

## Veterans Small Business Owners Resource Guide



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# Government Organizations

## U.S. Federal - Veteran Business



### **Small Business Administration (SBA) Veteran's Business Outreach Centers**

<https://www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance/vboc>

The Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) program is a one-stop-shop for transitioning service members, Veterans and military spouses looking to start, purchase, or grow a business. Located nationwide, VBOCs provide transition assistance programs, including Boots to Business and Boots to Business Reboot, as well as business development assistance such as: training, counseling, mentoring, and resource referrals.

### **SBA Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD)**

<https://www.sba.gov/business-guide/grow-your-business/veteran-owned-businesses>

Devoted exclusively to promoting Veteran entrepreneurship, the OVBD facilitates the use of all SBA programs by Veterans, service-disabled Veterans, reservists, active-duty service members, transitioning service members, and their dependents or survivors. SBA programs provide access to capital and preparation for small business opportunities. They can also connect Veteran small business owners with federal procurement and commercial supply chains.

### **Wisconsin Small Business Development Center (SBDC)**

[Veteran and Military Community Consulting \(SBDC\)](#)

The Wisconsin Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is a [statewide network](#) supporting entrepreneurs and business owners through no-cost, confidential consulting and business education. Their regional expertise is accessible to anyone anywhere across more than a dozen locations.

### **SBA Federal Contracting Service-Disabled Veteran owned Small Businesses program**

<https://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-assistance-programs/service-disabled-veteran-owned-small-businesses-program>

The government limits competition for certain contracts to businesses that participate in the Service-Disabled Veteran owned Small Business program. Joining the disabled Veterans' business program makes your business eligible to compete for the program's set-aside contracts. You can still compete for contract awards under other socio-economic programs you qualify for. The federal government's goal is to award at least three percent of all federal contracting dollars to service-disabled veteran owned small businesses each year.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

### **Veteran Administration (VA) Vets.gov procurement registration**

<https://www.vets.gov/employment/job-seekers/register-your-business/>

If you're a veteran who owns a small business, you may qualify for advantages when bidding on government contracts, along with access to other resources and support, through the Vets First Verification Program. This program is run by the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU). Registering through OSDBU will allow you to work with the VA (all businesses who work with VA must be registered). Find out if you can register your veteran owned small business.

### **VA Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization**

<https://www.va.gov/osdbu/entrepreneur/>

The Veteran Entrepreneur Portal (VEP) is designed to save you time with direct access to the resources necessary to guide every step of entrepreneurship. VEP makes it easier for small businesses to access federal services, regardless of its source, and quickly connects veteran entrepreneurs to relevant 'best-practices' and information.

### **Office of Personnel Management (OPM)**

#### **Veteran Services**

<https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/veterans-services/>

Our mission is to expand opportunities to hire and retain Veterans, transitioning military service members and their families who have the experience, skills and competences the Federal Government needs.



### Department of Defense (DoD) – Office of Small Business Programs

<https://business.defense.gov/>

The DoD offers multiple opportunities for entrepreneurship through contracting. Pursuing DoD contracts is not for everyone; it requires patience, persistence, and an in-depth understanding of federal acquisition rules. DoD small business professionals are available to help understand their organization's mission, challenges and requirements.



### U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Business Programs

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/business-programs>

Business Programs provide financial backing and technical assistance to stimulate business creation and growth. The programs work through partnerships with public and private community-based organizations and financial institutions to provide financial assistance, business development and technical assistance to rural businesses.

### USDA Veterans and Entrepreneurship

[Veterans and Entrepreneurship | USDA](#)

The USDA provides multiple avenues for Veterans to gain exposure to the Agricultural industry. In addition, the USDA can help Veterans transition into farming, ranching, and other agricultural opportunities by connecting you with financial, educational and training resources, and business planning support.

### Department of Labor (DOL) Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets>

VETS serve America's Veterans and separating service members by preparing them for meaningful careers, providing employment resources and expertise, and protecting their employment rights.



### U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

<https://www.uspto.gov/about-us/events/veterans-innovation-and-entrepreneurship-program>

The Veterans Innovation and Entrepreneurship Program offers opportunities for veteran independent inventor, entrepreneurs, small business owners, and intellectual property (IP) professionals to connect and learn about useful resources.



INTERNATIONAL  
**TRADE**  
ADMINISTRATION

### Department of Commerce

<https://www.trade.gov/vetsgoglobal>

VetsGOGlobal is a Veteran led initiative of the U.S. Commercial Service whose focus is to educate and inform U.S. Veteran-owned, Service- Disabled Veteran-owned, and military spouse-owned business on the export process and international business opportunities.

Wisconsin Small Business Development Center Network

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Nationally accredited member of the largest business support network in the United States. Hosted by the University of Wisconsin System.

## State of Wisconsin - Veteran Business



### **Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs (WDVA) Veteran Business**

<https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/educationEmployment/FeeWaiver.aspx>

Wisconsin Act 209, signed into law on April 4, 2012 and effective July 1, 2012, created a program that requires the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) establish and maintain a program under which 13 state agencies will grant fee waivers to qualified Veterans when issuing initial licenses.

<https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/benefitsClaims/Financial-Grants.aspx>

The WDVA provides multiple grants to Veterans and their employers. Recently unemployed or underemployed Veterans may receive up to \$5,000 per year, for a maximum of two years, if they have a financial need while being retrained for employment.

<https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/benefitsClaims/VeteranOwnedBusiness.aspx>

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes the important role that veteran owned and disabled veteran owned businesses play in the Wisconsin economy. In order to help such businesses identify and promote themselves, the WDVA makes available a logo for certified veteran owned businesses operating in Wisconsin.

### **The State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR)**

[DOR Starting a Business \(wi.gov\)](#)

This tool, in conjunction with the [Wisconsin One Stop](#), have developed a comprehensive guide for the information needed to create a business in Wisconsin. The search function helps navigate the required forms and tax permits.

[Alcohol Permit](#) [Fuel Tax](#) [Vice Tax](#) [Catering DOR Using My Tax Account \(MTA\) \(wi.gov\)](#)



### **WWBIC – Veterans Business Outreach Center**

<https://www.wwbic.com/veterans/>

We are honored to be one of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Veteran Business Outreach Centers (VBOC) providing business development services in Wisconsin.



### **Wisconsin Procurement Institute (WPI) Veteran Business Contracting**

<https://www.wispro.org/>

The Wisconsin Procurement Institute (WPI), a nonprofit organization established in 1987, is an outgrowth of then Congressman Les Aspin's efforts to help Wisconsin businesses win federal contracts, especially defense contracts. WPI's mission is to assist Wisconsin businesses in all of Wisconsin's 72 counties to create, develop and grow their Federal, State and Local Government sales, revenues, profits and jobs.

### **Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC)**

[WWBIC | Putting Dreams to Work Since 1987](#)

Since 1987, WWBIC has loaned over \$90 million to underserved residents of Wisconsin and Illinois including women, veterans, rural, low-wealth and people of color. They focus on individuals who face barriers in accessing traditional financing, including veterans, in pursuit of their dreams and economic well-being.



### **Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD)**

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/veterans/resources/>

The State of Wisconsin proudly serves Veterans by providing education, training, and other benefits to Veterans and their family members.

### **Legal Action – Veteran Business Free Legal Service**

<http://www.legalaction.org/services/veterans>

Legal Action of Wisconsin's Veterans Small Business Project stimulates economic activity and creates job growth by assisting Veterans in launching their new businesses. Under the program, Wisconsin Veterans with limited financial resources will receive free legal services for the creation and operation of their business.

### **Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)**

<https://www.startinwi.com/>

Broken down by region, the Start in Wisconsin is a useful resource for both owners and startups. The network will power connections to start, scale and accelerate area entrepreneurs.

### **State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)**

[DATCP Home Veteran Farmer Assistance and Outreach Program \(wi.gov\)](#)

The DATCP contains an abundance of resources for Veterans looking to get into the Agricultural field. The [Wisconsin Farm Center](#) is able to assist by providing access to resources, offering guidance on developing a business plan to help kick-start a farm, and offering a differentiated veteran farmer logo that can be used on agriculture products.



### County Veteran Service Officers

[wicvso.org/](http://wicvso.org/)

The County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin (CVSO) is an organization of professional veteran advocates. In Wisconsin the County Veterans Service Officer plays a critical role in the veteran's advocacy system and is often the initial contact in the community for veteran's services. Through the County Veterans Service Officer the Association is committed to Wisconsin counties to provide a vital and efficient system of services and advocacy to Veterans, their dependents, and survivors.

# Nonprofit, Non-Government Organizations (NGO), Private

## Nonprofit, NGO – Veteran Business



### Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce

[wiveteranschamber.org/](http://wiveteranschamber.org/)

The Wisconsin Veterans Chamber of Commerce is a membership-based business organization serving Veterans and military families by supporting veteran owned and veteran-friendly businesses across Wisconsin. On behalf of our members, we serve as an advocate for Wisconsin's Veteran business community, and promote economic opportunity for military Veterans, military families, and veteran-friendly businesses.

**WVCC**

PROVIDES SUPPORT  
TO VETERAN AND  
VETERAN  
FRIENDLY  
ENTREPRENEURS



**W**e are the voice of Wisconsin's veteran business community, dedicated to improving the business climate for military Veterans and their allies.

### Veterans Business Resource Center

<https://www.vetbiz.com/>

The Veterans Business Resource Center (VBRC) is a Project of the Veterans Advocacy Foundation, Inc., an IRS 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Our goals are to honor the men and women who have served our country and to assist them in their entrepreneurial endeavors. As members of the Veterans Business Community, we are confident that the success of this program will directly benefit regional investment and job growth.



### **Coalition for Veteran Owned Businesses (CVOB)**

<http://veteranbusinesscoalition.org/>

This first-of-its-kind national initiative supports the success of veteran, service member and military spouse-owned businesses by connecting them with entrepreneurial education and training, small business resources and solutions, and commerce and supplier opportunities. The coalition advocates for and supports businesses operated by the greater military and veteran community, including both business-to-business and business-to-consumer models.

### **Veteran Owned Business (VOB)**

<https://www.veteranownedbusiness.com/wi>

Our mission is to help empower military Veterans who own businesses to grow, hire fellow Veterans and give back to military veteran organizations that directly impact the servicemen and servicewomen (and their respective families) who proudly served our great nation.

### **National Veteran Owned Business Association (NAVOBA)**

<https://navoba.org/>

NAVOBA provides a direct link for contracting between corporate America and Certified Veteran's Business Enterprises™ (VBE) and Certified Service-Disabled Veteran's Business Enterprises™ (SDVBE).

### **VetToCeo**

<http://www.vettoceo.org/>

We are a band of Veterans who share a passion for entrepreneurship as a viable career choice after our time in the military.

## Vets 21 - Veteran Entrepreneur Training Symposium

<https://web.cvent.com/event/9cf406ed-cd67-4658-997c-c0b987712079/summary> The Veteran Entrepreneur Training Symposium is a business development conference created by successful Veteran business owners for Veterans who are looking to enter the Federal marketplace. VETS'21 brings together Federal agencies, contractors and Veterans to discuss ways to take full advantage of the federally mandated contracting for veteran-owned small businesses.

## SCORE – Resources for Veteran Businesses

<https://www.score.org/resources-veteran-entrepreneurs>

Resources for veteran entrepreneurs. If you're a former service member or a veteran thinking about starting a small business, take advantage of these resources.

[SE Wisconsin](#) | [SCORE MADISON SCORE](#)



[West Central Wisconsin & UP of Michigan](#) | [SCORE](#)

## American Corporate Partners (ACP)

<https://www.acp-usa.org/>

Founded in 2008, ACP aims to ease the transition from the military to the civilian workforce. ACP is the only nonprofit organization engaged in national corporate career counseling for our returning military.

## Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF)

<https://ivmf.syracuse.edu/>

The IVMF is committed to advancing the post-service lives of America's service members, Veterans, and their families. Supported by a world class advisory board and public and private partners, our professional staff delivers unique and innovative programs in career, vocations, and entrepreneurship education.



## V-Wise, Veteran Women Entrepreneurs

<http://vwise.vets.syr.edu/>

Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship (V-WISE) is a premier training program in entrepreneurship and small business management operated by the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University.

## Private Veteran Business



### **Veteran Owned Business**

[www.veteranownedbusiness.com/](http://www.veteranownedbusiness.com/)

Join other veteran owned small businesses (VOSB) already listed, and at no cost get your company's profile potentially seen by millions of fellow Veterans, government agencies, prime contractors, subcontractors, corporate purchasing departments and every day consumers who strongly and proudly support Veterans. (11/11/17)

### **VetFran**

<https://www.vetfran.org/>

To educate both Veterans and franchisors about the unique match between the skills and aptitude of entrepreneurial Veterans and the demands and opportunities of being a franchisee.

### **Prudential Veteran Initiatives**

<https://www.prudential.com/links/about/veterans/veterans-initiative>

Today, Veterans are returning to civilian life by the tens of thousands, eager to apply their highly refined talents in sustainable careers. At Prudential, we have responded by creating our Veterans Initiatives.

### **Patriot Boot Camp**

<http://patriotbootcamp.org/>

Patriot Boot Camp is hosting its next technology entrepreneurship boot camp in Austin, TX. The program will welcome 50 military Veterans and spouse entrepreneurs from around the country, who will participate in educational workshops, mentoring sessions with startup experts, and peer networking over the course of three intensive days.



## Grants and Loans – Veteran Business



### **Veteran Loan Fund**

[Home - Veteran Loan Fund](#)

Veteran Loan Fund is an online platform that connects military Veterans and their spouses with mission-focused business lenders and education partners. Their mission is to solve the issue Veterans and their spouses face as they pursue entrepreneurship and small business ownership.

### **EntrepreneurFund (EFund)**

[Entrepreneur Fund](#)

From planning, starting, our building your business, Efund has the team, resources, and connections to help you move forward. Efund will co-create a unique roadmap to help you achieve your business and personal goals. Their loans have a 60% less chance of default compared to the national rate.

### **Street Shares**

<https://streetshares.com/>

Business loans and financing for veterans. StreetShares is a company with a mission: bringing trusted digital finance to America's heroes. If you've met the team, you'll know why. Our team is an incredibly passionate and dedicated group of Veterans and civilians who are driven by helping entrepreneurs succeed.

### **SBA**

The SBA provides the [504 loan](#) and the [7\(a\) loan](#) program to eligible borrowers. These loans typically offer longer repayment terms over traditional lending sources but require substantial documentation and a down payment from the borrower.



### **Wisconsin Business Development (WBD)**

#### [WBD Your Business Finance Resource](#)

WBD provides 504 loans to help borrowers buy, build, or refinance existing debt. Since 1981, WBD has helped fund over 2,500 business and created over 65,000 jobs in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

### **Startups.co**

#### <https://www.startups.co/articles/business-grants-for-veterans>

We've compiled all the information Veterans need to find business grants ranging from federal government grants to state-level small business grants, as well as resources for private funding specific to current and former service members.

### **Nav.com**

#### <https://www.nav.com/blog/10-small-business-grants-and-loans-for-veterans-29031/>

The 21.8 million Veterans in the United States have made remarkable sacrifices in their service and deserve all the appreciation they receive and more. Their time in the military and the skills they've developed give them a distinct perspective, which they can use to start amazing businesses. Like any person trying to start their own business, Veterans need capital to get things off the ground. Multiple institutions offer grants or financing options with specific benefits for Veterans.

## **Veteran Accelerator and training resources**



### **VBOC Boots to Business & Boots to Business | Reboot**

<https://sbavets.force.com/s/>

Boots to Business is an entrepreneurial education and training program offered by the SBA. The course provides a basic overview of entrepreneurship and applicable business ownership fundamentals. The program is available to all Active-Duty Service members, Veterans of all eras, and spouses are eligible to participate.

### **Gener8tor**

[gener8tor Madison — gener8tor](#)

[gener8tor Milwaukee — gener8tor](#)

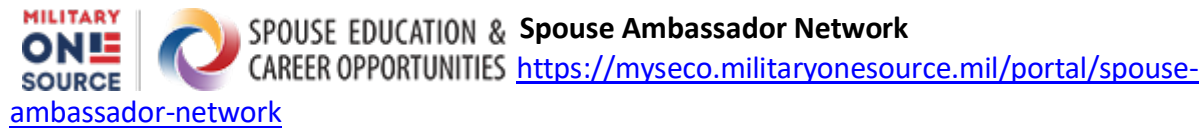
Gener8tor is a nationally ranked capital firm and accelerator that brings together startup founders, investors, corporations, job seekers, universities, musicians, and artists. The gener8tor platform includes more than 75 programs spanning startup accelerators, corporate programming, speaker series, conferences, skills accelerators, and fellowships. Provides FREE 4-7 week coaching sessions. The program is offered in the Madison and Milwaukee area.

### **Kauffman FastTrac**

[FastTrac Self-Paced](#)

This FREE self-paced course helps aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs to develop and refine a business concept, taking it through each step of the business planning process. The ultimate goal of the course is to have a thoroughly researched and tested business plan. Kauffman also provides an excellent [resource page](#) of must reads for entrepreneurs.

## Veteran Community and Network Resources



The spouse ambassador network provides education and career guidance to military spouses worldwide, offering comprehensive resources and tools related to career exploration, education, training and licensing, employment readiness and career connections.

### **Association of Military Spouse Entrepreneurs (AMSE)**

<https://amseagency.com/>

AMSE connects Military Spouse business owners with the tools and resources needed to become successful in launching and growing their business. AMSE is an Exclusive Community for Military Spouse Entrepreneurs to Start, Scale, and Sustain their business.

### **ACT NOW Education**

<https://www.actnoweducation.com/>

ACT NOW Education provides guidance and the tools necessary to make your goals a reality. Whether career planning, business development, job opportunities, certifications, apprenticeships, or transitioning/retiring from the military. Services provided to Active Duty, Veterans, Military Spouses, Reservist, and the National Guard.

### **The Rosie Network**

[The Rosie Network | HOME](#)

Provides a free military entrepreneur [program](#) that provides learning opportunities with mentors, subject matter experts, and accountability partners. The Rosie Network's mission is to build stronger military families through entrepreneurial programs and support services that empower military spouses, transitioning service member and Veterans, increasing the financial stability and self-sufficiency of American families who serve.

### **USO Pathfinder**

<https://www.uso.org/programs/uso-pathfinder>

Transition Resources for Service Members and Military Spouses

### **UW Madison First Steps**

[SBDC First Steps UW-Madison](#)

This online free course will help you understand your readiness and provide recommendations on how to proceed in planning for your business. The course covers the following four sections: Entrepreneurial mindset, financial readiness, business idea, and next steps.