

DORA SEEKS MILITARY INSIGHT



“But, unfortunately, a lot of returning heroes with advanced skills--they don’t get hired simply because they don’t have the civilian licenses or certifications that a lot of companies require. At the same time, I hear from business leaders, who say they can’t find enough workers with skills necessary to fill open position...So think about it...we got openings and all these skilled veterans looking for work, and somehow they’re missing each other.”

President Obama, June 1, 2012

The Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) recognizes that our country’s military personnel, veterans and their families face unique challenges and barriers transitioning into civilian life, specifically with respect to occupational licensing and credentialing. DORA is committed to identifying and eliminating any such unnecessary barriers and obstacles, particularly in the more than 60 licensed and credentialed professions and occupations, and regulatory programs housed in the Department. During 2011-12, the licensing boards in the Division of Professions and Occupations (DPO) adopted rules allowing for the award of credit for education, training and service completed in the military. We are in the process of reviewing the Division’s experience with the new rules. Additional efforts include the implementation of other bills that waive renewal fees for eligible military personnel, and allow certain, newly relocated military spouses to practice in their fields for up to a year. Details are available at www.dora.colorado.gov/professions/military.

It is our goal to continue efforts to ensure that all of DORA’s programs and services are accessible, responsive and efficient for military personnel and their families. To this end, we are looking to establish a baseline of accurate and reliable information with respect to the demographics, unique needs and challenges of our veterans and their spouses who are currently among the licensee population across the Department. We have designed a quick and simple survey to the Department’s licensees, statewide, with the intent of using the information to further enable us to craft meaningful and timely solutions to eliminating the unique barriers to civilian licensure faced by our veterans and their families.

DORA is ever mindful of the need to solicit and listen to the input and insight of stakeholders and the consuming public, and our military and veteran community is no different. The Department expects to use the information collected by this initial survey to engage in further conversations and initiatives to enhance Colorado’s reputation as one of the most military friendly states in the nation – in recognition of and with gratitude for those who have served and sacrificed for our country.