ARA

Referral Guide

Public Service Transition Program · November 2026

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Many public and nonprofit programs help veterans and public employees in transition. This guide lists the ones people most often need, who each one serves, and where to find it. Agard Research Associates Inc. is not affiliated with any of them, and listing a resource here does not imply a partnership or an endorsement.

Web addresses were current in November 2026. If one has moved, search for the program's name on the agency's main website.

For service members and veterans

RESOURCE	WHO IT SERVES	WHAT IT OFFERS	WHERE TO FIND IT
Transition Assistance Program (Department of Defense, VA, and Department of Labor)	Service members preparing to separate or retire, and their spouses	Required pre-separation counseling and workshops, beginning no later than 365 days before separation	dodtap.mil, or your installation transition office
DoD SkillBridge	Service members in their last 180 days of service, with command approval	Civilian internships, apprenticeships, and training with approved organizations	skillbridge.osd.mil
Veteran Readiness and Employment (VA)	Veterans and service members with a service-connected disability	Counseling, training, and employment support, including a self-employment track	va.gov/careers-employment
VA education benefits, including the GI Bill	Eligible veterans, service members, and family members	Help paying for college, training, and apprenticeships	va.gov/education
My Next Move for Veterans and the O*NET Military Crosswalk (Department of Labor)	Veterans and service members	Links between military occupations and related civilian occupations	mynextmove.org/vets
State veterans affairs offices	Veterans who live in each state	State benefits such as education, employment, and tax programs	In New Jersey, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs: nj.gov/military

For public employees

RESOURCE	WHO IT SERVES	WHAT IT OFFERS	WHERE TO FIND IT
Your human resources and benefits office	Current and departing public employees	Retirement estimates, health and life insurance elections, severance, and final pay	Your employing office

RESOURCE	WHO IT SERVES	WHAT IT OFFERS	WHERE TO FIND IT
Career Transition Assistance Plan, Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan, and Reemployment Priority Lists (OPM and agencies)	Federal employees who are surplus or displaced	Selection priority for federal vacancies, and agency career transition services	opm.gov, "Employee's Guide to Career Transition"
Agency ethics officials and the U.S. Office of Government Ethics	Current and former federal employees	Advice on rules for seeking employment and on post-government restrictions	Your agency ethics office; oge.gov
New Jersey State Ethics Commission	Current and former New Jersey State employees	Guidance on post-employment restrictions under the Conflicts of Interest Law	nj.gov/ethics

For job seekers and future business owners

RESOURCE	WHO IT SERVES	WHAT IT OFFERS	WHERE TO FIND IT
American Job Centers	All job seekers	Local employment services, including staff who specialize in veterans' employment	careeronestop.org
Unemployment compensation for former federal employees and former service members	People who are out of work after federal civilian or military service	Unemployment benefits, administered by each state's workforce agency	Your state workforce agency; careeronestop.org
Boots to Business and Veterans Business Outreach Centers (Small Business Administration)	Transitioning service members, veterans, and military spouses	Entrepreneurship training and business counseling	sba.gov
SCORE	Prospective and current business owners	Free mentoring and workshops	score.org
Small Business Development Centers	Prospective and current business owners	Free business counseling and training	americassbdc.org
New Jersey Business Certification Program (Department of the Treasury)	Businesses with their principal place of business in New Jersey	Certification as a veteran-owned or disabled veteran-owned business	nj.gov/treasury/revenue
Job Accommodation Network	Workers and employers	Free guidance on workplace accommodations	askjan.org

Crisis support

RESOURCE	WHO IT SERVES	WHAT IT OFFERS	WHERE TO FIND IT
Veterans Crisis Line	Veterans, service members, and their families and friends	Free, confidential support at any hour	Dial 988 and press 1, or text 838255; veteranscrisisline.net
988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline	Anyone	Free, confidential support at any hour	Call or text 988; 988lifeline.org

Where to get help

Other program materials. The Résumé and CV Guide, the interview guides, the worksheets and checklists, the Referral Guide, and the résumé and cover letter templates are available to download at library.agardresearchassociates.org/public-service-transition.

One-on-one help. If you would like one of the program's directors to read your materials and help you tailor them to the jobs you are applying for, request one-on-one help through the program page at agardresearchassociates.org/public-service-transition. Requests are reviewed on a rolling basis as volunteer time allows, and veterans are served first.

If you are in crisis or worried about someone, help is available at any hour. Veterans, service members, and their families can reach the Veterans Crisis Line by dialing 988 and pressing 1, or by texting 838255. Anyone can call or text 988 for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

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