

**Program Planning Details for Extension Program Area
Impact Team your work supports – CRED and CLCE**

Situation Statement

The State of Maryland currently has 41,322 military youth; 15,049, 0-5 years old; 15,649, 6-12; 10,624, 13-18 year olds.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) will have an impact on the State of Maryland due to an influx of military youth and families. University of Maryland Extension needs to be ready to provide support for this increased population. Support is especially needed before, during, and after deployment.

The Operation: Military Kids (OMK) Program focuses on military youth with a parent in the Guard, Reserve, or active duty and are housed off installation. Geographically dispersed military families are the Program's primary focus because these youth and families are not provided with the benefits and resources that are given to on installation families.

The 4-H Military club program focuses on supporting youth from military families involved in 4-H. these 4-Hers may either attend an afterschool program (on installation youth centers) or participate in traditional 4-H clubs.

4-H was chosen to partner with active duty military because of its vast network of programming across the country. On average active duty military families change location every two to three years. Because of this partnership youth transfer their projects as the relocate from installation to installation. The 4-H military partnership allows youth to see the same "clover" and participate similar programming no matter what state the move to/from, 4-H ads consistency to what can be a turbulent situation.

"Research indicates a need for multicomponent family support programs that integrate both civilian and military family support systems and one that draws upon the resources of the informal community in support of military families" (Martin, Mancini, Bowen, Mancini, & Orthner, 2004).

During the deployment cycle military families can experience financial stressors. Especially families in the Guard or Reserve who sometimes are accustomed to surviving on both parent's income. Youth development programming can help to develop youth's experience in leadership and finance which can then help them to ensure the family household will thrive.

Assumptions

Educating community members and organizations on the deployment cycle and emotional effects of deployment increases their desire to participate in support efforts for military youth and families.

Communities have the ability to come together and support military families and their youth by volunteering, offering space, providing financial support, and having knowledge of the deployment cycle.

Agencies have a desire to partner with Operation: Military Kids to strengthen the Maryland OMK Team.

Installations' are currently participating in mandated 4-H programming and have a basic understanding of the 4-H program.

There is a relatively high rate of turnover creating the need for training that is reoccurring.

There will be support from the State 4-H staff. (OMK program coordinator, 4-H Military Club program Coordinator and the Military Liaison)

There will be limited funds to support military youth from the OMK and 4-Hmilitary club grant.

External Factors

Military youth and families can be difficult to identify, especially those families in the Guard, Reserve, and active duty living off installation. Communication with military families is challenging due to the high turnover and movement of the military. Locating Family Readiness Groups and leaders can be challenging because there is not one single point of contact and confidentiality is of the utmost importance.

The number of volunteers who have a specific interest in military families cannot be determined.

Funding may or may not be available to meet all of the program needs. Grants will need to be applied for and may become less available depending on the financial situation of the military, organizations, and the University.

Due to organizational structure flexibility is necessary when working with on installation 4-H programs. This may include program delivery and timing; it may be difficult for youth center staff to participate in night or weekend programs because they are paid staff and not volunteers.

Outcome Summary

By developing networks of support, engaging community partners, and ensuring access for youth to programming and activities in the communities where they live, military youth and families will be supported before, during, and after deployment to achieve their fullest potential as residents of Maryland.

Through supporting military youth by involving them in 4-H youth development programming (on and off installation) we will foster the development of competent caring adults.

A stronger 4-H program will be the result of training of military staff in the components and methodology of 4-H.

Specific Inputs (What we invest)

Full Time Operation: Military Kids Program Coordinator

State 4-H Military Club Program Coordinator.

Time of county/state volunteers to support specialized projects.

Operation: Military Kids and 4-H Military Club Grant Funding

Mobile Technology Lab

Four to eight hours of time each month supporting military club programming; including state meetings, on sight visits to guide and support the on installation programs.

4-H Curriculum for UME training for CYSS/FMP/CYP staff.

State programs sponsored by the 4-H Military Club Grant Program.

Operation: Military Kids State and Regional Teams

County or grant funds to support curriculum and project materials.

Operation Military Kids Website

Ready, Set, Go! Manual

Speak Out for Military Kids Manual

Operation: Boots On Curriculum

Operation: Boots Off Curriculum

Experience Operation: Military Kids Manual

Mobile Technology Lab Resources Manual

Specific Outputs

OBJECTIVE 1 – Operation: Military Kids

1. Activities (What we do): Work with State OMK Coordinator to establish local/regional OMK Teams
Participation (Who we reach): The community, including individuals, agencies, and organizations
2. Activities (What we do): Conduct/host Ready, Set, Go! Training
Participation (Who we reach): Public School System, Parks and Recreation, Health Department

3. Activities (What we do): Dispersing information given to County by State OMK Coordinator, updating OMK Coordinator on events and programming available in County, sending invitations directly to military youth in County
 Participation (Who we reach): Military youth ages 0-18

OBJECTIVE 2 – Maryland 4-H Military Club Grant

1. Activities (What we do): UME training for active duty Army CYSS/Air Force FMP/Navy CYP staff.
 Participation (Who we reach): CYSS/FMP/CYP staff is trained in 4-H components and methodology.
2. Activities (What we do): Eight hours of time each month supporting military club programming; including state meetings, on site visits to guide and support the on installation programs and to develop a better rapport with the county educator.
 Participation (Who we reach): Youth and staff who participate in on installation 4-H programming Activities
3. (What we do): Coordinating/guiding the development of local programs sponsored by the 4-H Military Club Grant Program to integrate military youth into ongoing county and city 4-H youth development programs and special events.
 Participation (Who we reach): Military youth in 4-H clubs and groups on installations and in the community, ages 8-18.

One Year Outcomes and Indicators – OBJECTIVE 1 - OMK

Outcomes		Evaluation Indicators	Evaluation Methods
OMK1	<i>Increased community awareness and support networks developed throughout county.</i>	<i>Number of local/regional teams established.</i>	<i>Monthly local/regional team reports submitted to State OMK Coordinator.</i>
OMK2	<i>Community agencies in the county/city understand the deployment cycle.</i>	<i>Local agency staff increase knowledge about deployment and the impact on children, youth, and families</i>	<i>Pre/post tests.</i>
OMK3	<i>Military youth have access to and know how to find youth programs, activities, etc., in their communities.</i>	<i>Number of participants in military youth programs. Sustained participation.</i>	<i>Enrollment and sign-in sheets. Number of youth who attend more than one event.</i>

One Year Outcomes and Indicators – OBJECTIVE 2 – 4-H Military Club Grant

Outcomes		Evaluation Indicators	Evaluation Methods
4-HMil1	Through supporting military youth by involving them in the 4-H programming (on and off installation) we will increase the number of youth who enroll and who participate in county/city, regional, state and national 4-H youth development programs.	<i>Expanded programming Increased enrollment of military youth in 4-H clubs.</i>	<i>Gaining feedback from military 4-H youth. Noting indicators of positive youth development, such as public speaking skills, taking on new leadership roles, and development of record keeping skills. Reviewing the enrollment database to measure the overall program growth.</i>
4-HMil2	Military youth in 4-H programs (on and off installation) will increase awareness of Science, Engineering, and Technology	<i>Number of youth participating in 4-H SET programs</i>	<i>4-H project enrollment and participation in 4-H SET activities at the local and state level.</i>
4-HMil3	Military staff will increase their knowledge of 4-H projects and program delivery, resulting in a stronger 4-H program on the military installation.	<i>Change in knowledge and skill of military staff attending UME training.</i>	<i>While making club visits, evaluating if military staff are utilizing 4-H curriculum, submitting enrollment and fair exhibits, Identifying projects as 4-H during their lessons and following UME protocol.</i>