



TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

Helping Veterans Starts Here



Texas Veterans Commission

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Four Program Areas Provide Direct Services to Veterans

- Veterans Employment Services
- Veterans Education Program
- Fund for Veterans Assistance
- Claims Representation & Counseling



Two Program Areas Connect Veterans to Services

- Veterans Outreach
- Women Veterans Program
- Texas Veteran Entrepreneur & Business Development Program



Veterans Employment Services Programs

- Veterans Employment Representatives
- Veterans Business Outreach Program
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
- Transitional Assistance Program

Veterans Employment Representatives

- When assisting Veterans seeking employment, TVC Veterans Employment Representatives train Veterans to:
 - Translate military skills to civilian jobs
 - Develop résumés for today's job market
 - Develop job interviewing techniques
 - Enhance job searching techniques
 - Seek out career guidance
 - Pursue further training assistance








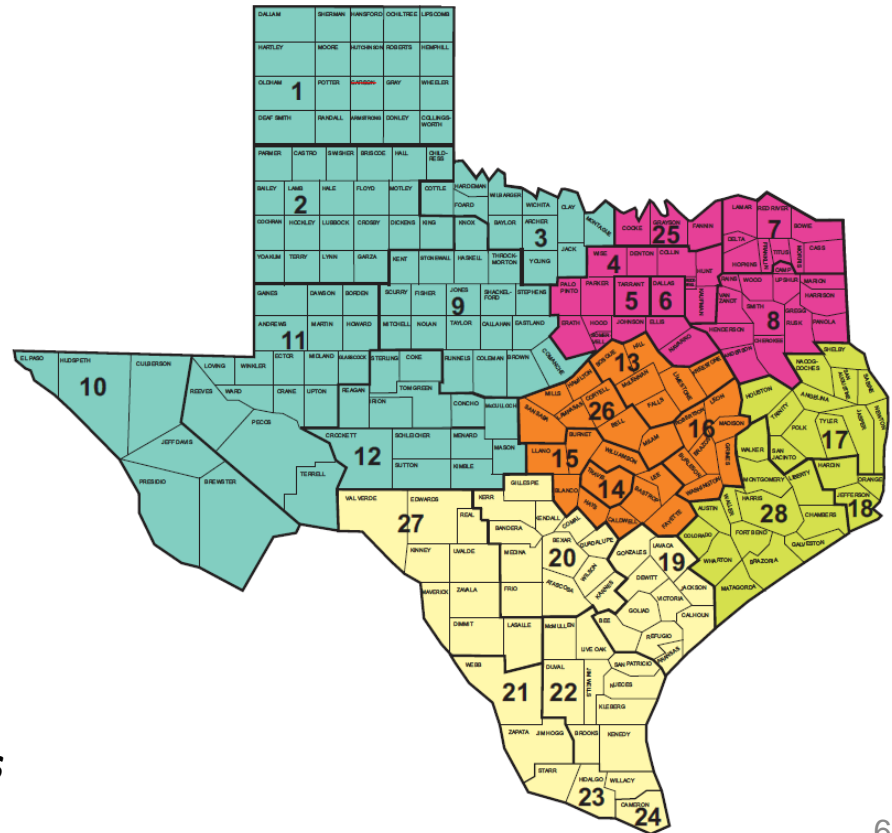
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Veterans Employment Representatives

168 representatives
in federally-funded workforce
centers in 75 cities:

-  Region 1 = 39
-  Region 2 = 28
-  Region 3 = 43
-  Region 4 = 36
-  Region 5 = 22



****All Veteran Employment Representatives
are veterans***

Veterans Business Outreach

- Originally funded one FTE through the TVC outreach budget provided by the Legislature; expanded to four FTEs Veteran Business Representatives (VBRs) funded with federal grant in April 2011, and currently serve all of Texas.
- VBRs work with local development boards, the TWC, DOL-VETS and all partners to recruit businesses, educating them on the benefits of hiring veterans and identifying specific needs/postings.
- VBRs then act on behalf of the employer to recruit qualified veterans to fill those identified postings.
- Since August 2011, VBRs have assisted employers with recruiting Veterans for 588 employment opportunities with an average starting salary of \$44,000 for those hired. Companies taking advantage of the Texas Veterans Commission's Business Outreach program include: AT&T, Lowe's and Spitzer Industries.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)

- Five FTEs funded by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Delivers vocational rehabilitation services and counseling services to veterans with service-connected disabilities to enable them to live independently and achieve the highest quality of life possible with a realized hope for employment.
- The average wage for veterans entering employment from VR&E is \$17.54 per hour.

Transitional Assistance Program (TAP)

- Five and a half FTEs assist separating servicemembers during their period of transition into civilian life by offering employment and training Services.
- Last year, provided 10,518 participants TAP training at 11 military installations .
- Federal legislation passed in 2011 requires the Department of Labor to contract with a private entity to provide TAP counseling, employment, and training services within 24 months. As a result, TVC will no longer be permitted to administer this program.

Veterans Employment Services Success

- Texas has helped more veterans find employment than any other state, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. One-in-three Veteran jobs found by Veteran employment agencies in the top 10-funded states were in Texas.
- More than 69,080 Veterans received employment assistance by TVC during the most recent 12-month period.
- Texas accounts for 18% of the nation's Veterans entering employment, while spending 7% of the funding for Veteran Employment Services.
- 221 veterans went to work for every one Veteran Employment staff person at an average cost of \$299 per job, as compared to the state of California at an average cost of \$6,308 per job.
- \$1.4 billion in wages were earned last year by those who received TVC employment assistance.

Texas Veteran Entrepreneur & Business Development Program (TVEBD)

- The new TVEBD Program is designed to:
 - Promote Veteran Business Ownership
 - Connect Veterans with the Resources Required for the Successful Launch, Ongoing Operation and Growth of their Business
 - Provide Guidance and Training in the Areas of :
 - Business Plan Concept Assessment, and Development
 - Financial Guidance
 - Management Assistance
 - Marketing Assistance
 - Mentorship Opportunities

Veterans Education Program

- 16 Counselors statewide.
- TVC Education Services assists Texas Veterans with GI Bill benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:
 - Approval of Veteran curriculum in compliance with VA regulations
 - Oversight
 - Consumer Protection
 - Complaint Resolution
- TVC Education Services also works with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to assist Veterans with the Hazlewood Tuition Exemption Program.
- In 2010, educational programs approved by TVC generated \$778 million in GI Bill educational benefits for approximately 70,000 Texas Veteran students.
- The amount of VA educational benefits handled per TVC education counselor increased from \$24.8 million in FY 2009 to \$48.6 million in FY 2010.

Veterans Education Program

On-the-Job Training (OJT)

OJT is training which veterans receive while actually performing a job and earning wages. If the program is approved by TVC, veterans may utilize their GI Bill education benefits while in training.

- OJT programs must be between 6 & 24 months long
- Wages cannot be commission-based
- Veteran cannot already be qualified for the job

TVC currently has 276 employers with approved OJT programs including:

- Texas Department of Public Safety/Texas Highway Patrol
- Texas National Guard
- U.S. Customs & Border Patrol
- Austin Police Department
- Dallas Fire Rescue
- Schlumberger Technology Corporation
- Southwest Airlines



Fund For Veterans' Assistance

- The Fund was created by the 79th Legislature and receives funding as a result of legislation overwhelmingly passed in 2009 to create the veterans lottery scratch-off game.
- To date, the Commission has awarded over \$21.5 million in FVA and Housing4TexasHeroes grants to 72 local government and non-profit organizations. In FY11, FVA grants helped to serve 65,700 Veterans and their families.
- More than 93 percent of FVA funds goes directly to support Texas veterans and their families.
- Awarded four (4) FVA grantees just over \$1 million to provide employment training, employment education, and job placement assistance; and development of professional networks.

Claims Representation & Counseling

- 108 Staff in 36 offices – primarily in U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities and military installations -- in 29 cities.
- Assists Veterans and their families file 125,179 Compensation and Pension Claims with the VA in the last fiscal year.
- Assists severely disabled Veterans gather and submit proof of 100% unemployability.
- Due to Texas Veterans Commission representation, 179,981 benefit cases amounted to more than \$2.2 billion in VA benefits last year.
- Represented Veterans in 16,101 claims appeals before the VA.
- Helps family members with survivor benefits, and in verifying eligibility for the 100 percent property tax exemption, and other state benefits and exemptions.

Challenges for Veterans Services on the Horizon

- Texas Veteran Employment Services is currently funded for a nation at war, not to support the coming draw down in Afghanistan and other theaters or the on-going Force Shaping/Reduction in Force by the DoD.
- State resources dedicated to business outreach, entrepreneurship, and family employment assistance have, and will continue to, pay dividends.
- State coordination with the U.S. Congress on potential changes to Veteran employment is key to success.
- New initiatives such as TVEBD and the expansion of staffing and outreach to businesses and promotion of the OJT program will be critical to meeting the needs of a new generation of veteran.