# **Mental health professionals:**

# Use *Make the Connection* to support your work with Veterans.

"My patients don't have to take my word for it. I can go to Make the Connection and say, 'Let's take a look at these videos together."

## -Andy, VA Psychologist

() 1:21 / 3:23



"The **Make the Connection** website can ... be helpful for providers who have been serving Veterans for a long period of time, but also for new providers to gain some understanding and to really hear it from the voice of the Veteran."



"If I find that someone's not quite sure if the symptoms that they're experiencing are to the level that they should enter treatment, then I may introduce them to **Make the Connection**."

-Jade, VA Psychologist



🖸 🗱 🕕 🗖 🖂 🖸

"Knowing someone else has gone through it and found solutions proves other Veterans can do that as well."

--Sue, VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator

—Amy, VA Psychologist

Visit *MakeTheConnection.net/Clinicians* to learn-how *Make the Connection* can help you in your practice.





U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs The most powerful messages about the importance of Veterans' mental health can come from other Veterans. Use *Make the Connection* to show Veterans that treatment works.

Veterans often face a distinct set of challenges, and *Make the Connection* is tailored to address their unique needs. Sharing *Make the Connection*—or watching any of its hundreds of video testimonials—with a Veteran can connect him or her with valuable information on mental health. Hearing from other Veterans is a powerful tool in breaking down barriers, and it can help your patients realize they are not alone. *Make the Connection* is a tool that can support the work you do with Veterans.

At *MakeTheConnection.net*, your Veteran patients can find relevant information and hear others share their stories of resilience and recovery. Veterans and their family members talk about many topics including:

#### **Life Experiences**

- Transitioning from service
- Pursuing higher education
- Physical injury
- Jobs and employment
- Death of family or friends
- Retirement and aging

#### **Signs and Symptoms**

- Trouble sleeping
- Relationship problems
- Anger and irritability
- Feelings of hopelessness
- Nightmares
- Feeling on edge

#### **Mental and Physical Health**

- Posttraumatic stress disorder
- Depression
- Effects of traumatic brain injury
- Problems with alcohol
- Effects of military sexual trauma

We can all play a part in supporting Veterans on the path to recovery. Every day, thousands of Veterans connect with the resources and support they've earned and find ways to move forward.

### Share *MakeTheConnection.net* with your Veteran patients.





