

Kayla Gerdes and Noreen Javed

Need-Based Military Assistance Programs

Definitions:

1. Need-Based Military Assistance Definition: Programs that distribute financial aid, educational assistance, medical and emergency relief, and other benefits to military personnel, veterans, and their immediate family.

Justification for Debate:

1. The military and their need-based programs are not going away anytime soon. This means that there is always ground on the Affirmative for how military programs should be changed, eliminated, and reformed. It also means that the Negative has access to arguments about the military or militarism is bad in general.
2. We have yet to debate poverty, health, and other issues that specifically face veterans/active military members and their families. This type of discussion could help to shift away from some of the "normal" debate conversations and refocus on a specific area.
3. This debate is also important because military families and veterans work to defend our nation, but the issues they face after they are out from the military often go ignored. While programs have been created to help veterans after they come back from war, they are still falling behind and not enough is being done.
4. I also think a reason to debate this topic is that it is connected to a lot of other important issues. For example, veterans are linked very clearly to PTSD which is a mental health issue. Veterans and their families are linked to poverty. Other communities also are asking for change in need-based programs - like the LGBTQ community which has faced discrimination from the military. I think debating issues facing these communities in a

topic-specific context (military need-based aid) is very important, and is not done enough.

The literature:

1. While an individual is serving in the military, their family is very affected.

Research is showing that more needs to be done to protect the children and other family affected during a relative's service.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3312898/>,

http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_938.html,

<http://deploymentpsych.org/content/unique-challenges-military-families>

2. After military personnel have come home, studies prove that they are more likely

to end up in poverty, homeless, or even in prison. The current veteran assistance programs are not doing enough to address these issues. <http://nvf.org/veteran-poverty-united-states/>,

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/11/08/homeless.veterans/>,

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/07/28/from-ptsd-to-prison-why-veterans-become-criminals.html>

3. Treatment for PTSD has not been enough to protect veterans from long-lasting harm, and services for other mental illness are lacking.

<http://www.apa.org/about/gr/issues/military/critical-need.aspx>.

<http://www.veteransandptsd.com/PTSD-statistics.html>

Both sides of the argument: The obvious side of this argument is that military personnel, their families, and veterans are suffering because the US has not provided them with the right (or enough aid). On the other hand, families living below the poverty line are more likely to enter military service - making them targets for future issues like PTSD and depression.

6 possible resolutions:

1. The United States Federal Government should substantially increase funding for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarships.
2. The United States Federal Government should increase services for LGBTQ military personnel.
3. The United States Federal Government should substantially reform the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program by redefining who can qualify for free housing.
4. The United States Federal government should reform the VA to perform gender alteration surgery, free of charge, for eligible veterans.
5. The United States Federal Government should substantially increase funding for mental health services for veterans.
6. The United States Federal Government should reform the veterans assistance program by setting a limit on the "net worth" than an applicant is allowed to have when they qualify for VA Pension benefits.

Advantages for the Affirmative:

1. Poverty
2. Mental Health
3. Econ
4. Modeling
5. Education reform for veterans
6. Veterans Assistance program cred
7. Minority rights

For Negatives

1. Biz con
2. Econ
3. Trade off disads with current programs
4. Tixs
5. Overcrowding schools da

6. Militarism K
7. Fem IR