



eXtension – Military Families Monthly Report

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

1. Significant Activities:

- **Revised Plan of Work, Budget, & Budget Narrative:** These documents are in their final stages. After feedback was received from appropriate eXtension staff and CoPs, final adjustments and responses are being drafted to help formulate the completed documents to be submitted for approval at the soonest possible time. See **CoP public Web presence** below for further details.
- **Resource Site:** The Resource Site (<http://militaryfamilies.extension.org>) continues to evolve with increasing capability and activity. The *Child Care and Youth Program Training and Technical Assistance* program from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln is developing materials that will be placed on the Site. Continued solid collaboration/partnership with WSU Communications and Outreach staff occurs to improve the site and its capabilities. 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.
 - A *Personal Finance* teleconference was held on **Monday, October 18** and included members from the Financial Security for All CoP leadership as well as NIFA and eXtension staff. Further detail and clarification of the evolving plan was discussed. It was determined that a summary of the plans to date would be presented by eXtension staff to the Financial Security for All CoP for their reaction and to build a formal social media and engagement proposal that would be a part of the revised plan of work and associated revised budget. A proposal was received the leadership of Financial Security for All on **November 15** and further discussions/feedback will occur to ensure the greatest chance of success for securing the reallocation of funds and launching with the *Personal Finance* pilot.

- A face-to-face meeting in Minneapolis, MN was held with the Better Kid Care America CoP in conjunction with the National Council and Family Relations annual meeting **November 3** to discuss the *Child Care* pilot. This meeting was originally scheduled from 9:30-12:00 noon (CDT) and ultimately lasted until 4:30pm. A significant amount of planning took place and, similar to the Personal Finance meeting of October 18, a summary plan was presented to the Better Kid Care America CoP to provide a framework for a social media and engagement proposal to become a part of the revised plan of work and associated revised budget for the Military Families CoP. A proposal is expected from the leadership of Better Kid Care America on **November 16** and further discussions/feedback will occur to ensure the greatest chance of success for securing the reallocation of funds and launching with the *Child Care* pilot.
- An initial meeting with the Just In Time Parenting CoP leadership was held in Minneapolis, MN in conjunction with the National Council and Family Relations annual meeting **November 4**. Approximately 10 members, representing the leadership of the Just In Time Parenting CoP, requested the meeting with Military Families CoP leadership staff to discuss any potential involvement in the development of a social media strategy for the Partnership that would include family relationships as a focus area. These conversations are ongoing and the Just In Time Parenting CoP is developing a proposal for our review. Their intent will be to create a social media/engagement plan focusing on the *Family & Youth Development* concentration area.
- **Network Literacy CoP:** Work continues on forming this CoP. Membership is growing (68 members and leaders as of the date of this report). The application to form the CoP is in its final stages in being prepared to submit to eXtension for approval. By way of introduction to the work to date, the following description has been created:
 - Network literacy involves how people find information, connect with others, communicate, work, learn, share knowledge, and teach through networks. It is an investigation and understanding of the societal and economic implications of knowledge distribution. Network literacy is also an ability to use online technologies and social connections to effectively communicate, learn, work, and build communities of shared learning. This community will identify research on how technology, social networks, and ubiquitous computing are influencing and reshaping society. The Network Literacy community, built around learning in networked environments, will use and promote networks, technology,

information from the Web, and educational and communications resources. It will also pursue information about new ways of learning, new ways of working, innovative online approaches, new technologies, and trends around technology use and education. The Network Literacy CoP will create a community for learning about and sharing the value of online networks with military-family service professionals, Cooperative Extension professionals, and others who have an interest in understanding these networks and their implications for communication, work, learning, and teaching.

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

- **Resource Site:** The intranet site (<http://militaryfamilies.extension.org>) continues to evolve meeting the needs of the Partnership as it develops. Further “construction” occurs related to creating content behind links that are currently vacant. This is an ongoing process.
- **CoP public Web presence:** Although the process has been slower than anticipated, careful planning and adjustments to the two pilots (*Personal Finance* and *Child Care*) have been necessary to ensure the greatest likelihood of success in launching the Military Families public Web presence.
- **Network Literacy CoP:** It is anticipated that the Network Literacy CoP will be approved by eXtension shortly after the proposal is submitted.
- **Revised Plan of Work, Budget, & Budget Narrative:** Upon completion of the work with the pilot projects, it is anticipated that a final edition of the revised plan of work, budget, and budget narrative will be submitted for approval through the appropriate channels (UNL, NIFA) at the soonest possible date.

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.
- **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.

5. Success stories that would be of interest to USDA and or DoD Leadership

- The Military Families CoP continues to grow with **85** members and leaders.
- The Network Literacy CoP continues to grow with **68** members and leaders.
- Participated in the exhibit showcase for NAE4-HA in Phoenix.