

May 4, 2010

A Brief Overview: Employment Development Department's Veterans Programs

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

Presented to:

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4

On State Administration

Hon. Warren Furutani, Chair





Employment Development Department's Veterans Programs—Background

- ☑ The Employment Development Department (EDD) will administer over \$56 million in federal grants and state discretionary workforce development funds for ten veterans programs in 2009-10.
- ☑ Generally, EDD's veterans activities provide job placement, employment resources, and job training opportunities for transitioning or retired veterans in California.
- ☑ The EDD's federal and state veterans programs have distinct characteristics.
 - **Federal Programs.** The EDD's federally funded veterans programs are delivered through over 200 One-Stop Career Centers in California. Case managers assist and track veterans who seek employment services from One-Stop centers.
 - **State Programs.** In contrast, a majority of EDD's state-funded veterans programs largely provide competitive grants for local organizations to serve veterans' employment and training needs.
- ☑ In 2009-10, the Governor initiated the Operation Welcome Home (OWH) program in EDD to provide a statewide outreach effort and create a single referral system for veterans. A single referral system means that OWH staff is able to refer veterans to all appropriate resources (not just EDD) available in the state. The OWH's key goal is to proactively seek separating or retiring military service members, as well as their families, instead of waiting for them to step into a One-Stop Career Center.
- ☑ In addition to EDD's veterans programs, other state agencies provide supportive services to veterans. These include the California Department of Veterans Affairs; state departments providing health, housing, and rehabilitation services; and 54 County Veterans Service Offices.



EDD's Federal Veterans Programs and Services

(2009-10, in Millions)

Category	Available Funding
Disabled Veterans Outreach Program	\$11.8
Local Veterans Employment Representative	5.4
Temporary Assistance Program	0.8
Total	\$18.1

- As the figure above shows, over \$18 million in federal funding is available for veterans' employment assistance in EDD's One-Stop Career Centers.

- The Disabled Veterans Outreach and Local Veterans Employment Representative programs fund EDD veteran services specialists in One-Stop centers. The specialists assist and track veterans on a case-by-case basis, while also providing general outreach to veterans in local areas. These specialists who work on this program are veterans themselves.

- The Temporary Assistance Program funds EDD instructors in military bases to teach job search courses. It also prioritizes disabled veterans.



EDD’s State Veterans Programs and Services

(2009-10, in Millions)

Category	Funding Source	Available Funding	Main Features
Honor a Hero—Hire a Vet (HAH-HAV) Job and Resource Fairs	WIA Rapid Response 25 percent	\$0.2	Fund and coordinate EDD HAH-HAV fairs to outreach to veterans.
Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Program (VEAP)	WIA Rapid Response 25 percent, WIA State Discretionary, and ARRA WIA State Discretionary	13.9	Provide competitive grants to community-based organizations (CBO) to serve veterans’ employment needs.
EDD Veterans/Disabled Veterans Employment Services Grant	WIA State Discretionary	0.7	Fund EDD veterans services staff in One-Stop Career Centers. Supplement federal LVER and DVOP.
Veterans Training Grant for Clean Technology	WIA State Discretionary	12.7	Provide grants to CBOs to provide clean technology job training for veterans.
Engineer Training Grant for Veterans	WIA State Discretionary	0.6	Provide grants to pre-engineering training programs for veterans with GI bill benefits.
Employment Training Panel’s Veterans Pilot Grant Program	Employment Training Fund	0.06	Provide grants to training programs for unemployed veterans.
Operation Welcome Home (OWH)	Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund and Wagner-Peyser Act fund	10.0	Fund EDD OWH staff to outreach to individual veterans. Prioritize separating or retiring military service members.
Total		\$38.2	

WIA = Workforce Investment Act; EDD = Employment Development Department; ARRA = American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; LVER = Local Veterans Employment Representative; DVOP = Disabled Veterans Outreach Program.

☑ Figure 2 above shows over \$38 million in state discretionary funding available for competitive grants and outreach efforts that serve veterans.

☑ State discretionary funds come from the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA). The EDD is responsible for distributing about 85 percent of the WIA allocation to local workforce investment boards, while the remaining 15 percent are available for state discretionary purposes.



EDD's State Veterans Programs and Services

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- The EDD distributes the 85 percent allocation to three categories of workers: adult, youth, and dislocated workers. As prescribed by WIA, 25 percent of the WIA funds for dislocated workers are set aside for Rapid Response activities, such as providing immediate employment assistance to dislocated individuals.
 - In 2009-10, California has received a total of about \$497 million in WIA funds. The amount of state discretionary funds is about \$75 million. These discretionary fund expenditures depend on gubernatorial and legislative priorities.
 - The Employment Training Fund is largely financed by employer contributions to support the costs of administering the Employment Training Panel.
 - The Unemployment Insurance (UI) Administration Fund is primarily financed by the federal government to administer the UI program in California.
 - The federal Wagner-Peyser Act provides funding for EDD's employment services system.



Issues for Legislative Consideration

- ☑ The Legislature may wish to consider a single point-of-entry model to provide a seamless service delivery system to veterans. The OWH could be a stepping-stone to better integrate California's veterans programs.

- ☑ In sharp contrast to the prescriptive federal programs, the Legislature has substantial discretion over EDD's state-funded veterans activities. Instead of providing competitive grants to local organizations, there are several options for the Legislature to consider. It could:
 - Initiate or supplement a program that coordinates all state and local veterans programs.
 - Create an automated system that tracks all veterans and transitioning military service members.
 - Provide a matching grant to local organizations that effectively reach out to veterans.