

About the Community Blueprint Network Tools

- The Community Blueprint Network resources were created through the collaborative efforts of dozens of subject matter experts who lent their time and talents to the Community Blueprint initiative. It was designed as a collaborative tool that belongs to all of us – not any one organization or individual, and there is no “pride of authorship.”
- These tools will continue to improve only if we receive and incorporate the valuable feedback that we know will come when people are using it. If you have thoughts or suggestions for how to improve these tools please email Tricia Thompson tthompson@handsonnetwork.org.
- There are varying degrees of knowledge and capacity to support the needs of military members, veterans and their families across the country. Many communities have already done most, if not all, of the practices recommended by this tool. But there are also many communities that are just beginning to scratch the surface. Our hope is that all communities that choose to use these tools will learn something that is of use in their efforts to organize citizens and services to support their military members, veterans, and their families.
- There are thousands of promising practices happening all across America. The ones listed here were chosen based on their potential to be implemented easily in communities of all sizes, and their potential to make a significant impact with relatively low effort, i.e., a high return on investment.
- In no way is the Community Blueprint Network intended to list all promising practices or resources – it is intended to be more of a “how-to” guide and a way to link up with other communities who are experiencing similar challenges.
- Many of these promising practices may need to be tailored for specific populations. For example, a veteran job fair may require some different strategies than one you hold for military spouses. We attempted to provide enough information to help give a sense of the major things needed to accomplish each practice. Every community is different and will tailor the practices to suit their needs.
- You will see some promising practices that are included in all or many impact areas, but are different in each impact area. For example, several impact areas describe the steps for conducting a media campaign. The focus of the media campaign will be different if you choose to focus specifically on behavioral health or children’s education, and also if you choose to conduct one campaign that focuses more generally on all of the impact areas. These choices will all depend on what your community coalition decides is best for your citizens.