

Local Veterans Center Launches VA Suicide Prevention Grant

Great Plains Veterans Services Center (GPVSC) is proud to launch its newest program, the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP). GPVSC is a Non-Profit Veterans Organization located on the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation in Hill County, Montana. Formerly known as the Rocky Boy Veterans Center, the organization has been serving Veterans since its establishment in June 2015.

Now the GPVSC will be working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to prevent Veteran suicide from our offices in Rocky Boy, Ft. Belknap, and Browning. This program will provide funding to community-based organizations with innovative ideas for preventing Veteran suicide. "Our organization is proud to be a part of this very important program. As Veterans helping Veterans, we can become a light to Veterans who too often find themselves in darkness." said Chauncey Parker, Executive Director. SSG Fox SPGP was awarded to GPVSC in September 2022 and the staff has been working hard to prepare for the program's initiation. The official launch event will take place at the GPVSC Main Office on January 19th during an informal ceremony and will provide a meal to local community Veterans. A second launch is planned to take place in Browning a week later, on January 26th. The final launch in Fort Belknap is expected to take place this spring, details to be announced at a later date.

With its SSG Fox SPGP award, the GPVSC plans to mitigate Veteran suicide by providing Veteran outreach, case management, direct assistance, referral services, counseling, DD Form 214 retrieval, employment services and support for any issue that affects the quality of life and mental health of Veterans. Our service area under this program will be Blaine, Chouteau, Glacier, Hill, and Phillips Counties to include the Rocky Boy's, Ft. Belknap, and Blackfeet reservations. We hold to our mission statement, "Veterans helping Veterans for a better future". We are so thankful for the sacrifices that our fellow Veterans have made for our country, without their service we would not have the freedoms we have today. Many Veterans struggle to adapt to regular life and can find themselves lost in "the system" once they get back from their service. Our organization helps local Veterans navigate the system and connects them to programs and resources to assist their needs.

For more information on Great Plains Veterans Services Center, people can visit <http://www.greatplainsveterans.org>.

Information on the SSG Fox SPGP can be found at <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants>.

People who are or who know someone who is having thoughts of suicide can contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive free, confidential support and crisis intervention available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. They can dial 988 then press 1, chat online at <http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat> or text 838255.