



Clarissa Munford, Military Spouse

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Q4 APRIL- JUNE 2026

“

This quarter, the D'Aniello IVMF strengthened its position as a leader in the veteran space on the national level across multiple domains. We've grown our presence on capitol hill, endorsing bills and convening our annual Community of Practice, where we hosted Congressman Kennedy. IVMF's growing influence on the national stage creates opportunities to champion policies and legislation that can address the root causes of challenges and obstacles servicemembers, veterans, and their families face.”

Many of our tentpole programs are also maturing, and with that maturity comes the experience to serve those segments of the military-connected community better than ever. When I hear that our 30th V-WISE cohort reported a fourfold increase in “feeling a strong sense of purpose since leaving military service,” that's a clear signal our processes continue to refine and grow our programs, equipping our participants with exactly what they need.”

— **RAYMOND TOENNIENSEN**
Deputy Executive Director

Last quarter, the D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) reached 100,000 veteran and military spouse entrepreneurs served, and this quarter we've carried that momentum into a season marked by significant program milestones. The Military Entrepreneurship Forum celebrated its 10th event, and V-WISE marked its 30th cohort in Atlanta, an achievement that underscores the program's popularity and vital role in helping women veterans rebuild identity and community after transition.

IVMF also deepened its focus on military spouses this quarter, launching the Career You Never See campaign, which brings research and personal storytelling together in support of one of the most qualified, and most overlooked, segments of the American workforce. By pairing data with lived experience, the campaign surfaces the structural barriers military spouses face and builds lasting awareness around an often-overlooked community.

Beyond direct programming, IVMF continued operations at the national level, translating research and relationships into policy progress. IVMF endorsed the CHOW Act to combat food insecurity among junior enlisted service members, advanced the Next Mission Act built on the O2O model, and secured report language in the Senate's FY2027 National Defense Authorization Act, strengthening oversight of military transition programs. The Community of Practice Annual Gathering brought together roughly 60 cross-sector leaders from 23 communities and 16 states, including a legislative fireside chat with Rep. Tim Kennedy. These efforts reflect an institute working simultaneously to serve individuals and to strengthen the systems around them.



CAREER SERVICES

ONWARD TO OPPORTUNITY (O2O)

1,611 ENROLLED

- 792 veterans and 196 military spouses
- 502 active duty and 121 National Guard/Reserve
- **Ages:** Under 29 years old (289) | 30-49 (1,127) | 50+ (195)
- **Top certifications:** PMP®, Cyber Security, Human Resources, Information Security, Six Sigma

O2O FUNDER SPOTLIGHT

- With **Morgan Stanley's** support, IVMF has launched a Securities Industry Essentials (SIE) curriculum, opening pathways into financial services for transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses. The first of three planned cohorts launched in June 2026 with more than 40 participants.



SOPHIA PAUKEN, Military Spouse, O2O San Diego, PMP Certification

"I passed the PMP exam Above Target, and I truly credit O2O for that success. Having access to this program at no cost during a period of unemployment made an enormous difference. Since becoming PMP certified, I've already seen increased interest from recruiters."

VETERANS FOR PUBLIC OFFICE (VPO)

31 ENROLLED in second ideation cohort

- ▶ 27 veterans and 1 military spouse
- ▶ 1 active duty and 2 National Guard

"I was able to pursue new opportunities with confidence and ultimately succeed in being elected to serve my community as a town councilor. The program's impact continues to shape how I lead, communicate, and contribute in meaningful ways."

— **CORY MONROE**

Marine Corps veteran, Ideation track

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMS

6 UNIQUE PROGRAMS RUNNING 13 COHORTS:

Programs include: CEOcircle, EBV, EBV-F, Military Founders Lab, STRIVE, V-WISE

519 ENROLLED ENTREPRENEURS

- 374 veterans and 81 military spouses
- 29 active duty, 13 National Guard/Reserve
- **Ages:** Under 29 years old (22) | 30-49 (313) | 50+ (148)
- **Boots to Business** supported 501 participants across 28 cohorts
- Roughly half of the graduates who responded to the 2026 Annual survey expressed the need for mentorship and access to capital.
- IVMF hosted the [10th Military Entrepreneurship Forum](#), sponsored by Fiserv. There, 175 veteran and military spouse entrepreneurs connected with NYC organizations and resources. In partnership with the research team, the roundtable event had 25 representatives from local organizations.
- The 2026 **Military Founders Lab - Skilled Trades Microgrants**, funded through [The Home Depot Foundation](#), awarded six microgrants to support tools, equipment, and business resources for military-connected entrepreneurs.
- The April 2026 **Road to Open Call** in Dallas had record participation with 86 applications, more than 2.5x the 2025 event, and six of the 25 selected pitchers earned Fast Passes to Walmart's Bentonville Open Call.
- **V-WISE** celebrated its [30th cohort in Atlanta](#). V-WISE participants showed a 4x increase in the percentage who strongly agreed that, since leaving military service, they feel a strong sense of purpose. This suggests that time spent among other military-connected women entrepreneurs helped participants rebuild a sense of purpose that many struggle to find after leaving service.

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

- Total number of downloads from the [digital library](#) this quarter: **7,211**
- 32 [research publications](#) and 32 in-person/virtual engagements
- IVMF attended the first Military Veteran Transitions Academy, co-hosted by SAMHSA and the VA's Office of Suicide Prevention. Six state teams built logic models around the Military Transition Intercept Model, which draws on IVMF's 2025 Military Family Lifestyle Survey as a foundational study.
- IVMF hosted 100+ researchers, practitioners, students, and community partners at the National Veteran Resource Center for its second **Voices of Service** showcase of veteran-focused research and resources. [Learn more.](#)
- The Evaluation team completed work with the [National Medal of Honor Museum's Moments that Matter](#) program, finding that participation helped students identify and apply their strengths and values, with most planning to use what they learned in the future.
- IVMF found that families using [United Through Reading](#) report higher child literacy the longer they participate, with UTR services also protecting against declines in child wellbeing, parent morale, and family connection during military-induced separation.
- The Evaluation team led [SCDVA's](#) effort to reach 111,000+ veterans and transitioning service members statewide, with several recommendations adopted into the agency's 2026-2027 outreach plan.

COMMUNITY INSIGHTS & IMPACT

- The 2026 **CoP Annual Gathering** united 60 cross-sector leaders from 23 communities across 16 states to advance collaborative care for veterans, featuring a legislative fireside chat with Rep. Tim Kennedy (NY-26). During the gathering, IVMF's policy team also convened the Veteran Employment Collective.
- **SyracuseServes** assisted 35 clients and fielded 74 total interactions.



POLICY

- Thanks in large part to research by Syracuse University's Professor Colleen Heflin, Senator Raphael Warnock (GA) introduced the [CHOW Act](#) to combat food insecurity among junior enlisted service members. IVMF has [proudly endorsed](#) the bipartisan legislation.
- IVMF advanced bipartisan priorities through endorsements of the [Next Mission Act](#) and the House version of the [National Veterans Strategy Act](#). Notably, the Next Mission Act was developed based on IVMF's O2O program.
- Secured IVMF-supported [report language](#) in the Senate FY2027 NDAA to strengthen oversight of military transition programs (p. 194).
- Provided policy analysis on the Take Care of America's Veterans Act, evaluating its implications for veteran transition, workforce development, and entrepreneurship.

IVMF ALUMNI NEWS

Celebrating Our 30th V-Wise Program



The alumni team hosted the first-ever **V-WISE Alumni Reunion**, bringing together 50 alumni in honor of the 30th program.



MARIA BYNDOM, V-WISE Graduate

"For any woman veteran standing at the edge of her entrepreneurial vision wondering if she is ready, V-WISE will not just prepare you. It will remind you that you are already ready."

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Ambassador program welcomed its newest cohort of **42 Ambassadors** representing 21 communities across five regions.

[Find an Ambassador near you!](#)

FEATURED CONTENT & PUBLICATIONS

• Deployed Together, Worked Together, Started a Business Together. 2 of 100K Veteran Spotlight Blog:

IVMF helped Joe Smarro and best friend Jesse Trevino gain the confidence to turn training and expertise into SolutionPoint+. [Learn how](#) a career in mental health crisis management and de-escalation turned into one of America's fastest growing companies.



- **What would you tell your younger self?** ["Letters to Myself"](#) is a video collection from veteran and military spouse entrepreneurs sharing what they wished their younger selves knew.

Q4 PUBLICATIONS:

- IVMF and Blue Star Families released [Endless Adaptation, Limited Progress](#), a longitudinal study on interruptions to military spouse career continuity, finding unemployment above 20% despite high educational attainment.
- IVMF published [Planning to Pivot: Employment Lessons from a Military Spouse](#), spotlighting research that spouses earn 42% less than civilians and lose \$200,000+ over a 20-year military career.



MILITARY SPOUSE CAMPAIGN



- Military spouses are some of the most qualified, adaptable individuals in the American workforce. They are also among the most overlooked. For too long, the data to prove both of those things has been scattered or incomplete. With the [Career You Never See Campaign](#), IVMF is bringing research and [personal stories](#) together, and shedding light on the structural barriers military spouses face to find success.
- [The Military Spouse Chronicles](#) highlight the experience of three military spouse entrepreneurs and how they managed veteran PTSD, abuse, PCSing while trying to build a career, and daily responsibilities while building a business.

IVMF FUNDER SPOTLIGHT



Building on a relationship that started with Bunker Labs, **General Motors** has provided \$900,000 over the past three years to support IVMF's career and entrepreneurship training, creating pathways to economic opportunity for thousands of transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses. Thank you, General Motors!

Your Partnership Matters. *Transition doesn't end when someone leaves the service, it unfolds over months and years as veterans and military families build careers, launch businesses, and find their next mission. A monthly gift helps fund the training, certification, and community support that carry them through that whole journey. [Join IVMF's monthly giving community](#) to provide long-term impact at every stage of transition.*