



## Services for veterans

## FACT SHEET

The Employment Security Department provides a wide array of services to help military veterans find jobs and support them financially while they look for and train for work. Most of these services are arranged or provided through WorkSource centers statewide and at the state’s major military installations. Each year, WorkSource serves more than 10,000 veterans, many of whom have significant barriers to employment. More than 60 percent of veterans served are placed in jobs each year.

Services Representatives (CVSRs) at WorkSource centers and military installations. No state funding is used to support these positions. The veteran specialists are responsible for promoting the hiring of veterans, particularly recently discharged veterans and those with significant barriers to employment. They also work with local businesses to help them recruit veteran candidates to fill vacancies.

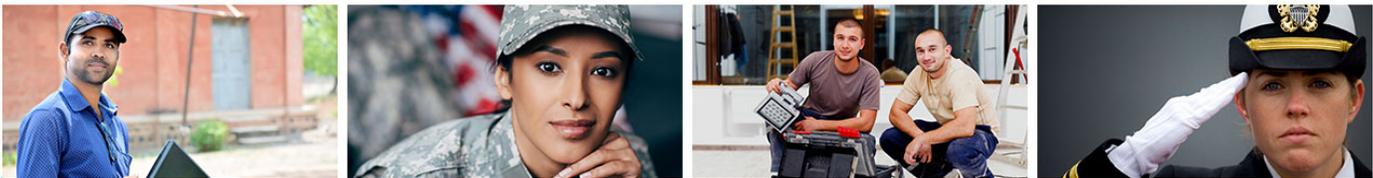
**Veterans are eligible for a wide array of employment-related services**

### More on employment services for veterans

**Federal funding** ~ The Employment Security Department applies annually to the federal Department of Labor for grants available under the Jobs for Veterans Act. These funds are allocated based on the number of unemployed military veterans in our state. Washington state’s funding has consistently remained about \$4.5 million per year.

The funds are used solely to support three categories of veteran specialists: Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs), Disabled Veterans Outreach Program specialists (DVOPs) and Consolidated Veteran

**Coordination with other agencies** ~ WorkSource staff partner with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Division to coordinate the right mix of services that each veteran needs in order to prepare for and find a good job. For example, veterans have access to a range of skill-development opportunities (which might range from a one-day class to a vocational course to an apprenticeship or college degree). Veteran specialists also provide information and counseling on how to look for a job, referrals to job openings and labor market information about the types of jobs in demand in their communities. WorkSource works with the state’s Department of Veterans Affairs to provide employment assistance to veterans enrolled in the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, Veterans Innovations Program and other state veteran initiatives.



**Coordination with the military** ~ In 2017, Employment Security and partners opened a WorkSource center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) that provides a full array of employment services to transitioning military and family members. DVOPs also are embedded at Fairchild Air Force Base and at naval stations Whidbey, Kitsap and Everett. These specialists work directly with base transition centers to provide services to eligible members of all branches of the military (including active duty, National Guard and the Reserve) who are nearing separation or retirement. They help veterans find new occupations, perform skill and interest assessments and prepare them for the civilian workforce.

WorkSource also participates in events hosted by the state and federal military departments for National Guard and active duty members who are scheduled to return from federal activation or to be discharged. DVOPs provide information about eligibility for unemployment benefits, the types of services available through WorkSource, the availability of training and apprenticeship programs and other programs for which they may be eligible.

**Apprenticeship programs** ~ Many veterans have skills that transfer well into the trades, but they lack formal training and certifications. Apprenticeships are a good way to complete training while earning a living and gaining valuable on-the-job-experience. WorkSource employment counselors refer veterans

to registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs in Washington.

**Veterans preference** ~ Employment Security enhanced WorkSourceWA.com, the state’s employment website, to make it easier for employers and veterans to find each other. The changes support a [2011 state law](#) that granted legal protection to companies who want to give military veterans a preference in their hiring decisions.

- Job-seeking veterans and eligible spouses who post their resumes on [WorkSourceWA.com](#) can check a box that makes their military status visible to employers who want to hire veterans. When employers search the site for job candidates, they can search for veteran resumes.
- Employers who post jobs on [WorkSourceWA.com](#) can check a box indicating they will give veterans a hiring preference – and veterans can search the site for “veteran preference” jobs.

**Yes Vets** ~ YesVets is a veteran-hiring campaign developed to comply with [legislation passed](#) in 2015. The measure directs the departments of Veterans Affairs, Employment Security and Commerce to work with chambers of commerce, business associations and businesses to increase veteran employment in Washington. Since its launch in 2016, nearly 900 businesses participated and hired 3,256 veterans. To learn more, visit [YesVets.org](#).

