ETS
SPONSORSHIP

Summary: The Expiration Term of Service Sponsorship Program (ETS-SP) is a DC-registered non-profit in a public-private partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Our mission is to support active duty service members in their transition out of the military and back into civilian life. Foundational to our approach is a focus on the 12 months between leaving the military and reintegrating into a civilian community, a period of time known as the 'deadly gap,' when the combined stresses of a perceived loss of purpose, geographic relocation, financial uncertainty, and underlying medical and psychological issues lead to new Veterans committing suicide at rates 2x higher than civilians in the same age group.

Methodology: Our program has three basic components.

1. **Enroll service members up to 12 months before they leave active military service**. This allows time to plan for transition and develop a strong personal relationship with a civilian Sponsor. Service members remain with the program through graduation, up to 12 months after leaving the military.
2. **Train Sponsors using VA-certified curriculum and pair them with service members coming to their community**. This model replicates the sponsorship program of the active military, and facilitates providing accurate local knowledge about housing, employment, and community services in the new Veteran's chosen destination community.
3. **Provide a personalized view and plan of action for each Veteran through a set of advanced digital dashboards**. This 'common operating picture' of a Veteran and their family is shared with the sponsor and our community partner to allow for proactive reception of the Veteran and early connection to existing services and benefits.

Administration: Key to program success is the partnership with local communities. Local partners, called Community Integration Coordinators (CIC), manage a mutually defined region, whether a city, county, or state. CIC responsibilities include recruiting sufficient sponsors to meet local demand, pairing sponsors with incoming servicemembers, and handling referrals from the servicemember or sponsor to meet individual needs, such as medical care, employment support, or housing. Current CICs include established Veteran Service Organizations, State Departments of Veteran Services, and County Veteran Service Officers. In all cases, they have established connections with existing services and manage such referrals routinely. Additionally, the Department of Veterans Affairs provides regional liaisons to the program to support CICs with access to VA services.

Privacy: All data provided by the new Veterans is done with full consent, and never used without their permission. We secure individual data using block-chain technology, and only the Veteran can allow others to view their data when requested (such as sharing a DD-214 or medical records with a provider).

Cost: The program is free to Veterans, and our Sponsors are all unpaid volunteers. There is a $1/day fee per service member to administer the program. This is funded by community partners through either state and county budgets, grants, or local philanthropy.

Outcomes:

1. Veterans report greatly reduced stress and increased social support, reducing negative outcomes significantly.
2. Communities gain advance knowledge of incoming Veterans and their families, with information that combines DD-214 data with personalized needs, interests, and goals.
3. States attract Veterans to their communities with the ability to showcase employment opportunities, GI Bill incentives, and other programs.
4. States can respond proactively to incoming Veterans, avoiding reactive costs of unemployment, homelessness, and emergency medical care.