

THE VETERANS FIRST MISSION NEWSLETTER

Placing Veterans in the Energy Sector



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Support Veteran and Spouse Employment**

**Exclusive Veteran Training Opportunity in
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VA LAUNCHES \$4 MILLION GRANT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT VETERAN AND SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has introduced a new \$4 million grant initiative aimed at helping veterans and their spouses transition successfully into civilian employment. Announced on Military Spouse Appreciation Day, this program stems from legislation passed by Congress in 2021 and will provide grants of up to \$500,000 to organizations dedicated to offering employment-based resources for transitioning service members and their spouses.

The grants are designed to fund services such as resume writing assistance, interview preparation, employment placement services, and other career support tools essential for post-military success.

“These grants will help our nation's service members and their spouses access the resources they need to secure the jobs they deserve,” said the VA Under Secretary for Benefits. “Our goal is to empower transitioning service members and their families, ensuring their move into civilian life is not only manageable but sets them up for long-term success.”



Currently, separating troops and their spouses have access to Military OneSource services through the Department of Defense for one year after leaving the military. Additionally, the Department of Labor offers Transition Employment Assistance workshops tailored for military spouses and caregivers. Despite these resources, the unemployment rate among military and veteran spouses remains above 20%.

The new VA grant program seeks to close this gap by providing targeted funding to organizations that can deliver impactful employment support. Further details on how to apply for these grants will be released in June 2025.

Veteran employment rates have generally remained stable, aligning with national trends. However, younger veterans often face challenges in securing employment during their initial years post-service.

This initiative reflects a broader commitment by federal lawmakers to address employment challenges among veterans and military families. Provisions to support this group are also being considered in the upcoming defense authorization bill.

Organizations interested in applying for the VA grants should monitor upcoming announcements for application procedures and deadlines.

EXCLUSIVE VETERAN TRAINING OPPORTUNITY IN PINELLAS COUNTY: JANUARY 28TH -30TH, 2025 BOOTCAMP

CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas and Statewide Workforce Development-Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) are offering a specialized training bootcamp exclusively in Pinellas County at the end of this January.

This program is designed to prepare local veterans for promising careers in roadway construction and infrastructure.

Pinellas County Bootcamp:

- **Dates:** Tuesday, January 28th – Thursday, January 30th, 2025
- **Time:** 9:00 AM – Noon
- **Location:** St. Petersburg College EpiCenter, 13805 58th Street North, Clearwater, FL 33760

This intensive three-day workshop offers veterans hands-on exposure to careers in road and bridge construction. Activities include facility tours at FDOT contractor sites, OSHA training, insights into heavy equipment operations, flagger certification, and participation in a veteran hiring event with guaranteed interviews and the potential for same-day job offers.

Florida's road and bridge construction industry presents diverse opportunities for individuals of all backgrounds and experience levels.

The Vice President of Business Services at CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas, added, "We are proud to support veterans in their transition to civilian careers. This bootcamp opens doors to a thriving industry with opportunities for advancement."

Governor DeSantis' Freedom First Budget, signed in June 2023, allocated a record \$12.6 billion for statewide transportation projects, significantly boosting job creation in the transportation infrastructure sector over the next decade.

This program is free for participating veterans. Registration with CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas and EmployFlorida is required.

About CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas:

CareerSource Hillsborough Pinellas serves as the designated local workforce development board for Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. Governed by a board of directors appointed by Chief Local Elected Officials (CLEOs), CareerSource provides direct services for various workforce programs. These initiatives are largely supported by federal funding totaling \$39,085,000, with 96% coming from federal sources (as of August 2024).

NVBDC JOINS FORCES WITH TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION FOR APRIL 9TH, 2025 EVENT

The National Veteran Business Development Council (NVBDC) has just announced its collaboration with the Texas Veterans Commission's Veteran Entrepreneur Program, a key member of NVBDC's Military and Veteran Organization (MVO) Task Force.

This strategic partnership will be showcased during a special event on April 9th, 2025, hosted by the Texas Veterans Commission, featuring NVBDC Founder and CEO Keith King as the keynote speaker. His presentation, titled "Unlocking Success: Certification for Veteran-Owned Businesses," aims to empower veterans to leverage NVBDC certification for business growth.

The Texas Veterans Commission's involvement in the NVBDC MVO Task Force is instrumental in driving economic opportunities for veteran entrepreneurs. Through combined efforts, NVBDC and its partners provide vital resources, mentorship, and access to corporate supply chains, ensuring veteran-owned businesses have the support needed to thrive.

NVBDC stands out as the first and only third-party certification body for service-disabled and veteran-owned businesses recognized by members of the Billion Dollar Roundtable. This certification has revolutionized opportunities for veteran entrepreneurs, breaking down barriers and opening doors to significant corporate contracts.

Attendees of this event on April 9th, 2025 will gain valuable insights on:

- **Why Certification Matters:** Understanding the competitive edge that NVBDC certification offers in securing corporate partnerships.
- **Pathways to Growth:** Strategies for overcoming entrepreneurial challenges and building resilient, scalable businesses.
- **Supplier Diversity Trends:** How corporations are prioritizing diverse suppliers and the role NVBDC plays in connecting veteran businesses to these opportunities.
- **Keith King's Entrepreneurial Journey:** A personal narrative on founding NVBDC and his unwavering commitment to supporting veteran enterprises.

Don't miss the chance to learn, connect, and grow with leading voices in veteran entrepreneurship.



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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