

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 1, 2025

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Chavez-DeRemer:

We are writing to bring your attention to a recent change promulgated by the Department of Labor regarding the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) application. The HVRP is critical to fostering a healthy workforce and ensuring that veterans have opportunities for post-service growth. We have significant concerns regarding the effects of this change on the veterans of rural America, as well as the Department of Labor's implementation of that program.

As you know, the HVRP is a grant program that supports organizations connecting veterans with competitive employment. It is a highly successful program that provides veterans with career exploration, technical training, job placement, and support services to help them obtain sustainable, long-term employment. This program promotes veterans assisting other veterans and has provided former servicemembers with a pathway to employment since its inception in 1987. In program year 2023, it administered services to nearly 16,000 veterans.

Under the recently issued notice FOA-VETS-25-01, prospective grant applicants must maintain a physical location within 50 miles of any county they wish to serve. This follows the previously proposed "hub and spoke" model. Both Congress and the first Trump Administration considered and rejected this approach. Congress held public discussions regarding its implementation in 2019 and ultimately decided not to pursue the model. The hub-and-spoke model consistently fails rural veterans and creates unnecessary and arduous barriers for organizations that seek to assist them. It is simply not practical for veterans' service organizations to maintain physical locations in all or even most counties in rural states like ours, which limits the areas they can serve.

We hope that you and your Department will take corrective action and rescind this rule to ensure that rural veterans receive the service they deserve. Our nation owes a debt to our veterans, and we must ensure that the federal government is working to get them more support, not less.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Susan Collins
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable Doug Collins
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420