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# 2024

## Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families

April 17-18 | Phoenix, Arizona

arizona coalition  
for military families





# Research Innovations

## Session 3

From Research To  
Policy To Impact



# Facilitators



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DIRECTOR

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Arizona State University



# Idea to Legislation



# Panelists

- Wanda Wright
- Jessica Roza
- Stacey Travers



# Idea

- ADVS has always committed to finding the gaps in Veterans lives and to remove the barriers that may be causing the gaps
- ADVS Veteran Commission did a poll in their constituent area
- Found that there were severe issues with Veterans having transportation to medical appointments, for shopping

# Transportation Survey

Veteran respondents with lack of transportation reported that this kept them from the following in the past 12 months (could select more than one option):

- 26.01% Work
- 10.47% School
- 28.65% Medical Appointments
- 41.55% Store (Groceries, pharmacy, etc.)
- 42.57% Leisure Activities
- 34.63% Family/Friends
- 8.28% Other



# Transportation Survey

Service member respondents with lack of transportation reported that this kept them from the following in the past 12 months (could select more than one option):

- 16.87% Work
- 21.69% School
- 24.1% Medical Appointments
- 25.3% Store (Groceries, pharmacy, etc.)
- 16.87% Leisure Activities
- 12.05% Family/Friends
- 10.84% Other

# Transportation Survey

Family member respondents with lack of transportation reported that this kept them from the following in the past 12 months (could select more than one option):

- 21.43% Work
- 7.14% School
- 23.31% Medical Appointments
- 20.3% Store (Groceries, pharmacy, etc.)
- 27.07% Leisure Activities
- 20.68% Family/Friends
- 1.88% Other

# Transportation Video



# Programs

Programs were developed from the survey information.

# Fuel Gift Cards

ACMF provided veterans and service members with a \$100 fuel card as a thank-you for their service. Through partnerships with other organizations and outreach to gas stations, participants were able to receive fuel gift cards. Fuel cards were selected to assist with rising gas prices to help participants get to appointments without the worry of fuel costs.

A total of **217** fuel gift cards were provided to **196** veterans, each gift card had a value of \$100.

A network of over **25** partner organizations from strategic locations across the state helped disseminate information to veterans about these fuel cards.

Select participants demonstrated additional needs: 15 received gift cards for a transportation service provider, 7 received more than one fuel gift card, 1 received a roundtrip bus ticket, 1 received an airplane ticket, and 1 received travel support for their pet.

Participants across Arizona were eligible to receive fuel gift cards. Most participants reported having other needs as well, the table below shows the distribution of participants' additional reported needs.

# Vehicle Repairs

Vehicles provide veterans the mobility to get to work, school, healthcare appointments, transport family members, and more. For many, vehicle repairs can be too expensive and get pushed off for a long time.

Over **\$15,000** was devoted to car repairs which helped **60** veterans and service members

The most common repair participants needed were new **tires**; a total of **11** veterans and service members received new tires.

# Long Distance Rides

Vehicles provide veterans the mobility to get to work, school, healthcare appointments, transport family members, and more. For many, vehicle repairs can be too expensive and get pushed off for a long time.

**119** participants received assistance through this project, a total of **165** long-distance rides were provided.

Additionally, **2** flights and **2** hotel nights were provided to help participants receive life-saving medical treatment.

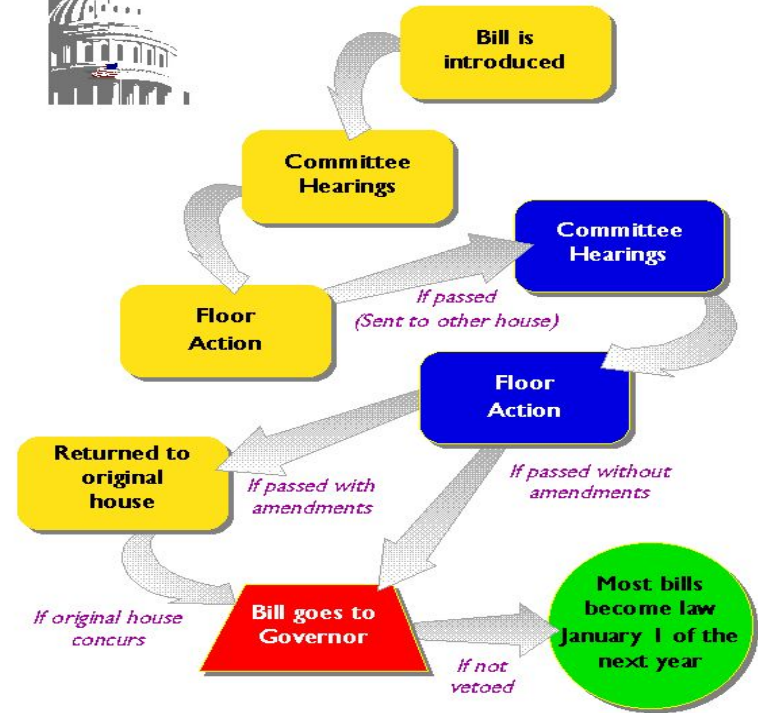
One participant was able to get connected to HUD VASH and received an airline ticket to Kansas with departure less than **48** hours after the participant was connected. This enabled the participant to be reunited with their family.

# Legislation

Utilize data from the survey  
and from the programs



## How a Bill Becomes a Law







# Questions?





# Session Evaluation

We want to hear from you!

Hold for QR  
Code

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