

In 2018, the Mayor's Challenge was started by the Veterans Administration to identify cities across the country that have high incidences of suicide, and unfortunately, Montana is one of them.

In Montana, Mayor Bill Cole and the Helena Mayor both accepted the challenge to elevate awareness of suicide prevention among service members. As a community, the *Suicide Prevention Coalition of Yellowstone Valley* is developing a strategic process to help communities develop, implement and measure comprehensive suicide prevention efforts for all.

As an employer of Veterans, we are part of this strategic process; therefore, we wanted to receive certification as a Veteran Ready Organization.

All employees with City email participated in the Veterans Ready Certification Program, which included the following online course:

- 15 Things Veterans Want You to Know (16 minutes)
- Communication Skills with Veterans (18 minutes)
- Helping Others Hold On (19 minutes)
- How to Talk to Someone with a Disability (11 minutes)

February 2019 the City of Billings was certified as a Veteran Ready Organization



PsychArmor (psycharmor.org) is a national nonprofit organization that provides education and training to improve the health and life outcomes of military-connected individuals. We create data-driven and evidence-based virtual training courses that help to enhance the level of connection between civilians and military-connected people.

To access these courses along with many other free ones:

https://learn.psycharmor.org/bundles/city-of-billings?th__ug=44f86d96

Select Sign In and then select, Create a new account.

