

# OKLAHOMA VETERAN EMPLOYER CHAMPION SURVEY RESULTS 2021

Prepared by the Community Service Council, October 2021. Learn more at [CSCTULSA.ORG/VEC](https://CSCTULSA.ORG/VEC)

## SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

**93 EMPLOYERS** completed the Oklahoma Veteran Employer Champion survey in 2021, representing **36 INDUSTRIES** in **10 CITIES** with more than **23,700 EMPLOYEES** across Oklahoma.

## NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN THE SURVEY

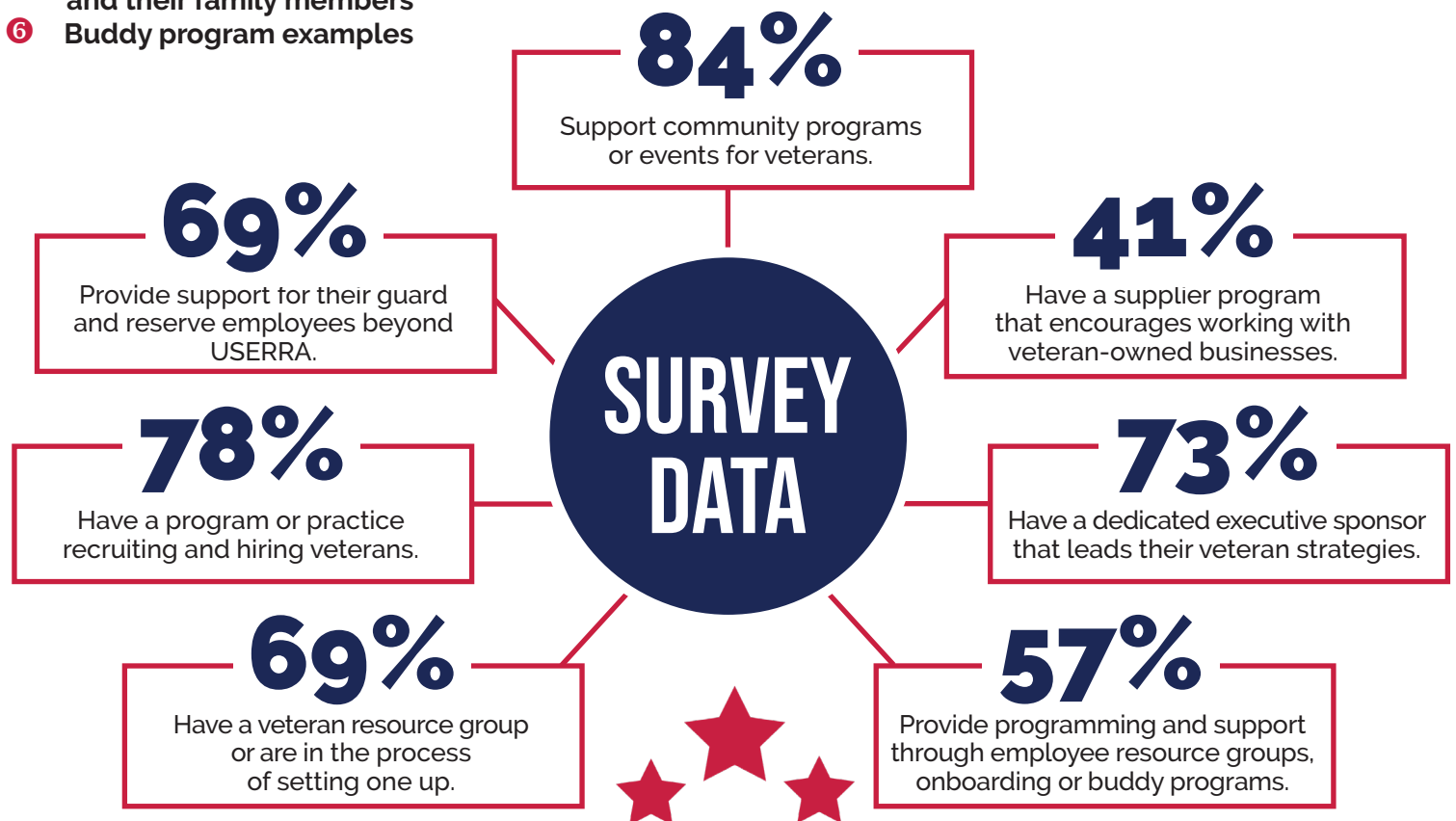
Employers identified the following as their top needs in working to optimize their environments for veterans:

- 1 Direct connections to veterans
- 2 Veteran networks
- 3 Online veteran recruiting sources
- 4 Veteran program best practices
- 5 Resources on how to support veterans and their family members
- 6 Buddy program examples

## RECOGNITION CRITERIA

Veteran employers in the network who meet these **SIX CRITERIA** qualify to be recognized as a Veteran Employer Champion...

- 1 Veteran Recruiting and Hiring
- 2 Veteran Resource Groups, Onboarding Program or Buddy Program
- 3 Veteran Program/Community Support
- 4 Veteran Employee Resources/Supports
- 5 Veteran Executive Sponsor
- 6 Guard and Reserve Employee Supports





# BEST PRACTICES & RESOURCES

## *for Supporting Veterans in the Workplace*



Following are best practices and resources compiled from the 2021 Oklahoma Veteran Employer Champion survey results that show some of the ways local companies are supporting and recruiting veteran employees.

Have questions or want to help your organization become veteran-ready? Visit [CSCTULSA.ORG/VEC](https://CSCTULSA.ORG/VEC)

## VETERAN RESOURCES & RECOGNITION

- **VETERAN RESOURCE GROUP** supports and advocates for veteran employees, promotes veteran inclusion in the workplace, and coordinates a mentoring program.
- **VETERAN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM** connects new veteran employees to seasoned veteran employees for coaching and support.
- **RECOGNITION INITIATIVES** for employee veterans, i.e. thank you cards, newsletter highlights, honorary shirts, designated parking spaces, recognition events on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.
- **ALL STAFF SURVEY** identifies the company's veteran employee population and if there are veterans who do not wish to be formally recognized.
- **VETERAN-BRANDED COMPANY SHIRTS** or vests worn at hiring and community events to build and promote veteran culture.
- **LEARNING SERIES** for staff to build awareness of skills that veterans bring to the workforce and to honor their military service.
- **RESOURCE & INFORMATION WEBPAGE** specific to veteran employees.
- **PROMINENT SIGNAGE** in facilities recognizing the veteran culture.
- **VETERAN LOUNGE** to build community among veteran employees.
- **DISCOUNTS** for veterans and their families.

## RECRUITMENT & SPECIAL SUPPORT

- **ACTIVE RECRUITMENT** at National Guard and Reserve Centers.
- **ONLINE RECRUITMENT** on veteran and military-centric websites. Prominently display commitment to veteran hiring on career sites (i.e. spotlighting current veteran employees).
- **EDUCATING HR/HIRING MANAGERS** on the veteran employee value proposition.
- **ONBOARDING FOR VETERAN NEW HIRES** (i.e. veteran orientation breakout group). Includes introduction to the company's Veteran Resource Group and connection to a veteran employee mentor.
- **DESIGNATED COORDINATOR** or resource group that helps veteran employees access earned VA benefits and support services (i.e. EAP), and find opportunities for social connection with other veterans (i.e. support groups). Engage an Army Chaplain to support employee veterans struggling with PTSD.
- **VETERANS AT WORK CERTIFICATION** (SHRM) helps organizations learn about military culture, jargon and norms to better assimilate and attract veteran talent.
- **U.S. ARMY PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH SUCCESS (PaYS) PROGRAM** allows veterans to choose an employer of choice for interviewing upon military departure.
- **ONSITE ACCESS TO DAV OFFICERS** for employed veterans during working hours.
- **FLEXIBLE LEAVE** such as unlimited VA appointments without having to take PTO, and authorization to leave work if veteran employees are struggling with PTSD.
- **MILITARY LEAVE POLICY** allows employees ordered to active military duty in emergency situations to receive full pay (without military pay offset) through the end of the pay period in which they go on paid military leave of absence.

## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Survey participants shared how their organizations honor veterans by supporting these veteran community initiatives through event participation, volunteering, donations and/or sponsorships.

Blue Star Mothers  
Coffee Bunker  
Community Service Council (CSC)  
Oklahoma Veteran Alliance  
DAV/DAV Mobile Units  
Eagle Ops  
Folds of Honor  
Helmets to Hard Hats  
Military History Center (Broken Arrow)  
Soldier's Wish  
Traveling Vietnam Wall  
Tulsa Stand Down for Homeless Veterans  
Veterans Day local parades  
VFW  
Wreaths Across America  
Yellow Ribbon local events  
And many more...

## EMPLOYER RESOURCES

Survey participants identified the following as the top resources they use for building and supporting a veteran-ready workplace.

Benefits events with VA, ODVA and Vet Center onsite representatives  
City of Tulsa Mayor's Veteran Advisory Council  
CSC's Oklahoma Veteran Alliance  
Veteran Employer Network and Employment Committee  
DAV  
Eagle Ops  
Employee Assistance Programs  
Goodwill Industries International  
Intermittent FMLA  
Military Skills Translator  
Soldier's Wish  
VA On-the-Job Training Program  
Veteran Employee Resource Groups (or Veteran Resource Groups)  
U.S. Army PaYS Program