

VETERANS SERVICES PROGRAMS

Prepared for: Sen. Sarah Eckhardt



Workforce Solutions Capital Area (WFS) is a proud “We Hire Vets” employer, committed to serving our nation’s military veterans

1. Honorably discharged veterans and eligible spouses are afforded priority services in WFS’ system.

- Priority of services means that the veteran’s needs take precedence over other job seekers. Should a veteran need personal one-on-one assistance while job seeking, a workforce staff member will be made available to assist them. We also reserve several PCs in the Resource Room for veteran use.
- Priority of services also extends to processing times for programs administered by WFS, such as WIOA or WERC. Eligible veterans have their application moved to the top of our training fund obligation list and processed at an expedited rate.

2. Each WFS office makes available several staff dedicated to working with veterans, including:

- **Veterans Employment Services (VES)** through the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC). Staff assist veterans with finding long-term and meaningful employment by conducting job matching services for employers and providing individualized career services to veterans with significant barriers to employment at American Job Centers, VA facilities, and military installations throughout Texas.
- **Texas Veterans Leadership Program (TVLP)** through the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). Staff assist veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan find work and achieve successful transitions back into civilian life. TVLP Veterans Resource & Referral Specialists, who are veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan, or both, play an integral role in meeting the needs of other returning veterans by using referrals to address their employment, training, medical, educational, and other needs.

3. In addition to the above services, TWC offers the following veteran-specific services:

- Priority service for all workforce services
- Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) National Emergency Grant
- Hard-to-Serve Veterans Initiative
- Comprehensive Veterans Initiative
- Two-day hold on new job postings in WorkInTexas.com to ensure veterans get first viewing
- Integration points between WorkInTexas.com and USnlx.com
- Veteran-specific job search portal into WorkInTexas.com via the Texas Veterans Portal

4. The workforce centers also house TWC staff working as Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists or Local Veterans’ Employment Representatives (LVERs).

- Veterans must complete an application that is part of the staff-assisted services veterans receive from DVOP/LVER staff. However, not all veterans in these Texas Workforce Centers will receive services from DVOP/LVER staff. It is important that Texas Workforce Center staff does not assume that due to the presence of DVOP/LVER staff, all veteran applications have been reviewed. Center staff coordinate with DVOP/LVER staff on providing services to veterans.

5. WFS serves veterans through the Veterans Reemployment Program.

- This program is required by HB 714 and provides education and training to veterans placed on community supervision, including deferred adjudication community supervision, for misdemeanor offenses to obtain workforce skills and become gainfully employed.

6. WFS partners with several veteran-related programs, including:

- **Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services/HVCES.** WFS is working with staff to identify individuals who are interested in training and connecting them to WIOA or other programs to fund in demand training. WFS also provides job search assistance and is implementing a subsidized employment placement with a local tech company (WFS works with an employer and provides 100% of salary while the veteran gains work experience for up to 90 Days). The tech company has also identified recently refurbished laptops that will be donated to veterans.
- **Soldier For Life (SFL).** The United States Army SFL program is a strategic-level outreach organization focused on connecting services and opportunities to soldiers, veterans, and families. WFS works with SFL staff located at Fort Hood to identify transitioning veterans that will be relocating to the Austin area. Through our Priority of Service, veterans are provided information on funding for in demand occupational training and through the partnership are able to take in person or virtual training 6 months prior to their exit from the military. The ability to put time towards training needs base commander approval. WFS has also in the past offered in person orientation/information sessions on site at Ft. Hood.