

# Regional Yellow Ribbon Program - Overall Concept

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a comprehensive program that creates awareness for the purpose of connecting service members, veterans and their families with community.

A **Regional** Yellow Ribbon Program (RYRP) is designed to create efficiencies within the region by synchronizing community, county and company resources between and within the five-county region. RYRP is not meant to replace any existing YR programs as each organization will continue their own operation. The RYRP will enhance the existing YR by bringing representatives from each of the counties together on a regular basis to further develop the statewide YR program to identify and synchronize resources in partnership with local community leaders in support of service members, veterans and military families. Additionally, the RYRP will work to establish a YR program in communities that are lacking military support services.

Currently, Yellow Ribbon county services do not coordinate on a regional level. With Region Five Development Commission's (R5DC) assistance, increased coordination between providers and service agencies will result in an efficient system of service member/veteran assistance options which will result in easier access to services that meet their needs.

R5DC, in collaboration with Building Military Healthy Communities (BMHC), a program of National Guard Family Programs, will work with providers who serve the region's service members, veterans and their families.

## What is a RYRP?

RYRP will establish an Advisory Committee of stakeholders interested in improving the connections of services for the region's service members, veterans and their families. RYRP Advisory Committee will be diverse and as comprehensive as possible and include representatives from the region's veterans service organizations, city/county leadership, business leaders, veteran/civic organizations, faith-based community, social services, workforce development, youth and education, Family Assistance Center/Family Readiness Support Assistant, and public safety.

## RYRP Goals

Coordination between service providers, service agents and the private sector is a goal to fill gaps and streamline access to services. RYRP will be responsible for coordinating regional service member/veteran services through a network of public, private and non-profit providers. **The RYRP will establish annual goals to implement that meet the regional needs.**

## R5DC Role

In an effort to fulfill our mission to “enhance the vitality and quality of life in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties” R5DC is committed to serving as the coordinator of the Five-county Regional Yellow Ribbon Program (RYRP). R5DC has expert personal and professional knowledge on project/program development/implementation and strives to achieve maximum regional success for replication of the program throughout the state.

A Region Five Development Commission RYRP is an autonomous Advisory Committee from the Commission.

## R5DC-RYRP Process

Over the first 12 months, the R5DC-RTCC, *through Stakeholder engagement process* will develop a structure and operations plan for the implementation.

### Structure plan:

1. Design of the Council Membership from a wide range of agencies interested in improving mobility and will include representative from the region’s veterans service organizations, city/county leadership, business leaders, veteran/civic organizations, faith-based community, social services, workforce development, youth and education, Family Assistance Center/Family Readiness Support Assistant, and public safety.
2. The Region Five Development Commission staff plans to coordinate ongoing *planning and implementation*, consultant contracting, grant writing, fiscal monitoring including budgeting and quality assurance methods.

### Operations plan:

1. Implementation Plan - Goals, Objectives, Activities (lead stakeholder, timelines), Resources and Budget.
2. Alignment with the Building Healthy Military Communities
3. Revisions of the plan every 2 years.

Beyond the first 12-months the R5DC-RYRP will uphold the structure and deploy operations that allow for implementation of the plan.

