



QUARTERLY REPORT

AAWDC Staff assisting attendees at Hiring Expo

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
MAY 2025

MARYLAND 3.3%

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY 2.8%

Federal & Professional Hiring Expo

On June 16, AAWDC partnered with Anne Arundel County Government to host the Federal & Professional Hiring Expo at Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland. The event drew over 700 job seekers and featured nearly 100 businesses and community resource partners. The expo was designed to support both federal workers impacted by layoffs and other highly skilled professionals seeking new career opportunities across a variety of industries.

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**ANNE ARUNDEL
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

Nate Butler, a U.S. Air Force veteran, connected with AAWDC at a job fair at Meade Middle School after retiring in September 2021. Although he already held a CompTIA Security+ certification and a security clearance, and was pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Networking and Cybersecurity, Mr. Butler sought additional support as he prepared to take the next steps in his career. With guidance from his AAWDC Career Coach, he participated in career exploration workshops, refined his resume, and actively engaged in local hiring events. His efforts paid off when he attended the Howard County IT Winter Hiring Event and connected with SCD Information Technology, which hired him full-time as an IT Field Technician I. Mr. Butler is now continuing to advance his career by working toward his CompTIA A+ certification.

Featured Highlight

Federal & Professional Hiring Expo (continued)

Attendees connected with businesses from fields such as healthcare, IT, education, emergency services, and the public sector. Additionally, more than 100 resume reviews were conducted by staff from AAWDC, the Maryland Department of Labor, and Howard County Office of Workforce Development.

On-site workshops addressed key topics surrounding employment transition, including managing stress, navigating financial changes, and identifying transferable skills.

The event also connected job seekers with essential resources. Maryland Health Connection provided healthcare enrollment assistance, Safeway offered free vaccinations, and additional partners delivered services for veterans, individuals with disabilities, and those facing financial hardship.

Feedback from the Hiring Expo was overwhelmingly positive. Of those who completed the attendee survey, 84% said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the event, and 80% indicated they would attend another AAWDC hiring event in the future. Among businesses, 74% of respondents reported that they were considering 5 or more candidates for open positions, and 100% said they would attend the event again.



NAWDP Annual Conference

In May, AAWDC staff participated in the 41st Annual National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia. AAWDC's President & CEO and Director of Strategic Initiatives presented key insights from Anne Arundel County's Post-Pandemic Workforce Survey, while the Director of Career Services led a session on the growing trend of "ghosting" by both employers and job seekers. Throughout the conference, staff engaged in impactful sessions, exchanged best practices, and built valuable connections with workforce professionals from across the country.

Fort Meade Signings

In June, AAWDC's President & CEO joined regional leaders at Fort Meade for a special event reaffirming collective support for the military community ahead of the U.S. Army's 250th birthday. Two key agreements were signed during the ceremony. The first, the Fort Meade Community Covenant, renews the commitment of local and regional partners to provide the support and resources that service members, government civilians, and their families deserve. The second was a renewed Memorandum of Agreement between Fort Meade, AAWDC, and the Howard County Office of Workforce Development which strengthens joint efforts to deliver workforce services to transitioning service members, military spouses, and veterans through the Military Career Connections program.

Spring Outreach Campaign

Between March 3 and May 23, AAWDC's 2025 spring outreach campaign, "Bloom into Your Career," engaged job seekers through a series of focused workshops, events, and digital resources designed to holistically support their career journey. The campaign highlighted Anne Arundel County's high-growth industries through video introductions by AAWDC's Industry Talent Consultants and weekly fun facts shared on social media. Key events included the Community Resource Fair, Northern Anne Arundel County Community Hiring Event, and Baltimore Washington Medical Center Community Hiring Event. Throughout the campaign, AAWDC also began releasing its comprehensive Community Resource Guide and shared helpful information to help individuals navigate essential documents and services.



National Apprenticeship Day Hiring Event

To celebrate National Apprenticeship Day, AAWDC organized an Apprenticeship Hiring Event at the Anne Arundel County Career Center to connect job seekers with businesses offering Registered Apprenticeship Programs. Participating businesses reported a 100% satisfaction rate and indicated plans to move forward with more than 30 candidates identified during the event.

Federal Government Transition Impact Survey

In June, AAWDC and the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC) co-released the Federal Government Transition Impact Survey Report for Anne Arundel County. This collaborative effort aimed to assess how changes in federal contracts are affecting the local economy. Survey respondents included residents, businesses, and federal employees and contractors, who offered valuable insights into the challenges faced and support needed by the community.

Graduating Seniors Hiring Event

AAWDC organized a hiring event for graduating high school seniors in April, inviting students from 14 Anne Arundel County high schools to connect with local employers. A total of 15 businesses and 74 students participated. In addition to networking, students attended breakout sessions focused on preparing for life after graduation.



State of Military Workforce Panel

AAWDC's President & CEO participated in the State of Military Workforce Panel, hosted by the Central Maryland Chamber of Commerce and Blue Star Families of Baltimore & Chesapeake Region. During the panel, military and workforce leaders shared meaningful perspectives on the challenges and opportunities surrounding career support for transitioning service members, veterans, and their families.

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