



Veterans in Local Government

Still serving!

LOC Conference
Fall 2025

Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions – name, service branch, city
- Current state of efforts to “build a bridge”
- What are your thoughts?
 - what’s needed?
 - what’s next for OCCMA, LOC?



Current state

- Recruiting challenges
- Untapped talent pool
- Why veterans?
- Misperceptions

Current state: ICMA

- Nashville Conference in 2019
- VAC (veterans advisory committee)
- VLGMF – using SkillBridge
- MOAA job fairs
- Strategic Plan
- Outreach to state associations

Considerations for separating veterans: Professional opportunities! But also...

- Intent to stay in area of last military assignment
- Cost of living – including state income tax, sales tax
- Weather and other quality of life factors
- Opportunities for spouses
- Extended family
- Environment for raising children
- VA medical care
- Post-secondary education opportunities

ICMA | veterans

**Still Serving – Veterans In Local
Government**

ICMA

veterans

ICMA

Leaders at the core of better communities.

Membership ▾

Careers & Learning ▾

Publications & Research ▾

Partner ▾

News & Events ▾

Knowledge Center ▾

Home / Careers & Learning / Career Assistance / Career Guides

Veterans

ICMA recognizes the contributions veterans bring to local government. Transitioning veterans interested in a career in local government can explore the resources in this section.

POPULAR RESOURCES

Veterans Local Government Management Fellowship

Veterans Guide to Finding a Job in Local Government

Veterans Local Government Education Opportunities with the Maxwell School of Syracuse University

Veterans Employment Opportunities in Local Government

HR Guide to Hiring Veterans

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Veterans Resources

Local governments play a key role in ensuring the success of reintegrating today's veterans and caring for their families.



ICMA has been highlighting best practices of cities and counties that have developed exemplary programs to assist veterans and their families and offers a nationwide network of city and county managers to spread the word about these programs. ICMA is partnering with national, state, and local government organizations to ensure that local governments have the tools needed to reintegrate and care for veterans and their families.

ICMA's Veterans Committee

The Veterans Advisory Committee was established in October 2020 and its mission is to enhance local government through the inclusion of veterans who share the passion, skills, and knowledge to succeed in public service. This committee's goals are to:

- 1) Bring awareness to ICMA members about the skills of veterans.
- 2) Raise visibility of a local government career path among military members.
- 3) Develop and strengthen relationships between the veteran community and local governments.

Job Center	>
ICMA Credentialing	>
Learning @ ICMA	>
Career Assistance	▾
Coaching	>
Career Compass	
Career Guides	>
Fellowships, Internships & Scholarships	▾
Bob Turner Scholars Internship Program	>
Local Government Management Fellowship	>
VLGMF	▾
About VLGMF	
VLGMF Locations	
Apply to be a Fellow	
Become a Host	



Strategic Plan 2025-2027 Veterans Advisory Committee

VAC VISION STATEMENT

The Veterans Advisory Committee - A bridge connecting military Veterans to the local government profession.

Comprised of ICMA members with diverse backgrounds, experience and passion for service, the Veterans Advisory Committee (VAC) serves as a bridge between Veterans and local government, working to connect, advise, and improve awareness about the opportunities that exist to serve and excel in local government careers.

The VAC strives to enhance local government and increase the talent pool of the next generation of local government professionals, by attracting qualified Veterans to pursue local government career opportunities, and by furthering the knowledge and skills of Veterans already serving in local government roles.

VAC MISSION

Mindful of this Vision, the VAC will:

- ✓ Build and strengthen relationships between the Veteran community and local governments.
- ✓ Improve the visibility of municipal government as a career opportunity among military veterans and those currently serving.
- ✓ Build awareness within local government of the skills and knowledge veterans can bring to the profession.
- ✓ Advise ICMA on development of new programs and services that strengthen the connection between veterans and local government.
- ✓ Provide networking and professional development opportunities for veterans serving in local government positions.

2025-2027 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Improve veteran visibility within ICMA
- Increase awareness amongst veterans of local government opportunities
- Expand veteran representation in local government related organizations
- Enhance veteran access to resources

What's next for OCCMA, LOC?

- Web page
- Recruiting effort
- ?? What else can we do?

Webpage



Oregon Veterans Leading Government OVLG

Talk to Veterans in Local Government

OVLG Leadership/Facilitators:

- Aaron Palmquist, Army, CSM (ret.), Command Sergeant Major, City Manager Irrigon, Oregon - 541-922-3047, [email](#)
- Jerry Gillham, CW3, US Army and ORANG (ret.), City Manager Sutherlin, Oregon - 541-459-2856, [email](#)
- Peter Troedsson, CAPT, US Coast Guard (ret.), City Manager Albany, Oregon - 541-917-7505, [email](#)
- Eric Underwood, US Navy, City Manager Donald, Oregon - 971-715-8571, [email](#)
- Barry Murphy, Col, US Air Force (ret.), City Manager Baker City, Oregon - 541-524-2040, [email](#)
- Mac Corthell, Sergeant, USMC, Sergeant, ORARNG, Assistant City Manager Molalla, Oregon - 503-759-0219, [email](#)

Education Links

- [Portland State University Veterans Resource Center](#)
- [Student Veterans of America](#)
- [University of Oregon Veterans Center](#)

Veteran Employment Resources and Job Boards

- [Industry Partner Website](#)
- [Oregon Military Department](#)
- [League of Oregon Cities](#)
- [Association of Oregon Counties](#)
- [Special Districts Association of Oregon](#)
- [Prothman Recruiting](#)
- [GMP Consultants](#)
- [Jensen Strategies](#)
- [Motus Recruiting](#)
- [Strategic Government Resources](#)

ICMA

Upcoming Events

Webpage

- **Mission:** To help Veterans serve and lead in local government.
- **Vision:** The bridge connecting Veterans for service and leadership in Oregon local governments.
- **Guiding Principles:**
 - To **ADVOCATE** for the service, skills, experience, and value that Veterans bring to the local government career field.
 - To expand the **NETWORK** of fellow Veterans and other professionals within OCCMA membership, enhancing inclusiveness, integration, mentorship, and service in local government.
 - To **TRAIN** Veterans and other leaders in local government best management practices, lessons learned, and latest development within the profession.
 - To **PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES** that help translate and enhance skills and experience of Veterans and other leaders and strengthen the diversity of the local government management profession.

Recruiting



What's needed?

- Visibility
- Awareness
- Equivalency?



What else can we do?

Thank you!

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- Joel Haugen, jhaugen@scappoose.gov
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- Ann Ober, Ann_Ober@washingtoncountyor.gov