



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor O'Malley's Proposed FY2015 Budget Includes Funding for Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP)

Rockville, MD – Announced today, State of Maryland funding for the National Center for the Veteran Institute for Procurement (VIP) has been included in Governor Martin O'Malley's FY2015 recommended budget. Funding will allow the Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation (MCCCF) to increase the number of service-disabled and veteran-owned businesses it serves through VIP. The Legislature will review the Governor's proposed budget during the current 90-day legislative session. With funding approval, Maryland will be the first state in the nation to support VIP.

"We greatly appreciate the leadership of Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown to support our veterans through the VIP program," said Barbara Ashe, President, MCCCF.

Headquartered in Montgomery County, VIP is a 3-day comprehensive certification program designed for veteran-owned businesses to increase their ability to win government contracts. VIP sessions provide 27 hours of market-based expert instruction to help businesses adapt best business practices. It also fosters connections for VIP businesses with Federal agencies and prime contractors. VIP takes place at the William F. Bolger Center in Potomac, MD and is offered at no cost to the veteran-owned business graduates.

The first program of its kind in the nation, VIP began in 2009 and has graduated 348 veteran-owned businesses, the majority of whom are based in Maryland. VIP is proven to make Maryland veteran-owned companies more competitive. A survey of 143 VIP graduates reported that they added 1,586 jobs since graduating and on average have increased their revenue by an average of 45% within the first year of graduation. More than 81% said that they changed the way they do business. VIP Arms Vets to Win.

For more information, visit www.NationalVIP.org.

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The Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 organization.