

SUICIDE PREVENTION

VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS, & THEIR FAMILIES

The Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant & National Governor's Challenge.



FOCUS AREA ONE

The Maine Medical Association is educating Primary Care Physicians and staff to **Ask the Question**, "Did you serve in the U.S. Military?" As part of the implemented education, those who identify themselves as having served will be screened for suicidality and properly referred to Health Affiliates Maine in connection with the SSG Fox Grant Program. Additionally, referrals will be made to the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services and the VA if the veteran isn't connected to their benefits or is in need of other assistance.

FOCUS AREA TWO

Service Members, Veterans, and Family Expos began in the fall of 2022 as part of an organized and combined effort to increase veterans' access to the State and Federal earned benefits and to raise awareness about veterans' community organizations and the programs they offer.

The model we have established in Maine was shared as a best practice at the VA/SAMHSA Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families Implementation Academy in Arlington, Virginia last year.

FOCUS AREA THREE

The Maine Safer Homes Taskforce was founded in 2019 and has been dedicated to educating our veterans and the general public on safe storage options for firearms and prescription medications. This includes the creation of two brochures that have been distributed statewide. Additionally, focus area three has included information reference to the creation and utilization of veteran safety plans; useful tools to ensure crisis situations are being handled with a respectful and inclusive focus by all involved.

BACKGROUND

The Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services (MBVS) has been awarded a \$750,000 Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant for the second year in a row as part of the Bureau's multi-year participation in the Governor's and Mayor's Challenges to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF).

ABOUT THE STAFF SERGEANT PARKER GORDON FOX GRANT

The Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP) enables VA to provide resources toward community-based suicide prevention efforts to meet the needs of Veterans and their families through outreach, suicide prevention services, and connection to VA and community resources.

This grant program assists in further implementing a public health approach that blends community-based prevention with evidence-based clinical strategies through community efforts.