



National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families

The Director's Corner

Greetings,

President Wilson designated November 11th as Armistice Day to commemorate the ceasefire that ultimately ended World War I in 1919. According to the [U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs](#),

President Wilson's proclamation included the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

Although years later, Armistice Day was renamed as Veteran's Day to honor all military veterans, President Wilson's words are timeless. "Pride" and "heroism" still represent how we think of our military men and women. Words like "gratitude," "opportunity," "sympathy," "peace," and "justice" still represent core American values.

One way to honor our active military men and women is to support their families so they can focus on serving our country. This November, as we honor Veteran's Day and celebrate Thanksgiving, we should be thoughtful of the military families in our communities. Take the opportunity to show gratitude by reaching out to them. Look for ways to connect them to community resources that reduce isolation and improve access to needed services. The Resource Guide mentioned below offers some great ideas for resources.

Best Regards,

Robyn Cenizal, Project Director



Tip of the Month

Your monthly tip to strengthen the relationships of those you serve. *Share it - Post it - Pass it on!*

In [A Support and Resource Guide for Working With Military Families](#), military service members, spouses, and adult children shared conversation tips to build trust and understanding of military families. "Good" questions included:

- *Why did you decide to volunteer for military service?*
- *When did serving become more "who" you are than "what" you are?*
- *How has your service shaped your concept of family?*

One of the top questions that service members said to avoid was whether the service member had killed someone or seen someone killed. They explained that their most traumatic experiences are deeply personal and not always shared with their own loved ones, which means that they are not appropriate topics for casual discussion with curious friends, service providers, or strangers.



Featured Resources

The Resource Center's [Virtual Library](#) has collected more than 600 materials in a variety of formats including fact sheets, research-to-practice briefs, brochures, pamphlets, training resources, program reports or evaluations, and research materials.

Select the links below to view our featured November resources:

- [Tips for understanding military couple relationships after deployment \(Tip Sheet\)](#)
This tip sheet summarizes what is known about the couple relationships of service members after deployment and recommends ways in which safety-net service providers can offer support to them in maintaining successful couple relationships.
- [A support and resource guide for working with military families \(Resource Guide\)](#)
This guide uses a three stage process, allowing readers to: (1) better understand military structure and culture; (2) better understand and connect with existing resources for military service members and their families; and (3) learn more about the role that core marriage and relationship skills play in work, school, family, and military environments, as well as strategies for integrating healthy marriage and relationship skills into service delivery systems for military service members and their families.



Events

The Resource Center's [Events Calendar](#) offers a listing of Resource Center events and other national, regional, and community-wide events that might be of interest. Upcoming events include:

- [2013 National League of Cities \(NLC\) Congress of Cities and Exposition in Seattle, WA, November 13-16, 2013](#): The Congress of Cities and Exposition offers a broad range of learning opportunities including Leadership Training Institute Seminars, peer-to-peer networking, workshops, showcases, and an Exposition Hall. Through innovative programming offered at the conference, participants strengthen their ability to lead and grow America's cities, towns, and villages. The National Resource Center will be exhibiting at this conference.
- [Family Structure, Stability and Child Well-being webinar on Wednesday, December 11, 2013 2:00:00 PM EST - 3:00:00 PM EST](#): Dr. Terry-Ann Craigie, the current Self-Sufficiency Research Clearinghouse (SSRC) Emerging Scholar, will host a webinar titled Family Structure, Stability and Child Wellbeing. Dr. Craigie will discuss the determinants and effects of family structure and instability, as well as the pathways through which child wellbeing is affected. Topics to be covered during Dr. Craigie's webinar include key determinants of family structure and stability, whether child outcomes vary by family structure, the advantages and disadvantages of formal versus informal child support, and implications for policy and future research.
- On **December 12th**, the Resource Center is convening the **New York Integration Institute** in Saratoga Springs, NY - a one day training event for safety-net service providers across the State of New York. Attendees will have an opportunity to share information regarding their agencies' current efforts to promote relationship skills; participate in facilitated discussions regarding healthy marriage and relationship education skills and integration strategies; and engage in consensus building and action planning activities. This event is by invitation only. However, if you would like more information on upcoming institutes or to organize an event in your state or area, please [contact us](#).

Feedback and Technical Assistance:

If you have suggestions or wish to speak with a Resource Center staff member, please [contact us](#) and we will be happy to assist you. If you would like to request Technical Assistance, please submit a [Training and Technical Assistance Request Form](#) and our Technical Assistance Coordinator will contact you.

To learn more about the Resource Center visit us at www.healthymarriageandfamilies.org

The National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families supports safety-net service providers as they integrate healthy marriage and relationship education skills into service delivery systems as part of a comprehensive, culturally appropriate, family-centered approach designed to promote self-sufficiency.

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