

VETERANS' NEEDS

in Northeastern Minnesota*

COLLECTING THE DATA

Working collaboratively with United Way of Northeastern Minnesota, Wilder Research gathered information from 126 people through 17 in-depth phone interviews and 99 web surveys, including:



Veterans said they experience significant challenges with:

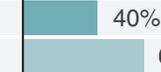
CIVILIAN LIFE CULTURE SHOCK

“In civilian life, you’re on your own. You feel lost, you have no direction.”
—Phone interview with a veteran (Korea)

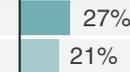
Web survey respondents who found this very or somewhat difficult

Veteran (n=66-68)	40%
Family member's perspective of veteran's experiences (n=16-21)	65%

Confiding or sharing personal thoughts and feelings



Feeling like they belong in civilian society



Relationships with spouses and children



“Emotional bonding levels [are challenging]. They want to know exactly what happened, what I did, but I get frustrated telling the story over and over again...” —Web survey from a veteran (served 2001 or later)

FINANCIAL STABILITY & EMPLOYMENT 💰

“I got side jobs here and there...minor jobs, but nothing steady. No steady work. It’s not a lack of trying.”
—Phone interview with a veteran (Iraq)

“There were no jobs. I thought I would get into the mines when I got back but they weren’t hiring if you didn’t have at least a 2 year college degree and the military didn’t count for squat.”
—Phone interview with a veteran (Gulf War era)

HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

“... if a guy has never gotten service, the red tape is more and more difficult.”
—Phone interview with a veteran (Vietnam)

- Layered bureaucracy
- Long wait times
- Long distance travel
- Few qualified service providers or knowledge of those available

- Poor communication and technology
- Few services offered by veterans for veterans
- Social stigma and confidentiality

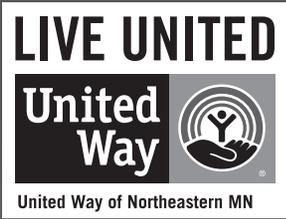


OVERALL

Veterans mention many challenges with the **culture, system, and process of care.**

* This graphic represents some of the results of an assessment to determine the greatest needs for veterans and their families in the service territories of Upper Saint Louis County and parts of Itasca County.

** Please see summary report on tinyurl.com/veteransneeds for more details on themes and quotes.



Our Vision:

All veterans in Northeastern Minnesota will have access to health care, financial stability and employment, as well as to high quality and culturally competent support. This access and care will support veterans, their families, and our communities to flourish, grow, and thrive.

For more information contact Erin Shay, Community Impact and Engagement Director at 218-254-3329 or by email at erin@unitedwaynemn.org

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SUPPORTING VETERANS' NEEDS

in Northeastern Minnesota

THROUGH
COLLABORATIVE
EFFORTS WITH:

Veterans &
Their Families



Service
Providers



Community
Stakeholders



Funders



WE WILL **WORK TOGETHER** TO:



**ENHANCE
COORDINATED CARE**

- Improve military-friendly service delivery
- Intensify marketing of veteran services available locally
- Increase number of service providers who are veterans



**SUPPORT
FINANCIAL STABILITY**

- Create basic needs emergency assistance fund for veterans and their families



**BUILD STRONG FAMILIES
AND COMMUNITIES
TOGETHER**

- Support local marital, family, and individual veteran counseling services
- Host military families' retreats to support the civilian lives of veterans
- Promote social opportunities to connect veterans