

N E W S R E L E A S E

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This Veterans Day EDD highlights employment opportunities and services available to former members of the military

SACRAMENTO – In recognition of Veterans Day, the California Employment Development Department (EDD) is highlighting programs and services it provides to the brave Californians who have served our country, to assist them in their transition from military service to the civilian workforce.

“EDD is proud to help California’s military veterans find career opportunities with employers who value their unique skills and training,” said EDD Director Rita Saenz. “Our goal is to consistently provide them with quality services and assistance that can help veterans launch sustainable careers.”

In addition to services designed to help veterans transition from military life to civilian employment, the EDD also expanded the state’s Paid Family Leave (PFL) program this year to aid military families when a member is deployed to another country. [California PFL benefits](#) are available to workers who take time off from work to handle essential needs when a spouse, registered domestic partner, parent, or child is headed off to serve in another country. Such needs include:

- Making childcare or parental care arrangements.
- Attending military sponsored events.
- Making legal or financial arrangements.

California’s Veteran Workforce

California is home to 1.4 million veterans and currently more than 582,000 of them are employed in a wide variety of occupations including public administration, health care, and technical services. Several of the most common veteran job types are in industries leading the economic recovery in California.

Veterans are often highly-desirable job applicants for employers due to their military training, job-applicable skillsets, and higher-than-average education levels. Current labor force data indicates more than one out of every three (37.1 percent) veterans in California has achieved a bachelor’s degree or higher. Some 10 percent of the state’s veteran workforce hold a master’s degree; approximately 8 percent hold either a doctorate or professional degree; and another 3.4 percent have attained an associate’s degree.

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The most recent statewide veteran employment rate of 6.4 percent is a full percentage point lower than the most recent state unemployment rate (7.5 percent). In terms of largest industry employers of California veterans, public administration (16.3 percent of employed veterans), health care and social assistance (10.4 percent), construction (8.8 percent), and professional and technical services (8.4 percent) industries employed the largest number of veterans. In addition, veterans were most often employed in management, sales, protective service, and business/financial operations occupations.

Employment Services for Veterans

The EDD provides a [suite](#) of services to all veterans to help them and their eligible spouses take full advantage of available employment and training opportunities. Veterans have access to numerous resources designed to help them find employment through:

- [America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM](#) locations, which provide veterans with priority of services for job and training referrals. At these locations, EDD representatives work one-on-one with veterans as well as provide specialized assistance to veterans with significant barriers to employment.
- [CalJOBSSM](#), EDD's online labor exchange system, where veterans can translate their military occupational specialties into marketable skills applicable to civilian jobs. Through this portal, veterans can view employers and apply for job openings that match their military experience.

Additional Services for Employers:

- Local employment representatives at [America's Job Center of California](#) locations work with employers and help match their employment needs with qualified veterans.
- [CalJOBS](#) is available to employers to post job openings. Employers can also refine their candidate searches to focus on veterans.
- [HIRE Vets Medallion Program](#): recognizes small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and large companies for their leadership in recruiting, employing, and retaining America's veterans.
- The [Work Opportunity Tax Credit program](#) provides employers a tax credit for hiring veterans who face special obstacles as they try to reenter the workforce.

Veteran Employment Success Story:

The EDD continues to pay tribute to our veterans by helping them find jobs and career services. For example, Gerardo Jaramillo, a 20-year veteran of the United States Air Force, enrolled in a two-year EDD Veteran work study program in El Centro, California in 2018.

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Jaramillo provided clerical services for El Centro's Veterans Intensive Services Program while working towards earning his master's degree. At the same time, EDD provided him with career counseling and job search strategies that eventually helped him land a job as a Veteran Services Outreach Representative in Imperial County.

The tools and guidance of the EDD representative and programs, guided me in the right direction to be able to succeed to get my MBA and become an outreach representative to help other veterans from Imperial County," said Jaramillo.

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