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State of Oregon Employment Department

For immediate release: November 19, 2026

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Five Oregon employers recognized for commitment to hiring Veterans

Oregon Employment Department helps businesses recruit Veteran talent and pursue national recognition

SALEM, Ore. — Five Oregon employers have earned the 2026 HIRE Vets Medallion Award from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), recognizing their commitment to recruiting, employing, and retaining military Veterans.

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is celebrating this year's recipients and encouraging more businesses to explore the benefits of hiring Veterans and the resources available to support their recruitment efforts.

The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is the only federal-level award recognizing employers for their commitment to Veteran employment. Businesses of all sizes can earn gold or platinum recognition based on criteria that include Veteran hiring, retention and programs supporting Veteran employees.

Oregon's 2026 HIRE Vets Medallion Award recipients are:

- **Cayuse Holdings, LLC** — Pendleton; Large Employer, Platinum Award
- **Easterseals Oregon** — Portland; Medium Employer, Gold Award
- **Northwest Enforcement Inc.** — Wood Village; Medium Employer, Gold Award
- **Northwest Veterans Law** — Salem; Small Employer, Platinum Award
- **Sherman Brothers Heavy Trucking** — Harrisburg; Medium Employer, Platinum Award

"Veterans bring valuable skills, experience, and perspectives to Oregon's workforce, and these employers demonstrate the importance of recognizing that talent," said Andrew R. Stolfi, director of the Oregon Employment Department. "We're proud to celebrate their achievements and help other Oregon businesses build lasting connections with Veterans who are looking for meaningful careers."

Helping Oregon businesses recruit and retain Veterans

OED supports Veteran employment year-round through WorkSource Oregon, connecting businesses with job seekers and helping Veterans transition into civilian careers.

Through the federally funded Jobs for Veterans' State Grant program, OED's specialized Veterans' Employment Representative staff work with employers to increase employment opportunities for Veterans and support Veteran recruitment and retention. They also help employers apply for the HIRE Vets Medallion Program.

In March, an OED Veterans' Employment Representative met with Karen Withrow, president and co-owner of Northwest Enforcementhttps://nwenforcement.com/ to encourage her to apply for the HIRE Vets Medallion Award. Now, DOL has selected this Oregon-based security services company to receive a 2026 award.

“Northwest Enforcement is honored to have Veterans as part of our team,” said Withrow. “The varied skills and cultural experiences Veterans bring make us better every day as we strive to achieve our core purpose: Be Valuable. Nothing Less Will Do. With leadership classes and many training opportunities, our goal is to support Veterans in continuous career development.”

Beyond the award program, OED’s Veterans’ Employment Representatives offer a range of services to help employers recruit and retain Veterans, including:

- Helping businesses understand how military skills and experience translate into civilian jobs.
- Connecting employers with Veteran recruitment programs and other workforce resources.
- Meeting with employers to learn about their hiring needs.
- Promoting initiatives such as the SkillBridge program, which helps transitioning service members gain civilian work experience.
- Providing information about Veteran recruitment and retention strategies.

“Supporting Veteran employment goes beyond helping someone find their next job,” said Jim Pfarrer, director of OED’s Workforce Operations Division. “It's about helping employers recognize the skills Veterans bring to the workplace and creating opportunities for them to build long-term careers. Our teams are here to help businesses make those connections.”

Connecting Veterans with career opportunities

OED also provides priority of service specifically for Veterans and eligible spouses with employment and training services offered through WorkSource Oregon. Veterans can get help with job searches, resumes, career planning, and connections to training opportunities. Veterans who qualify for additional assistance may also work with Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program specialists, who provide individualized career services.

Together, these services help Veterans navigate the transition from military service to civilian employment while connecting Oregon businesses with experienced, skilled workers.

Learn more about hiring Veterans

Oregon employers interested in recruiting Veterans or learning more about the HIRE Vets Medallion Program can connect with a Veterans' Employment Representative through OED's Recruit and Hire Veterans webpage.

Businesses interested in applying for a future HIRE Vets Medallion Award can learn about eligibility requirements, application timelines, and award criteria through HIREVets.gov.

About Workforce Operations and WorkSource Oregon

The Oregon Employment Department’s Workforce Operations division is a partner in WorkSource Oregon, a consortium of state agencies and local workforce boards, and operates 37 WorkSource Oregon centers across the state. WorkSource Oregon offers a wide range of free services to job seekers, employers, and businesses, including personalized career coaching, resume writing, job search strategies, support for job postings and hiring incentives, and access to labor-market data.
Visit worksourceoregon.org for more information.

The Jobs for Veterans’ State Grant is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Services. A total of $2,427,889, or 100%, of the program is financed with federal funds, and 0% financed by non-governmental sources.

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