

Minnesota Service C.O.R.E.

(CASEWORK, OUTREACH, REFERRAL AND EDUCATION)



Veteran Jolene Simmons (left) working with Stacey Kloek (right).

Finding a Positive Way Forward

U.S. Army veteran, Jolene Simmons, is a survivor of Military Sexual Trauma (MST). After decades of depression, she finally found life changing support for veterans at LSS.

“I walk out of my LSS support group and it’s like my feet aren’t even touching the ground,” Jolene said.

In the last ten years, LSS provided veterans and their family members with 21,820 hours of mental health counseling.

The Minnesota Service C.O.R.E. responds directly to the challenges veterans and their families face across the state by bringing casework, financial counseling, housing stability, and behavioral health to their doorstep. Minnesota veterans and their families often experience challenges, from reintegration and managing finances to building a support network and addressing mental health or substance use.

- Wilder Research (2015) found that 66% of statewide veteran respondents reported that there were no behavioral health services available in their area.
- In 2018 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) found increased suicide rates among veterans ages 18 to 34; Female veteran suicide rates were 1.8 times higher than females who were not veterans.

Through the Minnesota Service C.O.R.E. program, a caseworker connects each veteran, and their family, to existing programs and facilitates access to informal supports, existing benefits and available services wherever possible. When barriers to access, such as cost, distance, or appointment availability are identified, or when these services are not otherwise covered, they are provided through the Minnesota Service C.O.R.E. program.

LSS Minnesota Service C.O.R.E. by the numbers:*

| Year | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Veterans Served | 498 | 575 | 748 | 822 |

LSS C.O.R.E. services reached veterans in 70 of 87 Minnesota counties in 2018. 98% of veterans report satisfaction with LSS C.O.R.E. services.

* MDVA fiscal year runs July through June each year.

2019 Proposal

An increase of \$500,000 per biennium will allow a response to increased demand and the sustainability of services for veterans and their families, bringing the total investment in the Minnesota Service C.O.R.E. to \$1.5 Million per biennium.

**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE
OF MINNESOTA**

2485 Como Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55108

www.lssmn.org/advocate

LSS ADVOCACY OFFICE

Susie Emmert
Chief Advocacy Officer

Cell: 651.278.5422

Email: semmert@lssmn.org

Juliana Keen
Advocacy Manager

Cell: 651.890.6284

Email: jkeen@lssmn.org