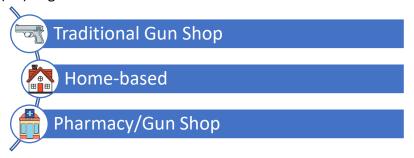
The Armory Project A Suicide Prevention Program Designed for Veterans

The Armory Project (TAP) works with Federal Firearm License (FFL) retail businesses to provide **VOLUNTARY & TEMPORARY** out-of-home weapon storage for Veterans and civilians going through a mental health or suicide crisis.

Background:

- **★** TAP started in Louisiana (LA) in 2019 with 3 Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs). As of 2025, there are 27 TAP FFLs and we have trained 90+ staff in suicide prevention.
- ❖ TAP in Arkansas (AR) began in 2024 with 3 FFLs and we trained 15 staff in suicide prevention:



4-month pilot results:



386 conversations with customers about TAP

143 TAP materials distributed to customers





123 community outreach connections

9 firearms stored



"Everyone we talked to was really impressed with the idea"

"I was surprised how little I had to talk about it. People just seeing the posters and the pamphlets inspired a lot of people just to start asking questions. We usually don't get that kind of feedback from visual displays."

- Addressing the biggest concern: Civil Liability
 - In 2022, LA passed legislation (<u>LA Act 453</u>) stating FFLs cannot be held liable should a customer harm themselves or someone else after returning a firearm held by the FFL.
 - In February 2025, AR passed the same type of legislation (AR Act 106).

Current:

❖ We now have 6 Partners in Arkansas providing **VOLUNTARY & TEMPORARY** weapon storage for Veterans (and civilians).

What We Do & How We Do It:

• We contact FFLs, explain the program, and ask if they want to partner with us. We provide a small one-time compensation package. We provide training, approximately 1-2 hours, resources and materials, and support.

Future & What we are asking from you:

- Please Partner With Us!
- We are currently expanding TAP across Arkansas through partnering with community stakeholders, Veteran Service Organizations, and coalitions such as this one.
- Share it with your communities
- Let me know if you need any resources

Douglas Downing
Program Specialist
Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System
Department of Veterans Affairs
(501) 703-4376
douglas.downing@va.gov

Free, Confidential Support 24/7/365 with chat and text options available to:

- Veterans (press 1 for Veterans)
- Service members
- Family members
- Friends
- If you are helping someone else who is in crisis, you can also call them for support