



Veteran Community Initiatives, Inc. (VCI)

www.vciinc.org

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Office: (814) 255-0355 Fax: (814) 255-0356

Veteran Assistance Care Program (VACP)

May 2020

As a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic, many of our community's veterans have been, and are continuing to experience, economic difficulties as a result of job loss, layoffs, cutbacks, reduction of hours, and other related hardships.

With the help of a loan through the federal Payroll Protection Program (PPP), which we hope to eventually be approved as a grant, and the much appreciated flexibility of a current Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (PADMVA) grant as well as one from the 1889 Foundation, we are pleased to implement our Veteran Assistance Care Program (VACP). The program aims to assist local veterans in our 14-county area of operations.

The VACP is a one-time award intended to assist our area veterans in their time of need. We will also make available all of our services (see www.vciinc.org) including job search assistance, career counseling, and professional resume preparation, as we have done for 26 years, at no cost to veterans and their family members.

VCI's VACP will distribute a one-time award of \$100.00 to up to 200 affected veterans as quickly and hassle free as possible. To be eligible, veterans must meet three necessary criteria and submit required documents:

- 1.) You must be a United States veteran (to include the National Guard and/or Reserves) with an Honorable or General Discharge. Submit appropriate discharge paperwork along with a completed VCI Intake Form.
- 2.) The veteran must reside in VCI's 14 county area of operations: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Mifflin, and Somerset County.
- 3.) The veteran must provide proof of job loss, layoff, reduced hours, salary reduction, or other resulting negative employment/economic occurrence. You can submit a statement containing employer name, position held, and how the COVID-19 affected your employment/economic situation.

Veterans can submit required documents for the request to vciinfo@atlanticbbn.net or mail to VCI at 727 Goucher St. Johnstown, PA 15905.

If qualified, veterans will receive a check by mail. Checks will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

VCI's staff and board members are pleased to do our small part in these difficult times, and thank our area veterans for their continued service and sacrifice. **It is our honor to serve you, our VETERANS!**

Stay safe,

Tom Caulfield
VCI President/Director

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A Glance At Your VCI Program

Not the VA! Supplement / Compliment to VA programs and services – We provide and deliver services and programs to all Veterans at NO COST.

- Location- Wing A, Hiram G. Andrews Center, 727 Goucher St., Johnstown, PA 15905
- 1993 organizational start-up (27 yr. Anniversary), Founder- Tom Caulfield- prior to start-up was Labor Relations, HR in Corporate America
- 22 person Community Board of Directors; Private (501c3) Non-Profit – No ongoing government funding; Funding for program includes direct donations from many community sources, fundraising efforts, and competitive grants.
 - Currently 3 FT Reg employees, Senior Employment Employee; College, AmeriCorps, and HGA intern(s) as determined each year.
 - Member of thirteen (13) Chamber of Commerces covering 14 counties: Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield (Greater Dubois & Greater Clearfield), Clinton, Elk, Huntingdon, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata/Mifflin, Somerset

Programs

- A. Job Search / Career Counseling / Resume Preparation/ Job Fairs / Workshops / Networking
- B. Rural Veterans Outreach Program – bring REPS HAVING DIFFERENT RESOURCES AND SPECIALTIES WITH US. Bring Services and Programs to rural veterans rather than vet going to 'VA' (Urban areas) all the time; go to the soldiers, rather than having vets travel to them; 6-10 rural outreaches per year
- C. Veterans Court Program – Cambria County; Veterans Court Peer Mentor Training and Coordination of Peer Mentors; PA County Recruitment – Veteran Court Start-up Implementations
- D. Veteran Assistance Care Program (VACP): Raise awareness and provide services and programs to better improve assistance to the VETERAN'S FAMILY. Programs include coaching and mentoring to support physical and mental health challenges to our veterans. We work with the VA and other established programs to determine how we can best help our VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.
- E. Once a week, VCI in conjunction with PA VVA has a Veteran Claims Professional available all day for assistance in filling out CLAIMS!

F. Vet Assistance Outreach Program (VAOP) – ‘A HAND–UP, NOT A HAND–OUT’

- VCI holds an annual (15th in Year 2020) Returning Veterans Symposium that deals with Veteran Issues / Concerns – Developing a Community Response
- We continue to maintain Murtha Statue / Veterans Park Beautification Project, recently added a POW – MIA Fountain
- Active in numerous community activities: 2017 VCI – Chambers’ Cultural Affairs Award; Community Director – 2017 Woman of the Year – Non Profit; VCI Board Member – 2018 Woman of the Year – Lady Liberty; Received PA statewide recognition for our efforts on “behalf” of veteran state (PA DMVA) agency grants.
- VCI holds numerous Veteran Related Recognitions and Events including:
 - Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, March 29th event (held March 27th in year 2020)
 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day, May 8, 2020 Annual Program
 - Assist with Veterans Day Parade, Bkfst, Brunch in Nov and Dec.
 - July 4th Veterans Bkfst Club Event supported by Richland Amer. Leg, VCI
 - Memorial Day Program @ Veterans Park on Saturday before Memorial Day.
 - Active Nursing and personal care home visits – on veteran related holidays and recognition days.
 - Active participation in Wreaths Across America Program – Dec 19, 2020
 - Participant/member of quarterly Van Zandt Veterans Advisory Council

In Addition

Active with local OVR’s, Southern Alleghenies Work Force Development Board; Cambria County Job Fair Committee

A Number of events held to recognize those who consistently Support Veterans

- 6 times a year select “Veteran Community Initiatives Ed Cernic, Sr. Community Support Recognition Award” Awardees
- Host prestigious Chapel of 4 Chaplains Legion of Honor Ceremony and Reception bi-annually - October 12, 2020
- Supports Somerset Military Family Support Group, PA & Local Special Olympics programs, Salvation Army efforts



Office Hours M-F 8:00AM – 4:30PM

Evening hours available upon request. Emergency monitoring 24 x 7



Veteran Community Initiatives, Inc. (VCI) Intake Form

Last Name		First Name		Middle Name
Intake Location 727 Goucher St., Johnstown, PA 15905		Intake Date		Birth Date
Address		City, State		Zip
County		Phone		Alternate Phone
E-mail		Would you like to be added to the VCI e-mail list? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Education Level
Family Size		Sex (optional)	Race (optional)	

Employment Status (*check one)

- Employed FT Employed PT Unemployed less than 26 weeks Unemployed more than 26 weeks

Other (please explain) _____

* If you have experienced job loss, layoff, reduced hours, salary reduction, or other resulting negative employment/economic occurrence due to the COVID-19 pandemic- mark the appropriate box and provide a brief explanation (e.g. *Employed FT, salary reduction*)

Military Information

❖ If you are not a veteran, who is the closest family member that is? _____

Branch of Service _____ Service Dates _____ to _____

Era (e.g. *Vietnam, Gulf, etc.*) _____ % Service Disabled _____

Type of Discharge

- Honorable Dishonorable
 Other _____

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY- (OPTIONAL) This section allows us to better understand what types of clients we are serving.

Dislocated Worker: Y / N What is the minimum wage that you expect to earn at your next job? \$ _____

Driver's License: Y / N CDL License: Y / N

Current Housing Arrangements (rent, own, living w/ relative, etc.): _____

Homeless: _____
Reason for Homeless: _____
How Long Homeless: _____

Drug & Alcohol History: Y / N
Currently Incarcerated: Y / N
Previously Incarcerated: Y / N
Probation: Y / N
Halfway House: Y / N

*Physical Disability/Limitations: Y / N

*If you have a bona fide DISABILITY, you may be eligible for educational/counseling/training/placement service. You may also be eligible for certain state/federal scoring preferences. Therefore if you have one of the below listed disabilities, please feel free to indicate you have a disability on our intake form. Our intake records are CONFIDENTIAL, and disability recognition will not be released to anyone or any agency, unless discussed it with you, and you agree to release specific authorized information.

Disabilities include but are not limited to (circle any that apply):

- Alcoholism
- Amputation
- Diabetes
- Drug Addiction
- Epilepsy
- Head Trauma
- Heart Disease
- Mental Illness
- Muscular Disease
- Visual Impairments
- Developmental Disabilities
- Hearing Impairment
- Learning Disabilities
- Mental Retardation
- Neurological Disease
- Respiratory Disease
- Skeletal & Joint Disease
- Speech Impairment
- Spinal Cord Injury

STATEMENT OF RECEIPT APPLICANT/PARTICIPANT RIGHTS FORM

I hereby swear (or affirm) that all information on this application is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that I can be penalized for making false statements, and removed from the program.

**** I AGREE TO INFORM VCI STAFF OF ANY CHANGES IN MY CONTACT INFORMATION OR EMPLOYMENT STATUS.**

Sign → Client Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

VCI Staff Signature: _____

Date Signed: _____

Services Provided (VCI STAFF):

- Resume Preparation Job Fair VACP VAOP Outreach Other: _____