



The Concept: A Multi-Sector Coalition to Help Solve Interlocking Challenges That Military Families Face

Military service is a desirable lifestyle for mission, camaraderie, and adventure, but the challenges are keen. A national- and community-level response is needed to provide the solutions and resources that adequately address the economic and emotional needs of military families.

Background

The United States has the most modern defense in the world, with the best technologies and systems in place to protect our country, but has done **little to modernize the social and economic infrastructure** that supports our military families.

National security is imperiled as service members choose to leave service due to family concerns and **military-connected community members are less and less likely to recommend service to young people.**

Without a growing network of support and community buy-in, we lack the solutions and resources that adequately address the economic and emotional needs of military families and the needs of Veteran families subsequent to service.

Solution

The **Do Your Part coalition** is led by Blue Star Families with support from Craig Newmark and craig newmark philanthropies. Under the Do Your Part campaign banner, a **multi-sector coalition** of changemakers will come together to deliver more impact for those who have volunteered to serve and their families.

The Do Your Part coalition seeks to fulfill the Constitution's promise of **providing for the common defense by focusing on three areas:**

- ★ Community & Connectedness
- ★ Jobs, Child Care & Economic Security
- ★ Military Children's Well-Being

We must work together to support our military families. Individuals can do their part to create healthier and happier communities by **welcoming their military family neighbors.** Employers can do their part by adopting the **4+1 Commitment** to create economic stability for military families. We can address innovative approaches to the child care crisis preventing spouses from being able to work by piloting a GI Bill for Child Care. But these are just a few examples. **What can YOU do?** Go to bluestarfam.org/do-your-part to sign up and learn more about these ideas and others!

Theory of Do Your Part

Blue Star Families knows that **creative and collaborative solutions** are the only way to meaningfully move the needle. A **national- and community-level response** is the key to addressing the interlocking issues military families are facing. No one individual, organization, or institution can achieve this change alone; this requires a whole-of-society response.

Blue Star Families is leading the way by using data to develop human-centered design solutions with a coalition of partners to address the necessary ecosystem change.

Questions?

Please contact info@bluestarfam.org.

The Numbers

Only 37%

of active-duty military family respondents are likely to **recommend military service** to a young family member.¹

3.5 times

The **military spouse unemployment rate (21%)** is 3.5 times the national average and has not significantly changed since 2015.²

70%

of military families live in communities and are no longer on military bases.³

Only 30%

of military families **experience a sense of belonging** in the communities in which they live.⁴

Select Partners and Collaborators



craig newmark philanthropies

Building upon his \$100M commitment to the larger community, Craig Newmark pledged \$10M to Blue Star Families to expand Blue Star Chapters, an evidence-based solution for community integration, and an additional \$2.5M to stand up outposts in regions belonging to every member of the Congressional Quality of Life Panel.



Nextdoor

Nextdoor has partnered with Blue Star Families to help military families engage, integrate, and enjoy their local neighborhoods after a move.



Starbucks

Starbucks is committed to building 150 more stores near our military bases, doubling the current count, and enhancing their military spouse employment program.



Bob Woodruff Foundation

The Bob Woodruff Foundation raises awareness about the tough challenges Veterans and military families are facing and investing in solutions to help support them in the next chapter of their lives.



Congressional Quality of Life Panel

The House Armed Services Committee has convened a panel to explicitly explore and address military quality of life issues.

¹ Blue Star Families (2023). 2022 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Comprehensive Report. https://bluestarfam.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/BSF_MFLS_Spring23_Full_Report_Digital.pdf

² Department of Defense (2022). 2021 DoD Survey of Active Duty Spouses: The Military Spouse at a Glance. Office of People Analytics. <https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Presentations/2021-active-duty-spouse-overview-briefing.pdf>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Blue Star Families. (2022). 2021 Military Family Lifestyle Survey Comprehensive Report. https://bluestarfam.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/BSF_MFLS_Results2021_ComprehensiveReport_3_22.pdf