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The Greater Miami Valley myVeteran Community wins National Award

Regional veterans service organizations team up to serve Miami Valley veterans

DAYTON, OHIO – The Greater Miami Valley myVeteran Community, that includes the Dayton VA and many Veteran Serving Organization partners across the Miami Valley have teamed up since 2015, to improve services to Veterans across our region. SOCHE serves at the lead and backbone organization for the myVeteran Community. The myVeteran Community was recently informed of their receipt of the Community Catalyst Award from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Nearly 100 applications were submitted by Community Veteran Engagement Boards from across the country for the first of its kind VA Veterans Experience Office Community Catalyst Award (VEOCC), which has a \$100,000 prize for each of the top two finalists.

The goal of the Community Catalyst Award was to find and award active, scalable, community engagement solutions that support Veteran communities, referrals for care, those which increases access and trust with VA, and those who can reach the Veterans who are underserved and untethered from the support they need. Together, VA and the community must work together to bridge gaps in services and provide excellence in customer service to our Nation's Veterans and their families, caregivers and survivors.

“Congratulations to these first two Veterans Experience Office Community Catalyst Awardees,” said VA’s Chief Veterans Experience Officer John Boerstler. “We are excited to continue to work with you and your teams to explore how we might increase enrollment and improve the experience for untethered Veterans, and use these lessons learned to share with all of our Community Veteran Engagement partners through the VetResources Community Network (VRCN).”

The Greater Miami Valley myVeteran Community, works to fully understand Veterans’ needs in order to provide world-class support. It began with an in-depth assessment across all of the regions (16 counties) which identified a strong need for better understanding and access to Veteran resources. The myVeteran Community is built on a strong network including the Dayton VA, Wright Patterson AFB, and a backbone non-profit, SOCHE. It currently provides a multitude of services, including referrals for Veterans to community agencies (VetsLink through the United Way of Greater Dayton), convene services of all Veteran serving organizations across the region to coordinate missions and activities, provide education for Veterans, job referral services, and support for Veterans to combat food insecurity. This model of CVEB engagement is scalable to other areas of the country where they hope to make strides in improving access to VA.

<https://www.soche.org/aerospace-professional-development-center/myveteran-community/>