



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

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SC ranks sixth in U.S. for veterans employment in 2013 as rate drops 2.8 percent

South Carolina's unemployment rate for veterans 18 and older dropped to 4.1 percent in March 2013, down from 6.9 percent the same time in 2012, the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics reported today. The Palmetto State posted the nation's sixth best rate.

"This is an extremely positive step," said Cheryl M. Stanton, executive director of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW), an agency that plays a huge role in helping veterans transition into the workforce. "It's the result of hard work and dedication by a lot of people, state agencies and other public and private organizations coming together to make South Carolina the most military-friendly state in the nation."

Today's announcement comes on the heels of the launch of Operation Palmetto Employment, a statewide initiative led by Gov. Nikki Haley, in partnership with the SC National Guard, pledging a commitment to help service members, family members and veterans find meaningful civilian careers. It also follows the recent announcement that 2013 was a banner year for employment in our state as more South Carolinians were employed by the end of the year than ever before in the state's history.

DEW has a range of resources for veterans in SC Works centers statewide. Some of the offerings include job search workshops, assistance with resumes, career counseling, and intensive services such as one-on-one case management and follow-up along with career counseling and job referrals.

All veterans receive priority service in SC Works centers. Priority means that veterans and eligible spouses receive access to a service earlier than others. Also, if a particular resource (such as a training program) is limited, the veteran or eligible spouse receives access to the service before others.



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Members of the military are encouraged to visit their local SC Works center and let staff know they are a veteran. It is a good idea for them to bring a copy of their DD-Form 214 to expedite any necessary paperwork.

Visit dew.sc.gov or operationpalmettoemployment.sc.gov for more information.

To find an SC Works center, visit dew.sc.gov/directory.