develop a **comprehensive reorientation program** focusing on differences and similarities between military and civilian culture
 - Provide **realistic** employment/housing expectations
- Structure local **community veteran support services** to begin where TAP/Transition GPS leaves off
- Encourage veterans to build **new networks** with civilians while on active military service



Los Angeles Collaborative

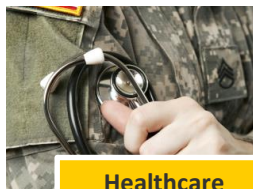
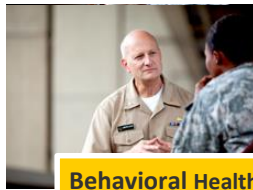
Data → Action → Impact



How Action Works

(2nd Wednesday of the month)

1. **Large gathering:** Announcements and events relating to the veteran community
2. **Working groups:** 1-hr sessions in one of seven working groups

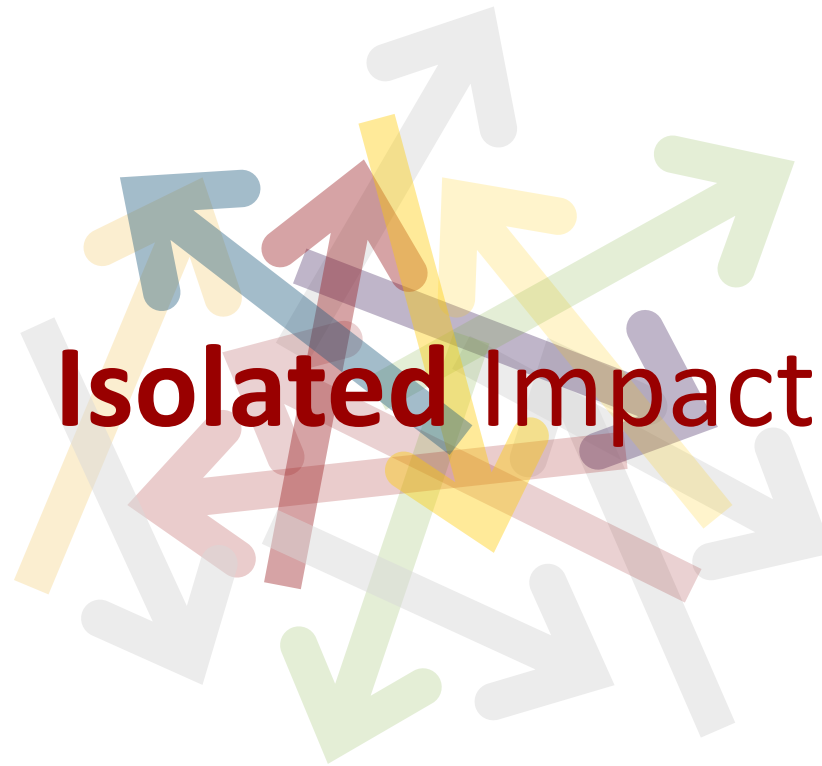


3. **Reconvene** to share *objectives, missions, action items* and possible collaborations



Meeting Structure

- **Engagement and Access Working Group (9:00am)**
- **Collective Meeting (10:00 am)**
 - Announcements
- **Working Group Session (10:30 am)**
 - Continue work on measurable goals, outlining strategy
 - Break down into tasks to assign POC
- **Collective Review (11:30 am)**
 - Report back, action updates, goal updates







5 Elements of Collective Impact

**COMMON
AGENDA**

**SHARED
MEASUREMENT**

**MUTUALLY
REINFORCING
ACTIVITIES**

**CONTINUOUS
COMMUNICATION**

**BACKBONE
ORGANIZATION**

Working in collaboration requires a *mindset shift*

ADAPTIVE
Problem
Solving



VS



TECHNICAL
Problem Solving





How To Collaborate

1. Achieve a perpetual state of **simultaneous planning and doing**
2. **Pay attention** to relationships
3. *Listen, listen, listen* for how to respond to unanticipated results
4. Adopt an attitude of “**burning patience**”

Based on FSG Collective Impact Presentation “How to Collaborate”



Los Angeles Collaborative

Data → Action → Impact



Working Groups



Behavioral Health

- **Who:** Agencies, social workers, family therapists, and practitioners.
- **Goal:** Identify the unique needs and challenges veterans have for accessing behavioral healthcare as well as best practices for veteran treatment.



Career Advancement

- **Who:** Job centers, work source centers, HR professionals, veteran employments training programs, corporations, VA vocational rehab representatives and individuals looking to hire veterans.
- **Goals:** Educate employers, develop best practices for service providers & identify veterans in need of meaningful employment.



Faith-Based

- **Who:** Chaplains, Rabbi's, clergy, pastors and religious organizations who seek to learn, educate and share best practices for working with veterans.
- **Goal:** Focused on awareness and education, this working group seeks to train and improve capacity of faith-based organizations to better serve military and veteran families.



Families & Children

- **Who:** Spouses, young adults of military families, pediatric nurses, social workers and family advocates.
- **Goal:** Heighten awareness and impact policy related to the concerns and needs of military children and families, with particular attention on solving challenges facing families of the Guard and Reserve not fully accessing resources within the military service delivery system.



Working Groups

Healthcare

- **Who:** Hospital and health insurance administrators, VA hospital staff and both traditional and non-traditional models of recovery
- **Goals:** Coordinate and educate hospital administrators, VA Healthcare workers and civilian healthcare providers to better serve veterans and military families.



Higher Education

- **Who:** Representative certifying officials, admission coordinators and Veteran Resource Center contacts from community colleges, trade schools, and universities across LA County.
- **Goal:** Develop and share best practices with schools, share resources and develop an agenda of working items that can drive a better educational experience for veterans in Los Angeles.



Housing & Homelessness

- **Who:** VA contracted agencies, housing authorities, individual non-profits, and organizations working with homeless veterans.
- **Goal:** Solve systemic issues, pass legislature, and write policy briefs to educate and rally providers toward more coordination and better support for helping homeless veterans.



Legal & Re-Entry

- **Who:** Lawyers, legal professionals, policy makers, public counsel, VA legal teams and aids.
- **Goal:** Develop policy objectives, education, identifying laws affecting veterans and service delivery, building capacity with legal professionals to work with Veteran clients in Los Angeles as well as organizing to solve large scale legal barriers facing veterans with criminal or legal issues.





Next Steps

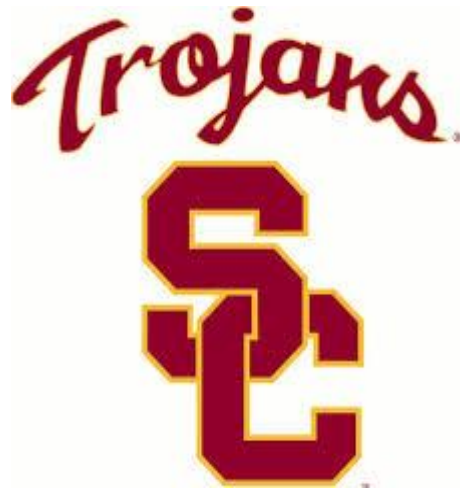
Let's work together to support our returning veterans and their families.



Questions?



Contact



Nathan Graeser
cir.usc.edu
(213) 821-3616
graeser@usc.edu