



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Executive Department

Executive Directive 10 (2017)

ESTABLISHING A WORK GROUP TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY TO ASSIST VIRGINIA VETERAN ENTREPRENEURS

Importance of the Initiative

Many veterans would like to use the leadership skills and abilities they developed during their military service to start businesses. With the fastest growing veterans population in the nation, the Commonwealth has an opportunity to utilize this resource for continued economic development. Increasing opportunities for veterans to create and sustain successful small businesses, particularly in high-growth industry sectors, is a key component building a new Virginia economy.

Therefore, I am directing the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs to convene a work group to develop and provide recommendations that will assist veterans in Virginia with how to create and sustain an entrepreneurial venture. The strategy will also focus on working with organizations that provide entrepreneurship education programs and services to veterans.

Establishment of the Executive Leadership Team

I hereby direct the establishment of an Executive Work Group to develop a plan to equip Virginia veterans with the support, tools, and resources they need to become successful entrepreneurs in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This work group shall be led by the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs. In addition, the work group shall be comprised of designated leadership from the following entities:

- Virginia Department of Veterans Services
- Veterans Services Foundation
- Virginia Community College System
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
- Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services
- Virginia Small Business Financing Authority
- Board of Veterans Services
- Other private and non-profit sector organizations as designated by the Secretary

Key Objectives

The work group shall formulate a strategy to enhance collaboration with organizations that provide entrepreneurship education programs and services for veterans. The strategies shall include but are not limited to the following:

- A comprehensive listing of entrepreneurship resources currently available for veterans throughout the Commonwealth;
- Assistance in developing business plans, obtaining capital, marketing their businesses, and acquiring other essential entrepreneurship skills;
- Support for launching start-ups in high-growth industry sectors;
- Mentorship.

The work group shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor by October 1, 2017.

Staffing

Staff assistance for the work group shall be provided by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services.

Effective Date

This Executive Directive shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in force and effect unless amended or rescinded by further executive order or directive.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 17th day of April, 2017.

Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor

Attest:

Kelly Thomasson, Secretary of the Commonwealth