

Forging Community Relationships

With more than 40,000 veterans living in and around the Austin area the City of Austin works closely with other governmental agencies as well as regional/local organizations to support veterans' needs.

Partnerships include:

- American Legion
- American Red Cross
- AmeriCorps/VetCorps
- Austin Community College
- Camp Mabry and Fort Hood
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Defense Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)
- Disabled American Veterans
- F7 Group
- Grace after Fire
- Hope for Heroes
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Texas A&M
- Texas Veterans Commission
- Texas Workforce Commission-Workforce Solutions
- TexasVet
- Travis County Veterans Services Office
- University of Texas
- Vet Center
- Veterans of Foreign Wars

Award-winning Efforts

The City of Austin Veterans Services Office programs are recognized as the benchmark for other municipalities and government agencies.

- Department of Defense Freedom Award Society (2011); First city to be named to Society
- State and National Veterans of Foreign Wars Large Employer Award (2009 and 2010)
- Department of Defense Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Prominence Award (2009)
- State and National Disabled American Veterans Large Employer Award (2009)
- Secretary of Defense Freedom Award (2008)
- Department of Defense State Pro Patria Award (2008)



AUSTIN, TEXAS supports its **VETERANS**



“Veterans employed by the City of Austin continue to serve their country, bringing to work each day their skills and the belief in our duty to help make Austin the most livable city in the country.”

— AUSTIN MAYOR LEE LEFFINGWELL,
COMMANDER, U.S. NAVY, RET.

CITY OF AUSTIN VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE

www.austintexas.gov/veterans
(512) 974- 3459
allen.bergeron@austintexas.gov



VALOR ♦ COURAGE ♦ SACRIFICE



LEFT:
Mayor Lee Leffingwell
at annual Veterans
Appreciation luncheon



City of Austin Veterans Programs

The City of Austin's award-winning Veterans Program, established in 2007, reflects City leadership's understanding of the value that veterans bring to an organization. Veterans make outstanding employees, bringing valuable skills, loyalty, and a sense of public service to their jobs.

Veterans, numbering more than 2,000, make up about 15 percent of the City's workforce.

The Veterans Program was initiated by Austin City Council and has been highly supported by City management. The Veterans Services Office, a division of the City of Austin's Human Resources Department, serves the interests of veterans and active military personnel employed by Austin municipal government.

The Veterans Services Office is managed by a Military Ombudsman Consultant who is a veteran and serves as the City's organizational military expert throughout the community.

In 2013, the Austin City Council formed a Commission on Veterans Affairs. This group serves as an advisory body to the Council concerning the well-being of military veterans in the Austin area. The commission evaluates and recommends programs, policies, and practices designed to alleviate veterans' difficulties in meeting basic needs, obtaining housing, employment, and comprehensive mental health assistance. The group also acts as a clearinghouse for information relating to the status of veterans in the Austin community.

◆ Veterans' Preference in Hiring Initiative requires 20 percent of qualified job candidates interviewed be veterans.

◆ Veterans Employment Seminars, conducted in partnership with Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Veterans Commission, brings potential employers and veterans together.

◆ A military pay supplement ensures a City of Austin employee who is called to active duty does not suffer a loss in income.

◆ Manager and Supervisor training provides information on:

- Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA)
- Military reintegration
- Military leave and the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
- Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
- Traumatic brain injury

• Supplemental pay

• Military Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations.

◆ Employee Veterans Mentorship Program allows on-the-job support for professional development.

◆ Veterans Employment Resource Center is being established to be a one-stop shop for access to veteran services and benefits.

◆ Women Veterans Initiative, Operation Outreach, is a City-initiated and Red Cross-led service initiative that addresses urgent community needs related to support of women veterans.

◆ Care Package Drive collects donations of personal hygiene and other small items donated by City employees for military personnel overseas.

Bring It Home



In 2012, the City of Austin Veterans Services Office identified a need in the community with disadvantaged veterans and began a furniture donation program for formerly homeless veterans transitioning to permanent housing.

While hundreds of veterans in the Austin area have secured housing with vouchers from the U.S. Department of Veterans

Affairs, many times that apartment is not furnished.

The Austin area community has embraced the program, donating beds, kitchen tables and other furniture.

"This donation program allows homeless veterans to concentrate on receiving health care, supportive services, education and job

placement without having to worry about acquiring furniture for the housing units into which they are moving," Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell said.

Leffingwell, a retired U.S. Navy veteran, sponsors the program in partnership with AmeriCorps/VetCorps, the Veterans Administration and the Texas Vietnam Veterans Association.