

Engaging & Supporting Veterans Through National and Community Service



ServeNebraska is eternally grateful for the service veterans have provided to our country.

We are proud to join with others in supporting efforts to smooth the transition for returning veterans and to actively utilize the skills and abilities of veterans to better our state through national service and volunteerism.

In this, we are part of a national movement. Driven by its mission to engage all Americans in service, and as directed by the 2009 Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, our key partner -- the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) -- places a high priority on engaging veterans in national community service throughout the country.

SUPPORT

In 2009, [Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska](#) began [At Ease](#), a program which provides support, trauma treatment, and therapeutic approaches for active military, veterans and their loved ones. At Ease is located in Bellevue, the city that is home Offutt Air Force Base and STRATCOM.

AmeriCorps members serve within the [At Ease](#) program recruiting mentors for military and veteran families to help them adapt to the new community or adjust to a family member being at war or returning home. Offering active military, veterans and/or their loved ones mentors who can provide assistance in any way needed expands the network of support. Mentors will act as informal case managers who assess the needs of the family and find a way to meet those needs through community resources or volunteer time.

NATIONAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Connecting veterans to community and volunteer service opportunities can help them successfully transition back to civilian life. Volunteering in a national service program can provide direction and purpose that allow veterans to continue to contribute their skills and expertise to improving their communities while simultaneously providing the camaraderie and kinship that comes from belonging to a team. Further, a period of national service affords the time and freedom to explore career paths while considering the next step in life. A national service experience can enrich lives, in a variety of ways. Visit www.serve.nebraska.gov to learn more.



The Engaging Veterans with Disabilities Initiative is designed to enhance the capacity of national service programs to successfully recruit, engage and support veterans with disabilities. This initiative seeks to engage the significant number of returning veterans with disabilities like traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder or mobility challenges. The project is in its initial stages.

Are you a veteran and a current or former AmeriCorps member? If yes, you can help us understand how to better involve your fellow veterans by sharing your insights through a brief interview. Contact Greg Donovan of ServeNebraska at greg.donovan@nebraska.gov or 402-471-6249 to learn more.