



FY-2020

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

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

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

2020 Annual Report on Hiring of Veterans by State Vendors

Overview of the Act

Pursuant to 30 ILCS 500/45-67 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 ex-offenders may be eligible for tax credits. Please contact the Illinois Dept. of Revenue (312-814-3215) for information about tax credits.”

30 ILCS 500/45-67 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 potential contractors to consider hiring qualified veterans. The report must include the number of vendors who have hired qualified veterans”. Efforts to convene a meeting of the Interagency Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 or 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 were stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CMS intends to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee to explore new ways to encourage the hiring of qualified veterans by State vendors in 2021.

The current procedure for tracking a vendor’s hiring of Veterans requires self-reporting. Utilizing the contact information in BidBuy, CMS sent emails to over 1,800 vendors identified as having current State contracts. Each vendor was sent follow up emails on two separate occasions asking for the information. 222 responses were received.

The following information was reported:

Number of vendors hiring veterans:	75
Number of veterans hired by State vendors:	443

CMS continues 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 vendor