

N E W S R E L E A S E

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**EDD’s Orange County “Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet” job and resource fair connects 100 veterans, job seekers with employers**

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department’s (EDD) “Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet” job and resource fair today connected more than 100 veterans and other job seekers looking for employment opportunities with 20 employers and resource agencies at the Orange County One-Stop Center in Irvine.

For more than a decade, EDD has held “Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet” job and resource fairs throughout California. These events have linked more than 39,570 veterans and job seekers with more than 14,350 employers and resource agencies, highlighting the unique skills, training, and experiences veterans bring to the civilian workforce. Through Governor Newsom’s multi-agency initiative, the events are administered by EDD in coordination with the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency and other departments.

“Veterans bring with them to the workplace the skills, training and experience they acquired throughout their military service,” said EDD Director Patrick W. Henning. “EDD is committed to helping veterans transfer those skills into high-quality civilian jobs. Our Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job fairs are just one of the avenues we use to help connect veterans with employers.”



The job fairs, which allow veterans to meet one-on-one with employers and job service representatives as well as resource agencies, are held at various locations throughout the state each year as part of a coordinated multi-agency effort to help veterans in their transition back to civilian life.

(more)

“CalVet appreciates its ongoing partnership with the EDD in support of veterans,” said CalVet Secretary Dr. Vito Imbasciani. “Job fairs are an important tool veterans can use to showcase the skills and experience they acquired during military service and to connect with important employment resources.”

Highlights of some of the most recent [veteran employment data](#) from EDD’s labor market information specialists indicate:

- There are 1.6 million veterans who call California home, more than any other state. Of those veterans 760,000 actively participated in California’s civilian labor force in August 2019. This group consisted of 735,700 employed and 24,900 unemployed persons. Over a two-year period, the number of unemployed persons declined from 52,600 to 24,900 persons, due, in part, to increased job opportunities made available over the latest economic expansion (February 2010–Present).
- Between August 2017 and August 2019, California’s unemployment rate for veterans’ decreased from 5.8 percent 3.2 percent—a drop of 2.6 percentage points over the past two years in line with the state’s strong overall economy.
- The largest number of jobs held by veterans in California are management (100,500), sales and related (66,100) and protective service (62,300).
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, one of three California veterans held a bachelor’s degree or higher in 2019. Most, if not all, have acquired technical expertise and soft skills that today’s businesses desire.
- In addition, military training and experience provide many job skills valued by employers, including teamwork, discipline, leadership, meeting deadlines, strategic planning and problem solving. Many veterans also have training in advanced electronics, logistics and information technology.

Agencies participating in the Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet events include EDD, CalVet, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, California Department of Industrial Relations’ Division of Apprenticeship Standards, and California Community Colleges.

In addition to the Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet job and resource fairs, EDD representatives in local [America’s Job Center of California \(AJCC\)](#) offices throughout the state help veterans maximize their employment and training opportunities.

The EDD encourages veterans to visit their local AJCC office to determine what employment services are available to assist them in their efforts to obtain employment. For additional information on EDD’s veterans employment services, office locations, and upcoming job fairs, visit the EDD’s website at: [www.edd.ca.gov/Jobs\\_and\\_Training/Services\\_for\\_Veterans.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/Jobs_and_Training/Services_for_Veterans.htm)

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