

NDVA and DHHS are encouraging service providers and local agencies across the state to "Ask the Question" on intake forms and interviews where appropriate:

"HAVE YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER EVER SERVED IN THE MILITARY?"

This simple question can open the door to greater communication, and communication and understanding is at the heart of good care, services, and connections. Through this insight, it can help to create intentional strategies to better meet the healthcare and community resource needs of Service Members, Veterans, and their families.

LOCAL & VA RESOURCES

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

VA's website designed to locate and identify resources available for Veterans.

<https://www.va.gov/REACH/>

VET CENTER: LINCOLN

Offers confidential help for Vets, service members and their families at no cost in a non-medical setting. Also has additional locations, like Omaha.

<https://www.va.gov/lincoln-vet-center/>

AT EASE: OMAHA & NORTH PLATTE

Nebraskan based non-profit providing PTSD services to those who served and their families.

<https://ateaseusa.org/>



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THANK YOU

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What is 'Ask the Question'?

The mission of ATQ is to improve access to, and quality of, care for Veterans, Service Members, and military families by: Strengthening systems for identifying military members being served in community-based organizations.



Why Does It Matter to Ask This Way?

Many of those who have served do not ask for help easily. Military culture dictates self-sufficiency and sacrifice. Many Service members and Veterans do not identify as a 'Veteran', for many personal reasons. Additionally, many do not ask for help because they want to save that help for a Veteran who 'needs it more than I do'. The "Ask the Question" campaign puts the responsibility on the service provider, on all of us, to identify possible needs, thus removing barriers for the Service Members, Veterans, or their families.



The Impact of Asking

'Ask the Question' helps to identify our veterans and military family members as easily as possible within the service delivery system. The critical role that community service providers pay in providing service and care to Service Members, Veterans, and their families. Across the country, over two-thirds of all veterans choose to receive care and services in the community, rather than at their Veterans Affairs (VA) facility. While we know that most of our veterans receive care in the community, we also know that many veterans don't feel completely understood by health care professionals.

What shouldn't I do?

Do not ask, "Are you a Veteran?"

It is paramount that the question be asked in a manner that allows all who have worn the uniform to feel included in the inquiry. Not everyone who has served identifies as a 'Veteran' either because they do not feel comfortable with the term, their discharge status prohibits it, or because their service involved work with the National Guard or Reserves and they were never activated. This specifically worded question also allows family members to respond in the affirmative if their loved one is actively serving or if he/she falls into one of the above categories.

Further information, resources, education, pocket cards, print offs and additional training please go here:

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/askthequestion>

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VETERANS' AFFAIRS

