



COOK COUNTY
BUREAU OF

ADMINISTRATION

**COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
(CCVA)**

AGENDA

- CCVA Services & Mission
- CCVA Scope of Responsibility
- Benefits Provided to Cook County Veteran & Military Community
- CCVA ARPA Programs

MISSION & SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mission: Empower all Cook County veterans through workshops, newsletters and access to a network of outreach services that allow veterans to leverage their knowledge and achieve a better quality of life for themselves and their families.



Services Provided

- Resource & Employment Fairs
- Veterans Security (Housing, Subsistence & Homeless Taskforce)
- Entrepreneurship
- Outreach & Involvement
- Education & Employment
- Intergovernmental Collaboration
- Wellness: Dental, Medical & Mental Health
- Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Corps
- Grants for Veteran Service Organizations

CCVA SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

- County agency under the Office of the President working with Veterans and Military Members of Cook County.
- Works as a neutral entity outside of the organizations that comprise the VAC3
- Oversees the health and wellness of County Veterans Service and Support programs, Organizations, Veterans, Dependents & Military Members
- Provides, facilitates and coordinates support and services to Veteran Service Organizations (including administering local grants and procurement of Federal Grants)

CCVA SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

- Assists the VAC3 with Veteran Cases outside of their scope of service and sources support through the County's support partners locally and nationally.
- Interfaces with the USVA and Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs to handle cases for Cook County Veterans routed to the CCVA
- Handles all Veterans, Dependents and Service Members regardless of Discharge Status; including Veterans temporarily or permanently residing outside of Cook County.

BENEFITS PROVIDED TO COOK COUNTY VETERAN & MILITARY COMMUNITY

- **Outreach & Engagement:** The CCVA has a directory of the 137 Veteran Service Organizations within Cook County; Direct contact with the 55 Colleges and Universities' Military and Veteran Student Liaisons; Gov Delivery distribution of 5.9k contacts; partnerships with local radio stations and media outlets
- **Intergovernmental Collaboration:** Partner with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, United States (U.S.) Department of Veterans Affairs, Internal Revenue Service, City of Chicago Office of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Senators Durbin and Duckworth and U.S. Representative Robin Kelly. Partnerships have resulted in Supportive Services Career and Resource Fairs with IDVA, City of Chicago, Boeing and University of Chicago; Participation and Coordination of Military Service Academies Day for Chicagoland Students has resulted in an average of 100 student participants and the nomination and acceptance of 6 CPS students into Service Academies
- **Partnership with the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Battalions** that include 11 Universities in the Chicagoland area and assist in the collaborative efforts of the City of Chicago's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC): Partnerships have resulted in a 55% increase in participation of JROTC students in ROTC college recruitment and scholarship programs.

BENEFITS PROVIDED TO COOK COUNTY VETERAN & MILITARY COMMUNITY

- **Resource & Employment Fairs:** The CCVA hosts 4 R & E fairs annually throughout the County, with an average attendance of 100 veterans per fair, providing direct support to Veterans and Military members. On average the CCVA partners with 5 County offices and 20 Partner organizations to achieve this mission. In FY23 the CCVA has an average of 485 veterans participating in outreach events each month where they are directly connected to Local, County, and Federal services.
- **Entrepreneurship:** The CCVA hosts 2 events annually with County partners, Contract Compliance and Bureau of Economic Development to host vital summits and workshops with Veteran Business owners and provide vital funding to Veteran Owned businesses impacted from COVID-19: (50) Veteran business owners attended the Veterans Certification Webinar hosted in August and 100 participants are expected to attend the Veteran Business Summit on October 27th.

CCVA ARPA PROGRAMS

- **Education & Employment:** Partnership with National Able Network and Microsoft to create the Chicago Cook Technology Academy that trains and certifies 32 veterans and transitioning service members annually in vital information technology (IT) courses. At the completion of the course, the students work with a talent manager and the CCVA's network of IT hiring partners to assist the students in matching with the employer best fit for their skills.
- **Honor Grants** (Veteran Security, Employment Services, Mental Health, Benefits Service & Support): The CCVA has partnerships with 10 Veteran Service Organizations including Illinois Joining Forces, Leave No Veteran Behind and Military Outreach USA. Achieved through grant funding from NT888 ARPA Program. The CCVA has issued a total of \$900,000 in funding in FY23 with \$600,000 remaining to issue in FY24, resulting in 8,397 reported veterans being served by these organizations from January to September 2023. (9) Non-Profit Organizations from the second round of Honor Grant funding in FY23. Awardees will be announced during the County Veterans' Day program.

CCVA ARPA PROGRAMS

- **Veterans Small Business Grant:** Allocated \$1 Million to support 100 veteran owned businesses to BED. The County received 543 applications from Veteran owned businesses in FY22 and saw an increase in applicants in FY23 with the relaunch of the Source Grants. The CCVA works with Contracts & Compliance to build county Veteran business database and outfit businesses with necessary certifications
- **Veterans Home Repair:** Allocated \$1.25 Million to RTMC for Veteran and Dependent home repairs and/or improvements. Applications for services opened March 2023 and closed May 1, 2023. Of 286 applications received, 195 were eligible for repairs. These 195 applicants and their homes are being reviewed and assessed by RTMC for program suitability, to select the homes for repairs. A minimum of 30 homes will be repaired in FY23-FY24. The CCVA will create a webinar to assist Veterans in applying for the federal Special Housing Adaptation Grant

CONTACT INFO

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