



## **EDC Secures Seventh Year of Funding for Eating Disorders Research under the Department of Defense - Application Open**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 14, 2023)- The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is pleased to share that the [Department of Defense's Fiscal Year 2023 \(FY23\) Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program \(PRMRP\) application](#) is now open. Eating disorders have once again been included as an eligible research topic under the \$370 million program for the seventh year in a row. The funds will go towards research for the prevention, intervention, and treatment of eating disorders to better support military service members, veterans, and their families suffering from eating disorders. Congress first supported the inclusion of eating disorders as a research topic under PRMRP in Fiscal Year 2017, and the EDC has been a leader in continuing the funding year after year.

The EDC would like to thank Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Mike Rounds (R-SD), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), and Thom Tillis (R-NC) for leading this initiative for FY23 and for their commitment to advancing research to improve eating disorder care for the nation's service members, veterans, and their families.

28.8 million Americans experience a clinically significant eating disorder at some point in their lives.<sup>1</sup> Every year in the United States, 10,200 people die from an eating disorder, equivalent to one death every 52 minutes.<sup>2</sup> Service members are affected by eating disorders at higher rates than the civilian population, which may be attributable to risk factors unique to the military experience such as weight and fitness requirements, combat exposure, PTSD, and military sexual trauma.

Studies show a higher prevalence of eating disorders among service members and their families when compared to the civilian population. According to a report from the Defense Health Board, active-duty servicewomen are disproportionately affected by eating disorders, which negatively impact their health and readiness.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, 21 percent of children of service members and 26

---

<sup>1</sup> Eating Recovery Center (June 2021). Eating Disorder Facts & Statistics. Eating Recovery Center. <https://www.eatingrecoverycenter.com/conditions/eating-disorders/facts-statistics>.

<sup>2</sup> Deloitte Access Economics (June 2020). The Social and Economic Cost of Eating Disorders in the United States of America: A Report for the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders and the Academy for Eating Disorders. Harvard University. <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/striped/report-economic-costs-of-eating-disorders/>.

<sup>3</sup> Parkinson, M. (November 5, 2020). Decision Brief: Active Duty Women's Health Care Services. Defense Health Board. <https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Presentations/2020/11/05/ADWH-Decision-Brief>

percent of military spouses have an eating disorder, rates three times higher than their civilian peers.<sup>4</sup>

“Servicemembers and their families are a population with increased vulnerability to eating disorders but so many go undetected and untreated,” **said Christine Peat, Ph.D., EDC Board President.** “They deserve the full support of the nation’s resources- including research to develop innovative treatment options and increased access to care for those struggling with these conditions.”

You can learn more about the PRMRP application and apply at <https://cdmrp.health.mil/funding/prmrp>. The pre-application deadline is Thursday, April 12, 2023.

*The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is a Washington, DC-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of advocacy organizations, academics, treatment providers, family/loved ones of children with eating disorders, and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States. Additional resources can also be found at [eatingdisorderscoalition.org](https://eatingdisorderscoalition.org).*

###

**Media Contact: Emily Rosenberg: [erosenberg@eatingdisorderscoalition.org](mailto:erosenberg@eatingdisorderscoalition.org)**

---

<sup>4</sup> Waasdorp, C. E. et al. (September 2007). Screening Military Dependent Adolescent Females for Disordered Eating. *Military Medicine*, 172(9), 962-967. doi:10.7205/milmed.172.9.962; Higgins Neyland, M.K. et al (February 2020). Parental Deployment and Distress, and Adolescent Disordered Eating in Prevention-Seeking Military Dependents. *International Journal of Eating Disorders*, 53(2): 201-209. doi:10.1002/eat.23180.