

THE VETERANS FIRST MISSION NEWSLETTER

Placing Veterans in the Energy Sector



**VA Launches \$4 Million Grant Program to
Support Veteran and Spouse Employment**

**Washington D.C.'s Path for Veteran Business
Owners**

**NVBDC Joins Forces with Texas Veterans
Commission for April 9th, 2025 Event**

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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.

WASHINGTON D.C.'S PATH FOR VETERAN BUSINESS OWNERS

The recent Small Business Conference in Washington, D.C. showcased how veteran entrepreneurs are being empowered to transform their business futures. Hosted by The American Legion and the SBA, the event brought together current and prospective small business owners, offering tailored advice on securing access to capital, overcoming the hurdles of running a business, and exploring franchise opportunities as an alternative pathway to growth.

Central to the conference was the Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP), a free training program designed to equip veteran-owned businesses with the skills needed to win and manage government contracts. VIP trains 750 companies each year at no cost, covering expenses like meals and accommodations, and it boasts nearly 3,000 graduates nationwide who have collectively secured billions in contracts. VIP National Director Barbara Ashe emphasized that mastering federal contracts not only opens doors to lucrative government opportunities but also provides valuable experience applicable to local, state, and private sector markets.

Throughout the conference, veterans shared personal stories of overcoming challenges such as gender bias, limited access to capital, and the complexities of niche markets during times of economic uncertainty.

These accounts underscored the resilience and collaborative spirit of the veteran community, highlighting the importance of mutual support, continuous learning, and strong relationship-building to drive sustainable business success.

Government officials further introduced initiatives like a unified certification platform that streamlines access to multiple certifications through a single portal, simplifying the process for veteran entrepreneurs. Overall, the event served as a powerful launchpad that reaffirmed when veterans leverage their unique skills, commit to ongoing education, and rely on a robust support network, they are exceptionally well-positioned to seize new opportunities, build lasting business relationships, and create generational success in an ever-evolving marketplace.



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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