

Getting started with State Veteran Benefits and Services?



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Choose VA

This guide will help you identify and understand the various benefits and services State Governments offer Veterans, family members, caregivers and survivors; and how to access those State benefits and service.

In addition to the many services and benefits offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and other Federal Agencies, most States offer unique benefits and services to Veterans, family members, caregivers and survivors. To find out what benefits are offered by your state or from a state to which you are considering moving, click on the below links or call the listed phone number.

STATE	DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN SERVICES HOMEPAGE	TELEPHONE
AL	https://va.alabama.gov	334-242-5077
AK	http://veterans.alaska.gov	888-248-3682
AZ	http://www.azdvs.gov	866-429-8387
AR	http://www.veterans.arkansas.gov	501-683-2382
CA	https://www.calvet.ca.gov	800-952-5626
CO	https://www.colorado.gov/vets	720-250-1510
CT	https://portal.ct.gov/dva	860-616-3600
DE	https://vets.delaware.gov	800-344-9900
DC	http://ova.dc.gov	202-724-5454
FL	http://www.floridavets.org	844-693-5838
GA	http://sdvs.georgia.gov	404-656-2300
HI	http://hawaii.gov/dod/ovs	808-433-0420
ID	http://www.veterans.idaho.gov	208-780-1300
IL	http://www.state.il.us/agency/dva	217-782-6641
IN	http://www.in.gov/dva	800-457-8283
IA	https://va.iowa.gov	800-838-4692
KS	http://www.kcva.org	785-296-3976
KY	http://veterans.ky.gov	502-564-9203
LA	https://www.vetaffairs.la.gov	225-219-5000
ME	http://www.mainebvs.org	207-430-6035
MD	https://veterans.maryland.gov	410-260-3838
MS	https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-veterans-services	617-210-5480
MI	https://www.michiganveterans.com	800-642-4838
MN	http://www.mdva.state.mn.us	888-546-5838

HOW CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON APPEALS MODERNIZATION?

Call the number for your state or a state you are interested in listed on the left side of the page to speak with a state benefits representative

Visit us online by clicking on the weblinks for your state or a state you are interested in listed on the left side of page

Visit In person walk-in or make a visit appointment for assistance. In-person visits are offered in most every state. Service Officer addresses are listed on many of the state websites. If not listed on the website, they may be acquired by calling the state benefits representative at the number on the left side of page

I AM TRANSITIONING FROM ACTIVE DUTY. WHERE CAN I LOCATE A LIST OF COMMON U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAMS TO HELP ME GET STARTED IN ACCESSING FEDERAL BENEFITS AND SERVICES?

Visit us online at <https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit> to download the VA Welcome Kit. The VA Welcome Kit provides a simple overview of the most common VA benefits and services, and helps you to easily take your "first steps" into VA. If you are looking to access a specific VA benefit or service, you can choose to download a short Quick Start Guide (QSG). We have QSGs that cover some of the most common VA benefits and services, and we add more all the time.

TN	http://www.vab.state.ms.us	609-530-4600
MO	http://mvc.dps.mo.gov	505-383-2400
MT	http://montanadma.org/Montana-veterans-affairs	888-838-7697
NE	http://www.vets.state.ne.us	844-624-8387
NV	http://www.state.nv.us/veterans	701-239-7165
NH	https://www.nh.gov/nhveterans	614-728-1084
NJ	http://www.state.nj.us/military	855-701-6382
NM	http://www.dvs.state.nm.us	800-692-9666
NY	http://veterans.ny.gov	888-838-7697
NC	https://www.milvets.nc.gov	844-624-8387
ND	http://www.nd.gov/veterans	701-239-7165
OH	http://www.dvs.ohio.gov	614-728-1084
OK	https://odva.ok.gov/benefits	855-701-6382
OR	https://www.oregon.gov/odva/benefits	800-692-9666
PA	https://www.dmv.pa.gov/veteransaffairs	717-861-8910
RI	http://www.vets.ri.gov	401-921-2119
SC	https://scdva.sc.gov	803-734-0200
SD	http://vetaffairs.sd.gov	877-579-0015
TN	https://www.tn.gov/veteran	615-741-2345
TX	https://www.tvc.texas.gov	512-463-6564
UT	http://veterans.utah.gov	801-326-2372
VT	https://veterans.vermont.gov/office-veterans-affairs	802-828-3379
VA	https://www.dvs.virginia.gov	804-786-0286
WA	http://www.dva.wa.gov	800-562-2308
WV	http://www.veterans.wv.gov	304-558-3661
WI	http://dva.state.wi.us	800-947-8387
WY	http://wvc.wyo.gov	307-777-8152

Am I a Veteran eligible for State benefits?

For most purposes the term “Veteran” is used to mean someone who has, in the past, served in one of the U.S. armed services and is now a civilian.

However, many states’ Veteran benefits are limited to those with an honorable discharge or at least require the character of discharge to be other than dishonorable.

Generally, the term “Veteran” does not include anyone currently on active duty. However, some benefits may also be available to those on active duty or to current members of the National Guard or Reserves. (These exceptions can be identified by your State Department of Veteran Services.)

Are some U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs services and benefits duplicated by the states?

Yes, there are multiple Veteran services and benefits that are offered by both the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and states. Cemeteries, Veteran Homes and assistance filing claims and appeals are the more common services offered by both the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and states.

Because each state has their own Department of Veteran Services, there is sometimes confusion among Veterans as to exactly who they are engaging. When interacting with officials regarding these and other services, ensure you know if you are interacting with a representative of the U.S. Government or your state government.

OTHER QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

Other than the State Department of Veteran Services, are there other state agencies that offer Veteran benefits?

→ In most states there are numerous other agencies offering Veteran benefits.

Examples of these agencies may be (not an all-inclusive list):

- State Dept of Labor
- State Dept of Education
- State Dept of Health
- State Dept of Human Services
- State University System State
- State Dept of Motor Vehicles

Can State Departments of Veteran Services assist in making a benefit claim or appealing a VA decision?

→ Yes, these agencies can absolutely assist you in filing claims for benefits, filing appeals and many other interactions with VA. States generally operate under one of two systems: the state employs Veteran Service Officers directly or the individual counties employ the Veteran Service Officer. Regardless who employs a service officer, you can find the closest one by:

- Calling the State Department of Veteran Benefits at the number listed on the left side of the page
- Online by accessing the weblinks for the State Department of Veteran Benefits listed on the left side of the page

When I transitioned from the military, I was asked which state I intended to go and that state was indicated on my DD214. What is the purpose of this?

→ DoD notifies the State Veteran Services Department that you are a new Veteran arriving in that state

→ Most states contact Veterans soon after they transition to welcome them and to offer assistance with accessing benefits and services