



ILLINOIS JOINING FORCES

Supporting Service Members, Veterans and their Families

About IJF

Illinois Joining Forces (IJF) is a non-profit organization in Illinois that collaborates with a statewide network of providers to connect Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) with the resources they need, precisely when and where they need them.

Our Goals

- To ensure Illinois SMVF have access to a gateway of connection & assistance with navigating to the services and resources they need; where and when they need them.
- To eliminate barriers to accessing care for the Illinois SMVF community and reduce risk factors that contribute to suicide.
- To expand our access to service and resource providers by creating partnerships that ensure we meet the needs of the Illinois SMVF community.
- To develop, engage, and partner with regionally based community hubs of support, and to foster local collaborations to better support the Illinois SMVF Community.
- To convene service providers and the SMVF community for the purpose of education, collaboration, and connection.
- To ensure that no Veteran or family member, regardless of status, is left behind.

**"No one organization can do it all.
But together, we can do anything."**



Our Initiatives

Operation Connect Illinois CARES

is a first step for Illinois SMVF to navigate the services and resources to support growth, wellness, and community through the following initiatives:

- **Care Coordination Center (CCC):**
a non-crisis helpline that connects SMVF to the essential care they need.
- **Staff Sergeant Gordon Parker Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP):**
a supportive approach for suicide prevention.
- **Illinois Warrior Assistance Program (IWAP):**
a non-crisis helpline that provides 24/7/365 assistance and support.

Operation Connect Illinois develops robust networks and connections with service providers, public, private, and government stakeholders to support Illinois SMVF through:

- The development and engagement of Veteran Support Communities throughout the State of Illinois
- The expansion of national, state, and local community partnerships
- The education, connection, and collaboration at our annual and regional summits