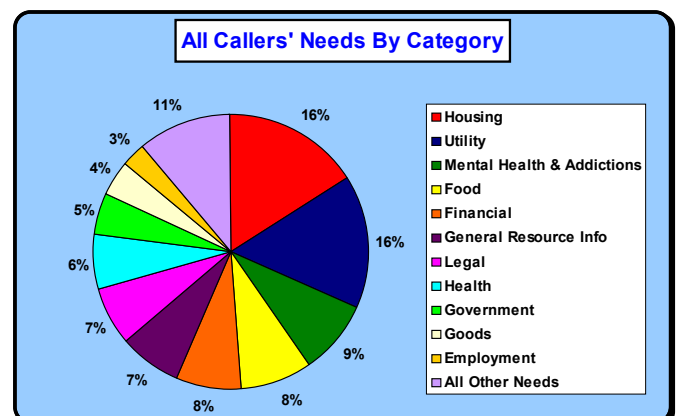
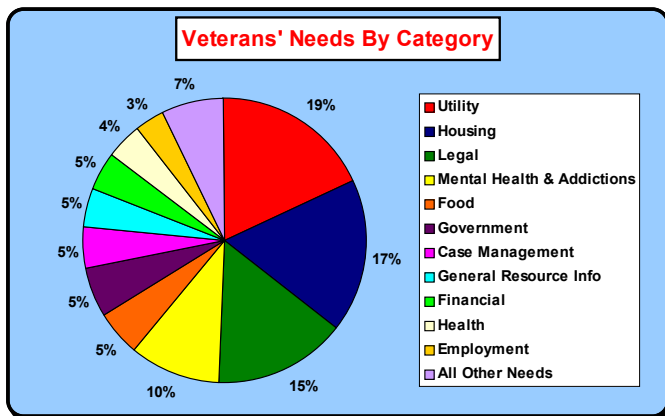


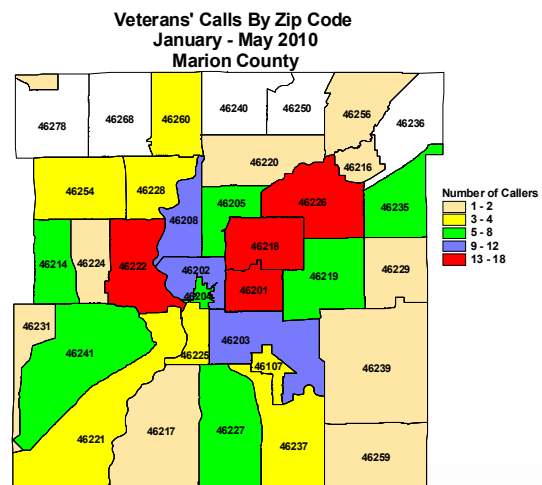
Service To Country Does Not Guarantee Protection From Poverty

A U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee publication, "Easing the Squeeze on Veterans and Their Families", lists some grim statistics for veterans:

- 100,000 more veterans were unemployed in 2008 than in 2007, and this situation is likely to have worsened as the recession's impacts on the labor markets intensified through the first half of 2009.
- 573,000 veterans were unemployed in 2008, an increase of 21 percent since 2007. Unemployment amongst veterans of the post-9/11 military conflicts grew by nearly 34 percent between 2007 and 2008.
- The unemployment rate amongst young veterans of the post-9/11 conflicts is particularly high, at 14.1 percent in 2008.
- Nationwide, nearly 23 million veterans (5.9 percent of the veteran population) lived below the poverty line in 2007.
- [As of May, 2009] about 8 percent of veterans who have served since 9/11 are paying more than half of their income for housing, placing them at serious risk of homelessness. 56 percent of low-income veterans who rent their homes had housing affordability problems in 2005, the most recent year of available data.
- Connect2Help has heard concerns similar to the above from veterans in our community. During the first 5 months of 2010, 305 veterans called for help; the root cause of most of their issues was insufficient household income.
- The charts below compare the needs of veterans with those of all C2H callers. The needs are quite similar; 5 categories account for more than half of all needs for both groups. The biggest difference is that veterans were more than twice as likely to request legal assistance.



- Most of the callers (61%) lived in **Marion County**; 15% lived in the seven counties surrounding Marion; and 24% lived outside of the Central Indiana area.
- The **top 5 referrals** included: HVAF of Indiana; Community Action of Greater Indianapolis – CAGI; Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center; Military Family Assistance Center; and the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs.



For assistance or more information about human services needs in Central Indiana, dial 2-1-1 or (317) 926-4357.



Community Partner

