

## California's Operation Welcome Home

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First in the nation, Operation Welcome Home is a statewide campaign to connect with each and every returning veteran to determine their needs and connect them with the services that can help them transition successfully from the battle front to the home front.

The mission of California's Operation Welcome Home is to directly connect with the 30,000 veterans annually returning to California so they can access the benefits they have earned and the services that can help them transition successfully from military service to their civilian life. Governor Schwarzenegger has targeted \$20 million to hire 325 people to directly reach out and connect with these combat veterans. This operation, one of the most comprehensive collaboration of services in the nation, will break down government silos and will allow veterans straightforward and easy access to benefits and services including:

- **Employment Assistance**;
- Job Training Assistance and Unemployment Benefits;
- Education Opportunities;
- Housing Assistance;
- Health Care Needs:
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits; and
- Support for Families.

Although extensive improvements have taken place across California's state government, more coordination is needed to ensure that a veteran returning to California after separating from the military, is aware of, and connected to, benefits and services available to him or her. Operation Welcome Home brings state, federal and local government agencies together with private sector service providers, non-profit organizations and volunteers to reach out to every veteran as they leave the military service and return to their communities.

## Responsiveness of Government: Breaking Down the Silos:



Regional Team

Operation Welcome Home consolidates the efforts of governmental agencies and departments, non-governmental entities and volunteer organizations into Regional Outreach Teams. By developing nine Regional Outreach Teams across the state, the California Department of Veteran Affairs is building a unique network of outreach organizations that will directly touch veterans throughout the State. With service providers, volunteers, and government entities working together, resources can be managed and targeted with greater efficiency. Each team will meet the individual and unique needs of every new veteran around the community by partnering with:

The California Department of Veterans Affairs; the California Military Department; the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency; Employment Development Department; California Volunteers; California Department of Mental Health; California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs; County Veteran Service Officers; Veterans Service Organizations; U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs; and a network of mental health professionals and community organizations.



