

Community Guide Series

HANCOCK COUNTY VETERANS GUIDE

**FALL
2023**



Welcome! The purpose of this guide is to help children of veterans and their families find support, education, and resources in their community. Ohio is home to more than 800,000 veterans and military personnel and over 14,000 military-connected youth (Ohio Department of Education). Additionally, 27% (n=48) of those who were served under the SOC project during the first round of the grant had at least one family member who served in the military – That is just a snapshot of the population here in Hancock County.

How to use this Guide:

- Share the opportunities with your followers through social media.
- Distribute copies to key community partners working with children and families, including schools, public health agencies, family therapists, foster care, scout leaders, coaches, media representatives, faith communities, and policymakers.
- Use the Guide as a topic for discussion at professional meetings including staff meetings, parent meetings, youth group meetings, and/or community planning meetings.
- Provide copies of this Guide to those who regularly connect with parents including employers, faith communities, and pediatrician offices.
- Use the information in the Guide when developing your own media kits, press releases, and other public awareness tools.
- Make the Guide available in the community. Don't forget places where families frequent including the farmers' market, libraries, and places of worship.
- Share the Guide at youth meetings including student council, youth groups at local churches, and volunteer service groups. Youth have shared that in-person discussion about these opportunities is key.
- Email communications@frcohio.org to share any updates/additions that may be helpful to the guide.

Education & Information:

The Hancock County Public Library in Findlay has a multitude of great resources for youth and their families who are looking to expand their education.

When & where: The Hancock County Public Library is located at 206 Broadway Street. It is open Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 - 5 p.m.

Learn more: www.findlaylibrary.org/content/military-resources

Veteran & Family Recreational Links:

Our Military Kids offers grants (up to \$300 per eligible child) to pay for extracurricular activities for children, ages 3-18, of deployed and stateside activated National Guard and Reserve service members, as well as those of combat-injured Veterans from any service branch. These grants can be used to pay for a wide range of extracurricular activities, including sports teams, music lessons, tutoring, and summer camp. They are unable to fund daycare fees, school tuition, or mission trips.

Learn more: www.ourmilitarykids.org/apply



Community Resources & Assistance:

Make The Connection

MakeTheConnection.net is an online resource designed to connect Veterans, their family members and friends, and other supporters with information, resources, and solutions to issues affecting their lives.

Learn more: www.maketheconnection.net

Military OneSource

Military OneSource is your 24/7 connection to information, answers, and support to help you reach your goals, overcome challenges and thrive. As a member of the military family, you are eligible to use this Department of Defense-funded program anytime, anywhere. Turn to Military OneSource for tax services, spouse employment help, webinars and online training, relocation and deployment tools, and much more. Learn about some of the ways Military OneSource can serve you.

Learn more: www.militaryonesource.mil

Hancock County Veterans Office

Hancock County has their own Veterans office to assist in a range of services from employment assistance and transportation needs, plus more!

When & where: The Hancock County Veterans Service Office is located at 1100 E. Main Cross Street, Suite 123. It is open Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., every other Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Learn more: www.hancockveterans.com

Ohio National Guard

The Ohio National Guard has 6 regional Troop and Family Assistance Centers and 4 Wing Family Readiness Program Centers. These centers provide support to all military members & their families, especially during deployments. Troop and Family Assistance Centers provide information resources, referrals, and assistance on a variety of issues including: Emergency Family Assistance, Educational Resources, Mobilization Information, Reintegration Services, Youth Programs, Family Readiness Group Assistance, and more.

Covering Hancock County:

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Learn more: www.ohio4h.org/statewide-programs/operation-military-kids/resources/troop-and-family-assistance-centers

GLCAP

The GLCAP Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program provides housing assistance and other services for veterans. They can help cover rental arrearages, first-month rent, security deposits and other needs such as utility assistance, moving costs and budgeting. Veteran housing assistance through GLCAP is available for residents of Erie, Hancock, Huron, Lorain, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Wood, and Wyandot Counties.

Contact: For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-775-9767 or 419-333-4006.

Learn more: www.glcap.org/programs/housing-assistance/veteran-support/

School & Student Information:

VA Education Benefits

Find out if you're eligible for VA education benefits for dependents and survivors (also called Chapter 35 benefits). If you're a dependent spouse or child, or the surviving spouse or child of a Veteran, you may qualify for Chapter 35 benefits or job training through a GI Bill program.

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) is for children and spouses of these service members: Active-duty service members who died in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, or Members of the Selected Reserve who died from a service-connected disability on or after September 11, 2001.

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program offers education and training to qualified dependents of these service members: Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled because of a service-related condition, or service members who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

Learn more: www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits

Purple Star Award

The Purple Star Award recognizes schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. Schools that earn the award will receive a special Purple Star recognition.

Learn more: www.education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Military-Resources/Schools/Purple-Star-Award

Helping with Transitions

To ease the transition for children of active-duty military members who move due to change of station orders, state law now allows districts and schools to further reduce barriers to enrollment by waiving the proof of residency requirement. When a family of an active-duty military member moves to a different school or district, they can enroll their student before having proof of residency paperwork.

Learn more: www.education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Military-Resources/Students-and-Families/Enrolling-New-Students-in-Active-Duty-Military-Fam

Ohio is committed to assisting military-connected youth as they transition in and out of the state. Military families face additional challenges when they transition between duty stations or are activated from the National Guard or Reserve. Some barriers are the ability to enroll military-connected students in a timely manner and transferring credits for high school graduation. To address this, Ohio signed on to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children in 2009 to remove barriers to educational success because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents.

Learn more: www.education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Military-Resources/Schools/Interstate-Compact-on-Educational-Opportunity-for



The Community Guide Series is a Hancock County System of Care Grant Project brought to you by Family Resource Center.

You can find digital versions at hancockhelps.org and frcoho.org.

To request printed copies, please email Family Resource Center's Communications Team at communications@frcoho.org.