



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 14, 2024

MVA JOINS PARTNERSHIP FOR VETERANS TRANSITIONING INTO CIVILIAN STATUS

L.A. County Department of Military & Veterans Affairs Joins VA-led effort

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding formalizing their participation in the [Veteran Sponsor Partnership Network](#) (VSPN), a new initiative “aimed at improving the experience and outcomes of service members transitioning back into civilian life.”

This public-private partnership is designed to help service members and their families connect with employment opportunities, VA health care and education benefits, housing and more. It also works with community organizations like [Onward Ops](#) to pair service members with peers for one-on-one support during their transition.

Failure to successfully transition can lead to a variety of negative outcomes, including chronic unemployment which leads to financial instability and possible homelessness, a condition which last year’s [USC Southern California Veteran Study](#) found 19% of veterans experienced during transition.

In turn, these outcomes can result in the ultimate failure to transition: veteran suicide. According to the Veterans Administration’s [2023 Veteran Suicide Prevention](#) report, the number of housed veterans who committed suicide nationwide was 33.9 per 100,000 residents but that number jumps to 112.9 when those veterans are unhoused.

Similarly, those veterans who fail to transition into meaningful employment and stable circumstances may find themselves involved with the justice system. The rates of suicide for this group are even higher: 151 per 100,000.

“This partnership reinforces our ongoing efforts as a county to create an equitable, holistic prevention model which takes into account the individual’s social conditions by reducing racial disparities and encouraging equitable decision-making, prevention and promotion,” said MVA Director Jim Zenner.

“A successful transition means less veterans on the street, in the justice system or dying by suicide.”

VSPN currently operates in the following states: California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.



“This is an exciting new development in our effort to help veterans make the leap back into civilian life,” Zenner said. “The military does an outstanding job of turning civilians into soldiers, but doing the reverse requires a team effort.”

For more information: W. Regen Wilson, 323.823.6896, wwilson@mva.lacounty.gov

The LA County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) provides assistance to L.A. County veterans, active service members and their families with resources, programs, services and state and federal benefits, including: compensation and pension claims, burial benefits and services, medical and mental health referral, education and vocational rehabilitation, home loans and grant applications, employment and job placement assistance, DMV veteran designation, legal service referrals, appeal processes, programs for incarcerated veterans, as well as aid and attendance.

###