Employment Resources for Veterans

According to CalVet, two of the most pressing concerns of veterans phoning in during the stay-at-home orders were employment and education. This issue will provide a brief overview of employment resources of particular interest to our California veterans. Included is a page of resources for veterans wanting to start a business, including farming and agriculture. Much of the training has moved online.

How to get a state job

Did you know that there are currently over 3,000 jobs available with the State of California? Did you also know that veterans who pass the State Exam move to the top of the ranking?

The State of California is generally considered a preferred employer for the diversity of opportunities, generous benefits as well as training and professional development. As of June 1st there were over 3000 state jobs being advertised on the state’s career website here: calcareers.ca.gov/

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Do you have something to contribute? Please email wolfe@plpinfo.org


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Veterans Preference for California State Jobs:

Veterans and their widow or widower, or the spouse of a 100 percent disabled veteran, who achieves a passing score in an entrance examination, is ranked in the top rank of the resulting eligibility list for state jobs. (Note: Any dishonorably discharged or released veteran is not eligible for Veterans’ Preference.)

An application need only be made once. After CalHR has approved the application, it will remain on file for all future qualifying examinations.

Start here:
jobs.ca.gov/CalHRPublic/Landing/Jobs/VeteransInformation.aspx
Call with questions: (866) 844-8671

For Disabled Individuals/Veterans: Limited Examination and Appointment Program (LEAP)

An alternative examination and appointment process, known as LEAP, is available to facilitate the recruitment and hiring of persons with disabilities into California civil service employment, including veterans.

Start here:
jobs.ca.gov/CalHRPublic/Landing/PersonsWithDisabilities.aspx

Additional Features:

Additional features of the site include a simple military skills translator. For example, a veteran can type in a few keywords related to their military experience, plus their branch of service and see a list of applicable State of California job titles, whether there are any current openings or vacancies, and a spec sheet outlining the job responsibilities. A job notification feature is also available.

Start here:
calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/CalTAP-Employment-Pathway.aspx
EDD
The Employment Development Department of the State of California provides priority services to all veterans, as well as their eligible spouses. This includes:
- A 24-hour priority hold on all job listings just for veterans
- Customized job search assistance
- Job fairs and workshops
- Employer recruitments
- Other events and resources

These services are provided by dedicated veteran representatives who specialize in helping veterans return to work.

Start here: [edd.ca.gov/Jobs_and_Training/Services_for_Veterans.htm](edd.ca.gov/Jobs_and_Training/Services_for_Veterans.htm)

Resume Engine
An offshoot of the US Chamber of Commerce’s Hiring Our Heroes initiative, the Resume Engine translates a veteran’s military record into a strong resume that civilian employers can appreciate. Resumes can then be made viewable by the thousands of employers hiring qualified veteran candidates.

Start here: [resumeengine.org](resumeengine.org)

Work for Warriors
This free job placement program in California assists all service members, veterans, and their families. They also offer free training in security, IT, heavy equipment operation and employment readiness. The candidate process includes matching candidates with the skills of the employer, critiquing and developing veteran resumes, assisting with interview prep and assistance throughout the hiring process.

Start here: [workforwarriors.org](workforwarriors.org)

Career OneStop
Career OneStop is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor and has a mandate to assist veterans and their spouses with their career search.

In addition to job postings, they provide information on certifications and apprenticeships, as well as general assistance with veteran benefits and services. They also have a veteran job matching tool which translates military jobs and service branch with civilian job titles.

Start here (veterans): [careeronestop.org/Veterans/default.aspx](careeronestop.org/Veterans/default.aspx)

Start here (spouses): [careeronestop.org/Veterans/BenefitsAndAssistance/for-military-spouses.aspx](careeronestop.org/Veterans/BenefitsAndAssistance/for-military-spouses.aspx)

VA for Vets
VA for Vets is the employment arm of the VA and is designed to help Veterans, transitioning service members and military spouses successfully find civilian careers in the Federal government.

Their website is comprehensive and also includes links for private sector employment.

Start here: [vaforvets.va.gov](vaforvets.va.gov)

Unemployment Resources

California Covid-19 Benefits:
[edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm](edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019.htm)
Entrepreneurship & Farming resources for Veterans

AISA - Archie's Institute for Sustainable Agriculture

This education program, in partnership with Cal Poly Pomona, is geared to helping military combat veterans reintegrate into society, and transition back to the civilian world while gaining useful skills to start their own farming enterprises. Using VA education benefits and a unique hands-on approach to organic sustainable agriculture, these programs were designed by a combat veteran who discovered the healing benefits of farming.

The founder has spoken at libraries in California and produced a powerful documentary about his journey entitled The Farm, available here: https://archisinstitute.com/the-farm-movie-event/

More information on their 6 and 12 week courses is available here: archisinstitute.com/

Veteran Entrepreneur Portal

The VA has a dedicated website with direct access to the resources necessary to guide every step of entrepreneurship including education, access to funding, and how to navigate the federal contracting process.

Start here: va.gov/osdbu/entrepreneur

SBA Office of Veterans Business Development

The federal Small Business Administration also has a portal for veterans in business including a well-regarded Boots to Business 1 to 2 day business course.

Start here: sba.gov/business-guide/grow-your-business/veteran-owned-businesses

The SBA also runs two Veterans Business Outreach Centers in California where veterans can connect with a business consultant. Military-connected families are also eligible for some services.

Start here: socalvboc.org/

Also check the US Department of Agriculture for veteran-specific farming loans, education and advocacy.

Start here: nal.usda.gov/aglaw/veteran-farming