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Hilton program helps states & job-hunting veterans

NASWA's partnership with Hilton™ is making the career transition easier for veterans and transitioning service members. The Hilton Honors™ Military Program provides 100,000 hotel points to eligible Transitioning Service Members and Veterans to support needed travel for verifiable employment related activities, such as a job search, training for a new job, or finding housing. Points are not awarded for vacations or non-employment activities, and no one is guaranteed to receive points. Each participating state sets their own eligibility and residency requirements, and recipients must have a Hilton Honors™ account to receive the points. Currently, 100,000 points is good for approximately three nights lodging, depending on the Hilton property. Twenty-five states are now participating in the program, including: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, Texas, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Does the program help veterans?

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- In Texas, a veteran was displaced from his home in Puerto Rico, due to Hurricane Maria. He was staying with family in Texas. He received a job offer in Florida, but was unsure how he would get there. With the points he was able to get to Florida and started working without the worry of having nowhere to sleep upon arrival.
 - An Arizona small business owner wrote, “You don't know how much this has helped. I am starting a new company and have had to take classes out of state to help me run my company better. I am cash strapped and would not have otherwise had the opportunity to attend these classes. How can I send a letter of thank you to the Hilton program? Thanks for helping vets in their endeavors.”
 - Other successes include the Massachusetts Veteran who used his points to help land a job with Delta Airlines as a first officer, and a Utah Veteran who was moving to California for a new job with Northrop Grumman. He used his points while he was looking for housing for his family.

Each of the participating states has at least one designated point of contact for the program. Veterans are directed to find the American Job Center closest to them at www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/, and ask to speak to someone who works with Veterans. In addition to information about Hilton Honors™, they can benefit from learning about other available employment and training services to help their transition.

The Hilton Honors™ Military program was started as part of Hilton’s Operation: Opportunity where they have set out to hire a total of 30,000 veterans, military spouses and caregivers. The program was launched in 2013 with a commitment to hire 10,000 veterans and spouses within five years. That goal was met two years ahead of schedule and they have since committed to hire an additional 20,000 military hires by the end of 2020. To learn more, visit jobs.hilton.com/military For more information about how your state can participate, contact Lori Adams, NASWA Policy Director, at ladams@naswa.org.