



Fact Sheet: Veterans Job Corps Act of 2012

In asking our troops to make great sacrifices to protect our country, Congress assumes a responsibility to ensure that when they come home, they have access to the opportunities and services that they have earned. Veterans are highly trained and skilled individuals that American businesses should be competing to attract. Senate Democrats are working to make sure that our troops come home to new jobs and opportunities that will allow them to thrive.

Veterans Jobs Corps Act of 2012 (S. 3457)

- The Veterans Jobs Corps Act will invest in our veterans and ease their transition back to civilian life by increasing training and creating job opportunities.
- Under this legislation, veterans would have a new opportunity to serve and protect America by gaining prioritized placement in first responder positions like police, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians.
- The Veterans Jobs Corps Act would create conservation and resource management jobs for veterans, enlisting them in efforts to rebuild America through the restoration of our forests, parks, coasts, and public lands.
- The Veterans Jobs Corps Act will establish a pilot program to provide veterans with access to the Internet and computers to assist in job searches, and would offer the military's Transition Assistance Program to eligible veterans and their spouses at sites outside military installations in order to make it easier to relocate in pursuit of job opportunities.
- The legislation would also provide veterans in rural areas with greater access to career specialists to help them write resumes, prepare for interviews, and find jobs.
- The programs in the Veterans Jobs Corps Act are supported by a fully paid-for \$1 billion investment in our veterans' future.

No Veteran Leaving the Battlefield Should Have to Fight For a Job

- **A new generation of veterans is returning home and is ready to work.** With the ending of the war in Iraq and the winding down of our presence in Afghanistan, 200,000 service members are transitioning to the civilian workforce each year. [[Defense Business Board](#), 4/19/12]

- **We're making progress, but too many of the veterans who fought in Iraq and in Afghanistan still have to fight for a job.** In July of 2011, 232,000 post-9/11 era veterans were unemployed – a 12.4% unemployment rate. A year later, those figures decreased to 174,000 unemployed at an 8.9% rate. The August jobs report showed that the most recent unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans is 10.9%. While this is an improvement, post-9/11 era veterans' unemployment remains well above the national rate. [BLS]
- **Our youngest veterans are having the toughest time finding work.** In 2011, the unemployment rate for young male veterans was over 29%, more than 11% higher than nonveterans in the same group. [BLS, 3/20/12]
- **The Veterans Jobs Corps Act makes more public sector jobs available to veterans, complementing the career path many veterans are already pursuing.** Post-9/11 era veterans are almost twice as likely to work in public sector occupations as their non-veteran counterparts. The Veterans Jobs Corps Act creates new opportunities for veterans to become first responders or pursue other public service positions – the very same types of jobs that over a quarter of our newest veterans hold. [BLS Employment Situation of Veterans, 3/ 20/ 12]

Democrats are Helping to Train Veterans for their Next Mission

- **Senate Democrats passed a new law to expedite veterans' transition into new careers.** Veterans from three military specialties – combat arms, motor transport, and medical technicians – make up half of all unemployed veterans. The Veteran Skills to Jobs Act cuts the red tape that has prevented these highly skilled veterans from quickly obtaining civilian licenses by requiring federal agencies to recognize relevant military training and skills when certifying veterans - expediting their transition to promising careers. [Defense Business Board, 4/ 19/ 12; S.2239, 6/29/12; P.L. 112-147, 7/23/12]
- **Senate Democrats have expanded benefits and educational opportunities for a new generation of veterans.** Senate Democrats passed the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, which significantly expanded veterans' benefits and educational opportunities by offering tuition assistance and monthly housing stipends, and making benefits transferable under certain conditions. This legislation has helped nearly 800,000 veterans and their family members attend college. [CRS, 8/17/11; White House, 7/23/12; P.L. 110-252, 6/30/08; P.L. 111-377, 1/4/11]
- **Senate Democrats have worked to boost business efforts to hire veterans.** Senate Democrats passed the VOW To Hire Heroes Act, which provides tax credits to businesses that hire veterans who have been looking for work for more than four weeks, makes the Transition Assistance Program mandatory as to enhance their job-seeking skills, lets veterans apply for government jobs before they officially leave the service, and provides nearly 100,000 veterans with an extra year of GI Bill educational benefits. [DPCC, P.L 112-56]

Health for Heroes

- **Senate Democrats have enhanced services for veterans' caregivers.** Democrats secured passage of The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act, which trains and supports veterans' caregivers, expands services to women, improves mental health treatment, provides outreach to homeless veterans, and enhances VA medical services. [[Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs](#), 5/5/10; [P.L. 111-163](#)]
- **Senate Democrats have expanded resources to treat Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).** As of FY 2010, over 45,600 veterans have been diagnosed with Traumatic Brain Injury-related (TBI) conditions at VA medical facilities. Democrats have consistently increased funding for research and treatment TBI for veterans as well as mental health and long-term care programs. [[CRS](#), 5/5/11; [Department of Veterans Affairs FY 2013 funding](#)]
- **Senate unanimously passed the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.** This comprehensive benefits package expands critical health care programs for veterans, improves claims processing, enhances efforts to eliminate homelessness among veterans, and provides health care to individuals with certain illnesses and conditions who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, NC several decades ago. The legislation also limits picketing of military funerals by banning protests two hours before and after funerals and requires demonstrators to be at least 300 feet away. [[P.L. 112-154](#)]

Welcoming Veterans Home

- **Veterans are overrepresented in the homeless population.** In January 2011, veterans accounted for 14% of all homeless adults. But, there has been encouraging progress - since 2010, homelessness among veterans has declined by 12%. [[HUD 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report](#), 12/11]
 - You can access 2011 Veteran point in time (PIT) Counts by Continuums of Care (CoC) [HERE](#).
 - You can access state-by-state statistics on veterans' homelessness from 2010 [HERE](#).
- **Senate Democrats have advanced programs that combat veteran's homelessness.** Senate Democrats fought hard to protect Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers from the chopping block in H.R. 1, the Republican budget-slashing bill passed by the House in 2011. Since 2009, VA and HUD have successfully placed nearly 33,600 veterans in permanent, supportive housing that ensures access to high-quality VA health care and supportive case managers. Over 6,500 more veterans are on their way to permanent housing with HUD-VASH voucher. Between January 2010 and January 2011, homelessness among veterans declined by nearly 12%. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki lauded HUD-VASH as a key component to ending homelessness among veterans. [[HUD-VASH](#); [HUD FY 2013 Budget](#); [Monthly Update on HUD-VASH Program](#), 6/27/12; [Department of Veterans Affairs](#), 12/13/11; [Secretary Shinseki's remarks](#), 6/22/10; [Vote #36](#), 3/9/11; [DPCC Vote Report on Veterans Issues](#)]

Veterans Statistics

- **There are over 21.6 million veterans.** According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS), in 2011, 21.6 million men and women in the civilian population were veterans. Of them, 2.4 million were veterans who served in the post-9/11 era. Almost two-thirds of these recent veterans are under 35 years old, and 17% of them are women. [BLS Employment Situation of Veterans, 3/ 20/ 12]
 - You can access state-by-state veterans' statistics for 2010 [HERE](#).
 - You can access county-by-county veterans' statistics for 2010 [HERE](#).
 - You can access the most recent veterans' employment information [HERE](#).
 - You can access state-by-state data on veterans' unemployment and civilian unemployment in 2011 provided by BLS [HERE](#).
 - You can access state-by-state data on veterans' unemployment and civilian unemployment in the first and second quarters of 2012 provided by BLS [HERE](#).

The Veterans Jobs Corps is Fully Paid For

- **Senate Democrats have identified the following offsets to ensure that the Veterans Jobs Corps is funded for in a fiscally responsible manner.**
 - Authorizes the IRS to recover additional money from Medicare providers and suppliers who are delinquent on their tax bills.
 - Requires the Secretary of State to rescind or deny passports to any individuals who owe in excess of \$50,000 in unpaid taxes.