



**Leave No Veteran Behind**

# **LEHIGH COUNTY VETERANS' MENTOR PROGRAM**



## What is the Veterans' Mentor Program?

The Lehigh County Veterans' Mentor 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 Veterans Administration to give each program participant the best possible chance of getting back on track as a healthy, productive veteran and citizen.

The Veterans' Mentor Program offers veterans involved in the criminal justice system the opportunity to speak with a veteran who has "been there." The program offers participants an informal way to ask questions, to solicit feedback and to find 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 try to address issues related to the criminal case and other problems they may have. 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' Mentor 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.

**To apply, submit a confidential application to:**

**Veterans' Mentor Program**  
**455 W. Hamilton Street, Suite 307**  
**Allentown, PA 18101.**

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

### Adult Probation:

Shane Schmeckenbecher, Probation Officer  
(610) 782-3409

### Lehigh Valley Pretrial Services:

Maureen McManus, Executive Director  
(610) 289-2410

### Public Defender's Office:

Karen Schular, Chief Deputy Public Defender  
(610) 782-3156

### Lehigh County Prison:

Carol Sommers, Deputy Warden of Treatment  
(610) 782-3425

### District Attorney's Office:

Megan Wieand, Executive Aide  
(610) 782-3100

### Lehigh County Veterans Affairs:

Tom Applebach, Director (610) 782-3295