



Leave No Veteran Behind

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**LEHIGH COUNTY
VETERANS'
MENTORING
PROGRAM**



**GAVIN P. HOLIHAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

What is the Veterans' Mentoring Program?

The Lehigh County Veterans' Mentoring Program (VMP) was founded in 2011 to address the issues faced by a growing number of veterans involved in the criminal justice system. The VMP uses a collaborative approach to criminal justice proceedings. The VMP works in conjunction with the District Attorney's Office, defense attorneys, local programs and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to give each program participant the best possible chance of getting back on track as a healthy, productive veteran and citizen.

The Veterans' Mentoring Program offers veterans involved in the criminal justice system the opportunity to connect with a fellow veteran, giving the participants an informal way to ask questions, to solicit feedback and to discover ways to improve their situation.

This is a voluntary program, with no additional costs or administrative burdens for program participants.

Who is a Veteran Mentor?

Veteran Mentors are volunteers who are trained in the criminal justice system, have served or are currently serving in the U.S. military, and want to assist veterans who are involved in the criminal justice system. A mentor works one-on-one with a veteran as

an advocate, a non-judgmental peer, and a resource navigator as they work to address issues related to their criminal case. Mentors provide an opportunity for the veteran to share experiences with someone who can relate to their military experience.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Veterans' Mentoring Program is to provide all qualifying veterans with a trained mentor who will serve as an advocate and ally and help them navigate the criminal justice system and life issues. The program strives to:

- Help our veterans receive the services they need to reach their full potential as productive members of society.
- Help our veterans navigate the court system, treatment system, and VA system.
- Assess the needs of our veterans and help them adjust to civilian life.

How to Apply For a Mentor

You are eligible to apply if you received an Honorable Discharge from the U.S. military and are currently charged with a criminal offense. If accepted, you will be matched with an appropriate veteran mentor.

You may apply by submitting a confidential application to:

**Veterans' Mentoring Program
455 W. Hamilton Street, Room 307
Allentown, PA 18101.**

To obtain an application, or if you have any questions, you may contact one of the following:

Adult Probation:

Shane Schmeckenbecher, Supervisor
(610) 782-3409

Lehigh Valley Pretrial Services:

Jodi Stephen, Executive Director
(610) 289-2410

Public Defender's Office:

Anna May Labenburg, Social Worker
(610) 782-3156

Lehigh County Jail:

Carol Sommers, Asst. Director of Corrections
(610) 782-3609

District Attorney's Office:

Pamela Lehman, Executive Aide
(610) 782-3230

Lehigh County Veterans Affairs:

Thomas Applebach, Director
(610) 782-3295

For more information and applications, please go to the Website:

www.lehighcounty.org -- Click on "Elected Officials", then "District Attorney". On the left side is a special section "VMP" with news releases, mentor applications, mentee application and brochure links.