



Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network is a partnership of the **National Endowment for the Arts**, the **Department of Defense**, and the **Department of Veterans Affairs** that serves the unique and special needs of military patients and veterans who have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions, as well as their families and caregivers.

CLINICAL

The NEA funds creative arts therapists, equipment, and supplies at 11 clinical sites across the nation, and a telehealth program for patients in rural and remote areas. In clinical settings, creative arts therapists provide art and music therapy, as well as creative writing instruction, for military patients and veterans who have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions.

COMMUNITY

Around the 11 clinical sites, the NEA is creating a community-based military and veteran family support network made up of state, regional, and local arts agencies, and other local partners. The community network provides increased arts opportunities for military and veteran family populations and extends support for current and former creative arts therapies patients and their families as they transition from treatment in a clinical setting to arts programming in their community.

CAPACITY

Creative Forces is developing manuals, toolkits, and an online resource center to support best practices; providing training and technical support for community arts providers; funding innovation projects in each state that create a model project that can be adapted to other locations; and is investing in research on the biological, psycho-social, behavioral, and economic impacts of these arts-based interventions.

CREATIVE FORCES CLINICAL SITES:

- National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) Walter Reed, MD
- Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK
- Camp Pendleton, CA
- Fort Carson, CO
- James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, FL
- Fort Campbell, KY
- Camp Lejeune, NC
- Fort Hood, TX
- Fort Belvoir, VA
- Joint Expeditionary Force, VA
- Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA
- Telehealth program

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

As part of the NEA's mission to increase access to the arts for all Americans, Creative Forces enables more service members, veterans, and military families to benefit from creative arts therapies and community arts activities. Americans for the Arts is working with the NEA to provide administrative support for Creative Forces. The NEA has been collaborating with the Department of Defense for more than a decade, offering creative writing workshops, performing arts programs, the Blue Star Museums military appreciation program, grant funding for projects that reach veterans, and the current Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network initiative.

