

Celebrate Diversity

#MOCelebratesDiversity



Each month, the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) looks forward to providing content that celebrates the diversity across our state's workforce and embraces the differences in each other that help to make us better together. Check us out [here!](#)

Veterans in the Workplace

By the Office of Equal Opportunity

Veterans Day falls on Nov. 11th each year. OA, along with the entire State of Missouri, wants to show appreciation for the dedication and sacrifice made by all service members, veterans, and their families. We are truly grateful! The State of Missouri offers a wealth of services and resources to better support the military-connected community.

Last year, [SB 120](#) went into effect on Aug. 28, 2021. State agencies are now required to include a question about military status on new or updated forms. This helps identify individuals who would like to receive information about military-related services in Missouri. The purpose of this initiative is to connect service members, veterans, and their family members in Missouri with resources and opportunities to meet their needs. Since last year, over 2,300 individuals who are connected to the U.S. military service came through our application system and were connected with additional information.

Also, Missouri is participating in a Governor's Challenge, hosted by Veterans Affairs/ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([VA/SAMHSA](#)), to prevent suicide among service members, veterans, and their families. The Missouri Governor's

Challenge Team is confident that by being more intentional in asking the citizens we interact with about their military status allows us to better connect them to the support services they may need.

The [Missouri Veterans Commission](#) (MVC) champions service for veterans. Their Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) are knowledgeable in federal and state benefits for the military-connected community, ranging from healthcare and child support to education and financial assistance. The MVC also has resources and coordinators specific to minorities, women, and current or former incarcerated veterans. The commission has created an informational tool and service guide to find benefits and local resources. Check out the portal [here](#) or call 573-522-4061 for more information.

As OA team members, we all want to work in a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive workplace. The state's workforce should reflect the rich diversity of the citizens of Missouri, which includes supporting those who are serving or have served in the armed forces.

