



VFP 2023–2024

Cognitive Behavioral Training (CBT) Access Act

Eliminate suicide and maladaptive thought patterns in the military and veteran communities through passage of legislation to make gold standard, evidence-based behavioral health training available in nonclinical interventions.



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Challenges

- Over **150,000 service members and veterans have died by suicide** since 9/11—equivalent to the entire US Marine Corps or two packed football stadiums.
- **>75% of veteran suicides result from firearms**, underscoring the urgent need for scalable, nonpolitical approaches to lethal means safety.
- Evidence-based, gold-standard psychological interventions **remain largely inaccessible** outside clinical settings, leaving the majority without timely, preventative support.

Achievements



Awarded **\$30,000,000 in contracts** across **all branches of the armed forces** to deliver **cognitive behavioral training (CBT)**, supporting more than **75,000 service members and veterans**.



Passage of **NDAAs sect. 595 and sect. 770** and introduction of **sect. 926**, expanding access to **nonclinical CBT** and **lethal means safe storage** for military and veteran communities.

Activities

1. Conducted **stakeholder engagement** across **DoD, VA, and military leadership** to refine requirements and align **CBT with operational needs**.
2. Built **alignment with bipartisan lawmakers, 2A advocacy organizations, and gun safety groups** to advance lethal means safety solutions with integrated CBT.
3. Supported **policy development** with **26 lawmakers** contributing to **NDAAs sections 595 and 770 and the introduction of section 926** to expand access to nonclinical behavioral training and safe storage initiatives.
4. Led **outreach and partnerships** with **military services, agencies, and institutions** to validate **efficacy and scale adoption**.
5. Secured and executed **\$30M+ in contracts**, delivering training to over **25,000 service members and veterans**.



Learn More
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