

THE VETERANS FIRST MISSION NEWSLETTER

Placing Veterans in the Energy Sector



**Veteran Homelessness Drops To A New Low
In The USA.**

**Veterans Are Driving Growth In The U.S. Solar
Industry.**

**Assertive Professionals Earns 2024 HIRE
Vets Platinum Medallion Award for Veteran
Support.**

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VETERAN HOMELESSNESS DROPS TO A NEW LOW IN THE USA

Veteran homelessness in the United States has reached its lowest level since 2009, according to a recent report from the White House. In January 2024, officials counted 32,882 homeless veterans, reflecting a 7.5% decrease over the past year and an impressive 55.6% reduction since 2010. However, the fight to eliminate veteran homelessness is far from over.

Although veterans represent just 7% of the U.S. population, they disproportionately account for 13% of the total homeless population. The Biden administration has invested heavily in combating this issue, including \$800 million in grants to house 48,000 veterans, expanded access to HUD vouchers, and legal assistance programs. Nearly 90,000 veterans secured housing leases through HUD, while the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) helped 158,000 veterans avoid foreclosure.

Despite these efforts, more needs to be done to address the root causes of veteran homelessness.

Broader initiatives, such as faster disability claims processing and increased child care access, complement the administration's efforts to fulfill its 2021 plan to end veteran homelessness. Additionally, unsheltered homelessness among veterans dropped significantly from 15,507 in 2023 to 13,851 in 2024, showcasing the impact of targeted policies.

While the record-breaking reduction in veteran homelessness is a hopeful milestone, advocates and officials agree that the ultimate goal is zero homelessness, ensuring every veteran has a safe and stable home.

Looking ahead to 2025, officials aim to build on this momentum with further investments and strategic measures. The VA plans to allocate an additional \$1 billion for affordable housing projects targeting veterans, expand mental health support programs, and improve job training initiatives for those transitioning to civilian life. Advocates hope these efforts will bring the nation closer to the ultimate goal of eradicating veteran homelessness entirely.



VETERANS ARE DRIVING GROWTH IN THE U.S. SOLAR INDUSTRY

As of December 2024, U.S. military veterans are playing an increasingly pivotal role in driving the rapid growth of the solar energy industry. With the sector expanding to meet ambitious clean energy goals, veterans are uniquely positioned to contribute their skills, discipline, and leadership to this vital field. Programs and initiatives specifically designed to integrate veterans into solar careers are proving to be game-changers for both the industry and former service members.

The U.S. solar industry has seen remarkable growth in recent years, with over 250,000 jobs created as of 2024. The demand for skilled professionals is particularly high in roles such as project management, engineering, and technical installations. According to the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), the solar workforce grew by 8% in 2024 alone, and veterans made up a significant portion of new hires.

The Solar Ready Vets Network, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, continues to support service members and veterans by offering resources to navigate solar career pathways. Programs like the Solar Ready Vets Fellowship pair veterans with solar employers for 12-week on-the-job training, which often leads to full-time employment. In 2024, over 500 veterans completed this fellowship, securing roles in engineering, sales, and operations. Additionally, the SkillBridge program allows active-duty service members to spend their final six months in service gaining hands-on experience with solar companies.

This initiative has become a cornerstone for introducing veterans to the renewable energy sector. The integration of veterans into the solar industry is not only a strategic solution to workforce challenges but also a meaningful way to support those who have served. Beyond providing job opportunities, these careers offer veterans a chance to work in an industry aligned with their values of service, teamwork, and making a positive impact. With continued investment in renewable energy and workforce development programs, the role of veterans in the U.S. solar industry is expected to grow. Policymakers and industry leaders are working together to expand training initiatives, improve job placement services, and ensure that veterans are at the forefront of America's clean energy transition.



ASSERTIVE PROFESSIONALS WINS 2024 HIRE VETS PLATINUM AWARD FOR VETERAN SUPPORT

Assertive Professionals LLC has been honoured with the prestigious 2024 HIRE Vets Platinum Medallion Award by the U.S. Department of Labor, marking yet another consecutive year of recognition for its unwavering commitment to veterans' careers. The Platinum Medallion, the highest accolade of the HIRE Vets program, highlights businesses that excel in recruiting, hiring, and retaining veterans while providing comprehensive support, tailored career development, and robust workplace integration for former service members.

This award underscores Assertive Professionals' dedication to meeting and exceeding rigorous standards in veteran-focused employment practices. These include offering resources to assist veterans in transitioning to civilian roles, designing personalised career paths for growth, and fostering a supportive workplace culture that values the unique skills veterans bring to the workforce.

Founded in 2015, Assertive Professionals is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned and Economically Disadvantaged Woman-Owned Small Business. The company provides critical support to the Department of Defense, Intelligence Community, and Homeland Security, specialising in solutions that blend mission expertise with innovative workforce practices. Its employee-centric culture has earned the company widespread recognition as a leader in veteran employment, workforce integration, and support for underrepresented groups.

The HIRE Vets Medallion Program, established by the Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act of 2017, remains the only federal initiative dedicated to recognising companies for their exceptional commitment to veteran employment. Awards are presented in Platinum and Gold tiers across small, medium, and large business categories. Platinum recipients, such as Assertive Professionals, stand out for their leadership in integrating veterans into the workforce while ensuring their long-term success and well-being.





Your Ally in Regulatory Workforce Solutions.

Our recruiters tap into the finest industry talent and their network of professional connections, empowering us to stay ahead of market trends, competitive compensation packages, and innovative employment solutions.

We are passionate in our commitment to prioritize the placement of veterans, striving to deliver exceptional talent while embracing a 'Veterans First' ethos in our service to our clients.

GET IN TOUCH

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