

NORTH CAROLINA

Support Networks for Veterans Seeking Employment

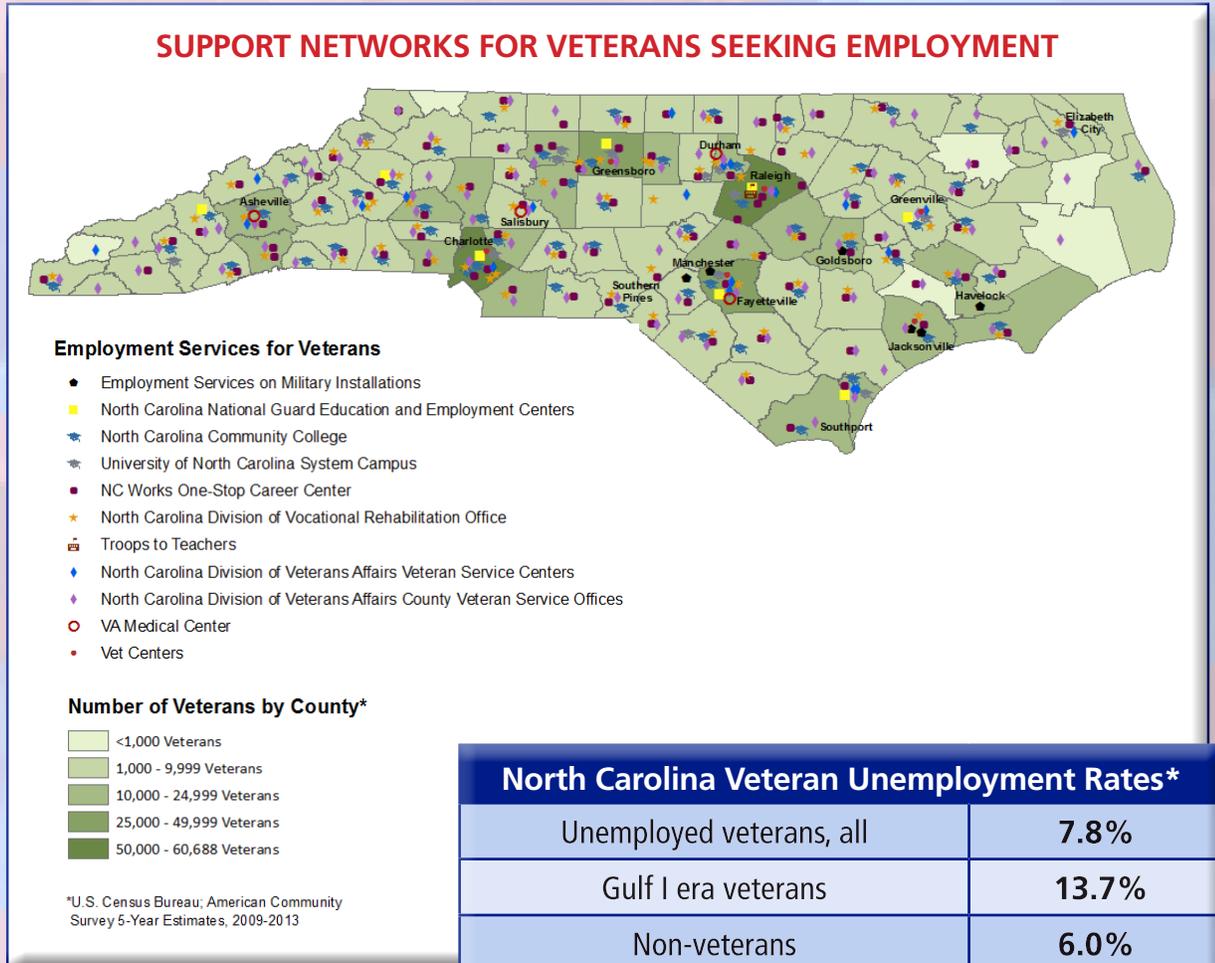
Employment Services for Veterans

- University of North Carolina campus
- NC Community College
- NC National Guard Education and Employment Center
- NC Works Career Center
- NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Office
- Troops to Teachers, NC Department of Public Instruction

Other Veteran Services

- VA Medical Center
- VA Outpatient Clinic
- Vet Centers
- NC Division of Veterans Affairs (NC4VETS)

Governor McCrory has pledged his commitment to develop interagency solutions to make "North Carolina the state of choice for veterans." Key to this goal is providing veterans with education, job training, and employment opportunities.



North Carolina Veteran Unemployment Rates*

Unemployed veterans, all	7.8%
Gulf I era veterans	13.7%
Non-veterans	6.0%
Gulf II era veterans	10.9%

*Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, accessed 9/3/14.

SUCCESS STORY



Reggie Roy, Ramon Torres, and Gerry Cruz

In October 2013, Mr. Ramon Torres moved to Jacksonville with plans. Plans changed, and he found himself homeless. He attended a Cold Weather Gear event, coordinated by Fayetteville VAMC, and was encouraged to visit the NCWorks Career Center in Jacksonville. Career Center staff helped him put together a plan, including a shelter bed, a haircut, and a bicycle. As Ramon stated, "I felt like a new man."

On November 14, Ramon attended a job fair, applied for a position and was hired in two days. Career Center staff also connected him with Family Endeavors, stabilization service providers for Veterans and their families. On December 3, 2013, Ramon received keys to his new home.

STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING VETERAN AND MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

★ Strategies for Engaging Employers, Managers, and Supervisors

- Build a pipeline between community colleges and universities (*Campus Toolkit*: www.mentalhealth.va.gov/studentveteran) and employers so that veterans receive the necessary job skills and are aware of internships and job opportunities.
- Work with business leaders, managers, and supervisors to understand the value of hiring veterans and to commit to hiring veterans (*Hiring Veterans: A Step-by-Step Toolkit for Employers* at www.dol.gov/vets/ahaw). NC Works is a resource for both employers and veterans (<https://www.ncworks.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx>).
- Provide education as to the types of supports that veterans may need in order to effectively assimilate veterans into the corporate culture and offer integrated behavioral health services (*Veterans Employment Toolkit*: www.va.gov/vetsinworkplace and *Employer Toolkit*: <http://wtc.army.mil/documents/brochures.html#TOOLKIT>).

★ Strategies for Recruiting, Hiring, and Retaining Veterans

- Hire veterans as HR recruiters so that they can disseminate employment information to veteran networks.
- Hire managers that can match job requirements with Veterans' skills and experiences
- Provide support services and referrals to existing resources in the community and State (<http://www.mynextmove.org/vets>).
- Support veterans by involving family members in veteran-focused initiatives.

★ Strategies for Recruiting, Hiring, and Retaining Military Spouses

- Refer military spouses for services:
 - Casework assistance (e.g., housing, transportation and medical assistance), counseling and community support groups through the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (www.taps.org or call 800/959-TAPS).
 - Scholarships for high school equivalency programs, vocational training, professional certification and licensure, and degrees (<http://militaryfamily.org/our-programs/military-spouse-scholarships/>)
 - Toolkit for employment (<http://bluestarfam.org/resources/military-spouse-employment-toolkit>).
- Assist military spouses in developing readiness for entering the workforce through the MilitaryOneSource's Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (www.militaryonesource.mil/seco) and MyCAA (Career Advancement Account) Scholarship Program (<http://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa/>).

To locate one of the NCWorks Career Centers about employment assistance services, visit: <https://www.ncworks.gov/vosnet/ContactUs.aspx?enc=jTyox68kKdXLoxIAo//Ufg>.

If you have a question or need additional information, please email contactus@ncveteransworkinggroup.org.

