



Fast Facts: Rural Arizona Connects

The [Arizona Center for Rural Health](#) (AzCRH) at the University of Arizona Health Sciences has joined forces with the Arizona Coalition for Military Families (ACMF) to address the health and social needs of rural Arizona veterans and their families. The new project, funded by Mobilize AZ, the public health initiative of Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona, focuses on suicide prevention among veterans using an upstream approach. Risk of suicide among veterans is three to four times greater than the general population, and even higher for veterans living in rural communities.

The funded initiative is named **Rural Arizona Connects: Linking Rural Health to Rural Veterans**. AzCRH partners with ACMF and Arizona’s nationally recognized Be Connected program that strengthens access to support services and resources for veterans, families and helpers. Services include a support line, community-based navigators who connect veterans with available services, and community training.

Be Connected is a joint effort with Arizona’s Office of the Governor Doug Ducey, the Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. AzCRH and Be Connected will partner with southern Arizona’s federally designated Critical Access Hospitals and Rural Health Clinics to increase access to health services and coordination of care for veterans and their families.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES INCLUDE:

- Creating a replicable model for rural communities to coordinate services for veterans for immediate care
- Implementing a coordinated Be Connected information dissemination campaign
- Training community members and providers
- Mapping available services for veterans and their families living in Southern Arizona

Be Connected Support Line: 1-8664AZ-VETS (429-8387)

www.BeConnectedAZ.org



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