

# VETERAN NAVIGATOR PROGRAM



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VETERAN NAVIGATOR  
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Veteran Navigators was created to assist Veterans and military families of ALL eras and discharge types. They work to connect Veterans and their families to federal, state and local resources to ease issues regarding mental health, substance abuse, housing and other common issues that impact veterans in order to support healthier lifestyles and provide support.

- 2018 – 15 Veteran Navigators throughout the state
- 2024 – 35 Veteran Navigators and continued growth in the future
- As Michigan is 'Guard and Reserve State', many of those that serve in the guard or reserve do not know what they may be eligible to receive due to their military service. We can connect them resources in their area to ascertain eligibility for assistance.
- Work with Michigan Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Navy, and Marine units returning from deployment with resources available through the state Yellow Ribbon Integration Program.

# KALAMAZOO COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE

VETERAN POPULATION 2023 – 12,566

VSO AVERAGES ABOUT 600 NEW VETERANS A YEAR

MILLAGE PASSED NOVEMBER 2023 FOR \$1 MILLION TO BE  
ADDED TO THE KCVSO

FUNDING WILL HELP SUPPORT SENIOR VETERANS, PROVIDE  
BENEFITS AND ALLOW FOR HIRING OF ADMIN AND  
ADDITIONAL VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER

GREAT COLLABORATION WITH COUNTY!!!



# VETERAN NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

***Mental Health***

**Medical**

**Dental**

**Veteran Benefits**

**Education**

**Employment**

***Jail Incarceration***

***Housing***

# MENTAL HEALTH

Post Traumatic Stress

Depression

Anxiety


Substance Use (Vet Only AA)

Gambling





# **KALAMAZOO COUNTY JAIL**



## Jail Incarceration

Covid restrictions and jail staffing halted in-person meeting with incarcerated veterans from 2020 to 2023. In-person meetings reinstated February 2024

Assist with any VA or other benefits that individual may be eligible to receive

Provide no legal advice

If necessary, will connect with VA Veteran Justice Outreach Coordinator (Heather West)

Crisis Intervention Training with area law enforcement agencies covering PTSD, Traumatic Injury and Moral Injury

# KEYSTONE VETERAN TRANSITIONAL HOUSE



DAY ROOM



FEMALE ROOM



FEMALE ROOM





# KEYSTONE

Opened June 2020  
422 E. Stockbridge

1. 75 Service Members and Veterans have been housed at the facility
2. Currently, we have ten veterans living at the facility (all male)
3. Eleven veterans have been identified as chronically homeless
4. 68 male guests and 7 female guests
5. Forty-nine veterans have exited into permanent housing situations
6. Primary voucher resources used – HUD/VASH (VA), Volunteers of America, ISK Housing Voucher,





# Mental Health **FIRST AID**

*from* NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
MENTAL WELLBEING

**MILITARY, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES**

# Veterans Mental Health First Aid

Along with ISK Training Department, have taught Six Veteran MHFA Courses.

VFW Posts, Kalamazoo County, Indiana University AgriAbility Program, 110<sup>th</sup> Wing Battle Creek Air National Guard Base. Class schedule with Veterans Housing Program with Ingham County.

Over 100 students have participated in the course

Collaboration with the 110<sup>th</sup> Wing BC ANGB and working with Fort Custer to have them provide classes in the future

Goal is to teach three courses per year



# Integrated Services of Kalamazoo: Military Cultural Competency Training

## ISK and Community Training



Bridge the gap between military and civilian culture



ISK required training for staff



Open to community and organizations



First class in 2020. Offered quarterly and over 300 individuals have attended



ISK, Bronson Hospital, Borgess Hospital, WMU, Kalamazoo County



# VETERAN COMMITTEES

CO-CHAIRPERSON (VETERAN) FOR THE BATTLE CREEK VA VETERAN AND FAMILY ADVOCACY COUNCIL – PROMOTE WORK OF THE BC VA AND ASSIST IN BEING A 'VOICE' FROM VETERANS TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF CARE FOR THOSE THAT ARE PATIENTS AT THE FACILITY.

CHAIRPERSON FOR THE VETERAN COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM (VCAT) REGION 8 QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE. COMMITTEE

# AREAS OF CONCERN

FEMALE VETERANS – LACK OF CONNECTION DUE TO TIME IN SERVICE AND ACTION(S) WHILE IN SERVICE

FAMILY HOUSING – LACK OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING, NOT JUST FOR SINGLE INDIVIDUALS, BUT WITH THOSE WITH FAMILY

QUESTIONS?



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