

Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network is a partnership of the **National Endowment for the Arts, the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and the state and local arts agencies** that seeks to improve the health, wellness, and quality of life for military and veteran populations exposed to trauma, as well as their families and caregivers.

THE NEED

More than 500,000 men and women of our armed forces are living with TBI or PTSD, which contribute to depression and to the estimated 20 suicides committed by veterans each day. Creative Forces responds to this in three ways:

CLINICAL

The National Endowment for the Arts funds creative arts therapists, equipment, and supplies at clinical sites across the nation, and a telehealth program for patients in rural and remote areas. In clinical settings, creative arts therapists provide art, music, and dance/movement therapies, as well as creative writing instruction, for military patients and veterans.

COMMUNITY

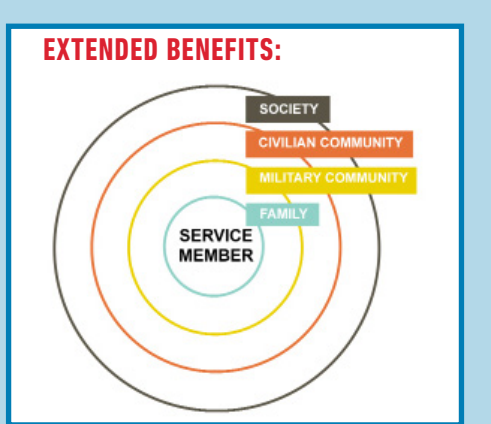
Creative Forces provides increased community-based arts opportunities near clinical sites for military members, veterans, and their families and caregivers. These networks will extend support for current and former creative arts therapies patients and their families as they transition from treatment in a clinical setting to arts programming in their community. Key to these efforts is the participation of state and local arts agencies.

CAPACITY

Creative Forces invests in capacity-building efforts, including the development of toolkits, training materials, and other resources to support best practices in serving the target populations. In addition, Creative Forces is investing in research on the impacts and benefits—physical, emotional, economic—of these innovative treatment methods.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

As part of the Arts Endowment’s mission to increase access to the arts for all Americans, Creative Forces enables more service members, veterans, and military families to benefit from creative arts therapies and community arts activities. Americans for the Arts is working with the Arts Endowment to provide administrative support for Creative Forces. The agency has been collaborating with the Department of Defense for more than a decade, offering creative writing workshops, performing arts programs, and the Blue Star Museums military appreciation program. In addition, National Endowment for the Arts grants support projects that reach military service members and veterans.



CREATIVE FORCES CLINICAL SITES:

- Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Anchorage, AK
- Fort Carson, CO
- James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital, Tampa, FL
- North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, Gainesville, FL
- National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) at Walter Reed, Bethesda, MD
- Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville, NC
- Fort Hood, TX
- Fort Belvoir, VA
- Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Portsmouth, VA
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, WA

Creative Forces clinical sites selected to join in the future:

- Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center, Indianapolis, IN
- G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center, Jackson, MS
- VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, Cleveland, OH