

Children's Wisconsin supports military members entering the workforce

One of Children's Wisconsin's inclusion, diversity & equity commitments is focusing on increasing the diversity of our workforce and leadership with a special focus on underrepresented populations and veterans. Children's Wisconsin is proud to be a qualified employer with the U.S. Department of Defense Skillbridge program. Since 2021, Children's Wisconsin has worked with six service members to provide civilian work experience and specific industry training.

During the last four to six months of their service with the military, the Skillbridge program offers service members an opportunity to gain valuable skills, cross-training and experience with an industry partner. The Department of Defense continues to provide salary and benefits for the service member while the industry partner provides training, connections from military service to the civilian world, and exposes them to potential careers and future opportunities.

At Children's Wisconsin, service members participating in the Skillbridge program often work with the Facilities team to support hospital and clinic operations through maintaining HVAC, electrical, plumbing and other key building functions. Skillbridge participants translate their military career experience, knowledge and skills to a civilian career environment that supports the health and well-being of Wisconsin's kids and families.

Some of the service members are hired by Children's Wisconsin after their time in the Skillbridge program, while others find alternative careers or pursue higher education opportunities. The exposure to available careers helps service members transition from their military career and builds awareness of the many careers required to support the functioning of Children's health care system.

Kris Miller, Manager of Facilities Operations at Children's Wisconsin, shares "the program is a great success – it provides valuable support, training and experience to veterans while they transition to civilian life, while also providing our department with individuals possessing useful skills and experiences."

-Children's Wisconsin-Milwaukee