

Military/Veteran Resource Network Application - Employers

Submission Date	2015-09-28 13:34:46
Organization Name	Operation Welcome Home
Address	Street Address: 1760 E Pecos Rd, Ste 344 City: Gilbert State / Province: AZ Postal / Zip Code: 85295 Country: United States
Phone	(480) 478-1126
Website	http://www.operationwelcomehomeaz.com/about-us.html
Organization E-mail	info@operationwelcomehomeaz.com
What sector is your organization part of?	Community (private sector - business, not-for-profit, etc.)
Brief background of organization (mission, year established, etc.):	Operation Welcome Home was introduced into the Town of Gilbert in 2010; since then the program has also expanded to the Cities of Chandler, Mesa, Tempe and Apache Junction. To honor our veterans and families by sponsoring activities that express our support, pride, and patriotism. Establish traditions of respect, honor, and appreciation for personal sacrifices of our veterans and their families.
Description of industry	Non-Profit (Veteran Supportive Organization)
Please list any organizational memberships (e.g. chamber of commerce, alliances, associations, etc.):	Vietnam Veterans of America, Chandler Chamber, Small Business Alliance, American Legion
Number of employees	Microbusiness - 1 - 5 employees
In what area of the state do you operate?	Statewide (including multi-state/national)
Types of employment opportunities available:	Technology Administrative
To be designated as an Arizona Veteran Supportive Employer, organizations must have paid employment opportunities. This designation does not apply to multi-level marketing, direct sales, franchises and/or other opportunities that require payment by the job seeker.	Our organization has paid employment opportunities.

Our organization understands and agrees to the following Guiding Principles:

1. Military service often fosters resilience and strength in service members, veterans and family members.
2. Military service impacts the individual and the family. A “military family” can include a service member or veteran, their spouse/significant other and children, as well as parents, siblings, extended family and friends.
3. The military is a distinct culture. While service members, veterans and their families experience the same life circumstances and events as civilians, both positive and negative, they also have a unique set of life experiences relating to service, deployment and reintegration that are distinct from civilian life.
4. As a community, we are committed to providing the best care and support to all those who serve. Since changes in military status affect eligibility for programs, resources and benefits, we seek to build a continuum of care that addresses the needs of the entire military, veteran and family population.
5. No one organization can meet all needs for the entire military and veteran population. Stronger collaboration between military, government and community partners supports service members, veterans and their families in connecting to the right program, resource and/or benefit at the right time. Organizations should also focus on collaboration to maximize available resources and minimize duplication of effort.
6. There should be no wrong door to which a service member, veteran or family member goes to for help. Each individual and organization should have at least the basic knowledge on the military/veteran systems of care to assist in connecting that individual or family to a more appropriate resource so that no one is turned away.
7. As a network of individuals and organizations who provide care and support to the military and veteran population, our goal is to assist service members, veterans and family members in being informed consumers who are empowered to make decisions to access those programs, resources & benefits that will meet their needs.
8. Every service member, veteran and family member has an individual experience and perspective which should be acknowledged and incorporated into the provision of care and support.

Our organization understands and agrees to the following Ethical Considerations:

1. The interest of the service member, veteran and family member should come first, above the interest of the provider or organization, financial or otherwise.
2. Any potential conflicts of interest should be disclosed up front.
3. Respect the service member, veteran and/or family member by providing accurate information that will assist them in making informed decisions about the care and support they access.
4. Organizations should only offer programs, services and resources that they are equipped or trained to deliver. Outreach and engagement of the military and veteran population should be within the scope of the role and function of the individual (training & experience) and the organization (policies, practices, procedures).
5. Organizations that outreach to the military/veteran population have an obligation to equip their personnel and organizations with the training necessary to understand: a) the unique aspects of the military experience b) the issues affecting these individuals and their families and c) the specific military/government programs and benefits available to this population. Organizations should consult with subject matter experts when necessary.
6. Outreach and messaging to the military and veteran population should be truthful, not misleading nor designed to incite fear, should always accurately and appropriately cite sources and present information in context.
7. Organizations should be cautious about promising outcomes. Information should clearly state if a program or service is evidence-based or independently documented to be effective. Statements about the effectiveness of programs or services should include information on success rates and the documented source of this information.
8. Coordination of care and follow up is essential when service members, veterans and family members are accessing multiple systems of care. Partners need to be actively engaging with other providers and systems as appropriate, while still respecting the confidentiality of the individual or family.

Key personnel (leadership, management, human resources, recruiters, etc.) have basic knowledge and/or training related to:

The military, veteran and family population and unique aspects of military/veteran culture.
The effects of military service, deployment, reintegration and transition on service members, veterans and their families.

Please describe the knowledge and/or training of key personnel in these areas?

OWH is made up of veteran and family members working or volunteering for them. We also train all of our volunteers in basic military culture where they talk about PTS, communication, showing empathy and understanding military culture as a whole.

Identify employees with a military background or affiliation. Form a committee or advisory group of service members, veterans, family members and other interested personnel to provide input on how to strengthen the organization's hiring and retention of military-affiliated employees.

OWH has a veterans committee filled with veterans and family members.

Employees and leadership participate in training and events to increase connection to military/veteran community (e.g. ESGR "Boss lifts", training, etc.).

All of the employees and volunteers participate in veterans events.

Additional detail on how our organization CONNECTS to the culture relating to the above areas, as well as any other relevant information:

A large percentage of the OWH employees and volunteers are veterans and/or family members. We also do basic military culture training for interns and new volunteers. We plan on sending some employees, to include the CEO, to a future ACMF Military/Veteran Resource Navigation Training. We highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces. We also pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States serving in uniform.

Communications (print, web, etc.), content and messaging focused on the military and veteran population:

Uses appropriate terminology and imagery
Describes the type and nature of positions available and how to apply.
Clearly identifies if your organization has a veteran preference in hiring.

Approximate number of employees in organization:

5

Number of individuals trained as Military/Veteran Resource Navigators within organization:

0

Titles/roles of individuals trained as Navigators:

N/A: Will be sending employees to Navigator Training

If employees are referred out to an external navigator, please describe how this is communicated to personnel:

N/A: Will be sending employees to Navigator Training

<p>Our organization tracks the following:</p>	<p>Number of family members of service members and/or veterans employed</p>
<p>Post information for service members, veterans & families on intranet, in breakrooms, etc.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Additional detail on how our organization ASKS the right questions at the right time relating to the above areas, as well as any other relevant information::</p>	<p>All employees and volunteers are asked if they are veterans and/or family members.</p>
<p>Our organization has designated one or more employees as the internal contact point(s) for military-affiliated employees.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Key staff in leadership, management, human resources, recruiting, etc. have training relevant to their specific roles around recruiting, hiring, managing and retaining military-affiliated employees. Please mark areas of training provided:</p>	<p>Best practices for effectively engaging their experience and talent in the workplace. Relevant laws. Hiring benefits and incentives. Military, government and community employment programs and systems.</p>
<p>Please describe training provided:</p>	<p>Basic Military Culture</p>
<p>Additional detail on how our organization RESPONDS effectively relating to the above areas, as well as any other relevant information::</p>	<p>OWH connects veterans and their families with veteran organizations to help them out when they need assistance. We are also equipped to assist veterans themselves with gift cards, help paying bills and food assistance. We highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.</p>
<p>We have one or more individuals designated as points of contact (POCs) for the Military/Veteran Resource Network and the military/veteran community:</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Our organization partners as appropriate and needed with public and private sector organizations to coordinate hiring and retention efforts specific to service members, veterans and family members.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Training on the military, veteran and family population is incorporated into organizational training.

Yes

Our organizations participates in relevant events, trainings and initiatives in the military/veteran community (e.g. continuing education, employee volunteer programs, sponsorship, etc.).

Yes

Additional detail on how our organization ENGAGES relating to the above areas, as well as any other relevant information:

OWH engages with the community by educating them on the different veteran projects going on in Arizona. We attend veteran supportive events, and city council meetings dealing with veteran issues. We also set the model here in AZ for the Operation Welcome Home program and are assisting other cities across the state to set up this program to celebrate their veterans and family members (ie. Mesa, Chandler, Apache Junction, and Tempe).