



National Support for Student Veteran Success

The Veteran Employment Disconnect

Student veterans are ready for high-value careers, but fragmented pathways, weak data visibility, and unmet basic needs keep too many from fast, career-aligned employment. Imagine a world where student veteran talent met systems ready for their potential.

6.1M

Veterans across
the 11 focus
states

\$8.8B

Minimum
economic impact
of student
veterans in those
states

3

Cross-cutting
themes shaping
recommendations

- Arkansas
- Florida
- Iowa
- Maryland
- North Carolina
- Nebraska
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- South Dakota
- Texas
- Virginia

The Veteran Promise

The veteran promise depends on coordinated support from enlistment through graduation, linking transition, education, community, and career opportunity into one connected pathway. When student veterans can access career-aligned experiences, visible support systems, and stable pathways through school, they accelerate into meaningful careers with momentum already in hand.

Three Common Priorities

01

Workforce alignment

Create career-connected pathways, skill-based hiring, and transition supports that shorten time to quality employment.

02

Data connectivity

Make student veterans visible in systems so campuses and agencies can intervene early and track outcomes.

03

Basic needs community

Treat financial stability, belonging, and coordinated navigation as requirements for persistence and success.

Government

Address data-sharing barriers; fund human-centered AI pilots for credit for prior learning, matching, and career-path placement.

Employers

Commit defined internship or fellowship seats and use skills-based hiring signals for veterans while in school, engaging with talent before graduation.

Campuses

Work to recruit high school students enlisting in the military. Name a lead office and embed SVA chapters in orientation, advising, and career services.



Maryland Support for Student Veteran Success



State Snapshot

327,493 Veterans in Maryland (2023)

20,773 GI Bill beneficiaries in Maryland (2023)

6.0% Veteran unemployment in Maryland (early 2026)

\$80,733 Median veteran income in Maryland

~31,100 Estimated federal jobs lost in Maryland (Jan 2025-Jan 2026)

~ \$677M Dollars brought to state education and local economies by student veterans

What Maryland can do right now

Maryland already has veteran talent, dense employer demand, and strong public- and private-sector anchors. The near-term opportunity is to connect those assets more intentionally around student veterans and keep more veteran talent in Maryland after service and graduation.

Translate service to credit

Make available MCL and PLA across Maryland so veterans can move more quickly into credentials and degree completion.

Move from jobs to careers

Shift veteran talent pipelines from convenience toward internships, fellowships, and work-based learning aligned to fields of study while in school.

Make veterans visible

Use stronger identification, data matching, and coordinated referrals so students get support before they disengage.

Pathways Forward

State leaders

Identify one barrier to cross-agency data sharing or transfer credit consistency and pursue a targeted fix.

Employers

Commit a defined number of roles for student veterans in internships, skills-based hiring, and career placement.

Campus leaders

Audit veteran identification, name a lead coordinator, integrate SVA chapters, and pilot at least one career-aligned partnership.

Students

Start planning for internships and careers now. Become a member of SVA and find your closest chapter.

Maryland Veteran Talent & Workforce

Maryland's veteran talent pipeline is concentrated in sectors that matter to the state's future, especially cybersecurity, information technology, defense, health, logistics, and public service. **More than 25,592 students at 122 Maryland schools** received Post-9/11 GI Bill funding totaling **more than \$126 million**, creating a strong education-to-workforce pipeline for military-connected talent. In 2025, Maryland **lost about 31,000 federal jobs**, increasing the **veteran unemployment rate to 6.0%**. That gives Maryland a clear opportunity to connect military experience, credentials, higher education, and employer demand into stronger pathways for student veterans.