Building Healthy Military Communities
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INTRODUCTION

• The Building Healthy Military Communities (BHMC) is a pilot project out of the United States Department of Defense (DOD) that aims to improve the readiness, resilience, and well-being of geographically dispersed Service members and their families through increased access to military and community resources that promote well-being.

• Despite heavy investment in programs supporting Service members, data suggest the need for more support across Total Force Fitness for the geographically dispersed Uniformed Services population.

• DOD increasingly relies on the Guard and Reserves due to factors such as decreasing budgets and personnel and funding reductions.

• DOD is interested in partners like NACDD and state Chronic Disease Directors/Designees (CDD) to help them build a comprehensive plan to improve policies and programs that support the well-being of Service members and families across the DOD.

• The BHMC project, led by the DOD, will pilot State Coordinator positions in seven states to leverage Commanding and/or Adjutant Generals’ relationships and networks to build healthy community partnerships. The seven pilot states are:
  1) Florida
  2) Indiana
  3) Maryland
  4) Minnesota
  5) Mississippi
  6) New Mexico
  7) Oklahoma

• NACDD is working with CDC DNPAO to link the seven DOD State Coordinators hired in the pilot states with CDD’s in each state to connect the healthy community effort to chronic disease subject matter experts in those states.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

DOD Goals and Objectives:
• DOD to develop a long-term strategic plan for health and well-being of the military population, to coordinate and integrate existing DOD, federal, state, regional, and local efforts in support of Service members and their families.
• DOD to hire State Coordinators in each of the seven project states to serve as the state focal point for well-being resources, and to begin developing strategic relationships with DOD, national, state, and local resources supporting readiness and well-being.

NACDD Goals and Objectives:
• Take the lead role in coordinating large-group kick-off call to bring DOD, CDC DNPAO, NACDD, DOD State Coordinators, and CDD’s together to orient them to the project and potential peer learning opportunities.
• Develop and implement a BHMC peer learning Community of Practice between DOD State Coordinators and CDD’s to foster peer learning, sharing, and networking around BHMC project areas relating to healthy communities and chronic disease prevention.

IMPACT

• DOD will increase understanding of requirements, capabilities, and gaps to optimize well-being, readiness, and resilience for Service members and their families.

• DOD will produce an informed, joint, and comprehensive well-being strategy for DOD’s geographically dispersed Service members and their families.

OUTLOOK

• NACDD seeks to continue to be a BHMC partner to DOD and CDC DNPAO, by convening DOD State Coordinators and CDD’s in project states and beyond!