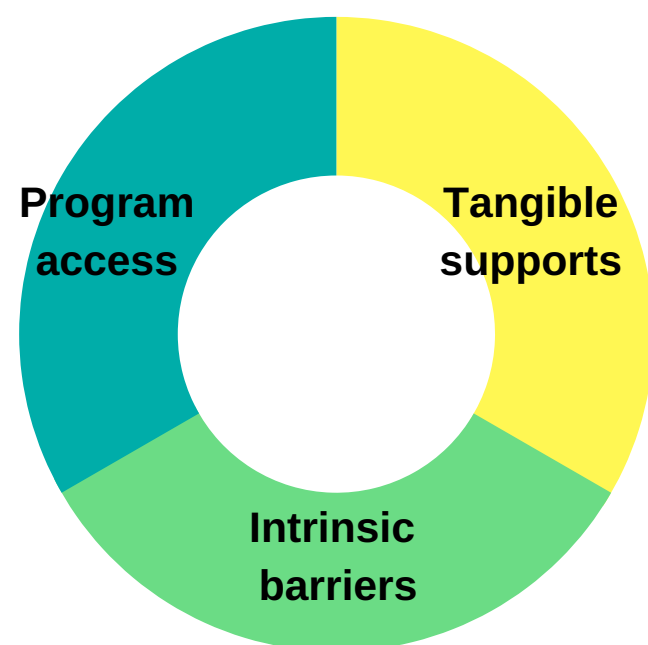




# THE VETERANS METRICS INITIATIVE (TVMI) SNAPSHOT OF BARRIER REDUCTION COMPONENTS

Data collected from study participants at Wave 1

Issue 11



- Weighted survey data on 9,566 respondents representing 48,965 newly separated veterans were analyzed to understand the types of barrier reduction components veterans used in the 0-90 days following discharge.
- Barrier reduction components take three forms:
  - Strategies to reduce intrinsic barriers (e.g., stigma reduction, increasing motivation to change)
  - Providing access to the program (e.g., transportation, child care, insurance to provide access to health care)
  - Tangible support to help veterans achieve their goals (e.g., scholarship for education, food assistance, business clothing for job interviews)

## INTRINSIC BARRIERS

- 6% of programs increased motivation to change by offering such strategies as free trials to help start an exercise routine
- 3% of programs attempted to reduce stigma around program use, as through social media campaigns



## PROGRAM ACCESS

- 95% of programs provided content online while 15% offered transportation to reduce travel barriers
- 6% covered lodging costs for veterans to attend and 6% covered fees via registration waivers not available to non-veterans
- 4% offered childcare so that the veteran could attend the event or program
- 3% provided access to medical treatment without requiring insurance, e.g., free counseling sessions



## TANGIBLE SUPPORTS

- 18% of programs (excluding the GI Bill) gave scholarships or tuition discounts to veterans
- 16% provided monetary awards, including emergency grants
- 13% offered discounted pricing on goods or services delivered by the program
- 12% gave out clothing, including business attire, and other physical goods, like sports equipment
- 8% funded housing and accessibility modifications
- 7% provided job placement assistance and 6% assisted with licensing and certification costs
- 6% of programs supported veterans through free legal advice



## VA BENEFITS

- 74% of veterans used a Department of Veterans Affairs benefit at Wave 1.
  - 32% used the VA home loan program to increase access to housing
  - 45% used a VA education benefit to help pay for higher education (35% used Post-9/11 GI Bill)
  - 74% used a VA hospital, clinic, or Vet Center for healthcare

