

WorkSource Services to Veterans

Presented by

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**Employment
Security
Department**
WASHINGTON STATE

Our Focus on Veterans

- ▶ **Washington State's Workforce Development Plan for Adults, Objective 3 "...overcome barriers to education and employment for targeted populations including veterans."**
- ▶ **The jobs for Veterans Act of 2003 provides for *Priority of Service* to veterans and other eligible persons in Department of Labor funded job training programs.**

ESD Veteran Services

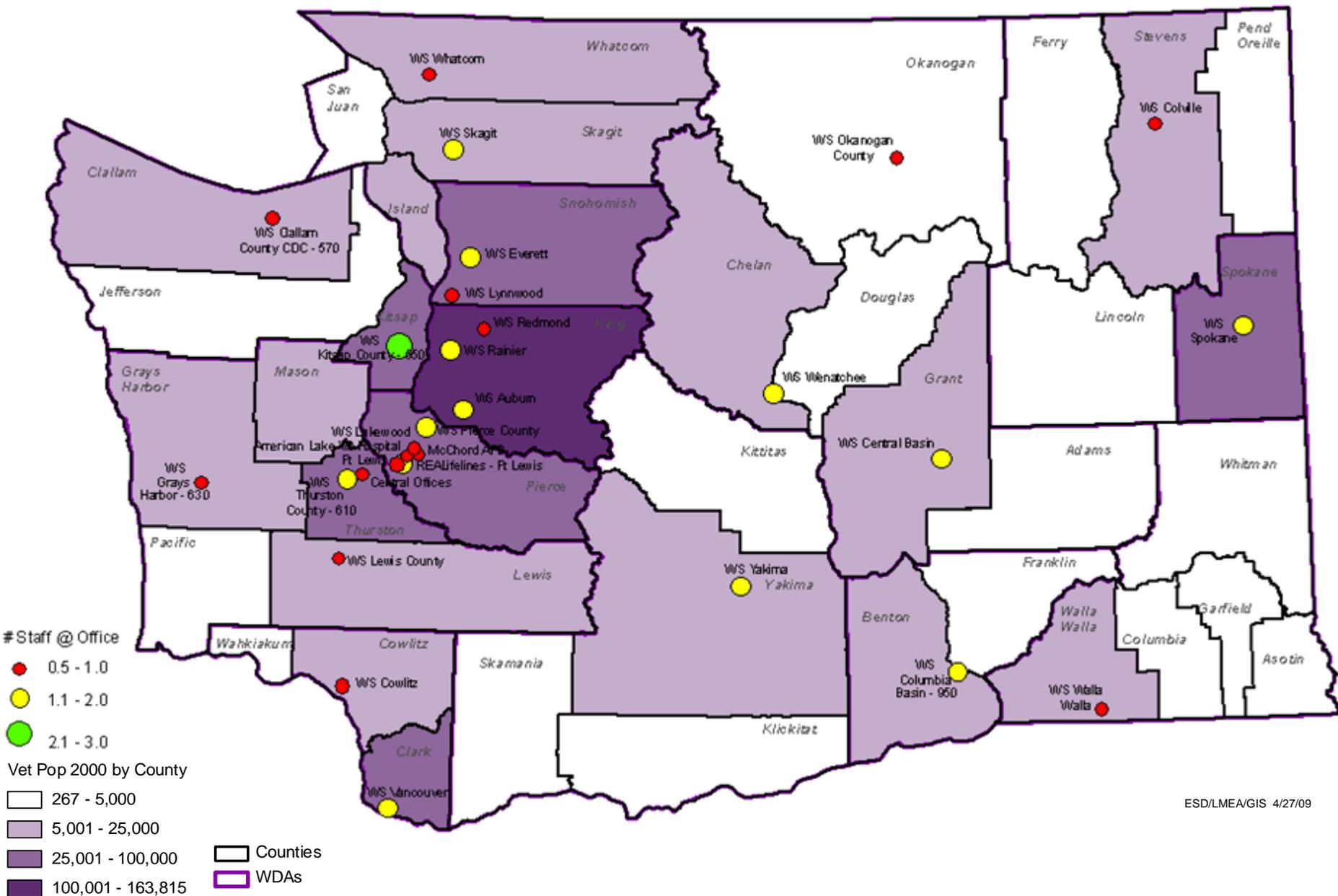
- **Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER)**
 - Connections with local business communities
 - Working with veterans who are best served with staff-assisted core, intensive and training services
- **Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP)**
 - Focuses services benefitting veterans with significant barriers to employment
- **REALifelines Employment Coach**
 - Serves wounded soldiers in recovery assigned to the Warrior Transition Brigade, Ft Lewis
- **Intensive Services Coordinator (ISC is a New position)**
 - Co-located with the Veterans Administration to serve veterans receiving vocational rehabilitation services focused on employment outcomes.

Our Veteran Customers

- Washington States Veteran population is over 670,000 – 2000 census data
- WorkSource – 2008 stats
 - 390,000 persons served - 30,000 are veterans
 - 26% of veterans have a college degree compared to 17% for the general job seeker
 - 59% are over 45 years of age compared to 36% for the general job seeker
- In August 2009, the 81st Brigade will return with an estimated 800-1200 soldiers looking for employment assistance
- Veteran UI claims—In March 2009, 11.25% of claimants had veteran status (19,679 out of 174,909 continuing claims)

VETERANS POPULATION BY COUNTY AND WORKSOURCE VET OFFICES

(Sources: ESD and Census 2000)



Closing the Gaps

- Recently-Exited Veteran Needs
 - Increased incidence of service connected disabilities
REALifelines Program and ISC position
 - Articulation between military training and experiences leading to credentialing or licensing – skill based progression into training such as CDL, EMT, or trades
 - Entry into registered apprenticeship programs e.g.--
 - Veterans in Pipefitting
 - Helmets to Hardhats
 - Alternative Route Certification Program into Teaching - HB 1156

Closing the Gaps

- Seasoned Veterans Needs
 - GI Bill entitlements run out after 10 years
(But new help from the Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008 extends benefit period to 15 years and adds housing stipend)
 - Many veterans start *stop gap* employment upon exit from military service without capitalizing on education benefits
 - More choices for short-term certification training wanted
 - 6-12 month skills development options
 - OJT opportunities
 - Commissioner Approved Training support
 - Training Benefits

Closing the Gaps

- Under-Employed Veterans Needs
 - Wage data extracted from all E-6 and below National Guard soldiers indicates that in 2006 & 2007 wages out of 3200 soldiers 2100 earned less than \$6000 per quarter.
 - (Note: not all soldiers hold full time employment and other factors are reflected in these number such as:
 - Students
 - Second income family members
 - Person not working fully within the quarter)
 - Continuous engagement is a promising strategy with veterans to develop career pathways, actions, training and timelines that can lead to sustainable living wage employment