

# Military Transition Support Project (MTSP): Creating a community plan for transforming the transition experience for San Diego's military families

## Why

It is estimated that 15,000 sailors and marines stationed in San Diego leave service each year, and that half of these veterans and their families will stay here. As a result, San Diego County is home to the third highest population of veterans in the United States. Studies show that returning Iraq and Afghanistan military personnel are well trained, team oriented and hardworking, but face significant challenges in the transition to civilian life.

## What

The *Military Transition Support Project* (MTSP) was a one-year planning project convened by San Diego Grantmakers' Military Family Support Working Group. This work is funded primarily by Blue Shield of California Foundation, with additional support from WebMD Health Foundation and the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation. The planning project gathered the input of hundreds of community members and incorporated national best practices and experts (including the Department of Defense, university think tanks, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff) to develop a comprehensive plan to connect San Diego's currently siloed sectors – military, social services, public officials, employers, education and philanthropy. Specifically, its four key goals were to **1) Develop a framework and strategic plan for a transformed transition experience, 2) Identify an ongoing strategy for transition support service coordination, 3) Convene the community, and 4) Share the process with other communities.**

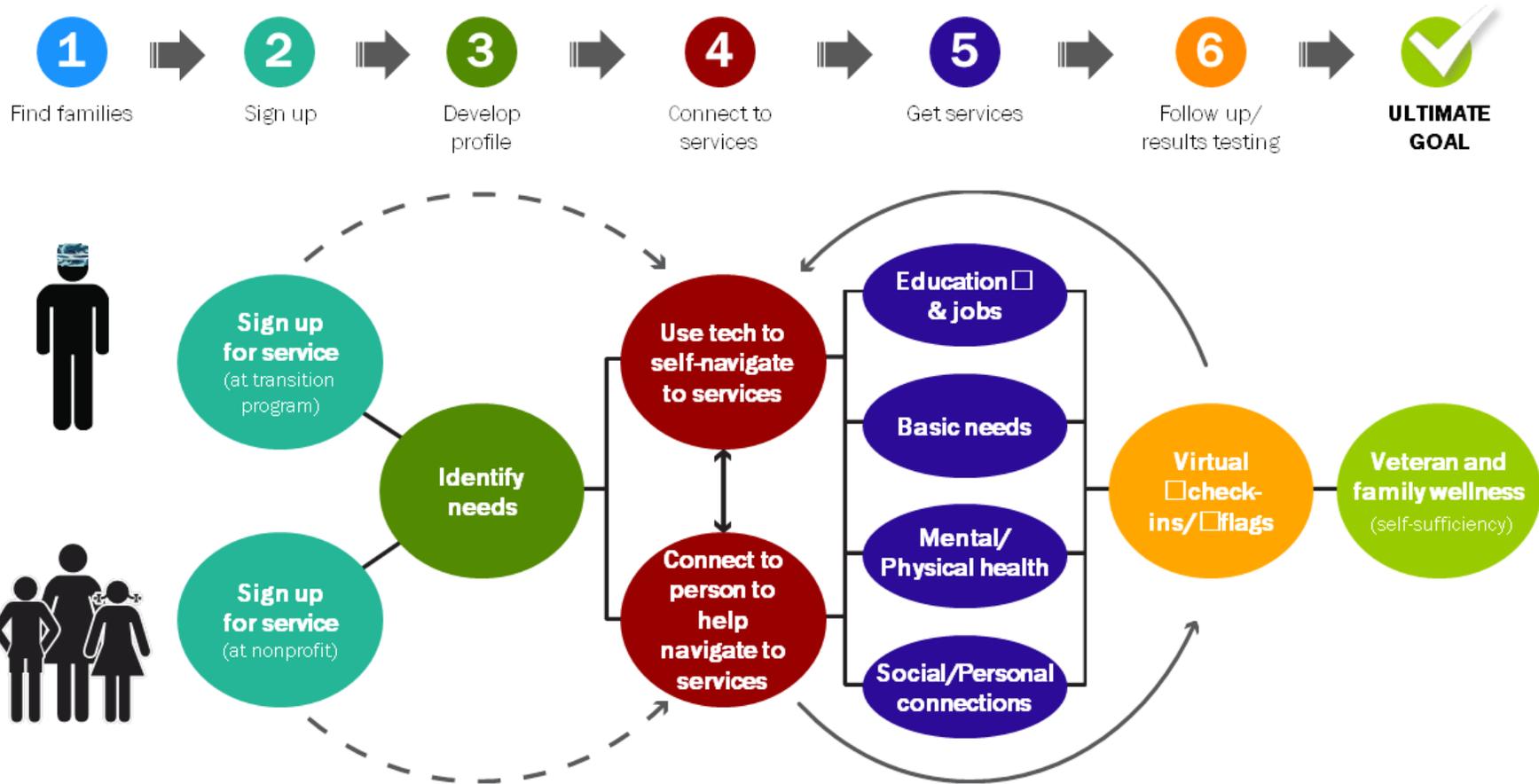
## How

MTSP was guided by an **Operations Committee** (see pg. 3) that oversees the project's overall framework (see pg. 2) with input from five workgroups comprised of military support stakeholders that met periodically: **Navigation/Technology; Quality, Comprehensive Family Services; Employment/Education; Mental Health; and Sustainability.**

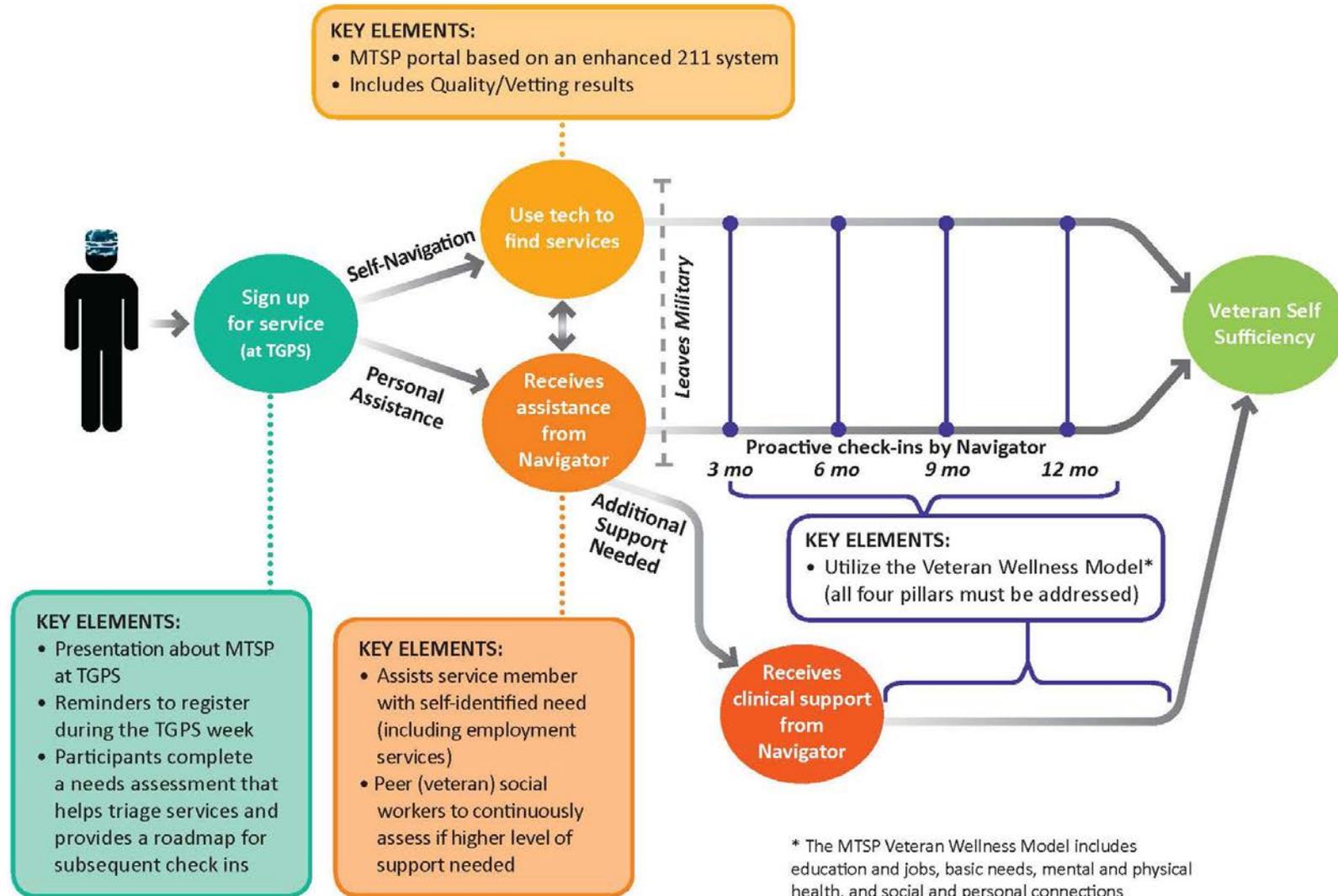
The resulting **MTSP Community Plan** outlines a model for transforming the transition process for military families. The Navy Region Southwest is piloting an initial test of this model by providing access to sailors during their mandated transition program. The 5 key elements of the MTSP Community Plan are:

1. **Utilize a holistic Veteran Wellness framework.** A goal of the project is to ensure that all participants obtain and retain a living wage job. The MTSP Veterans Wellness Framework recognizes that this is only achievable if all aspects of a person's wellness are addressed, including: physical and mental health, basic needs, and personal/social connections.
2. **Linkage to community based supports prior to leaving the military.** Information about MTSP will be presented during the Navy's federally mandated transition classes and service members will have a choice to "opt in" to the project. When fully implemented, this ensures that 100% of all Sailors (an estimated 6,000 a year) staying in San Diego have the opportunity to connect to the MTSP model of comprehensive support. The Marine Corps are currently considering the model.
3. **Access to a comprehensive resource directory of social services and employment opportunities.** This project builds on the work already underway by private business and institutes of higher learning and incorporates them into the existing 211 San Diego database (the most comprehensive listing of social services in the region), thereby creating a comprehensive one-stop career online platform.
4. **Connection to veteran peer navigators.** These individuals will help "navigate" new veterans and their families through the various systems, services, and benefits, providing needed support. Navigators provide ongoing support to families as needed and proactively check in with families at 3, 6, 9, and 12 months to ensure military families receive needed services and supports to transition into civilian life.
5. **Improved connection between public, nonprofit, and philanthropic resources** to continue developing an integrated system of support.

# The Process of Transforming the Transition Experience



# Detail of Navigator Assistance to Transitioning Families



# MTSP Funding and Oversight

## Funded By



Blue Shield of California Foundation is an independent licensee of the Blue Shield Association



## Operations Committee



**Marine Corps Recruit Depot  
(Ex Officio)**

**Navy Region Southwest  
(Ex Officio)**



**Ronne Froman, Rear Admiral  
U.S. Navy (Ret.)**



**Congressman Scott Peters, 52nd  
District**

