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Oakland County services for military vets expanded

Counselors help secure benefits, jobs



Oakland County seal. Peg McNichol / MEDIA NEWS GROUP

By **PEG MCNICHOL** | pmcnichol@medianewsgroup.com |

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Oakland County's veterans' services representatives will be onsite at the Michigan Works! centers in Novi, Southfield, and Oak Park one day a week.

They will provide veterans and their family members with convenient access to a broad range of services.

The county's MichiganWorks! will host veterans-benefits counselors in Novi and Southfield on Tuesdays, and Oak Park on Thursdays.

The goal, according to the county's executive, Dave Coulter, is getting services closer to where veterans live. This, he said, means "residents who served their country will not only be able to get help accessing their benefits, but assistance for their careers as well."

The services include helping veterans and their family members in completing and submitting applications for federal, state, and county veterans benefits. Those benefits include military and civilian disability compensation; healthcare, transportation, job-seeking and education resources. Financial support includes help with home loans, life insurance, burial benefits and other relief or untapped compensation.

Garth Wootten, the county's veterans' services division manager, said these services are offered to veterans of all ages and at all stages of

Jennifer Llewellyn, Oakland County Michigan Works! director, said service centers help with matching a veteran's military experience and accomplishments with civilian occupations and helping those who recently left military service transition to civilian life, among other services.

"Our staff at the six Oakland County Michigan Works! service centers are available to provide them, their spouses, and family caregivers with comprehensive career planning, training programs, job search resources and more on a priority basis," Llewellyn said.

Oakland County Michigan Works! service centers are in Novi, Oak Park, Pontiac, Southfield, Troy and Waterford. Each year, 105,000 job seekers use these centers to get career coaching, interviewing and job search workshops, placement assistance, training courses and job trend information.

People can make one-on-one appointments with MichiganWorks! service representatives for help with resumes, job interviewing skills and other support. To schedule a time, call (248) 858-5520.

Service centers are hosting virtual workshops for job seekers. That schedule is online at www.OaklandCountyMIWorks.com.

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