



## eXtension – Military Families Monthly Report

*Reporting Period: September 16, 2010 – October 15, 2010*

### 1. Significant Activities:

- **Revised Plan of Work, Budget, & Budget Narrative:** A significant amount of strategic planning, effort, and development has occurred related to formulating a revised Plan of Work, budget, and budget narrative to be presented to NIFA for approval of reallocating unused funds associated with eXtension’s overall award and the changes associated with the initial Plan of Work.
- **Resource Site:** The Resource Site (<http://militaryfamilies.extension.org>) is active and continues to evolve with increasing capability and activity. A number of materials are available for project support (Project Request Form, DoD Identity Guide, various templates [PowerPoint/letterhead]) with the web templates in the final stages of development. Project Y.E.S. (a North Carolina State University Lead Institution) continues to work with eXtension staff to build their presence in the Resource Site. Conversations continue to engage other projects in the Partnership.
- **CoP public Web presence:** Continued planning and organization occurs to establish a public Web presence and focal point for the Military Families CoP.
  - Discussions and planning with two pilot project work teams (*Personal Finance* [Financial Security for All CoP {FSA}] and *Child Care* [Better Kid Care America CoP {BKCA}]) have intensified and are building significant momentum.
    - *Personal Finance:* A face-to-face meeting with the FSA CoP and OSD’s Office of Personal Finance (OPF) was held in Arlington, VA on **September 16** at OPF’s offices to establish a working relationship/partnership to plan for the pilot associated with this concentration area within the Partnership. An agreement was

reached to include the following in support of OPF's and FSA's plan for supporting military family service professionals:

- ♦ Webinars to include CEUs
- ♦ FAQs specific to military family service professionals
- ♦ Access to research and trends associated with personal finance and military families

Additionally, intentionally inviting the AFCPE Spouse Fellowship Program professionals to join the Military Families CoP was discussed. Another teleconference was held on **October 4** that included both FSA and BKCA CoP representatives to continue to refine plans. New members to the conversation since the last reporting period include Debra Pankow (new FSA co-leader – North Dakota State University) and Susan Shockey (new NPL Family Economics – NIFA). Another meeting is scheduled for **October 18** (teleconference, 10:00am CDT).

- *Child Care*: Face-to-face and phone conversations with BKCA leadership occurred on **September 20 and 24** to invite the CoP to participate in a second pilot (*Child Care*) that will run concurrently with the *Personal Finance* pilot. It was decided that the two concentration areas/CoPs are similar enough in developed networks and established professionals to elicit significant confidence for success but also diverse enough in regards to how the individual CoPs are structured as well as partnership relationships to warrant implementing both pilots simultaneously. The October 4 teleconference allowed for continued discussion. A face-to-face meeting in Minneapolis, MN will occur in conjunction with the National Council and Family Relations annual meeting **November 3**. It is expected that this meeting will considerably forward the formalization for the pilot plan.
- **Environmental Scan**: The data from the Environmental Scan continues to be cleaned up and analyzed. Follow-up data collection will begin with a request going out to Extension Directors seeking a point-of-contact that can provide a more complete picture of the military related programs at each Land Grant institution. Additional efforts will be made to seek accurate 4-H Military Partnership information and contact NIFA-administered military programming. Appropriate publication and dissemination of this material will occur.
- **Network Literacy CoP**: It is simply noteworthy that the Network Literacy CoP (NL) is in its very early stages of development. A leadership work team has been formed and met to develop a very rough strategic plan for moving forward.

## 2. Current deliverable(s), activity, goals/objectives

- **Resource Site:** The intranet site (<http://militaryfamilies.extension.org>) has been launched and continues to evolve to meet the needs of the Partnership. Further “construction” occurs related to creating content behind links that are currently vacant. This is an ongoing process.
- **CoP public Web presence:** It is expected that the two concentration area pilots, *Personal Finance* and *Child Care*, will launch in November/December, 2010. Plans are being formalized by leadership teams in each of those areas and significant progress has been made in just the last 30 days.
- **Environmental Scan:** The original preliminary Environmental Scan Report presented at the Quarterly Lead Institutions meetings in Washington, DC in September has been made available: ([http://collaborate.extension.org/wiki/Military\\_Families](http://collaborate.extension.org/wiki/Military_Families)). It can be found at the bottom of the page under **Various Reports**, **Environmental Scan Preliminary Results, September, 2010 (PDF)**.
- **Network Literacy CoP:** Continued development of a strategic plan and recruitment for membership in the NL CoP.
- **Revised Plan of Work, Budget, & Budget Narrative:** Completion of short-term goals and submission of proposed revisions to NIFA.

## 3. Action still needed to complete the current deliverable(s)

- **Resource Site:** Continued collaboration with WSU, eXtension engineering and content staff, with input from DoD and NIFA, to develop site specifications.
- **CoP Public Web presence:** Continued meetings with FSA and BKCA leadership and associated DoD/NIFA staff to formalize and implement the plans for the pilot projects.
- **Environmental Scan:** More focused and extensive analyses to further determine the significant findings in the data collected to provide direction from results.
- **Continued/increased collaboration with Lead Institutions/Sub-Awardees for project Web support:** Continue conversations and seek out other Partnership projects where discussions haven’t occurred to this point to plan for and implement eXtension support.

*4. Relevant challenges that need attention from DoD/NIFA*

- Ongoing conversation and input is needed for **developing the Military Families CoP**, especially in the area of making sure the CoP is “generating” the type of traffic, content focus and energy needed to attract military family helping professionals to engage and participate in the CoP.