



BIG VOICE

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS



My Career Advancement Account Scholarship and Financing Your Education

- **About:** *My Career Advancement Account Scholarship Program* provides up to \$4,000 to eligible military spouses to pursue or maintain a career.
- **When:** February 5, 2026, from 12 - 12:20 p.m.
- **Where:** Online
- **Register:** myseco.militaryonesource.mil/portal/events



DONALD P. WAGNER
OCworkforce.gov

LAKE
FOREST



ATTENTION JOB SEEKERS!

THE COUNTY OF ORANGE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR DONALD P. WAGNER, THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST, AND LAKE FOREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INVITE YOU TO ATTEND A

CAREER FAIR



FEBRUARY 5, 2026 • 10 AM - 1 PM
LAKE FOREST COMMUNITY CENTER
100 Civic Center Dr., Lake Forest

Looking for quality employment?

- Connect with top businesses
- Submit resumes directly
- Interview on the spot
- Streamline the job hunt

Free registration and parking.



Register by scanning the QR code or visit
bit.ly/2026CareerFairLF

QUESTIONS? Contact (866) 500-6587 or info@ocworkforcesolutions.com

@ocworkforce

@orangecountyworkforce

@ocworkforce

OC Community Services

OC WORKFORCE
SOLUTIONS

americanjobcenter

This WIOA Title I financially assisted program or activity is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. If you need special assistance to participate in this program, please call (866) 500-6587. TDD/TTY users, please call the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2922 or 711. Please call 48 hours in advance to allow reasonable arrangements to be made to ensure accessibility to this program.

2026 Career Fair - Lake Forest

- **About:** Connect with employers, explore job openings, and take the next step toward your career goals. Bring your resume and dress to impress! Onsite resources include resume printing and workforce experts ready to assist.
- **When:** February 5, 2026, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- **Where:** Lake Forest Community Center
100 Civic Center Dr., Lake Forest, CA 92630
- **Register:** bit.ly/2026CareerFairLF



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Social Connection at VA Long Beach

- **About:** The Veterans Social Connection (VSC) provides Veterans with an opportunity to meet and socialize in a safe environment and provide resources for Veterans.
- **When:** February 27, 2026, from 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- **Where:** Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center, Canteen Patio
- 5901 E. Seventh St., Long Beach, CA 90822
- **More information:** va.gov/long-beach-health-care/events/85466/

Event information is provided for informational purposes only. The County makes no guarantee as to the accuracy of the event content and assumes no responsibility or liability.

NEWS

COLA INCREASE



VA Compensation Benefits Increase by 2.8% Starting January 2026

Starting January 1, 2026, all compensation benefit rates have been increased by 2.8% to match adjustments made to Social Security benefits. This increase impacts disability benefits, clothing allowance, dependency, and indemnity compensation (DIC), as well as other assistance programs.

Learn more: [Current Veterans Disability Compensation Rates](#)



CalVet Secures Key Federal Grant Opportunity for Southern California Veterans Cemetery

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) has been officially informed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that the Southern California Veterans Cemetery in Anaheim (Gypsum Canyon) is eligible to receive a federal grant of up to \$10 million for the project. The proposed Southern California Veterans Cemetery would be located on a 156-acre portion of the 283-acre Gypsum Canyon property in the City of Anaheim, near State Routes 91 and 241. Current plans envision a build-out spanning 100 years, ultimately providing space for approximately 200,000 burials.

Read more: [CalVet Secures Key Federal Grant Opportunity for Southern California Veterans Cemetery](#)

DID YOU KNOW



VA Long Beach Fisher House

Fisher House provides temporary lodging for families of Veterans receiving care at the Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center. Its free lodging allows loved ones to stay close during a Veteran's treatment. The house includes 16 suites, shared kitchens, laundry facilities, and welcoming common areas, all designed to ease stress during difficult times.

Learn more: [Fisher House](#)

BY THE NUMBERS MONTHLY

Numbers are based on December 2025 service data.

Veterans Served (includes emails, calls, and appointments):
1,796

Benefits Granted by Veterans Administration:
\$2,020,062.12

Claims Filed:
1,291

College Tuition Savings:
\$473,418

For more information, contact the VSO at (714) 480-6555 or ocvso@occr.ocgov.com.

 veterans.ocgov.com
 ocvso@occr.ocgov.com

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Bldg B, Santa Ana, CA 92705

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 [@oc_vso](#)