



SPONSORSHIP



The ETS Sponsorship Program
2600 Virginia Ave NW B200
Washington D.C. 20037

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Mark Takano
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Takano,

I am writing you to provide a statement for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing commencing on September 10, 2020. While you have scheduled a variety of House Resolutions and Discussion Drafts for consideration, the useful contribution I can make involves insight on community-based programs that involve peer-to-peer sponsorship to reduce Veteran suicide.

The Expiration Term of Service Sponsorship Program (ETS-SP), modeled on in-service sponsorship programs familiar to the Veteran, has demonstrated the ability to assess the impact of such a community-based program on suicide risk factors (e.g., reintegration difficulties, social support) among post-9/11 veterans. The initial results have demonstrated the effectiveness of the ETS-SP and have facilitated the expansion of the program to eight states.

This work continues with the *Governor's Challenges to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families* and other key stakeholders. The ETS-SP community template can be replicated and grant-supported locally.

Veterans face the highest risk of suicide during their first year after exiting military service, in part due to reintegration difficulties such as finding housing and employment. The ETS-SP connects transitioning service members *before they become Veterans* to VA-certified sponsors and community services in their post-military hometowns to address the reintegration difficulties that contribute to suicide risk.

The ETS-SP unifies on these mutually-reinforcing ingredients:

- pre-transition service member-sponsor interaction grounded in service member consent
- destination-community sponsors that are supported by local collaborative organizations anchored in government, specifically at county level.

The ETS-SP has developed a technology platform that connects and compliments service member/Veteran-sponsor interaction. Through application of this framework – a framework that is applied uniquely to service members/Veterans, sponsors, and community collaboratives – the ETS-SP is better able to understand the challenges faced by the transitioning service members and thereby mitigate the risks of suicide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. H. Buck".

William H. Buck
Director

Enclosures:

Attachment A- ETS-SP Regional Sponsor Coordinator Example

Attachment B- Enrollment Procedures

Attachment C- Service Member Dashboard and Profile

cc: The Honorable David P. Roe, M.D.
Ranking Member

[Attachment A - ETS-SP Regional Sponsor Coordinator Example](#)

Regional Sponsor Coordinator Example - Texas Region 2



Local Collaborative Example Key


MILITARY & VETERANS SERVICES
Lead: Bexar County Military & Veterans Service Center

 America's Warrior Partnership	 Texas Health and Human Services	 Texas Veterans Commission	 Alamo Area Council Of Governments
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 <p>City of San Antonio</p>	 <p>United Way</p>	 <p>Military Health Advisory Board - SA, TX</p>	 <p>Texas Workforce Commission</p>
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 <p>Army Soldier For Life Programs</p>	 <p>Department of Veterans Affairs</p>	 <p>VISN17 Center of Excellence</p>	 <p>Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army</p>
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Note: the Army is the DoD Expert Agent for the first ETS-SP pilots.

Attachment B - Enrollment Procedures



Attachment C - Service Member Dashboard and Profile

ETS SPONSORSHIP

[Sponsor Information](#)
[Welcome Basket](#)
[Community Events](#)
[Sponsor Meetings](#)
[Data Vault](#)

Chat
 Katie Baker

Welcome Katie in

ETS SPONSORSHIP

Welcome to the ETS Sponsorship Program

Sponsor Messages
You have 3 unread messages from your sponsor

Sponsor Meetings
Virtual or in-person meetings with your sponsor

Welcome Basket
View tailored offers and gifts in your area

Data Vault

Secure encrypted file storage and sharing

My Vault

Upcoming Meetings

<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Action Plan Update <small>Sponsor Meeting</small></p> <p style="margin: 0;">September 7 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">View Details</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Family Financial Plan <small>Virtual Meeting</small></p> <p style="margin: 0;">September 29 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">View Details</p>
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My Action Plan

3 of 17 Tasks Complete

My Action Items

Employment

- Resume
- Corporate Hiring

Health

- Register with VA
- Health Insurance Concerns

Family

- Transitioning Family Needs
- Child Care

Suggested Transition Checklist

12 months or more

- TAP-Scheduled
- ITP-Individual Transition Plan
- Pre-Separation Counseling
- Create LinkedIn Account
- Begin Exploring Career Options
- Explore SkillBridge Program
- Review Finances

6 - 12 Months

- Begin and refine job search
- Use master resume to begin drafting target resumes
- Schedule household goods counseling
- Schedule medical checkups

ETS News

September Newsletter: ETS Transition Tips

Transitioning from military to civilian life can seem like a daunting task. If you need some transition inspiration, here are some of our top tips for a successful military transition... [See More](#)

State and Local News

Virginia Employers Commit to Hire More Vets

More than 900 businesses, state and local agencies, and educational institutions are part of the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program to hire more Veterans and provide better... [See More](#)

Service News

Creating a Self Care Plan

Need resources to help you create a self care plan this National #WellnessMonth? The Health and Wellness page on the Soldier For Life website has dozens of resources to... [See More](#)

DoD/VA News

DoD Military-Civilian Transition Assistance

The DoD Military-Civilian Transition Office (MCTO) provides policy and program oversight for the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Yellow Ribbon Program... [See More](#)

Department of Labor News

DOL Salutes National Hire a Vet Day

America's veterans are ready to work! As we recognize National Hire a Veteran Day, the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)... [See More](#)

USO Pathfinder News

How Vets use USO Pathfinder to Succeed

Service members and military spouses who are transitioning out of the military are talented individuals with years of employment and subject matter expertise... [See More](#)

Destination Community Events

<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Washington D.C. Job Fair Sept 6 - 5:30 PM 4101 Crain Highway Bowie, Maryland 20716</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">September Bike Book Club Sept 7 - 9 AM 2100 Wilson Blvd Arlington, VA 22201</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Sushi, Sake, and Stories Sept 14 - 6 PM 2123 North Westmoreland St VA-2 Arlington, VA 22213</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">Yoga & Beer Social Sept 19 - 10:30 AM 2709 South Oakland Street Arlington, VA 22206</p>

Helpful Resources

VA Home Page	eBenefits	My HealtheVet
Home Loan Guaranty	Education Benefits	VA Forms
Homeless Veterans	Military Records	VA State Departments

The ETS Sponsorship Program

etssponsorship.com