



Prevailing Wage and Military Veterans in Connecticut: Fact Sheet

Prevailing wage benefits veterans who populate the construction trades at higher rates than non-veterans and are increasingly utilizing apprenticeship programs to transition into civilian careers in this fast-growing field.

Veterans are more likely to work in construction than non-veterans.

- Approximately 5,200 veterans are employed in blue-collar construction occupations in Connecticut.
- Veterans account for 4.9% of the overall workforce in Connecticut but comprise 6.6% of all blue-collar construction workers in the state.
- Veterans own or co-own 13.5% of all construction firms in Connecticut.

As construction replaces retiring workers, apprentices from the military are a vital source of skilled labor.

- Construction employment is projected to increase by 13.2% over the next decade, the fastest-growing industry in the state.
- Nationwide, the United States Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) now accounts for 21% of all registered apprentices.
- As of April 2017, there are currently 219 veteran apprentices in the construction trades in Connecticut.

Prevailing wage benefits the local economy and supports middle-class careers.

- Prevailing wage establishes local construction standards and ensures that blue-collar construction workers earn livable wages that reflect the markets where they live.
- Prevailing wage creates a level playing field for local businesses competing with out-of-state or foreign companies.
- 75% of recent, peer-reviewed academic studies conclude that prevailing wage does raise construction costs.

Prevailing wage improves economic outcomes for veteran workers.

- Prevailing wage standards make construction employment more attractive for veterans.
- Prevailing wage standards increase the annual incomes of veteran construction workers by 7-11%;
- Prevailing wage standards reduces veteran poverty by 24-31% for those working in construction.

The economic outcomes Connecticut's veterans would be significantly altered if the state decided to weaken or repeal its prevailing wage standards.

- 1,300 blue-collar veterans would be expected to separate for their jobs in construction over time.
- The average income for veteran blue-collar construction workers would decline by over \$5,100 annually.
- Approximately 270 employed veterans would lose their employer-provided health plan and another 160 would fall below the official poverty line and qualify for food stamps.

By decreasing veteran worker incomes, reducing the number of veterans with health insurance, worsening veteran poverty, hindering apprenticeship training, and shrinking the market share of veteran-owned construction companies, repealing or weakening prevailing wage would increase taxpayer costs on the backs of veteran workers who served their country.