



JOIN OPERATION GREEN LIGHT FOR VETERANS

America's counties have a long and proud history of serving our nation's veterans, a legacy that continues to this day as we work with our federal, state and local partners to ensure that the former service members in our communities have access to the resources they need to thrive.

This coming Veterans Day, the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO) are leading the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs in **Operation Green Light** to **show support for veterans by lighting our buildings green from November 4 to November 11**. By shining a green light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated and supported.

CONGRESSIONAL TOOLKIT

- Join the bipartisan H. Res. 750 to formally recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans. Email Ben Peterson with Rep. Betty McCollum's office to join: ben.peterson@mail.house.gov
- Shine a green light from your district and Capitol Hill offices from November 4 to November 11
- Issue a press release about your participation in Operation Green Light, making sure to highlight county services available to veterans in your district
- Share photos and information about county-level resources for veterans on social media using #OperationGreenLight
- Encourage individuals, businesses and community partners to show support by turning on a green light from November 4 to November 11!

*Scan the QR code for more
about Operation Green Light.*



COUNTIES MATTER FOR VETERANS

Service-connected benefits

In 29 states, counties use local dollars to fund County Veteran Service Officers (CVSOs) to help veterans and their families navigate the complex intergovernmental chain of veterans services and resources. This relatively small workforce is responsible for successfully processing more than \$52 billion in compensation, pension, health care and other benefits for veterans each year.

Mental health supports

County governments are uniquely equipped to convene community stakeholders to employ evidence-based public health practices to prevent and reduce veteran suicide at the local level. Annually, counties invest \$100 billion in community health systems, including behavioral health services, while we plan and operate community-based services for persons with mental illnesses and substance abuse conditions through 750 behavioral health authorities and community providers.

Criminal justice diversion

Counties across the nation operate Veterans Treatment Courts, through which we can connect justice-involved veterans with programs and benefits that can treat underlying mental health and substance abuse conditions.

Homelessness prevention

Counties and other local public housing agencies use federal HUD-VASH vouchers to provide homeless veterans with housing, provide wraparound case management services and convene community stakeholders to pursue functional zero for Veteran homelessness.

Employment opportunities

Counties employ 3.6 million public servants across a wide range of sectors, including 374,000 law enforcement officers, 328,000 hospital workers, 259,000 human services workers, 200,000 public health workers and 93,000 fire protection workers. In August 2022, 7 percent of employed veterans worked in local government.

