

Community Analysis

Chicago Report



AMERICA'S WARRIOR PARTNERSHIP



*This community analysis was sponsored by
JP Morgan Chase & Co. and conducted by
America's Warrior Partnership.*



JPMORGAN CHASE & Co.



*Partnering with communities to
prevent veteran suicide*

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Executive Summary

The Chicago Metropolitan area, also called “Chicagoland,” is located in the Midwestern region of the United States. The metropolitan area includes the city of Chicago, its suburbs, and neighboring communities, spanning fourteen counties in northeast Illinois, northwest Indiana, and southeast Wisconsin. Based on the 2021 U.S. Census, Chicago metropolitan area has a population of 8.9 million.

The city of Chicago sits within Cook County, the most populous county in Illinois and the second-most populated county in the United States. Cook County’s population consists of approximately 4,039,378 residents, according to the 2020 U.S. Census American Community Survey. According to the U.S. Census, Cook County had approximately 5,533 people per square mile in 2020. The land area of the county in square miles is 1,635.

Chicago’s population is as diverse as it is vast. Chicago is the home to one of the largest Eastern European and/or Slavic immigrant populations in the nation, with the majority being of Polish descent. Polish is the second-most spoken foreign language in Chicago, only to Spanish. As of 2013, Chicago has the largest population of Palestinian Americans in the U.S. As of 2018, the Chicago area has over 65,000 people with ancestral heritage from approximately 175 Native American tribes. Therefore, making Chicago the 3rd largest settlement of Native Americans in an American urban area.

Demographics*

	Total Population	Veteran Population	% of Total Veteran Population
Cook County	4,039,378	152,483	4%

*According to 2020 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Chicago is considered an international hub for finance, culture, commerce, industry, education, technology, telecommunications, and transportation. There are several public transportation options throughout the city of Chicago and surrounding areas. The “L” train is operated by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA). The CTA operates some rail lines 24 hours a day, every day of the year making Chicago one of two cities in the world to offer non-stop rail services.

Chicago is home to O’Hare International Airport, has the largest number of federal highways, and is the nation’s railroad hub. While Chicago is considered an international hub of multiple markets, their economy is as diverse as it is vast, with no single industry employing more than 14% of the workforce.

Chicago is home to several Fortune 500 Companies, including:

- Archer-Daniels-Midland
- Conagra Brands
- Exelon
- JLL
- Kraft Heinz
- McDonald’s
- International
- Motorola Solutions
- Sears
- United Airlines Holdings



— Key Findings

Strong Collaboration Between VA Vet Centers and the Communities

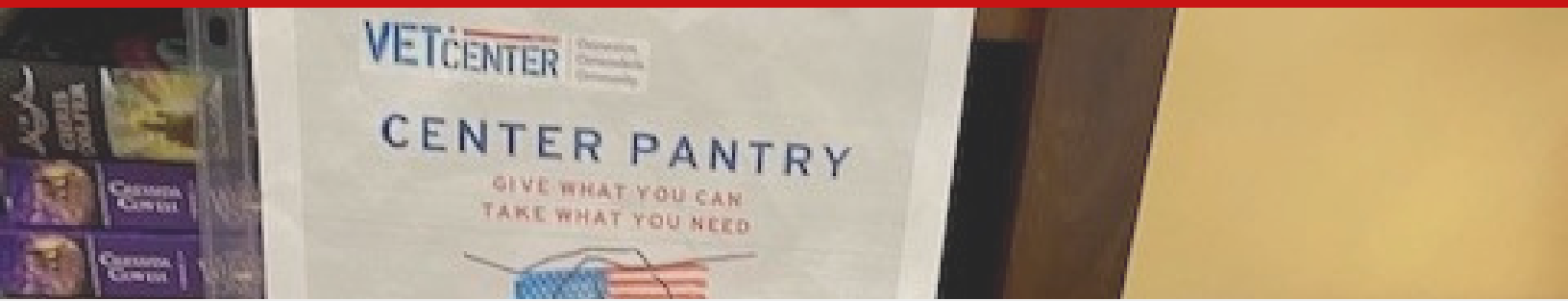
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vet Centers are very involved within their communities. Through the evaluation, there was evidence to support that the VA Vet Centers provide a plethora of activities that can include facilitating therapeutic groups; conducting individual counseling, and providing transportation for activities. The Chicago Vet Center hosts a “give what you can; take what you need” pantry of non-perishable food, hygiene, and paper items. Veterans can leverage this resource, free of cost, when items are needed. In addition, the Chicago Vet Center hosts real estate workshops every 4th Wednesday of the month to educate veterans about potential real estate opportunities. These events are in partnership with the VA, realtor associations, and financial institutions.

Limited Funding for Programs at Universities

The University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago State University, Saint Xavier University, and Roosevelt University have active Veteran Resource Centers which allow and encourage veteran students to congregate. The Veteran Resource Centers on these campuses are offices run by volunteer veteran students. These volunteers have stated a lack of funding: to host/sponsor events for veterans; to obtain mental health care; and/or, to expand the veteran resource center space/venue provided on campus. Chicago State Illinois lacks a veteran resource center altogether and only has a coordinator to assist veterans with enrollment through the financial aid office.

Increasing Student Participation

The University of Illinois Chicago and Saint Xavier University stated that due to the lack of funding for staff and activities, they are unaware of their total veteran and veteran-affiliated students enrolled. For example, Saint Xavier University has identified only 30 students using veteran benefits including dependents. Universities require additional funding to expand their outreach to non-traditional veteran students and dependents.



— Results Summary

Leadership

The Chicago Veterans provides community and educational tools to help military veterans and families transition successfully. Events are held and open to the community, such as Roll Call Professional Networking, Liberty Call: A Veteran Networking event, Celebrating Women's History Month, and many more.

The City of Chicago Veterans Resource Office offers a one-stop clearing house administered by the Department of Family and Support Services. The goal is to aid with better living, mental health, and physical health services for veterans. The resources include veteran benefits, computer access, housing/rental assistance, health screenings, family counseling for military-related issues, and more.

Outreach

Outreach is provided by veteran-serving organizations such as the VA, Road Home Program, Vet Centers, the City of Chicago Veterans Resource Office, and Leave No Veteran Behind.

Use of Technology

There is a lack of coordinated technology; therefore, the organizations supporting the veterans all use their own technology system. In doing so, duplication can arise and a lack of shared support with community providers occurs.

Purposeful Activities

Purposeful activities in the Chicago area are provided by the Chicago District Park, Liberty Call: A Veteran Networking Event, Roll Call: Chicagoland Networking Event Merrionette Park, VA Multi-unit Panel Class for Veterans, Veteran Board Game Night, The Mission Continues, Road Home Program, Honor Flight Chicago, and the YMCA – Urban Warriors. American Legion Dorman-Dunn Post 547 has over 685 members, and they create opportunities for the community such as Toys for Tots drive, Back to School drive, Sip & Paint, and much more. West Chicago American Legion Post 300 hosts social events such as fish fry weekly, holiday parties, and video games.

Behavioral Health

There are four VA Vet Centers located in Chicago. Other veteran organizations located within the community that support behavioral health include The Road Home Program, Wounded Warrior Project's Warrior Care Network, and the Chicago Veterans Ruck March.

Use of Funding/Grants

Identified issue-based funding is met by private organizations or veteran organizations such as the VA, Vet Centers, Hope Manor at Volunteers of America, Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County, Inner Voice (A Voice of Self-Reliance), Catholic Charities (Archdiocese of Chicago), the Housing Authority of Cook County, Hiring Our Heroes, Leave No Veteran Behind, Wounded Warrior Project, Honor Flight Chicago, and the YMCA-Urban Warriors.

Homelessness Program

Several homelessness programs were identified through the VA and nonprofit agencies within the community. Hope Manor at Volunteers of America, the Veteran Assistance Commission of Cook County, Inner Voice (A Voice for Self-Reliance), Catholic Charities (Archdiocese of Chicago), and the Housing Authority of Cook County all provide support for homeless veterans.

Employment

Work for Illinois, a statewide initiative, offers career counseling by appointment at the James R. Thompson Center, the Chicago office.

In addition, some other organizations that assist with veteran employment are Hiring Our Heroes, Vet2Tech, Marine for Life Network, Soldier for Life, Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES), Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, Leave No Veteran Behind, Black Diamond Charities, and Bunker Labs.

Education

There are approximately 27 colleges and universities in Chicago. The University of Illinois Chicago, Saint Xavier University, and Roosevelt University were identified as starting veterans programs through their Veteran Resource Centers. The other 24 colleges and universities did not demonstrate a web presence of support for veterans other than through the registrar office and veterans benefit page.

Access to Benefits Service

Veterans encountered were aware of the VA services Jesse Brown VA Medical Center offers. Veterans stated that it is easy to access via bus or train. West Chicago American Legion Post 300 supports veterans by appointment for benefit claims.

How Local Branches of Chase Can Help

“JPMorgan and Chase Office of Veteran and Military affairs seeks to hire 2 million veterans and 200,000 military spouses.” The target mission affects the following areas.

Growth & Entrepreneurs

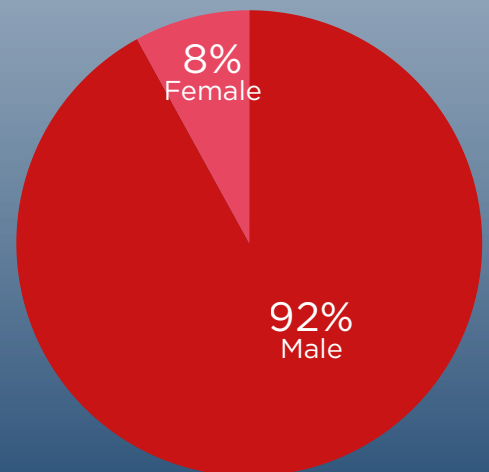
Resources related to entrepreneurship would pique interest on college campuses. College campuses have a lack of funding to conduct extensive outreach to veterans and dependents. There is an opportunity to work collaboratively with these campuses to share information about entrepreneurship through funded outreach events.

The University of Illinois Chicago, Saint Xavier University, and Roosevelt University are positioned to host entrepreneurship workshops on campus. Those campuses have already expressed an interest in engaging in more events, but currently have limited funding.

Branch(es) can work with universities/colleges, workforce agencies, and employment partners by:

- Sponsoring events to promote local veteran-owned businesses.
- Sponsoring entrepreneurship workshops in partnership with business colleges and/or workforce agencies such as Bunker Labs.
- Hosting “shark tank” events in partnership with Bunker Labs on campus to hear from entrepreneurs and provide advice on how they can get started.

Cook County Veteran Gender



Career and Skills

Organizations that support employment and skills training include the Illinois Department of Employment Security, Work for Illinois, Leave No Veteran Behind, Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, Hiring Our Heroes, Marine Life Network, Bunker Labs, and Black Diamond Charities.

The City of Chicago Veterans Resource Office is a one-stop clearinghouse providing employment assessment, job training, and placement.

Recommendations for branch(es) engagement:

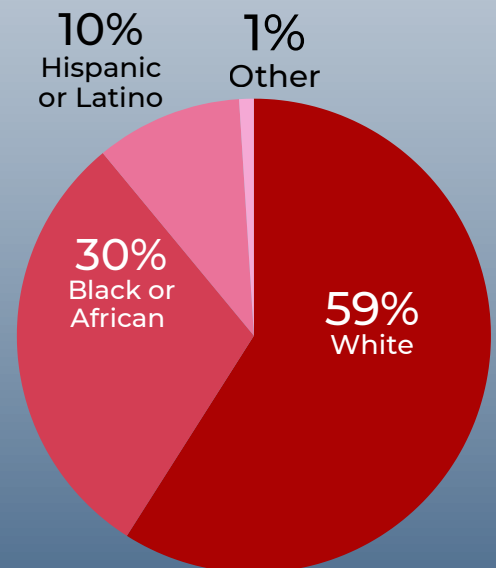
- Hosting/attending job fairs & resource fairs with collaborative partners.
- Leveraging community partners above to assist with marketing “Onward to Opportunity and Veterans Job Mission” for eligible/interested applicants.
- Sponsoring staff to find all the veterans and military-connected family members on university campuses and connect them to existing training, workforce, and employment programs.

Financial Health

Branch(es) engagement and implementation include:

- “Lunch and Learns” which are very popular and can be coordinated in collaboration with education systems, Vet Center(s) and employment programs.
- Setting up “Virtual Workshops” on your local website to include basic courses.
 - For example: Budgeting, Savings account, Checking account, Credit Cards, Taxes, Loans, short term vs. long term investments, Life insurance (Term Life, Whole Life), food insecurity, and stress management.

Cook County Veteran Ethnicity



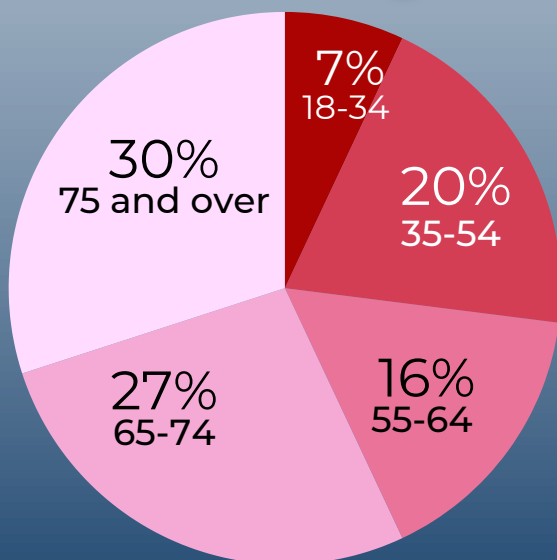
Community Development-Veteran Engagement and Outreach

Cook County makes up approximately 4% of the veteran population, with 59% being Caucasian pre-9/11 males. Chicago has a large population of eastern European and Native American heritage populations as well as a large Palestinian population.

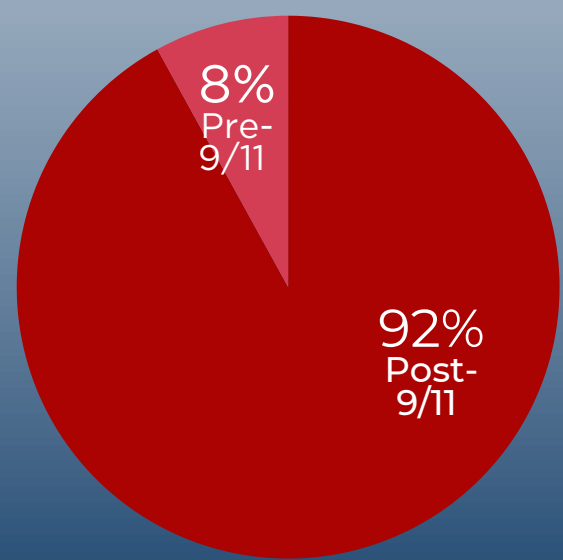
Branch(es) engage and conduct community development by:

- Building rapport with all veterans in the Chicago area and surrounding local colleges, specifically The University of Illinois Chicago, Saint Xavier University, and Roosevelt University.
- Building rapport with local organizations, such as Chicago Park District, which offers recreational activities.
- Building rapport with customers through a representation of cultural competency within their local branches through a representation of cultural competency/sensitivity to religious and ethnic diversity.
- Sponsoring an event in collaboration with Vet Centers, universities, or organizations that host purposeful activities to amplify support for veterans and educate attendees about “Onward to Opportunity and Veterans Job Mission”.
- Training employees in military/veteran communities (example: <https://psycharmor.org/>)

**Cook County
Veteran Age**



**Cook County
Service Era**





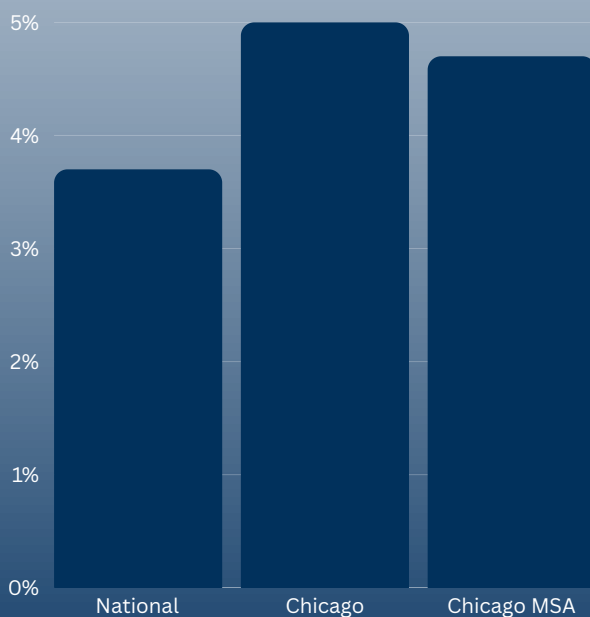
Philanthropic Opportunity

There are great services and opportunities observed through the community assessment within the Chicago area. The assessment indicated non-governmental entities (NGO's) where funding from the branches would greatly amplify their efforts to support veterans.

Listed below are financial and funding opportunities currently needed in Metro Detroit to bolster organizational missions in support of veterans:

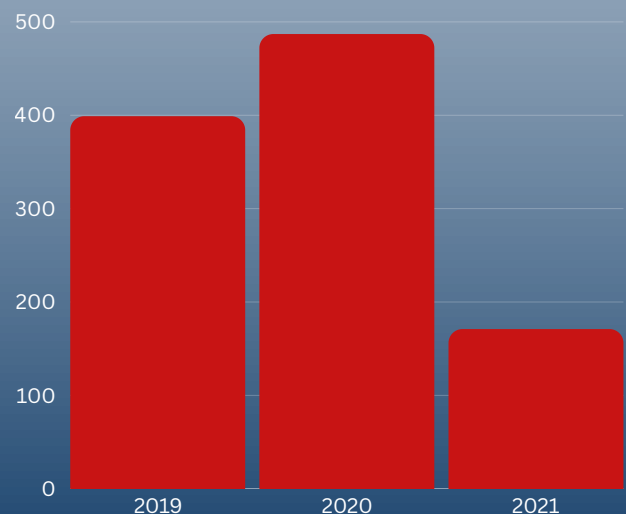
- Partner with a Fortune 500 company (above) to create a JPMorgan Chase & Co. Veteran Jobs Mission Coalition; and support a variety of veteran nonprofits as well as employment transition programs for veterans.
- Provide dedicated funding to Chicago State University, DePaul University, and/or Harry S. Truman College to increase outreach and connection with veterans.

Unemployment Rate*



*According to the October 2022 Bureau of Labor and Statistics

Veteran Homelessness*



*According to Housing and Urban Development Point-in-time estimate

Program Impact Evaluation

Military veterans generate significant economic benefits for communities. This may not be well understood by local government and other key stakeholders. The economic impact analysis provides a quantitative method to estimate the economic benefits that veterans bring to Chicago. Although Community Integration serves all veterans, our economic impact is based on the post-9/11 population because they have more benefits than the pre-9/11 population. Based on a projection of serving all 23,700 post-9/11 veterans, the estimated amount of new annual funds to enter the community is \$295 million.

The estimated amount of savings to the community is \$98 million. The total estimated economic impact on the community is \$393 million.

Community Outcome: 23,700 Served

Measure	Number Served	Estimated Value	Total Estimated Economic Impact	Estimated New Funds to Community	Estimated New Savings to Community	Value Measured and Source of Information
Economic impact of Veterans enrolled in school	4,740	\$21,400	\$101,436,000	\$101,436,000		The value is the average GI Bill benefits from including tuition, living stipend, and fees (Source: VA.gov GI Bill Report)
Economic impact of Veterans graduating from school	1,067	\$10,507	\$11,205,716	\$11,205,716		The value is the increase in income due to graduating from higher education/training. Source: Dec 2014, Utah System of Higher Education. Our calculations do not include the annual increase to state and local tax revenues would be approximately \$4.6 million.
Economic impact of previously unemployed Veterans becoming employed	711	\$40,302	\$28,654,722	\$28,654,722		The value is the average income for Veterans but does not include the value of purpose and productivity. This also does not account for unemployment insurance savings or productivity loss. (Source: 2015 Veteran Economic Opportunity Report)
Economic impact of Veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare	16,590	\$5,889	\$97,696,667		\$97,696,667	The calculation is the average cost of healthcare for enrolled Veterans but does not include the value of access to physical and behavioral care. The community and state savings of Veterans receiving federally funded health care. (Source: May 2015 Commission on Care Study)
Economic impact of Veterans enrolled in VA Benefits	11,850	\$13,000	\$154,050,000	\$154,050,000		The figure is the average disability payment of Veterans. Aside from the value of access to other services offered by the Veterans Benefits Administration. (Source: August 2014 Congressional Budget Office Study)
Economic impact of Veterans formerly homeless but now housed	24	\$23,000	\$558,728		\$558,728	It can cost a community as much as \$23,000 for one person to be chronically homeless for one year (shelter stays, jail time, emergency room visits, etc.). (Source: The Economics of Homelessness, University of Chicago, May 14, 2013)
Total Estimated Economic Impact			\$393,601,832	\$295,346,438	\$98,255,394	

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