

A close-up, black and white photograph of the American flag, focusing on the field of stars. A bright, circular spotlight illuminates a central area of the stars, creating a strong contrast with the surrounding darker fabric. The flag is angled diagonally across the frame.

coming h★me

AMERICA WORKS

Over **22 million** Americans are veterans of America's armed forces.

Nearly **300,000** men and women come home from service each year.

what's next?

homeless- ness?

Three hundred thousand veterans experience homelessness each year; on any given night, 154,000 veterans are homeless. In early 2008, foreclosure rates in military towns were increasing at four times the national average. About 8 percent of veterans who served post-September 2001 are paying more than half their income towards housing, placing them at serious risk of homelessness.

poverty?

Over 1.3 million veterans were living in poverty in 2008—just over 6 percent of all veterans. Tens of thousands of veteran families rely on food stamps to get by. From 2007 to 2008, the use of food stamps by military personnel and their dependents increased 25 percent, almost twice the increase among Americans overall.

un-employment?

Nearly one million veterans are looking for work and can't find it. Some are ex-soldiers who fought in Vietnam and have struggled to find their footing ever since. Others are brave men and women who signed up to defend our country after September 11, 2001. Eight years later, the number of Iraq and Afghanistan vets looking for work nearly equaled the number of soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan at that time. In one combat unit from Washington State which returned home in August 2009, 40 percent were still unemployed in December.

let's get to work

America's veterans aren't looking for a handout – they want a job.

They want a chance to work hard, make their way up, and live the American dream that they fought to protect.

Sure, times are tough right now. But they put their lives on the line for us. We owe them “a square deal.” We owe them a job.



“I just want a job – nothing else.
From there I can make my own way.”

—U.S. Army veteran Mario Moreno

america works

For more than twenty-five years, America Works has been helping hard-to-place people find and keep jobs. We have placed ex-welfare recipients, former prisoners, people living in shelters, young people aging out of foster care.

In all, over 175,000 people have found jobs through America Works.

we know what works

America Works offers a time-tested, proven job strategy:

☆ **EMPLOYER CONNECTION:**

Close relationships with employers who trust America Works because it delivers disciplined, hardworking employees.

☆ **JOB PREPARATION:**

Resume preparation and interview coaching to help people get over the first hurdle toward employment.

☆ **WORK FIRST:**

Rapid attachment to the labor force to start people up the job ladder.

☆ **ON-THE-JOB SUPPORT:**

Help clearing the “static” that can interfere with work –whether that’s referrals for job-appropriate clothes, helping line up child care, or providing transit cards to make sure employees can get to work.

☆ **PAY FOR PERFORMANCE:**

A for-profit company, America Works gets paid only for successful placements.

☆ **WAGE SUPPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:**

America Works handles payroll for a program that supplements an employee’s first six months of wages and benefits.

it’s worked before

America Works has helped over 175,000 people find and keep jobs. We consistently score number one in job placement and retention among New York City agencies. We have taken our model nationwide, with offices in Baltimore, Newark, Oakland, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

More importantly, America Works founders Peter Cove and Dr. Lee Bowes helped convince policymakers to incorporate their “work first” strategy into the fundamental reform of the nation’s welfare laws in 1996, as policymakers sought to end welfare dependence and help people support their families through work. Independent analysis by the non-partisan Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation found that the “work first” approach produced “substantial gains in employment and reductions in welfare receipt during the first year,” gains that were sustained as the program went on.

making it work for veterans

More and more soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan are coming home every week to a tough job market. At least one in ten of these vets are unemployed; among those aged 18 to 24, more than one in five are looking for work. And more and more of them are showing up at America Works.

America Works offers them the help they need to get a job. Many returning soldiers, for example, went into service straight from school. They are searching for a civilian job for the first time in their lives. They don't have a resume. They lack the experience and references that employers are looking for. And unlike when they entered the service, there's no "boot camp" to teach them how to be successful civilians again.

America Works helps them translate their military experience into a resume and skills civilian employers want, and then connects them with employers who have real jobs. Many companies are willing, even eager to hire veterans. But they lack the time and resources to seek them out. America Works makes the link.

We also help support the vets once they're working, connecting them to services and supports they need to stay on the job. That's especially important for vets facing more serious problems like post-traumatic stress, substance abuse, or depression.

Through its current programs America Works serves

- ☆ veterans receiving public assistance, food stamps (SNAP), SSI and SSDI benefits
- ☆ veterans who have HIV/AIDS or are noncustodial parents
- ☆ formerly incarcerated vets
- ☆ homeless vets who are living in shelters or on the street

These programs were initiated and supported by Mayor Bloomberg and his administration, including the NYC Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs and NYC Human Resources Administration.

In its first year, America Works has placed over 250 vets, at an average salary of \$10.84.

While America Works is proud to help veterans who are down on their luck, what's missing is funding to provide direct employment services so that veterans do not have to become homeless, or sign up for food stamps or welfare – or wind up in prison – before they get help finding a job. In 2009, the budget for helping returning veterans reintegrate into civilian life was less than our country spent in a single day of combat operations.

america's work

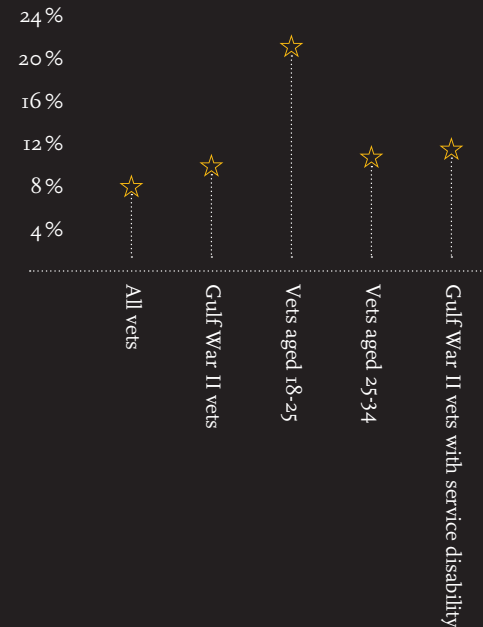
What should America do to make sure its veterans get what the country owes them – a chance to get a job and live out the American dream?

☆ **OFFER** direct employment programs to help returning soldiers make the transition to work. This service should be offered from transition onwards, in collaboration with current services, such as the Transition Assistance Program and Vocational Rehabilitation. These programs will be pay-for-performance to ensure that our service men and women obtain and retain civilian employment.

- ☆ **HELP** support wounded vets by extending direct employment services to spouses and dependents of Veterans.
- ☆ **EXPAND** current specialized employment programs, in particular the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program and programs for incarcerated Veterans, nationwide.

Veterans Looking for Work

Percent unemployed (2009 averages—Bureau of Labor Statistics)



Veterans of the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have higher rates of unemployment than do older veterans, who have had more time in the labor force.



“A man who is good enough to shed his
blood for his country is good enough
to be given a square deal afterwards.”

—President Theodore Roosevelt
June 4, 1903

let's work together

Especially in tough economic times, Congress should enact public policies, like those outlined above, that can genuinely help returning soldiers get jobs and become productive members of the society they risked their lives to defend.

To learn more about America Works or to arrange consultation on creating city and state job programs for vets, contact Peter Cove at 212.599.5627 or through our website, www.americaworks.com



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