



## ASK THE QUESTIONS

1. Have you or a family member served in the military?
2. Do you have any children?

# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES

### Support veterans & military connected families by:

- Including the questions on your intake forms.
- Supporting veteran's children and families facing challenges as a result of their parents service.
- Improving peer sensitivity to children of veterans.

## WHY ASK THE QUESTIONS?



Military service comes with many unique experiences and exposures, most of which civilians will never have. Understanding the culture from which the individual may be operating, knowing about possible variables in their health and in their family situation will allow you to deliver more effective, comprehensive and culturally competent care or services.

You might even connect them with benefits or services they didn't know they were entitled to! Additionally, knowing about one's service allows us to show our appreciation for the sacrifices they have made.

In Orange County, the VA reports **33,000** veteran household with dependent children (April 2017). We do not always know who in our community has served. A parent or other family members that served in the military may have invisible wounds that could affect their children. The best way to identify and support a child of a veteran or a military connected child and family is to ask!

## FOLLOWUP QUESTIONS



### Asking further questions will also help you:

- Build rapport with the parent and child to demonstrate interest along with military cultural competency
- Identify any challenges with the child and family as well as any related behavioral, emotional, social and academic implications for the child
- Link to community agencies, family support, military and veteran resources and benefits, including VA and non-VA programs, as well as needs for support not yet met
- Address perceived barriers to the child or parent(s) in seeking support

**#AskTheQuestionsOC** is a campaign of the  
**OC Veterans and Military Family Collaborative**



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Here are some questions that could be asked in the context of gathering information for more effective referrals and services.

Pay attention to non-verbal cues, and show respect, curiosity and empathy.



Be aware that responsiveness and effective follow-up are critical to building trust and rapport.

- When did you/your family member serve?  
What campaign era?  
Which Branch?
- In what ways may your need for services here be connected to your/your family member's military service?
- Are you/your family member enrolled at or connected to the VA or other veteran resources or organizations for support and services?  
Let them know that you have recently learned that this information can sometimes be important to the delivery of your care or service, therefore you have made a commitment to ask.
- What types of support are needed but not yet met?
- What reservations did you/your child have about coming in to seek support and assistance?
- Is there anything that might be a barrier to further seeking assistance?