

Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Murphy Announces Opening of Passaic County Veterans' Service Office

10/19/2023

Facility Builds on Efforts to Expand Veterans' Access to Assistance in all 21 Counties

PATERSON – In conjunction with the Passaic County Administration, Governor Phil Murphy announced the grand opening of the Passaic County Veterans' Services Office in Paterson, following a ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) on Wednesday.

"Our veterans and service members deserve access to local support that will help them and their families get the benefits they need," **said Governor Murphy**. "The opening of this new Veterans' Services Office in Paterson builds on our efforts to provide assistance to our heroes within the communities they call home by expanding these offices to every county in our state. We will continue this work on behalf of the many courageous heroes who have served our country."

The opening of this facility is enabled by funding in New Jersey's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget to expand veterans' access to the services they need by ensuring that each one of the state's 21 counties has its own Veterans Services Office.

"The opening of a State of New Jersey Veterans Service Office in Passaic County reflects the Murphy Administration's ongoing efforts to ensure service members, veterans, and their families receive essential state and federal benefits," **said Brig. Gen. General Lisa J. Hou, D.O., Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and The Adjutant General of New Jersey**. "This office will serve as a helpful, one-stop resource for those who have served, as we work to expand access to assistance in every county throughout the state. I wish to thank our partners in the Legislature and Passaic County government for their shared commitment to providing accessible services to our Garden State heroes."

The FY2024 Budget included \$500,000 for the expansion of the state's Veterans Service Offices to Camden County, Cape May County, Union County, Middlesex County, Salem County, Warren County, and Passaic County. Importantly, the expansion to Camden is a significant step as the Murphy Administration works to reach historically underserved communities with limited access to services.

Prior to the opening of the Paterson office, DMAVA operated 14 regional Veterans Service Offices. Staffed by trained and certified Veterans Service Officers, these offices provide information and guidance on filing claims, assisting with employment issues, and facilitating access to state and federal education, counseling, housing, social and medical services.

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