

Dwyer Coalition for Military Veterans & Families, Inc.

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Dwyer Coalition Organization's Mission and Activities

Mission:

The Dwyer Coalition for Military Veterans & Families unites communities, organizations, and individuals to strengthen the well-being of veterans, service members, and their families. Through advocacy, collaboration, and resource-building, we work to eliminate barriers, enhance support systems, and create meaningful opportunities. Guided by our core values of commitment, unity, resilience, and empowerment, we ensure that those who serve can lead fulfilling and dignified lives.

Program Activities:

The Dwyer Coalition for Military Veterans & Families engages in the following core activities:

1. Statewide Program Coordination

- Convening monthly meetings of all 62 county-based Dwyer Peer Support Programs to share best practices, address emerging needs, and support cross-county collaboration.
- Maintaining and managing the official New York State Dwyer Coalition website (josephpdwyerpeerproject.org) as a central hub for program updates, statewide events, and Veteran resources.

2. Advocacy & Policy Work

- Developing and advancing bipartisan legislative priorities at both the state and federal level, including efforts to:
 - Expand support for National Guard and Reserve members.
 - Secure equitable funding for underserved Veteran populations, including Tribal Nations.
 - Modernize infrastructure like the Castle Point VA campus in the Hudson Valley.

3. Public Awareness & Education

- Producing multimedia content to highlight Veteran issues, including:
 - A web series on military sexual trauma.
 - Webinars on navigating Veteran benefits.
 - Annual conferences focused on suicide prevention, peer leadership, and Veteran family support.
- Facilitating media and public engagement campaigns to raise awareness about Veterans' needs and the importance of non-clinical peer support.

4. Peer Leadership & Training



- Hosting a 3-day professional development experience for peer leaders and Veteran advocates, focusing on leadership, cultural humility, postvention, and community engagement (CEU-supported via partners).
- Providing technical assistance to counties seeking to enhance their peer programs.

5. Special Initiatives

- Launching the DwyerCare Program, a non-clinical intensive case coordination and caregiver support initiative (in development).
- Developing a scholarship program for military-connected youth, with representation across all six military branches, including Guard and Reserve families.
- Coordinating a Veteran Sponsorship Program to ensure under-resourced Veterans can attend conferences and retreats.
- Planning retreats and wellness gatherings for Veterans and their families.