



# SPONSORSHIP



The ETS Sponsorship Program  
2600 Virginia Ave NW B200  
Washington D.C. 20037

September 7, 2020

Senator Moran  
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Moran,

I am writing you to provide testimony for the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing *S.785: Leading the Way to Comprehensive Mental Health Care and Suicide Prevention for Veterans* commencing on September 9, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The provisions in the bill that will reduce suicides among Veterans are found in Title II – Suicide Prevention. Veteran suicide can be reduced through community-based grant programs that award grants to eligible entities to provide or coordinate suicide prevention services to eligible individuals and their families.

The Expiration Term of Service Sponsorship Program (ETS-SP), modeled on in-service sponsorship programs familiar to the Veteran, has demonstrated the ability to assess the impact of such a community-based program on suicide risk factors (e.g., reintegration difficulties, social support) among post-9/11 veterans. The initial results have demonstrated the effectiveness of the ETS-SP and have facilitated the expansion of the program to eight states. This work continues with the *Governor's Challenges to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families* and other key stakeholders. The ETS-SP template can be replicated and grant-supported locally.

Veterans face the highest risk of suicide during their first year after exiting military service, in part due to reintegration difficulties such as finding housing and employment. The ETS-SP connects transitioning service members *before they become Veterans* to VA-certified sponsors and community services in their post-military hometowns to address the reintegration difficulties that contribute to suicide risk.

The ETS-SP unifies on these mutually-reinforcing ingredients:

- pre-transition service member-sponsor interaction grounded in service member consent
- destination-community sponsors that are supported by local collaborative organizations anchored in government, specifically at county level.

The ETS-SP has developed a technology platform that connects and compliments service member/Veteran-sponsor interaction. Through application of this framework – a framework that is applied uniquely to service members/Veterans, sponsors, and community collaboratives – the ETS-SP is better able to understand the challenges faced by the transitioning service members and thereby mitigate the risks of suicide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. H. Buck".

William H. Buck  
Director

Enclosures:

Attachment A- ETS-SP Regional Sponsor Coordinator Example

Attachment B- Enrollment Procedures

Attachment C- Service Member Dashboard and Profile

cc: The Honorable Jon Tester

Attachment A - ETS-SP Regional Sponsor Coordinator Example



Local Collaborative Example Key


**MILITARY & VETERANS SERVICES**

**Lead: Bexar County Military & Veterans Service Center**

 <p>America's Warrior Partnership</p>	 <p>Texas Health and Human Services</p>	 <p>Texas Veterans Commission</p>	 <p>Alamo Area Council Of Governments</p>
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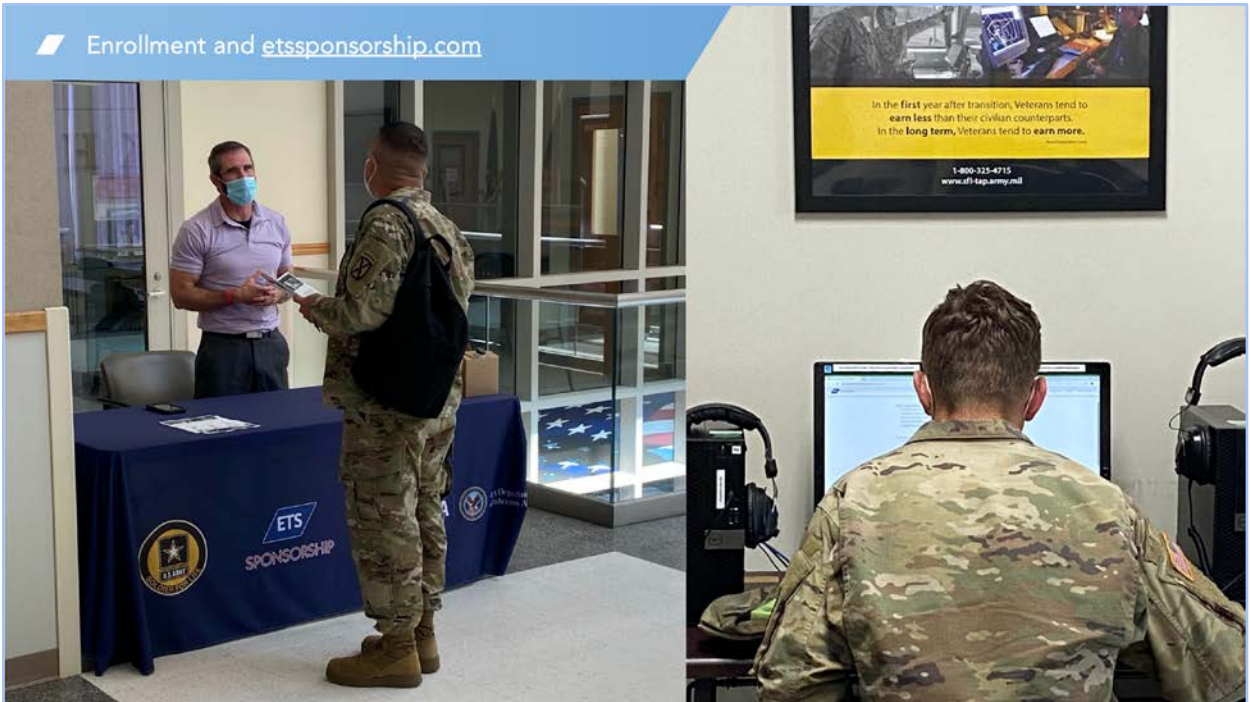
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 <p>City of San Antonio</p>	 <p>United Way</p>	 <p>Military Health Advisory Board - SA, TX</p>	 <p>Texas Workforce Commission</p>
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 <p>Army Soldier For Life Programs</p>	 <p>Department of Veterans Affairs</p>	 <p>VISN17 Center of Excellence</p>	 <p>Civilian Aides to the Secretary of the Army</p>
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Note: the Army is the DoD Expert Agent for the first ETS-SP pilots.

Attachment B - Enrollment Procedures



Attachment C - Service Member Dashboard and Profile

ETS SPONSORSHIP

[Sponsor Information](#)
[Welcome Basket](#)
[Community Events](#)
[Sponsor Meetings](#)
[Data Vault](#)

Chat
 Katie Baker

Welcome Katie

**ETS SPONSORSHIP**

**Welcome to the ETS Sponsorship Program**

**Sponsor Messages**  
You have 3 unread messages from your sponsor

**Sponsor Meetings**  
Virtual or in-person meetings with your sponsor

**Welcome Basket**  
View tailored offers and gifts in your area

**ETS News**

**September Newsletter: ETS Transition Tips**  
Transitioning from military to civilian life can seem like a daunting task. If you need some transition inspiration, here are some of our top tips for a successful military transition... [See More](#)

**DoD/VA News**

**DoD Military-Civilian Transition Assistance**  
The DoD Military-Civilian Transition Office (MCTO) provides policy and program oversight for the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and the Yellow Ribbon Program... [See More](#)

**Destination Community Events**

**Washington D.C. Job Fair**  
Sept 6 - 5:30 PM  
4103 Crane Highway  
Rivers, Maryland 20719

**September Bike Book Club**  
Sept 7 - 9 AM  
4100 Wilson Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22201

**Sushi, Sake, and Stories**  
Sept 14 - 6 PM  
2121 North Westmontford St  
Ft. A. Arlington, VA 22212

**Yoga & Beer Social**  
Sept 19 - 10:30 AM  
2708 South Cleveland Street  
Ft. Belvoir, VA 22006

**Data Vault**

Secure encrypted file storage and sharing

[My Vault](#)

**Upcoming Meetings**

<p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;"><b>Action Plan Update</b> Sponsor Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;"><b>September 7</b> 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;"><a href="#">View Details</a></p>	<p style="font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;"><b>Family Financial Plan</b> Virtual Meeting</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;"><b>September 29</b> 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.7em; margin: 0;"><a href="#">View Details</a></p>
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**My Action Plan**

**My Action Items**  
1 of 17 Items Complete

**Employment**

- Resume
- Corporate Hiring

**Health**

- Register with VA
- Health Insurance Concerns

**Family**

- Transitioning Family Needs
- Child Care

**Suggested Transition Checklist**

12 months or more

- TAP Scheduled
- ITP-Individual Transition Plan
- Pre-Separation Counseling
- Create LinkedIn Account
- Begin Exploring Career Options
- Explore SkillBridge Program
- Review Finances

6 - 12 Months

- Begin and refine job search
- Use master resume to begin drafting target resumes
- Schedule household goods counseling
- Schedule medical checkups

**VA Home Page**

**eBenefits**

**My HealtheVet**

**Home Loan Guaranty**

**Education Benefits**

**VA Forms**

**Homeless Veterans**

**Military Records**

**VA State Departments**

The ETS Sponsorship Program

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