Connect2Help™

They served to help our country thrive…

Now many veterans are just trying to survive

Brian*, a 26 year-old former Marine called 2-1-1 for help with his mortgage. He had been laid off from his job, and was receiving unemployment, but it wasn't enough to make his house payment, which was already two months late. His wife was pregnant with their first child, and he was afraid that his family was going to be homeless. The Connect2Help 2-1-1 Specialist connected Brian with the Indiana Foreclosure Prevention Network, who agreed to help him work with the lender to try to keep him in his home.

*not his real name

Unfortunately, Brian's situation is not rare. **More than 1,800 veterans called 2-1-1 for help** from November 2012—October 2013. This is a **12% increase** compared to the previous 12 months. Veterans reported nearly 3,000 needs and received more than 4,100 referrals to community services.

Top Needs

1. **Housing—19%**
2. **Legal—12%**
3. **Utilities—12%**
4. **Financial—10%**
5. **Food—9%**

Veterans shared the same top needs as ALL 2-1-1 callers; however, the percentages varied. Nearly **1 out of every 5 veterans needed help with housing** compared to slightly less than 1out of every 7 2-1-1 callers.

Also, as a percentage, **veterans' legal needs were 81% higher** than ALL 2-1-1 callers.

Top Unmet Needs

1. **Housing—29%**
2. **Utilities—15%**
3. **Transportation—7%**
4. **Legal—7%**
5. **Financial—7%**

Eight percent (8%) of veterans' needs were recorded as **"unmet"** by 2-1-1. This percentage is similar to that of ALL 2-1-1 callers. Veterans' most pressing need—housing—was also their least likely to be met. **Forty-one percent (41%) of veterans' shelter needs were "unmet,"** compared to 16% for ALL 2-1-1 callers.

In addition to the needs presented by veterans, many were also faced with additional challenges.

Illness/Disability

40%

Unemployed/Laid-Off

21%

Homeless/Doubled-Up

14%

2-1-1 is available 24/7/365 to help veterans in need.

Dial 2-1-1 or visit www.Connect2Help.org.