



**FY-2021**

**Hiring of Veterans  
by State Vendors  
Annual Report**

**July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

This report details the reported number of veterans hired by State vendors.

In accordance with 30 ILCS 500/45-67, the Illinois Department of Central Management Services submits the following report to The Honorable Governor Pritzker.

Janel L. Forde  
Director

## **2021 Annual Report on Hiring of Veterans by State Vendors**

### **Overview of the Act**

Pursuant to Section 45-67 of the Illinois Procurement Code (30 ILCS 500/45-67, “the Act”) the State of Illinois encourages State vendors to hire qualified veterans and notify the vendors of any available financial incentives or other advantages associated with hiring such persons. The Act further requires that the Department of Central Management Services (CMS) report to the Governor and General Assembly the activities undertaken by the Chief Procurement Officers and CMS to encourage potential vendors to consider hiring qualified veterans. The report must include the number of vendors who have hired qualified veterans.

### **Hiring of Veterans Annual Report**

Statute requires that all invitations for bids include encouragement to prospective vendors to hire qualified veterans. In accordance with this mandate, the following language has been incorporated in the standard bid documents:

“Employment Tax Credit: Vendors who hire qualified veterans and certain formerly incarcerated persons may be eligible for tax credits. Please contact the Illinois Dept. of Revenue (217-524-4772) for information about tax credits.”

The Act also directs CMS to provide the Governor and the General Assembly with a yearly report identifying the activities undertaken by Chief Procurement Officers and CMS to encourage prospective vendors who have hired veterans. The report must include the number of vendors who have hired veterans. There exists within the statute the Interagency Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the Department of Corrections, the Department of Employment Security, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Revenue and 8 members of the General Assembly (2 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 2 appointed by the President of the Senate, 2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and 2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate) to explore new ways to encourage the hiring of qualified veterans by State vendors. The Interagency Advisory Committee did not meet during the time-period represented in this report.

The current procedure for tracking vendor hiring of formerly incarcerated persons requires vendor self-reporting. In prior fiscal years, CMS sought vendor reporting about their program participation via multiple published requests posted on the BidBuy informational pages. For 2021, CMS emailed all vendors registered in BidBuy and conducted multiple follow up requests over a span of several weeks seeking for responsive information. 96 responses were received.

Based on the results of the e-mailed survey, the following information was reported:

- Number of vendors hiring veterans: 33
- Number of veterans hired by State vendors: 1,264

CMS and the Committee continue to explore alternative methods to gather necessary data and encourage vendors to self-report the hiring of qualified veterans. CMS is seeking to partner with the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department Economic Opportunity and the Department of Employment Security to develop programs that will encourage vendors to hire veterans.