



Military Veterans RESOURCE CENTER

The Truth About Veteran Poverty

- Over 730,000 veterans call Ohio home. Including family members, veteran households contain over 1.5 million people, including over 300,000 children.
- Over 65,000 veterans live in Franklin County, with 162,000 people in their households, including 30,000 children.
- Across Ohio, about 18-20 percent of veterans and their families live in poverty. Of all Ohio veterans, about 135,000 live in poverty.
- In Franklin County, 12,000 veterans live in poverty. Over 30,000 people live in their families, including 8,200 children.
- For a single parent with two children (which is about average for Ohio), the minimum living wage the parent must earn is over \$27 per hour. For two working adults, the minimum wage they must earn is \$15 per hour.
- There are a lot of reasons why many veterans are living in poverty: Military disability. Illness. Age. Job loss. Divorce. Sometimes, life just goes sideways.

That's Why We're Here

- Military Veterans Resource Center is an Ohio nonprofit that helps veterans get their lives back on track. We believe in helping veterans become self-reliant, independent, contributing members of society. We believe that doing so strengthens Ohio's economy while reducing the demand for government-funded services.
- Our clients are poor. Nearly all of our clients live below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, which makes them eligible for food stamps, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families).
- They are men and women who served their country well but have been forgotten and left behind. We help them regain the dignity and self-respect they felt when they wore our nation's uniform.
- We begin by ensuring that their basic survival needs of food and shelter are met. We then provide one-on-one coaching to help them gain employment or access other resources that will bring financial stability to their lives. This includes preparation for employment, plus the supportive services that veterans need while they work toward self-reliance, such as help with food, shelter, transportation or counseling.
- We're not your typical nonprofit. A lot of nonprofits provide handouts, but no answers. We solve problems. We help veterans identify the barriers they face and overcome those barriers to become free of poverty – often, for the first time in their lives.

Free of Poverty? Really?

- Over the past five years, we have helped over 6,000 Ohio veterans. We've helped over 1,400 veterans find good jobs at an average wage of over \$30,000 per year. Their employment has contributed \$120,000,000 to Ohio's economy.
- We've provided 3,000 veterans and their families with over 200,000 meals – but have barely begun addressing the need. Even as the economy improves, food insecurity is growing.
- Our Tools for School program has provided school supplies to over 1,500 children of veterans.
- Our Vets File Free program has completed nearly 1,900 tax returns for veterans, returning to them over \$2,300,000 in federal and state tax dollars while saving them over \$100,000 in filing fees.
- And we do it all with openness and integrity. We are an annual recipient of GuideStar's Platinum Award for financial transparency and organizational integrity.