



## MEDIA RELEASE

CT Department of Labor *Communications Office*  
Sharon M. Palmer, Commissioner

# Department of Labor's Veterans' Staff Offer Workforce Assistance at Sept. 12 Stand Down 2014

WETHERSFIELD, August 29, 2014 – Employees from the Connecticut Department of Labor's Office for Veterans' Workforce Development (OVWD) will offer workforce services, including employment and training guidance, to veterans during Stand Down 2014 taking place 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. September 12 on the grounds of the State Veterans' Home, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill.

More than 30 government agencies and social service organizations will take part in the event, which is organized by the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs. These groups will provide visitors with housing referrals, education, workforce, legal and motor vehicle assistance, state and federal VA benefit information, and medical, dental and mental health screenings. Free clothing will also be distributed. Veterans are asked to arrive by noon to access any of these services. Approximately 2,000 veterans attended Stand Down 2013.

"Labor Department staff will be on hand throughout the day to help with visitor's job searches, assist in answering employment-related questions, conduct résumé critiques and provide related services," explains Terry Brennan, director of the agency's OVWD unit.

According to Brennan, homelessness is a major problem among veterans in the United States. "Statistics show that an estimated 200,000 veterans in the United States are homeless, which represents 25 to 30 percent of the nation's homeless population," he said.

Veterans needing a ride to Stand Down 2014 can take a bus that will pick up riders between 6 and 7:30 a.m. at the following locations: Bridgeport, Danbury, Danielson, Derby, East Hartford, Ellington, Enfield, Hartford, Manchester, Middletown, Milford, Naugatuck, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Newington, Norwalk, Norwich, Stamford, Terryville/Plymouth, Torrington, Vernon/Rockville, Suffield, Wallingford, Waterbury, West Haven, Westport and Willimantic.

"Getting back into the workforce is an important step in terms of getting our veterans back on their feet," Brennan adds. "Our Connecticut Department of Labor staff is quite experienced in helping our brothers and sisters who are coping with stress-related disabilities or dealing with homelessness. They will be more than happy to work with the visitors who attend Stand Down, with the goal of providing them with guidance and the employment and training tools they need to succeed in the world of work."

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