



- [Home](#)
- [Newsroom](#)
- [Media](#)
- [Administration](#)
- [NJ's Priorities](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

- [Press Releases](#)
- [Public Addresses](#)
- [Executive Orders](#)
- [Press Kit](#)
- [Reports](#)

Home > Newsroom > Press Releases > 2012 > Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and Christie Cabinet Officials Partner with Employers to Help New Jersey Veterans Find Jobs

Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno and Christie Cabinet Officials Partner with Employers to Help New Jersey Veterans Find Jobs

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Job Fair Attracts More Than 40 Employers Ready to Hire Veterans

Trenton, NJ – Continuing to demonstrate the Christie Administration’s strong support of New Jersey’s military veterans, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve hosted a job fair in Burlington County to assist unemployed veterans in finding job opportunities. The event attracted more than forty employers from across the state.

“New Jersey’s veterans have made tremendous sacrifices to safeguard our nation and protect our citizens at home and abroad,” said Lt. Governor Guadagno. “We have a duty to honor their sacrifice. Helping them find meaningful and rewarding work is a small but enormously important way to thank them for their service and respect their heroism. I know many New Jersey employers are eager to hire veterans, but sometimes have difficulty connecting with unemployed veterans. Today’s job fair is just one way the state is helping bring unemployed veterans and employers together.”

"This dynamic partnership with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve will match some patriotic employers with a pool of candidates that will make outstanding employees," said Brigadier General Michael L. Cunniff, the Acting Adjutant General. "Companies that hire veterans are making the right choice because they will get dedicated workers who are quick learners and team players -- men and women who have already demonstrated personal courage and honor."

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The Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) has several programs to help unemployed veterans find work. The State's One-Stop Career Centers are staffed with a veterans representative tasked with assisting veterans in finding employment. Working with the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development and the New Jersey Business and Industry Association Manufacturers' Network, the state is designing a program to help returning veterans prepare for work in the manufacturing industry. In addition, Governor Chris Christie last year approved a \$195,000 appropriation through the LWD to assist the New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council's Helmets to Hardhats (H2H) program. It was the first financial support provided by the state to H2H, which helps military personnel, National Guardsmen and reservists transition into solid, family-sustaining careers in one of the state's fifteen affiliated building and construction trades.

"We fully recognize that our returning veterans have skills and experiences that can parlay into successful civilian careers, and in many cases all that is required is some additional training. First referral is given to veterans by my Department to all of the public and private employment and training opportunities for which they are qualified," said LWD Commissioner Harold J. Wirths.

Today, roughly 17,000 New Jersey veterans are estimated to be unemployed, according to the latest data available at the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. New Jersey veterans are encouraged to visit www.Jobs4Jersey.com to access the state's job search-engine, create resumes and receive e-mail alerts on job openings. On the employer side, the LWD also offers incentives to employers for hiring veterans, including those with special needs. Incentives include registered apprenticeship programs, funds for on-the-job training, tax credits and Customized Training and Literacy Training grants.

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