



# OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: VETERAN SERVICES

PEOPLE FOCUSED. PERFORMANCE DRIVEN.

## Goal Statement

To assist veterans and their dependents in securing all entitled benefits earned through honorable military service, and to advocate for veterans' interests in the community.

## Strategic Initiatives/Support Highlights

### Economy

- Continued to focus resources on assisting Veterans.
- Helped Veterans and their dependents with processing benefit claims and obtaining other benefits entitled to them through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and other Federal Agencies.
- Continued to fund and administer Leon County's Active Duty Grant Program, to help offset financial obligations for active duty service members and their families.
- Continued to fund Leon County's Veterans Emergency Assistance Program, which provides veterans in need with emergency financial support for expenses such as rent, utilities, temporary shelter, and transportation for medical treatment.
- Continued to host the annual Operation Thank You events by remembering D-Day and honoring local World War II Veterans with a pancake breakfast served by Leon County Commissioners.
- Continued to partner with Career Source Capital Region by referring Veterans who require assistance with obtaining employment job search skills.

## Contact Us

(850) 606-1940  
www.LeonCountyFL.gov/Vets

## VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

- Leon County understands that behind every veteran's benefits claim is a veteran in need. In FY14, the Leon County Veteran Services Division:
  - Assisted more than 3,000 veterans and dependents in person.
  - Facilitated claim actions that resulted in Leon County veterans receiving more than \$8.8 million in new awards.
  - Managed the Veterans Resource Center where veterans will have access to resources to assist them with employments needs.
  - Sent "welcome" letters to all separating veterans who designated Tallahassee as their home of record or as the place they will be relocating to after separation. These letters provide a wealth of information regarding services provided by Leon County's Veteran Services and other community resources dedicated for veterans.
  - Provided veteran benefits presentations for "Senior Days" at all senior center events throughout Leon County.
- To honor and recognize the service of World War II Veterans, Leon County hosted 2014 Operation Thank You. The event included the presentation of colors, performance of the National Anthem, remarks from World War II veterans and formal recognition of the World War II veterans. Over 400 citizens attended the event.
- Leon County continued to support and fund the Leon County Active Duty Grant Program to offset financial obligations for active duty service members and their families. For FY14, the County distributed more than \$34,000 to veterans and their families through this program.
- Leon County developed and approved funding for the Veterans Emergency Assistance Program, which provides emergency financial assistance to help qualifying veterans meet critical, basic

needs such as, rent, mortgage, and utilities. The County distributed more than \$25,000 to veterans through this program in FY14.

- Leon County was a partner for Honor Flight Tallahassee, which transported 79 World War II veterans and support personnel to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifice. An Honor Flight trip is provided at no cost to the veterans, and entirely funded by local fundraisers and community support. Leon County contributed staff support and \$15,000 to help offset the costs of this event.



Operation Thank You

## Demonstrating Highest Standards of Public Service



Leon County received the **National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award** in the category of Human Services for the Operation Thank You: Honoring Our Veterans.

