Veteran Employment Services

There are many services for veterans returning to work. The IDES website has information about job fairs and special incentives given to employers to hire veterans. Visit their website at www.ides.illinois.gov/Pages/Veteran_Services.aspx.

The U.S. Department of Labor Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS) website has many resources including links to the Department of Veterans Affairs Transition Assistance Program: www.dol.gov/vets.

The VA has a number of programs to assist veterans and service members with job training and employment. http://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/index.asp

Re-Entry Services for Justice Involved Persons

The Illinois Department of Employment Security can help you find employment if you have been involved in any stage of the criminal justice process.

How to Access this Benefit: To speak with someone about the Reentry Employment Service Program (RESP) call 312-793-9741.

Under certain conditions you may be able to seal or expunge your record after an established period of time has passed: www.ides.illinois.gov/Pages/Re-Entry_Employment_Service_Program.aspx

The following types of convictions can be sealed:

- You were acquitted
- You were released without being convicted
- Your conviction was reversed
- You were released with timed served
- You received a sentence of supervision or sentence of probation
- You had a class 4 felony violation for prostitution
- You had a misdemeanor or Class 4 felony possession of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act (>10 and <30 grams, subsequent offense, >30 and <500 grams, first offense) or the Cannabis Control Act (>10 and <30 grams, subsequent offense, >30 and <500 grams, first offense)

The following types of criminal cases can be expunged:

- Arrests that do not result in a conviction (acquitted or found not guilty)
- Sentence of supervision
- First-time offender possession of cannabis or a controlled substance (1410/710 probation)
- Arrest without a conviction
  www.ides.illinois.gov/Pages/Re-Entry_Employment_Service_Program.aspx

Unemployment Benefits

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) issues unemployment benefits to eligible persons, up to a maximum of 26 full weeks in a one-year period.

How to Access this Benefit: www.ides.illinois.gov

Other information to know:
- If you are approved, your benefits are deposited directly into your checking account. If you don’t have a checking account you will be provided a debit card. Please note, you may be charged usage fees for ATM use.
- You must certify weekly for benefits and keep records of your work search.
- You may still be able to receive Unemployment Benefits if you accept a part time job. Check with the local IDES office before you decline part-time employment.

IDES has many resources to help job seekers from job listings to job training. Visit the IDES website above or illinoisjoblink.illinois.gov to learn more or call 1-800-244-5631.