

ASK THE QUESTION

HAVE YOU EVER SERVED IN THE MILITARY?

One question can make a big difference.

Social Services: Federal, State, Local & Non-Profit

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SERVE BY:

*Engaging reluctant veteran clients in acknowledging needs for support.
Meeting a military family's unique needs.
Coordinating services between military and civilian providers.*

WHY ASK THE QUESTION?

Whether in a non-profit or a government agency, human service providers encounter service members, veterans, and military families, but they might not know it. Veterans do not always identify themselves. They can be proud and stoic, and tend to be more comfortable helping others than asking for help themselves – even when they need support. Military life can impact an individual or family in many ways that affect their access to different programs, services, and benefits. The best way to identify service members, veterans, and military families is to ASK!

**When you are working with a new client applying for services,
ASK THE QUESTION:
“Have you or a family member ever served in the military?”**

WHEN THE ANSWER IS YES, you may consider thanking them for their service. You may also then be able to increase your understanding of their challenges and assist them in accessing the programs and services they need by asking further questions. This will also help you to:

- Build rapport and demonstrate interest and cultural competency
- Link to any needed military and veteran resources and referrals, including VA and non-VA programs
- Identify any mental health, physical and/or medical issues related to service experience that are impacting access to services and benefits
- Identify potential sources of income and assess financial stability
- Identify individual and family supports and resources
- Address perceived barriers to seeking support and services

www.askthequestion.nh.gov

An Initiative of the NH Department of Military Affairs & Veterans Services



Following are some questions that could be asked in the context of gathering information for more effective referrals and services. Pay attention to non-verbal cues, and show respect, curiosity, and empathy. Also be aware that responsiveness and effective follow-up are critical to building trust and rapport.

- When did you/your family member serve? What service era? Which Branch?
- What was your/your family member's job while serving?
- What is your/your family member's discharge type/status?
- In what ways may the services that you're here for be connected to your/your family member's military service?
- Are you experiencing any issues or stressors related to employment or financial needs?
- Are you/your family member enrolled at or connected to the VA or other veteran resources or organizations for services and support?
- Have you/your family member ever used the VA for health care?
- Do you/your family member have a service-connected disability or condition?
- What types of support are needed but not yet met?
- What reservations did you/your family member have about coming in to seek assistance? Is there anything that might be a barrier to further seeking assistance?

www.askthequestion.nh.gov

