



NAVY SEAL
FOUNDATION

**COMMUNITY
SURVEY**

2026

SURVEY OVERVIEW

Who responded to the 2026 NSF Community Survey

503

TOTAL RESPONSES

214

SPOUSE RESPONSES

145

VETERAN RESPONSES

48

**ACTIVE DUTY
RESPONSES**

SURVEY GROUPS

Active Duty SEAL/SWCC operators • Veteran SEAL/SWCC operators • Spouses of Active Duty and veteran operators

Conducted August 2026. Question-level response counts vary based on survey routing and completion. Source: NSF Community Survey 2026, SurveyMonkey.

WHAT WE HEARD

Three themes rose to the top across Active Duty, veterans, and spouses

HEALTH, FAMILY RESILIENCE, AND EASIER ACCESS

01 HEALTH

Physical health, human performance, brain/TBI care, and mental health consistently ranked among the strongest priorities.

02 FAMILY RESILIENCE

Respondents emphasized couples support, reintegration, family education, childcare, and connection to the NSW community.

03 ACCESS & AWARENESS

Many respondents said they need a clearer understanding of available resources, eligibility, and who to contact.

BOTTOM LINE

The survey points to strong demand for health-focused support, family connection, and clearer pathways into NSF resources.

ACTIVE DUTY | TOP PRIORITIES

Q4: Areas NSF should prioritize over the next 1–3 years | n=48



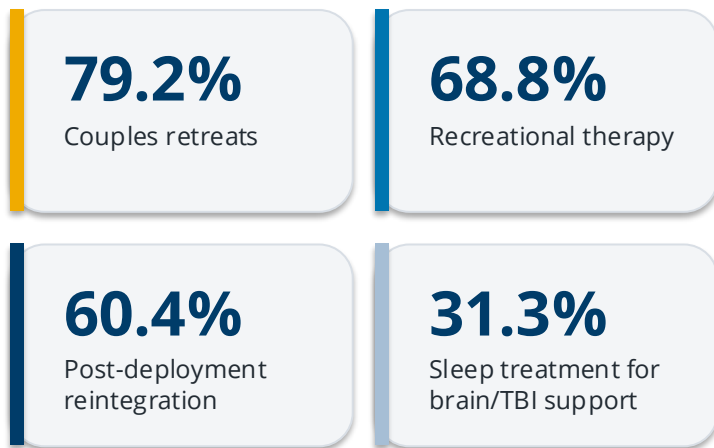
TOP SIGNAL

Physical health and human performance were the two highest priorities.

ACTIVE DUTY | SUPPORT & ACCESS

Selected responses showing what is most useful and what gets in the way

SUPPORT PEOPLE WOULD USE



TOP BARRIERS

Training / deployment / work schedule



60.4%

Not knowing available resources



56.2%

Not knowing who to contact



43.8%

Email was the preferred way to learn about future opportunities (64.6%).

VETERANS | TOP PRIORITIES

Q18: Areas NSF should prioritize over the next 1-3 years | n=145



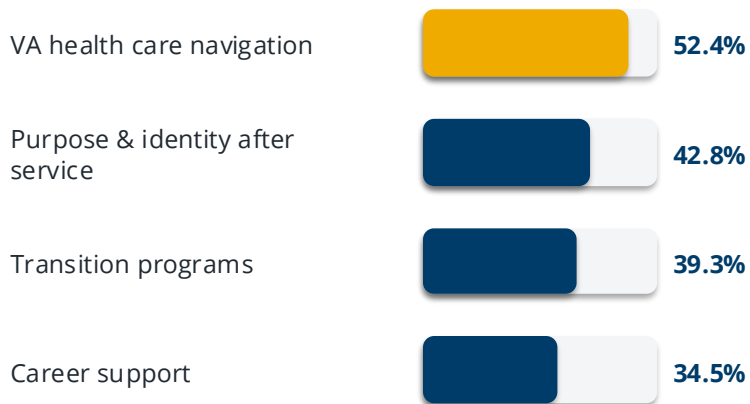
TOP SIGNAL

Veteran priorities cluster around long-term brain, mental, and physical health.

VETERANS | TRANSITION & CONNECTION

The strongest responses extend beyond the initial transition from service

TRANSITION / POST-SERVICE SUPPORT



CONNECTION OPPORTUNITIES



66.2% are already on NSF's veteran email list; another 29.7% asked to be added.

SPOUSES & FAMILIES | TOP PRIORITIES

Q30: Spouse and family support NSF should consider prioritizing | n=214



TOP SIGNAL

Relationship support, family education, connection, and childcare all rank highly.

SPOUSES & FAMILIES | EDUCATION & ACCESS

Where families want more information and where access breaks down

MENTAL / BRAIN HEALTH EDUCATION

64.5%

Recognizing PTSD,
depression, or mental
health signs

60.3%

Recognizing brain
health / TBI signs

51.9%

Treatment and care
options

37.9%

Building family
resilience

TOP BARRIERS

Not knowing available resources



67.3%

Not knowing who to contact



44.9%

Geographic access / local
resources



20.6%

During transition, the top needs were career education (42.5%), family transition support (42.1%), veteran resources (40.7%), and NSW connection (40.2%).

ONE CLEAR CROSS-COMMUNITY GAP

Knowing what NSF offers and how to access it

NOT KNOWING WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE



NOT KNOWING WHO TO CONTACT

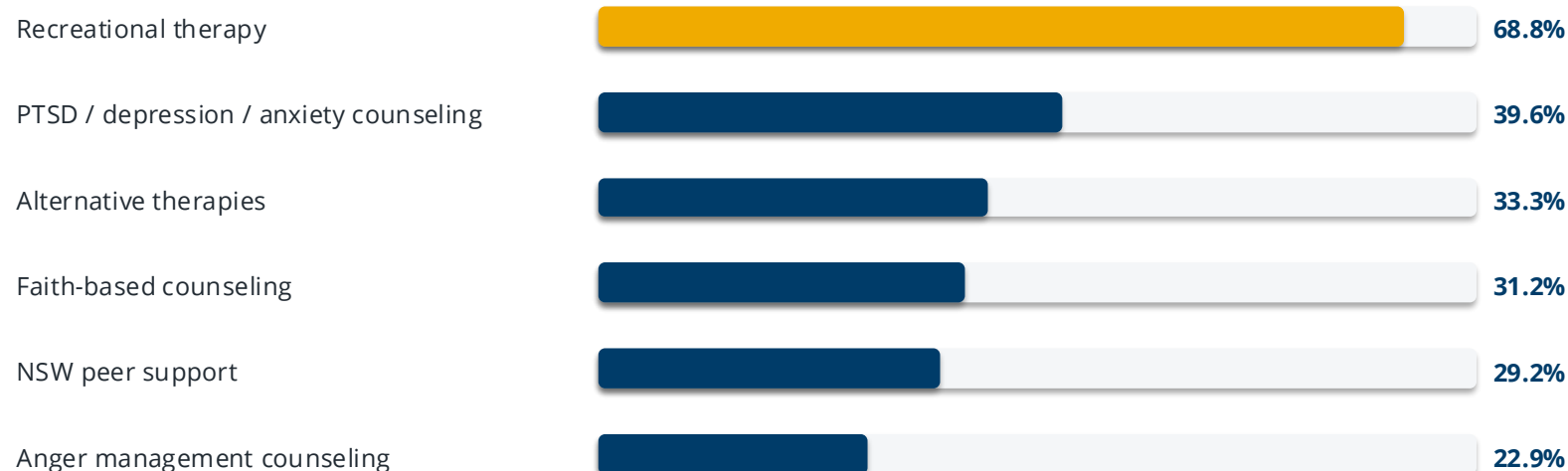


IMPLICATION

Improving program visibility, clarifying eligibility, and creating a simple, direct path to the right contact may increase use of programs already in place.

ACTIVE DUTY | MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT PREFERENCES

Q5: Resources respondents would be most likely to use or recommend to a teammate | n=48

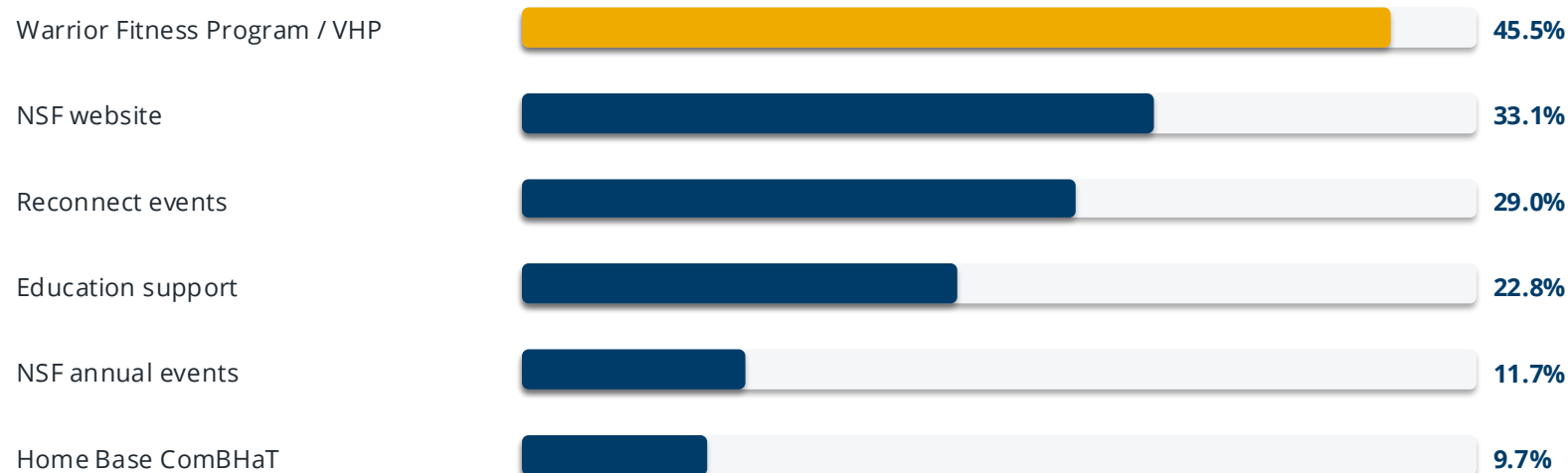


TOP RESPONSE

Recreational therapy was selected by more than two-thirds of Active Duty respondents.

VETERANS | PROGRAMS & RESOURCES USED

Q24: NSF-supported programs and resources respondents have received or are currently accessing | n=145

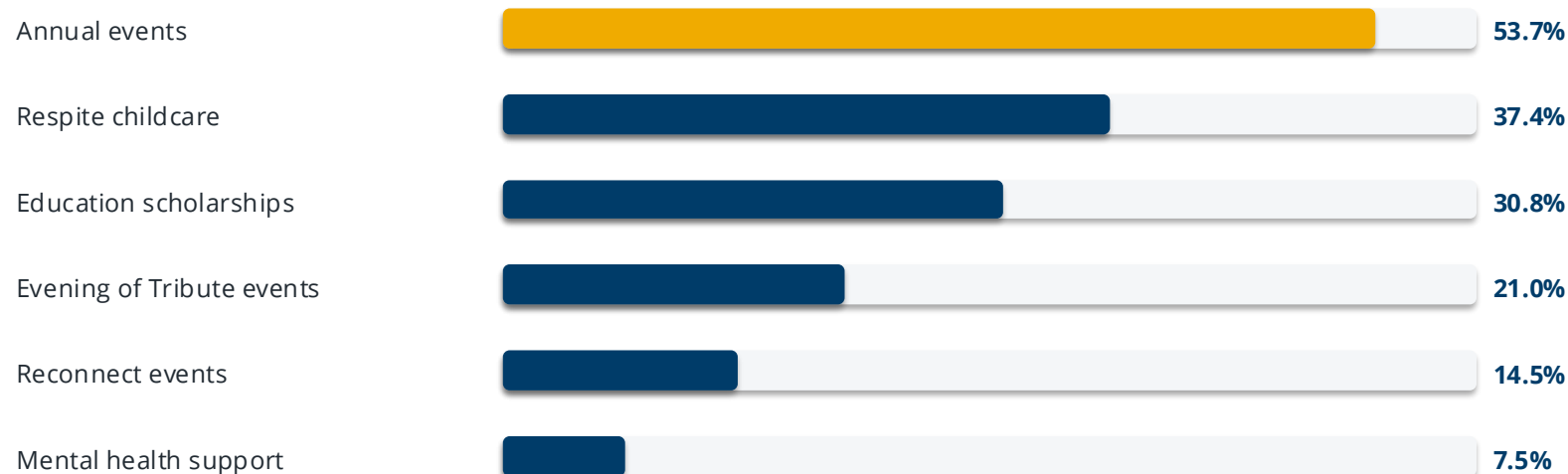


MOST USED

Warrior Fitness Program was the most frequently selected veteran program or resource.

SPOUSES & FAMILIES | PROGRAMS USED

Q34: NSF-specific resources spouses and families have personally used or are currently using | n=214



MOST USED

Annual events and respite childcare were the two most frequently selected spouse/family resources.

FAMILIES | SUPPORT DURING TRANSITION

Q32: Support that would be, or would have been, most helpful during the move from Active Duty to veteran life | n=214



WHAT STANDS OUT

Families described transition as both a career change and a family/community adjustment.

OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES | RECURRING THEMES

Themes synthesized from comments across the three survey sections

1

CARE NAVIGATION

Access to specialized care, VA navigation, and clearer pathways to treatment.

2

TRANSITION

Career, purpose, identity, financial planning, and family adjustment beyond the first year.

3

FAMILY SUPPORT

Marriage support, childcare, reintegration, and resources for children and spouses.

4

GEOGRAPHIC REACH

More options for families and veterans living outside Virginia Beach and San Diego.

5

CONNECTION

Reconnect events, peer networks, retreats, and opportunities to remain tied to the community.

6

AWARENESS

Clearer explanation of what is available, who qualifies, and who to contact.

WHAT THE DATA SUGGESTS

A practical focus for next-step discussion

1

MAKE ACCESS SIMPLER

Create one clear route to understand resources, eligibility, and the right point of contact.

2

PROTECT CORE HEALTH PRIORITIES

Continue strong emphasis on physical health, human performance, brain/TBI care, and mental health.

3

STRENGTHEN FAMILY RESILIENCE

Prioritize relationship support, family education, reintegration, and childcare where feasible.

4

SUPPORT THE FULL TRANSITION

Treat transition as an ongoing process that includes health navigation, purpose, career, family, and community.

These are data-informed discussion points, not final program decisions.



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THANK YOU

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