



# The Veterans Metrics Initiative

Using Program Common Components for the **Legal, Financial, and Housing** Domain to Predict Study Outcomes, July 2020 Menu 5C



## BACKGROUND

- Wave 1-5 participants nominated legal, financial, and housing programs they used since they discharged from the military or deactivated from Active Duty. 13% reported using a program in this domain at Wave 1, 15% at Wave 2, and 17% each at Waves 3, 4, 5, and 6.
- Programs with verified URLs and nominated by 3 or more veterans were coded using the common components analysis technique to predict social relationship outcomes at Waves 2-6.

## CONTENT COMPONENTS

Content components describe what a program teaches or what information it provides.

- Accessing benefits - 31%
- Financing an education - 17%
- Household budgeting - 14%
- Financial investments - 9%
- Home ownership education - 7%
- Credit score information - 5%
- Debt management - 4%
- Asset protection - 4%



## PROCESS COMPONENTS

Process components capture how a program conveys information or teaches skills.

- Mentors or coaches: 1-24% of content
- Reading online: 3-22% of content
- Interactive online tool: 2-21% of content
- Direct instruction: 1-5% of content

## EFFECTS OF COMPONENTS ON FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

**Among veterans with a problematic financial status at Wave 1, veterans improved how well they were able to meet their immediate financial needs** by Wave 6 when they learned about:

- Financial investments, taught via reading online, interactive online tools, or a mentor/coach
- Accessing benefits, taught via direct classroom-style instruction or a mentor/coach
- Homeownership education, taught via interactive online tools
- Financing an education, taught via reading online, interactive online tools, or a mentor/coach



Veterans **increased their financial satisfaction** by Wave 6 when they learned about:

- Financial investments, taught via reading online, interactive online tools, or a mentor/coach
- Financing an education, taught via reading online, interactive online tools, or a mentor/coach
- Homeownership education, taught via interactive online tools
- Household budgeting, taught via reading online
- Accessing benefits, taught via direct classroom-style instruction
- Credit score, taught via online interactive tools

**Veterans were less likely to have a problematic financial status** by Wave 6 when they learned about:

- Financial investments, taught via interactive online tools or a mentor/coach
- Financing an education, taught via reading online or interactive online tools
- Homeownership education, taught via interactive online tools or a mentor/coach

