

The Weekly Report

September 24, 2021

The latest news, views, and announcements

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National Veterans Employment & Education Division



VE&E'S LATEST NEWS STORY

On Wednesday, September 1st, 2021, at our National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona the following National Awardees were recognized:

TriWest Healthcare Alliance, Inc.

(Large Employer Category) for brightening the employment prospects for veterans in Arizona while serving as an example to companies all over the country.

&

Trevor Wilson

Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists (DVOP), for working on behalf of both the veteran job seekers and the employers of the state of Colorado. Your efforts are brightening the employment outlook for all of Colorado's veterans and serving as an example for Job Center personnel all over the country.



David J. McIntyre, Jr.



Trevor Wilson



Congress sets the limit on how much money the government can borrow.

WHAT IS THE DEBT CEILING AND WHY DOES CONGRESS NEED TO RAISE IT?

Showdown on Capitol Hill could cause federal government to default on debt payments, rattle markets if it isn't resolved soon

The clock is ticking for Congress to reach a deal to [raise the federal borrowing limit](#), or debt ceiling, before the government runs out of money to pay its bills sometime over the next month or so.

The ceiling was suspended in 2019 and was reinstated automatically at the beginning of August. Top Republicans have said they [won't help Democrats raise the limit](#) this year, leading to a showdown in Congress that could rattle markets if it isn't addressed soon.

Here's a guide to what that means, and how the issue may be resolved:

What is the debt ceiling?

Congress limits how much money the government can borrow, and once the limit is reached, lawmakers must raise or suspend the ceiling before the Treasury Department can issue more debt.

Does raising the debt ceiling approve new spending?

No, a vote to raise the debt limit doesn't authorize new spending, but it essentially allows the Treasury to raise money to pay for expenses the government has already authorized. About one-third of federal spending is discretionary, which Congress approves through annual appropriations bills. The rest is automatic spending on programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

Although Democrats are aiming to raise revenues to pay for their economic agenda over the next decade, their plans would still add to deficits in the first few years as new spending programs ramp up before tax increases fully kick in. Those near-term shortfalls could require a bigger debt limit increase than would otherwise be necessary to cover new spending over the next several years. Democrats have proposed suspending the borrowing limit through December 2022, rather than a specific number.

What would happen if the debt limit isn't raised?

If the government can't borrow to pay bills that come due, it would have to suspend certain pension payments, withhold or cut the pay of soldiers and federal workers, or delay interest payments, which would constitute default. Unless Congress raises the debt ceiling, the Treasury could be forced to cut payments by more than 40%, including to some U.S. households, according to one estimate from Goldman Sachs.

In 2011, Standard & Poor's stripped the U.S. of its triple-A credit rating for the first time after the Treasury came within days of being unable to pay certain benefits. Business groups, current and former Treasury officials and Wall Street firms have raised alarms in recent weeks over the prospect of a government default, which they say would be disastrous for financial markets and the U.S. economy.

Q: How does the debt ceiling relate to a possible government shutdown?

These terms refer to two separate issues, but both affect the ability of the federal government to

function. While hitting the debt ceiling stops the government from issuing new debt to pay its bills, and could ultimately lead to default, a partial government shutdown occurs when Congress hasn't appropriated new funds to pay for keeping the government fully open, typically leading to temporary furloughs for some government workers until a new spending bill is passed. In past shutdowns, the government has continued to make its regular payments to debt holders, retirees and others, leaving the impact primarily concentrated on federal workers and contractors.

Ahead of the expiration of the government's current funding on Oct. 1, Democratic leaders decided to combine both the debt ceiling and a short-term spending bill in the same piece of legislation. Republicans are expected to block that legislation. Democratic leaders haven't said what they will do next, but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.) said there will be no partial government shutdown. One possibility is to propose the short-term spending bill on its own, which would likely pass both chambers.

Why is this debt limit fight happening now?

Congress voted in July 2019 to suspend the debt limit until July 31, 2021, after which the prior limit of \$22 trillion would be reset to include any new borrowing in the intervening years.

On Aug. 1, the limit was reinstated around \$28.5 trillion, the current level of total U.S. debt, a figure that includes debt held by the public and by government agencies. (Read [a separate graphical explainer](#) on the rising debt ceiling.) Since then, the Treasury has been unable to tap bond markets to raise new cash.

The Treasury has been using emergency measures to conserve cash so the government can keep paying its obligations to bondholders, Social Security recipients, veterans and others. The measures to raise cash since Aug. 1 have included redeeming certain investments in federal pension programs and suspending new investments in those programs.

Once those measures run out, the agency could begin to miss payments on the government's

obligations, which could trigger a default on U.S. debt.

How much time do lawmakers have to act?

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen notified Congress this month that the Treasury may be unable to keep paying all of the government's bills on time during the month of October. Analysts at the Bipartisan Policy Center, a Washington think tank, estimate the Treasury has already exhausted most of those measures and could run out of cash sometime between mid-October and mid-November. The Congressional Budget Office in July said the so-called X date could fall in October or November.

The pandemic has made those estimates much less certain and less precise than in the past. The huge amounts of spending Congress has authorized to cushion the economy from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, and the unpredictable nature of the recovery, have made it difficult to estimate how much cash is flowing in and out of the Treasury each day.

Could Democrats lift the debt limit on their own?

Yes, in theory Democrats could lift the debt limit with no Republican votes. They could decide to revise their current budget resolution either to increase the debt limit as a stand-alone bill or fold it into the \$3.5 trillion budget package they are currently writing. That would allow them to move a bill through the 50-50 Senate with just a simple majority, rather than the 60 required of most legislation. However, it would be a complicated and potentially very time-consuming process, and it isn't entirely clear it could be completed in time.

The new instructions for the fiscal year 2022 budget resolution, which has already been approved in both chambers, would have to move

through the House as well as the evenly-divided Senate Budget Committee, where Republicans could block it by not showing up and denying the panel a quorum. But provided that Republicans

show up and the bill gets a tie vote in the Budget Committee, a simple majority of the full Senate could vote to bring it to the floor, with Vice President Kamala Harris providing the tiebreaking vote.

The Senate would then have to hold a debate and a typically-long marathon of amendment votes known as "vote-arama" on the new revised budget resolution.

Lawmakers would then write the new legislation increasing the debt limit to a specific figure, and that bill would go through the same process.

Why don't Democrats want to act unilaterally to raise the debt ceiling?

Democrats say that raising the debt ceiling is a joint responsibility and that putting the burden on only one party politicizes a task that is part of the basic functioning of government. Democrats also say that the debt has increased in part because of policies advanced under Republican presidents, including tax cuts under former President George W. Bush and former President Donald Trump. In the 50-50 Senate, Democrats are also hampered by Senate rules that require most legislation to secure a supermajority of 60 votes.

In addition, the party faces challenges in passing President Biden's \$3.5 trillion package of spending on healthcare, child care, education and climate change, and it would prefer to keep separate the question of increasing debt.

Is this always a big partisan fight?

Voting to increase the debt limit has become politically difficult for lawmakers, both Democrats and Republicans, because it is often seen as a vote for more spending that could be



Janet Yellen is facing her biggest test as Treasury secretary as she works with top Democrats to persuade reluctant Republicans to support an increase in the nation's borrowing limit. (Photo: Sarahbeth Maney/The New York Times)

used in campaign ads against them. Republicans in recent years have used the debt limit vote as a pressure point to try to force spending cuts in programs they oppose. The 2011 showdown led to a bipartisan agreement to impose federal spending caps over the next decade, but

Democrats have since resisted GOP efforts to tie the debt limit to budget or policy changes.

In 2019, Congress voted to lift the ceiling with relatively little drama, as part of a broader agreement between then-Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Mrs. Pelosi.



VET BENEFITS EXPANSION PROMPTS HIRING PUSH AT VA

The agency is looking to bolster its workforce to complement digital capabilities in claims processing.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is hiring new staff within its Veteran Benefits Administration (VBA) to support the adjudication and disbursement of benefits related to agent orange and other toxic chemical exposure.

Since January, the agency has sought to expand benefits to veterans who suffered damage to their health as a consequence of exposure to napalm

and other harmful chemical agents. In addition to the support provided for Vietnam War veterans, these benefits will also extend to veterans who faced similar exposures during the Gulf War.

VA has just begun processing these new claims as of September, noted Secretary McDonough at a recent press conference in Washington, DC.

"We've started processing claims for the new presumptive conditions related to toxic exposure for Vietnam War and Gulf War vets," he said.

Ensuring these claims are evaluated and distributed in a timely manner will require additional manpower within the Veterans Benefits Administration, with the agency now undergoing a considerable hiring push to fulfill this demand.

Providing staffing and resources commensurate with this allocation is aligned with VA's broader goal of expediting and overall streamlining its benefits processing, particularly in the wake of efforts to digitize records that would be used to affirm claims of toxic exposure.

"It is an important step because, due to the blue water Navy claims, we've seen a 16% increase in the claims backlog from July 2021. We anticipate this backlog to further increase this fall as we process claims for presumptive conditions from Vietnam and the Gulf War," McDonough said.

The agency is looking to eventually work through its entire claims backlog, with officials noting the impact of technologies like cloud and automation in accomplishing that.

"AI and automation is even helping us to automate some of the IT underpinnings that support our benefits area, such as automatic generation of support tickets when they're having IT issues with the systems that process claims, as well as enriching support tickets with additional point-in-time data that's robotically gathered from devices behaving abnormally so that our techs can more immediately have the information they need to respond to the incident," said then Acting CIO Dominic Cussatt during a virtual event last month.

VBA saw an increase in overall processing during the pandemic as it digitized paper-based processes and introducing digital services for veterans to be able to directly upload paperwork to the agency.

McDonough pledged that VA will use its recent hiring push as a way of staying ahead of this potential backlog spike — which VA identifies as any claims that have gone unaddressed for over 125 days — so as to ensure these new compensations for Vietnam and Gulf War veterans were provided in a timely manner.

"VA has begun an aggressive effort to hire 2,000 more employees to process these claims,"

"Our concern about it is significant enough that VBA is in the field right now hiring these 2,000 personnel. We made sure that we went to talk to Congress about that because this also is impacted by the fact that we are now paying claims for the first time to Gulf War veterans for toxic exposure for three new presumptions. We want to make sure that we can do that in a timely way," McDonough said.

The American Legion commends the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) department in its efforts to reduce the claims backlog in the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and encourages the VA to intake transitioning service members and eligible veterans among hired staff. The American Legion supports the joint Department of Defense (DoD) and VA program, Warrior Transition Advancement Course (WARTAC), as an avenue which would aid in meeting hiring demand as well as supply the VA with qualified Veteran Service Representatives to mitigate the claims backlog. This falls in line with ***Resolution No. 105: Support and Expand Warrior Transition Advancement Course (WARTAC)***

¿Did You Know?

VETS is committed to helping America's veterans and separating service members by preparing them for meaningful careers, providing employment resources and expertise, protecting their employment rights, and promoting employment opportunities.

Whether you are a veteran, military family member, or employer, you likely know someone else who could benefit from VETS programs and resources.

RESOURCES

The Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) is committed to helping America's veterans and separating service members by preparing them for meaningful careers, providing employment resources and expertise, and protecting their employment rights.



[Grants and Opportunities](#)

VETS provides critical resources, expertise, and training to assist veterans in locating and obtaining meaningful careers.



[FAQs](#)

Find answers to general and federal contractor questions.



[Grant Opportunities - JVSIG](#)

Jobs For Veterans State Grants program provides federal funding to hire dedicated staff and assist employers fill their workforce needs with job-seeking veterans.



[VA Employment Resources](#)

VA Employment Resources allows veterans, service members, and their families to research, find, access, and manage their benefits and personal information.



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Staff Meetings & Conferences on Employment

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division along with the Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Veterans Commission, held a hybrid (in-person and virtual) career fair on 22 September. The American Legion's National Commander Paul Dillard and the Regional Director for U.S. Army Soldier for Life Program Lieutenant Colonel Keith W. Wilson gave prerecorded welcoming remarks to the hundreds of employers and job seekers taking part in the job fair's virtual component. The digital event consisted of local, national, and international companies and was open to job seekers regardless of location.

The **in-person** portion took place at the Omni Hotel in Austin, Texas, which attracted **37** employers and **115** jobseekers. The **virtual** portion attracted **249** registered employers and **258** registered jobseekers.

ECONOMIC NEWS RELEASE

- The national unemployment rate is **5.2 percent (August 2021)**
- Gulf War II veterans' unemployment rate is **3.1 percent (August 2021)**
- Gulf War II women veterans' unemployment rate is **2.1 percent (August 2021)**
- In August 2021, the veteran unemployment rate was **3.8%**. The comparable non-veteran unemployment rate was **5.2%** in August
- Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled **6,054** an increase of **67** from the preceding week.

HOUSEHOLD DATA

Table A-5. Employment status of the civilian population 18 years and over by veteran status, period of service, and sex, not seasonally adjusted
[Numbers in thousands]

Employment status, veteran status, and period of service	Total		Men		Women	
	Aug. 2020	Aug. 2021	Aug. 2020	Aug. 2021	Aug. 2020	Aug. 2021
Unemployed	560	303	476	267	84	35
Unemployment rate	6.4	3.6	6.1	3.6	8.2	3.2



EDUCATION

FOR-PROFIT TRADE SCHOOL SENTENCED TO NEARLY 20 YEARS FOR DEFRAUDING VA STUDENT VETERANS

The owner of a for-profit trade school has been sentenced to more than 19 years in federal prison for bilking the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs of \$72 million and of misleading student veterans, announced Acting U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas Prerak Shah.

In April, a federal jury convicted Jonathan Dean Davis, the 43 year-old owner of Retail Ready Career Center, of seven counts of wire fraud and four counts of money laundering. He was sentenced Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Brantley Starr, who also ordered him to pay \$65.2 million in restitution. In addition to paying

restitution, Mr. Davis will be required to forfeit \$72.5 million to the federal government.

The defendant had been remanded into custody immediately following conviction, and was remanded back into custody after his sentencing hearing.

“A jury found that Mr. Davis lied to multiple government agencies, lining his pockets with veterans’ GI Bill benefits even as they were struggling to scrape by,” said Acting U.S. Attorney Prerak Shah. “Mr. Davis’ crimes were a slap in the face to the sacrifices made by our

servicemembers, and we are proud to put him behind bars for such a significant period of time.”

According to evidence presented at trial, Mr. Davis marketed Retail Ready’s six-week HVAC training course to veterans whose tuition and fees would be covered by the Veteran’s Educational Assistance Act of 2008, also known as the post-9/11 GI Bill. The defendant, who was essentially broke at the time of the crime, realized that he could charge \$18,000 to \$21,000 per student for the six-week course, if only he could get approval from the VA to accept GI Bill payments for tuition – which required prior approvals from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC).

These agencies required applicants to certify that they were not personally facing any criminal or civil actions, and to prove that their schools were established educational institutions in stable financial condition. Knowing he could not meet these requirements, Mr. Davis repeatedly lied and concealed information from these agencies.

“Several decisions lie ahead that will ultimately make the difference if I succeed or if I fail. More gut-wrenching conversations, more humiliating experiences, more lying is in order,” Mr. Davis wrote in an electronic journal he kept on his computer, which was recovered by federal agents during a search of Retail Ready. The journal became a key piece of evidence at trial.

Mr. Davis assured the TWC that he was not subject to any civil actions, when, in fact, he was facing numerous civil judgments over unpaid debts. He also told the TWC that he was not facing any criminal charges, when, in fact, he had a pending felony charge for theft of services.

Mr. Davis told the TVC that Retail Ready had been operating as a school for two years, when, in fact, the company had only existed for a few months and had never trained any students. He claimed that Retail Ready was fully prepared to train veterans, when, in fact, the company lacked a building and basic supplies. He even lied to an independent accountant about the school’s financial condition, and then submitted false

financial statements to both the TWC and the TVC.

Eventually, based upon Mr. Davis’ lies to the TWC and TVC, the VA accepted Retail Ready’s application, allowing Mr. Davis to charge veterans’ tuition and fees to the VA under the GI Bill.

In 2014, he began recruiting student veterans, promising to prepare them for lucrative careers in the heating and air conditioning industry. Upon entering the workforce, however, many of these veterans discovered that Retail Ready had failed to teach them many of the basic skills necessary for entry-level technician jobs.

Several veterans testified at trial that they had relied on the Retail Ready’s fraudulently obtained VA endorsement and were sorely disappointed about their post- Retail Ready career prospects and pay. They were also shocked to learn of the rate at which Retail Ready’s six-week course had drained their GI Bill benefits, testifying that they felt “used,” “taken advantage of,” “deceived,” and “bamboozled.”

Even as his veteran graduates struggled to make ends meet, Retail Ready collected more than \$72 million in GI Bill benefits from the VA. Using the proceeds of his fraud, Mr. Davis purchased a \$2.2 million home in Dallas, a \$428,000 Lamborghini, a \$280,000 Ferrari, and a \$260,000 Bentley, among other things.

The VA’s Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Dallas Field Office and the United States Postal Inspection Service’s Fort Worth Field Office. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Douglas Brasher and Fabio Leonardi are prosecuting the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Dimitri Rocha is handling forfeiture. U.S. District Judge Brantley Starr presided over the trial.

The American Legion, as one of the founding institutions of the GI Bill, has continuously advocated for higher accountability for institutions of higher learning, vocational schools, and flight schools accepting GI Bill

funds. The American Legion supports the prosecution of profit schools and bad actors who take advantage of student veterans for their

generous education benefits through ***Resolution No. 304: Support Accountability for Institutions of Higher Learning.***

Staff Meetings & Conferences on Education

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division testified before Congress on September 21, 2021. The hearing focused on pending and draft legislation related to the economic wellbeing of veterans.

H.R. 4874, the Fly Vets Act, would amend title 38 of the United States Code to improve the use of educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for flight training programs. Since 2015, when The Los Angeles Times exposed that some institutions had instituted extreme costs for flight fees due to the lack of caps in place for public schools, VA and State Approving Agencies increased their oversight and ultimately lowered the overall cost of flight training from \$79.8 million, in 2014, to \$49.2 million.

“It has come to The American Legion’s attention that tuition and fees at flight schools have increased dramatically, costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars per student,” Proferes told the subcommittee. “Flight schools have inflated prices, and been successful doing so, by exploiting an unforeseen and unintentional loophole in the Post-9/11 GI Bill.”

The loophole caps yearly tuition and fees for private schools but not for public schools.

“**H.R. 4874** would close this loophole by capping tuition and fees for flight schools at \$25,162 per year,” said Proferes. “Additionally, to not hinder veterans wishing to pursue flight school, this draft legislation would allow veterans to accelerate two years of education entitlement into one year of flight school.”

The American Legion’s testimony also addressed draft legislation to amend the Servicemembers

Civil Relief Act. The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act provides certain protections to active duty, reservist and National Guard servicemembers on active duty.



David Proferes, policy coordinator for The American Legion Veterans Employment and Education Division, testified Sept. 21 before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

“However, higher education is notably absent from the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act,” Proferes testified. “Servicemembers can be negatively impacted both academically and financially by schools due to training or deployment obligations which take them out of classes.

“The draft legislation would correct this oversight by allowing servicemembers who receive active duty or inactive duty orders to withdrawal or take a leave of absence from classes without facing adverse action by academic institutions.”

The American Legion supports the protections the draft legislation would provide servicemembers, with the recommendation of stipulating a minimum number of days within a month that a servicemember cannot attend class due to service status.

Proferes also highlighted in his testimony before the subcommittee a medical discharge loophole affecting National Guard servicemembers.

When a member of the Ohio National Guard deployed in 2011, he developed exercise-induced anaphylaxis as a result of his duties on the deployment. After being released from active duty, he underwent a medical evaluation board and was ultimately medically retired under the standard National Guard discharge form, NGB-22.

“He was told by VA that because the retirement resulted from a service-connected disability

obtained while on active duty, his GI Bill would be increased from 60 percent to 100 percent,” said Proferes. “However, only later did VA inform him that he was only entitled to 60 percent which was the total active-duty time he had before sustaining injuries. It was at that point he contacted The American Legion.”

The American Legion pursued the issue with VA, but because the servicemember’s medical discharge was from the National Guard via NGB-22, he was considered ineligible despite the paper trail showing that the discharging injuries were service-connected.

“Our servicemembers are led to believe that if they sustain injuries on active duty that led to a medical discharge and permanent disability, they will at least have a GI Bill to give them a chance for successful transition into civilian life,” said Proferes.

“But right now, VA is resting on a technicality of their type of discharge that dismisses servicemembers injuries, and we need your help to right this wrong,”

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division scheduled a meeting with Veterans Education Success (VES) Chief of Staff and others on the ED Negotiation of Regulations to be held next month. Areas of concern include borrower defense and restoration of benefits, which Legion has played a key role in with our VES and Arnold Venture partners. VES is crafting a letter requesting VA to address where they are on implementation and why recent announcements/publications suggest they are wary of the NASAA model.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division had a conversation with Congressman Ro Khanna’s staff on the Veteran Technical Training bill that allows Veterans in rural areas to engage in technical/vocation training online to gain certificates in these fields. Also, continued discussions with the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) on the impact of COVID and possible need to extend protections for VOC TECH programs. Additionally, met with Education Counsel and Credential Engine, to determine how the work they are doing could be leveraged to support veterans’ involvement in credentialing and particularly how we might track their success in these fields (vocational and technical).

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with GAO researchers on student veterans pursuing STEM fields. Robust conversation with VE&E staff and GAO on challenges faced by veterans in these programs and how we might address them. Also, discussed of how existing government support could be improved and how transition (TAP Briefing) could be enhanced.

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with the Veteran's Advisory Committee on Education (VACOE) Subcommittee on Distance Learning. Discussed three recommendations:

- 1) VA should review and revise the Code of Federal Regulations to address archaic language having to do with on line learning
 - 2) VA should work with Congress to seek parity of Housing Allowance Payment under the GI Bill for quality online learning
 - 3) VA should implement risk based surveys so as to ensure that quality programs resulting in positive outcomes (graduation, employment, etc) are the only ones approved for the GI Bill.
-

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division had a conversation with Geo Saba, Congressman Rho Khana's Legislative Director on draft bill to offer on-line certifications and training in IT fields to Veterans in rural areas. Will be checking with committee staff on the language. Also, meeting with House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) Jon Clark to discuss the extending of the GI Bill protection provisions for veterans taking course work on line, in view of COVID crisis. The extension is yet to be agreed upon by House and Senate, as schools are opening in some states but not in others.



HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING

VA EXPANDS RENTAL SUPPORT INCREASES HOUSING OPTIONS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

The Shallow Subsidy initiative expanded in August aims to help homeless veterans find more permanent housing options sooner and receive the support they need.

Veterans in Iowa City and surrounding areas continue to suffer from homelessness as they

navigate returning to the U.S. after serving overseas.

As of Aug. 27, there are 80 veterans who are homeless in the Iowa City Veterans Affairs service area, which includes 52 counties in eastern Iowa, western Illinois, and one county in Missouri, Janelle Beswick, VA acting public affairs officer said.

In Iowa City, there are 10 homeless veterans, she said.

A new program introduced Aug. 25 aims to increase housing options for veterans and expand their rental support. The Veterans Affairs health care system serves this population to decrease the number of homeless veterans and help them find permanent solutions to their housing crises.

The Shallow Subsidy initiative will grant \$200 million to 238 nonprofit organizations across the country to provide housing rental assistance to extremely low-income veteran households who are eligible under the VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, according to a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs release.

This decision came in response to the COVID-19 health emergency that has significantly increased the population of veterans who are at risk of homelessness, the release stated.

For Iowa City veterans, there are four shelters that reserve beds for veterans: six beds at Christian Care in Rock Island, 13 beds at Humility Homes and Services in Davenport, 10 beds at Willis Dady Homeless Services in Cedar Rapids, and 10 beds at Shelter House in Iowa City, Karen Abendroth, specialty programs supervisor for the Iowa City VA Health Care System, said.

"It's not just the Iowa City VA, but it's the public housing authorities and shelters getting together to create this coordinated entry so that people are identified quickly and receive resources quickly," Abendroth said. "The state of Iowa is working on a strategic plan to help this population."

According to the release, the program is funded by The American Rescue Plan and is available in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam. It promotes long-term housing stability by providing rental assistance payments directly to landlords for eligible veteran households for up to two years, the release said.

The purpose of this program is to encourage veterans to increase their income through employment opportunities by covering 35 percent of veterans' rent, the release said.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH EVICTON MORATORIUM ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS

As the national eviction moratorium ends, VA responds with vital resources available to our nation's Veterans

Over the past year, people across the nation, including Veterans, confronted an unprecedented number of challenges due to the coronavirus pandemic. As a result, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a temporary ban on evictions to ensure tenants had a safe and stable home to protect them from the virus.

During this time of need, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is ready to assist Veterans facing housing crises by directing them to VA programs through VA's Homeless Programs Office that provides resources and supportive services designed to help Veterans avoid or overcome housing insecurity.

Emergency rental assistance can also be found using the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's [Rental Assistance Finder](#) to prevent pandemic-related evictions.

VA is here to help

VA recognized that the pandemic placed more Veterans than usual at risk of homelessness and jeopardized the health and well-being of those who slept in places not meant for human habitation or in congregate housing settings. VA acted immediately by placing these Veterans in hotels and motels to reduce their risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19 while working aggressively to put each Veteran on the pathway to permanent housing.

From March 2020 to June 2021, Veterans and their family members were permanently housed or prevented from falling into homelessness through the [Department of Housing and Urban Development's](#) (HUD) targeted housing vouchers and [VA's homelessness programs](#).

VA offers other vital resources to help Veterans at risk of losing their housing or already facing housing crises through its [Supportive Services for Veteran Families](#) (SSVF) Program. Its unique blend of rapid rehousing and prevention capabilities allow SSVF grantees to tailor services to the needs of the Veterans they serve, providing services ranging from temporary financial assistance and legal aid to childcare subsidies, so Veterans with children can return to work.

The SSVF program's [Shallow Subsidy](#) intervention initiative will also assist by providing a modest subsidy for two years to extremely low-income Veterans who are at risk of homelessness in select communities. VA is standing by to assess each Veteran's unique situation and identify the best options to help them secure stable housing, pay their rent, or avoid foreclosure or eviction. There are several ways Veterans can access supportive services through VA and other organizations. To learn more about these options, visit the VA Assistance to Help Avoid Eviction resource webpage at va.gov/HousingResources.

For more information

- Renters and landlords who don't know where to turn can use a new website from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. This website makes it easy to find a rental assistance provider in your area. Visit consumerfinance.gov/renthelp to find help paying rent.
- VA facilities in 46 states and the District of Columbia host free legal clinics operated by external legal service providers. A list of the clinics is available on the VA Office of General Counsel's website: <https://www.va.gov/OGC/LegalServices.asp>.
- **Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness** should contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at **877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838)**, or visit their local [VA medical center](#), where VA staff are standing by to assist.
- Visit va.gov/HousingResources to learn how to access rental assistance, homeless prevention, and rapid rehousing resources.
- Veterans who have or are at risk of falling behind on their mortgage should contact VA's Home Loan Center at (877) 827-3702.



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The Daily Journal of the United States Government



Notice

Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board, Notice of Meeting

On September 29, 2021 VCOEB will conduct a special session to discuss progress on VA's efforts to revise the Draft Master Plan at VA West Los Angeles.

The agenda will include opening remarks from the Committee Chair, Executive Sponsor and other VA officials. There will be a comprehensive briefing from VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS) on a revised Draft Master Plan timeline and activities. The Board will discuss a recommendation to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that introduces a comprehensive engagement strategy that allows sufficient opportunity to obtain veteran and stakeholder input.

The meeting will start at 1pm PDT. A public comment session will occur from **2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m PDT**. Individuals wishing to make public comments are required to register during the WEBEX registration process.

[REGISTER FOR 14th VCOEB](#)

[VIEW NOTICE OF MEETING](#)

Staff Meetings & Conferences on Homelessness & Housing

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with Mr. Waylan Bailey, Defense Fellow, Office of U.S. Congressman Anthony G. Brown (MD-04) to discuss legislation for the VA Home Loan Guaranty program. Mr. Bailey discussed some proposed changes to a draft bill intended to address some disparities of the program and to solicit input from The American Legion and other Veteran Service Organizations. The issue of concern was the ability for a servicemember or veteran to use the remainder of their loan guaranty entitlement if they have previously used the loan guaranty to purchase a home. **Resolution No. 329:** *The American Legion supports the Department of Veteran Affairs Loan Guaranty Service and its programs and any administrative and/or legislative efforts that will improve and strengthen the Loan Guaranty Service's ability to serve America's veterans.*

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division met with Maria E. Temiquel, Director – Grants and Training, Veteran' Employment and Training Service for an overview of the Office of National Grants and Training programs. Mrs. Temiquel discussed the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG). Currently, there are 54 grants that cover all 50 states including Washington, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Island. JVSG supports Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER) through a staffing grant. *"DVOP specialists work directly with Veterans. They provide intensive services to help Veterans obtain placement in competitive employment. DVOPs prioritize service to Veterans with Significant Barriers to Employment"*¹ *"LVERs engage with local employers to help Veterans connect to gainful employment. This outreach and engagement strategy could include employer workshops, employer seminars, or joint employer-consumer job clubs. LVERs focus on identifying local opportunities for Veterans in the AJC*

system.”²DVOP specialist and LVERs are often housed in American Job Centers, which are part of the public workforce system. Additionally, she provided information on the Homeless Veteran’s Reintegration Program (HVRP) which provides competitive grants. It also funds additional grants for Homeless Female Veterans and Veterans with Children (HFVWC), Incarcerated Veterans’ Transition Program (IVTP), and Stand Downs (SD) grants. SD grants are non-competitive.



ROSEN, MORAN, LAWSON RE-INTRODUCE BIPARTISAN TAX CUT FOR VETERANS STARTING SMALL BUSINESSES

U.S. Senators Jacky Rosen (D-NV) and Jerry Moran (R-KS) re-introduced their bipartisan *Veterans Jobs Opportunity Act* to create a new startup tax credit to help veterans who establish small businesses in underserved communities. This commonsense bill would provide veterans starting a small business with a 15% tax credit on the first \$50,000 of the startup costs. Congressman Al Lawson (D-FL) has introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“As our veterans transition back into the civilian workforce, we owe it to them to provide the resources and support they need to succeed,” said

Senator Rosen. “This bipartisan bill would deliver tax cuts to America’s heroes working to overcome startup challenges to launch their own small businesses, and it would help create jobs and revitalize underserved communities in Nevada and across the country in the process.”

“Supporting veteran-owned small businesses bolsters local economies across the country and the communities that benefit from these initiatives,” said Senator Moran. “These businesses enhance our national economy, and this bill would provide a commonsense solution to provide our nation’s heroes with greater support to pursue their entrepreneurial goals

following their military service while also benefiting the communities they return home to.”

“One of my priorities in Congress is working to ensure our veterans are getting the help they deserve - from job training, to access to health care and education benefits, to finding affordable housing,” said Representative Lawson. “Our brave men and women who have fought for our freedom deserve to be taken care of when they return home. This bill aims to help encourage veterans to pursue their dream of starting a small business in our communities around the nation.”

“Using their precision and eye for organization and processes, veterans can offer a unique perspective and be an important component of the small business community,” said John Arensmeyer, Founder & CEO of Small Business Majority. “However, entrepreneurship is often thwarted by barriers to access to capital,

relationships, and other resources veterans need to launch a business successfully. We are proud to support the introduction of the 'Veterans Jobs Opportunity Act' that will provide veterans with critical opportunities like a 15% tax credit they can leverage to effectively start a business and inspire other veteran entrepreneurs to build a diverse small business ecosystem.”

Background: There are roughly 1.76 million veteran-owned small businesses in the United States representing approximately 5.8 percent of all U.S. businesses, with an estimated \$1 trillion in revenue. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in Nevada, 1 in 15 small businesses are veteran-owned, with over 18,000 veteran-owned small businesses helping to create jobs and stimulate the economy.



**10th Annual
Veteran & Small Business Summit**

BusinessSummit.org Live performance by the
1st Marine Division Band

Wednesday, December 15, 2021
09:00AM - 4:00PM

14075 Frederick St.,
Moreno Valley, CA 92553

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Staff Meetings & Conferences on Small Business

The National Veterans Employment and Education Division worked on drafting a resolution focused on expanding the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Program. The American Legion is currently considering support for proposed changes to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program (WOTC) that would increase the tax credit a company receives when hiring certain qualified veterans. Currently, companies that participate in WOTC can receive a tax credit of 40% for up to the first \$6,000 in wages for hiring individuals from targeted groups that consistently face barriers to employment, including veterans. Some Veterans qualify for more than this amount based on their service-disabled status. However, drafted legislation would increase the WOTC base credit to 50% for the first \$10,000 in wages through December 31, 2023 for WOTC targeted groups, including targeted veterans. The proposal also would also provide for a second year of tax credit, compared to only a single year under current law. If passed, the legislation could provide many opportunities for veterans seeking employment opportunities and benefit veteran-owned small businesses, who are empirically more likely to hire veterans than other employers. A Resolution in support of the policy change will be considered at the American Legion's National Executive Committee Meeting taking place in early October."



CAREER FAIRS

[Fort Bragg, NC](#)

September 29 & 30 , 2021

8am - 4pm

Iron Mike Conference Center
2658 Reilly Road Bldg. 5-5348
Fort Bragg, NC 28310

FORT BRAGG CAREER SUMMIT

Military community job seekers will meet, network, and interview with regional and national employers at this education and hiring event, presented by Fort Bragg.

Presented by [*Hiring Our Heroes*](#)
[More information](#)

Virtual Job Fair

September 30, 2021
1pm - 3pm ET

VIRTUAL HIRING EVENT: SOLAR ENERGY

Military community job seekers from around the globe will meet, network, and interview with employers for solar positions in craft, trades and sales roles at this interactive virtual hiring event.

Presented by [*Hiring Our Heroes*](#)
[More information](#)

The American Legion is working on future virtual workshops and career fairs.

The American Legion's National Veterans Employment & Education Commission's Mission is to take actions that affect veterans' economic well-being, including issues relating to veterans' education, employment, home loans, vocational rehabilitation, homelessness, and small business.



LEGISLATION TRACKING

SMALL BUSINESS

H.R. 2082 - VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act: This bill would make certain improvements relating to the supply chain of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Status: 5/4/2021 - Voted 22 - 6 by House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Support: 4/21/2021 - This bill was submitted for testimony

[Resolution No. 55: Mandatory use of the Veterans First Contracting Program](#)

H.R. 4515: This bill would amend the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors.

Status: 7/19/2021 - Referred to the House Committee on Small Business

Resolution: *Pending Draft Resolution*

H.R.1687 - Small Business Cyber Training Act of 2021: This bill requires the Small Business Administration to establish a program for certifying at least 5 or 10% of the total number of employees of a small business development center to provide cybersecurity planning assistance to small businesses.

Status: 5/18/2021 – Introduced in the Senate

Resolution: *Pending Draft Resolution*

EDUCATION

Draft Legislation on Work Study for Half-Time Students: To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for a certain work-study allowance paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who pursue programs of rehabilitation, education, or training on at least a half-time basis.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

Draft Legislation on Repay MGIB: To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

Draft Legislation on Death GI Bill Transfer: To amend title 38, United States Code to provide for the transfer of entitlement to educational assistance under Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of Department of Veterans Affairs when an eligible individual dies after approval of transfer and before transferring all of the individual's entitlement, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

Draft Legislation on Extend FRY After Discharge: To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to include spouses and children of individuals who die from a service-connected disability within 120 days of serving in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

Draft legislation on Extend VRE Time: To extend the delimiting period for certain individuals to use educational assistance benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

Draft Legislation on SCRA for Education: "To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to establish protections under that Act for a member of the Armed Forces who leaves a course of education, paid for with certain educational assistance, to perform certain service."

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

Draft Legislation on Student Childcare Voucher: "To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay to certain veterans, who receive certain educational assistance furnished by the Secretary, a weekly stipend for child care services."

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

Draft Legislation on Prohibit CH. 35 for HS: To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the use of entitlement to educational assistance under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program for secondary school education.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

S. 1480 - Recognizing Military Service in PSLF Act: This bill would allow service members who pause their student loan payments while deployed or on extended active duty orders to count that period of time toward their PSLF progress – which is currently not allowed.

Status: 4/29/2021 - Referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[Resolution No. 101 Support for Continuation of Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#)

H.R. 1836 - Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021: This bill would expand eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill to count every day that a servicemember is paid and in uniform toward benefit eligibility in order to achieve GI Bill parity for National Guard and Reserve members.

Status: 6/16/2021 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

[Resolution No. 349: Support Legislation to Improve the Post-9/11 GI Bill](#)

S. 1607 - Student Veterans Transparency and Protection Act of 2021: This bill would improve veterans' access to information about higher education and allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to restore benefits that veterans use at schools subject to civil enforcement.

Status: 05/13/2021 - Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

[Resolution No. 327: Support further Assessment and Evaluation of Institutions of Higher Learning to Enable Veterans to Make Informed Education Choices](#)

H.R. 2587 - SERVE Act: This bill would improve the ability of veterans with medical training to assist the United States in response to national emergencies by implementing programs to certify and credential veterans.

Status: 4/15/2021 - Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

[Resolution No. 338: Support Licensure and Certification of Servicemembers, Veterans and Spouses](#)

H.R. 3586 - Veteran Education Empowerment Act: This bill would reauthorize and improve a grant program to assist institutions of higher education in establishing, maintaining, improving, and operating Student Veteran Centers

Status: 5/28/2021 - Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

H.R. 2327 - This bill would eliminate the time period for eligibility under Survivors' And Dependents' Educational Assistance Program of Department of Veterans Affairs

Status: 4/28/2021 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

H.R. 4233 - Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act: This bill would award grants to community-based Veteran Centers to provide counseling and mental health services to veterans using VA higher education benefits.

Status: 6/29/2021 - Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

[Resolution No. 318: Ensuring the Quality of Service member and Veteran Student's Education at Institutions of Higher Education](#)

EMPLOYMENT

Draft Legislation on WARTAC Report: To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report on the Warrior Training Advancement Course of the Veterans Benefit Administration.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 105: Support and Expand Warrior Transition Advancement Course \(WARTAC\)](#)

S. 94 - Hire Student Veterans Act: This bill allows a work opportunity tax credit for hiring a veteran attending an educational institution using educational assistance provided under certain programs administered by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Status: 1/28/2021 - Referred to the Committee on Finance

[Resolution No. 354: Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program](#)

H.R. 4483 - Veterans and Servicemember Consumer Protection Act of 2021: This bill would establish a coordinator within the FTC to educate veterans, service members, and their families about various scams and deceptive practices targeting them.

Status: 07/19/2021 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Resolution: Pending

H.R. 447 - National Apprenticeship Act of 2021: To amend the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly referred to as the "National Apprenticeship Act") and expand the national apprenticeship system to include apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeship registered under such Act, to promote the furtherance of labor standards necessary to safeguard the welfare of apprentices, and for other purposes.

Status: 02/25/2021 - Received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

[Resolution No. 25: Support and Expand Apprenticeship Opportunities for Servicemembers](#)

H.R. 3582 — This bill increases the work opportunity tax credit in 2021 for the hiring of certain disabled or unemployed veterans.

Status: 05/28/2021 – Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

[Resolution No. 354: Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program](#)

HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING

Draft Legislation on Homeless Grant Elimination of Matching: Adjustment of Grants Awarded by the Secretary of Veteran Affairs for Comprehensive Service Programs to serve homeless veterans.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 319: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

Draft Legislation on Eliminate Loan Limitations: To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the Freddie Mac conforming loan limitation for loans made to veterans with remaining guaranty or insurance loan entitlement under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 314: Support Elimination of the VA Home Loan Funding Fee](#)

Draft Legislation on SSVF Report Requirement To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the shallow subsidy program under the supportive services for veteran families program, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 340: Support Permanent Authorization for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families \(SSVF\) Program](#)

Draft Legislation on Homelessness Substance Abuse Pilot: To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on substance use and alcohol use disorder recovery for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

Resolution: N/A

Draft Legislation on Increase Homelessness Per Diem: To amend title 38, United States Code, to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 24: Support Funding and Changes to the Department of Veterans Affairs Grant and Per Diem Program](#)

Draft Legislation on Homelessness Elderly Pilot: To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on grants for care for elderly homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 319: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

Draft Legislation on Homelessness Tech Assistance: To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide technical assistance to recipients of grants for supportive services for very low-income families in permanent housing and comprehensive service programs, and for other purposes.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

Resolution:

Draft Legislation on Homelessness Extend HVRP: To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase and extend the authorization of appropriations for homeless veterans reintegration programs.

Action Taken: Testimony on 9/21/21

[Resolution No. 319: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

H.R.492 - Supporting Veteran Families in Need Act: To amend title 38, United States Code, make permanent the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' authority to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.

Status: 6/16/2021 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

Support: 4/21/2021 - This bill was submitted for testimony

[Resolution No. 331: Support Housing Preference for Low-Income Veterans in the Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

S. 1838 - Building Credit Access for Veterans Act of 2021: This bill expands access to housing for veterans and current servicemembers by establishing a pilot program using alternative credit scoring information for veterans and service member.

Status: 5/26/2021 - Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Support: 4/21/2021 - This bill was submitted for testimony

H.R. 711 - West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021: This legislation would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) West Los Angeles Medical Center campus to use revenues from leases and easements as a dedicated funding source to build additional housing for homeless veterans, offset the high costs of housing construction, and help fund the provision of supportive services for veterans in the community.

Status: 6/23/2021 - Became Public Law No: 117-18

Support: 4/21/2021 - This bill was submitted for testimony

H.R. 2190 - Helping Homeless Veterans Act of 2021: This bill permanently establishes existing programs that assist homeless veterans and other veterans with special needs.

Status: 6/16/2021 - Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

[Resolution No. 319: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

S. 2172 - Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act: This bill improves grants, payments, and technical assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to serve homeless veterans.

Status: 6/23/2021 - Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Support: 6/23/2021 - This bill was submitted for testimony

[Resolution No. 319: Expanding Veterans Employment and Homeless Services within the Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

GLOSSARY OF FREQUENTLY USED TERMS

ACE: American Council on Education

ACP: American Corporate Partners, a veteran's support organization

ATLAS: Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations, a V.A. telehealth initiative

BLS: Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics

C&P: V.A.'s Compensation and Pension exam

CAVC: Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

CCME: Council of College and Military Educators
COLA: Cost-of-living adjustment
CSAAVE: California State Approving Agency for Veterans Education
DIMO: Defense Security Cooperation Agency/Defense Institute for Medical Operations
DOD: Department of Defense
DOL-VETS: Department of Labor, Veterans Employment and Training Services
EdCounsel: Higher education consulting firm
EIDL program. SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans
EIDL: Economic Injury Disaster Loan
GAO: Government Accountability Office
GPD: V.A.'s Grant and Per Diem Program for homeless veterans
GWB: George W. Bush Higher Education Policy Work Group
HEROES ACT of 2003: Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2003. Grants the Secretary of Education the authority to waive requirements that impede military borrowers' access to critical repayment protection during the war, military operation, or national emergency.
HVAC: House Veterans Affairs Committee
MCAI: American Legion's Military Credentialing Advancement Initiative
MSLP: The Federal Reserve's Main Street Lending Program
MSO: Military Support Organization
NAICU: National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities
NASAA: National Association of State Approving Agencies. Responsible for approving school funding for GI Bill
NAVPA: National Association of Veterans Program Administrators
NCA: V.A.'s National Cemetery Administration
NDAA: National Defense Authorization Act
NLD: American Legion's National Legislative Division
OPM: Office of Personnel Management
PPP: Paycheck Protection Program
RBS: Risk-Based Survey Model
RPIC: Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge
S2S: Service to School, a veteran's organization
SAA: State Approving Agency, responsible for approving school funding for GI Bill
SBA: Small Business Administration
STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Medical
SVA: Student Veterans of America, a veteran's organization
SVAC Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
TAPS: Transition Assistance Program for Survivors, a nonprofit for Gold Star Families
TEAM Act: Senate Bill 4393, to improve the provision of health care for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances from burn pits
TFA: American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance program
USAID: United States Agency for International Development
USDA: United States Department of Agriculture
USERRA: Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act
VA&R: American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division
VACO: Veterans Affairs Central Office
VBA: V.A.'s Veterans Benefits Administration
VE&E: Veterans Employment and Education Division
VES: Veterans Education Success, a veteran's organization
VSO: Veterans Service Organization



THE AMERICAN LEGION

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA



- We are on the Web:
 - <https://www.legion.org/>
- VE&E Publications:
 - <https://www.legion.org/publications/veterans-employment-&-education>
- VE&E Awards:
 - <https://www.legion.org/careers/awards>

Resources:

- Veteran Career/Employment Center:
 - <http://legion.monster.com/?scmdlCmisc=1>
 - <https://www.legion.org/careers/resources>
- Homeless Veterans Find Help:
 - <https://www.legion.org/careers/homeless-taskforce>
 - <https://www.legion.org/homelessveterans/resources>
- Veterans Education Benefits:
 - <https://www.legion.org/education/state-benefits>
 - <https://www.legion.org/education/federal-benefits>
- Veteran Small Business Funding Program:
 - <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs>

MORE STORIES...

MILITARY SPOUSES SHOULD SEE MORE FLEXIBLE JOB OPPORTUNITIES UNDER NEW OPM HIRING POLICY

“Agencies will soon get another flexibility in their hiring toolkit, this time to help recruit military spouses.” [Continue reading the article](#)

WYOMING LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER DELIVER ASSISTANCE TO STUDENT VETERANS

“After serving in the U.S. Navy from 2001-2006, Mario Carrasco started his secondary education at a community college. Unsure exactly what college path to follow, Carrasco said he didn’t want to start using his GI Bill benefits until he moved onto a four-year college.” [Continue reading the article](#)

HOMELESS VETERANS ARE AT AN INCREASED RISK FOR SUICIDE

“The Department of Veteran Affairs along with Military OneSource provide resources to help veterans experiencing homelessness and thoughts of suicide” [Continue reading the article](#)

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK VIRTUAL SUMMIT DREW IN 47,000

PARTICIPANTS; ON-DEMAND VIDEOS AVAILABLE FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

“The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today that this year’s National Small Business Week (NSBW) Virtual Summit drew more than 47,000 participants for the three-day virtual summit. Attendees heard from celebrity business owners, investors, entrepreneurs, and lead advisors from across the small business community, and connected with fellow small business owners from across the country.” [Continue reading the article](#)

VA AWARDS 4 SPOTS ON \$200M BIOMEDICAL CONTRACTOR SUPPORT SERVICES IDIQ

“This important initiative would be expanded significantly by the \$25 billion Biden-Harris Administration Build Back Better for small business agenda, which would invest an additional \$400 million in the GAFC to support start-up accelerators and incubators working with underrepresented entrepreneurs.” [Continue reading the article](#)

ARIZONA VETERANS HELPING REDUCE WILDFIRE RISKS

“A veteran-owned small business based out of Cottonwood is doing its part in reducing the wildfire risk in Arizona. [Continue reading the article](#)

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