



*Building Community. Enriching Lives.*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **ECHO HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RECEIVES 2024 HIRE VETS MEDALLION AWARD FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**EVANSVILLE, IN** - U.S. Acting Secretary of Labor Julie A. Su recognized ECHO Housing and Community Development as one of the 839 recipients of the 2024 HIRE Vets Medallion Award during a virtual award ceremony presented by U.S. Department of Labor. ECHO Housing and Community Development earned the platinum award after applying earlier this year. The Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act (HIRE Vets Act) Medallion Program is the only federal award program that recognizes employers who successfully recruit, hire, and retain veterans.

“Our agency applied to receive the HIRE Vets Medallion Award because we are deeply committed to serving veterans and ensuring they have opportunities to thrive both in our community and within our workforce. Veterans bring invaluable skills, leadership, and dedication, and it’s important for us to honor their service by actively hiring and supporting them,” said Savannah Wood, the CEO of ECHO Housing and Community Development, an Army Veteran herself. “We prioritize the hiring of Veterans, especially in the positions where we work with Veterans to find stable housing and employment,” said Wood.

ECHO Housing and Community Development joins 838 other companies from 49 states, plus the District of Columbia, who have shown a commitment to hiring veterans, but also ensuring that they have a long-term career and growth plan that uses the diverse skills they acquired through their military service. Recipients of the 2024 HIRE Vets Medallion Award meet rigorous employment and veteran integration assistance criteria, including veteran hiring and retention percentages; availability of veteran-specific resources; leadership programming for veterans; dedicated human resource efforts; pay compensation and tuition assistance programs for veterans. More than 1,600 employers have earned a HIRE Vets Medallion Award since 2019.

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**ABOUT ECHO HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

ECHO Housing Corporation is a designated non-profit 501(c)(3) Community Development Corporation (CDC) with a mission to improve lives by reducing barriers to housing, social wellbeing, and economic opportunity. Since its founding, ECHO Housing and Community Development has been the leading provider of homeless services, including permanent supportive housing, for individuals experiencing homelessness in the community. ECHO has continued to grow, now encompassing eight homeless service programs, all dedicated to serving those experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

**ABOUT THE HIRE VETS MEDALLION PROGRAM:**

The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is earned by businesses that demonstrate unparalleled commitment to attracting, hiring and retaining veterans. The 2025 HIRE Vets Medallion Award application period will open to employers on Jan. 31, 2025. For more information about the program and the application process, visit [HIREVets.gov](https://hirevets.gov). There are different awards for large employers (500-plus employees), medium employers (51-499 employees), and small employers (50 or fewer employees). Additionally, there are two award tiers: platinum and gold.