VETERAN BENEFITS
RESOURCE GUIDE FOR VETERANS, THEIR DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS / 2013 FEDERAL AND STATE BENEFITS

Inside

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES
FILING A CLAIM
HEALTH CARE
EDUCATION
EMPLOYMENT
AND MORE

Read about the veteran benefits and programs offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the State of Oregon.
Looking for a home?

You have a veterans’ benefit that can help.

You served your country and now it’s your country’s turn to serve you by financing the home you’ve been dreaming of. With the ORVET Home Loan, you will always be offered a low interest rate with flexible terms and a simple application process.

Since 1946, the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs has helped more than 334,000 veterans realize their dreams of owning a home, loaning more than $7.5 billion to veterans.

The ORVET Home Loan is an additional and distinctively separate benefit from the Federal VA Home Loan Guaranty Program.

To apply or to find out more about your qualifications, please call the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Home Loan Department.

You also will find highly qualified mortgage brokers, banks and credit unions that participate in the ORVET Home Loan Program. If you would like to work with someone in your local community, please call us for a listing of participating brokers and lenders in your area.

888 673 8387

Low interest rates and flexible terms.

Find more information about eligibility and qualifications at www.oregon.gov/odva/homeloans
ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OREGON, thank you for your service to our state and nation. You have joined the ranks of nearly 340,000 Oregonians who have the privilege of calling themselves an American military veteran. As a result of your service, you and your family have earned a number of valuable federal and state benefits and we urge you to take advantage of them.

Whether you are planning to go to school, need help with a disability claim, accessing health care or obtaining a home loan, the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs is available to ensure you are taking full advantage of the benefits you have earned.

This veteran benefit magazine was designed to act as an informational guide, complete with a directory for each federal and state benefit available to you, your dependents and survivors. These benefits can help ease your transition to civilian life and we believe you will find this publication invaluable in exploring your benefits.

Thank you again for your service to our country. Welcome home.

Director Cameron Smith

Governor John Kitzhaber

A directory of benefits and resources containing contact information can be found in the back of this magazine.

THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS’ AFFAIRS IS COMMITTED TO SERVING THE NEARLY 340,000 VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE STATE OF OREGON TO ENSURE THEY RECEIVE THE BENEFITS, SERVICES AND PROGRAMS TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED.
Get current news that impacts veterans in Oregon

Published by the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Vets News is a free publication delivered every two months to your mailbox or email box. In every issue you will learn about current issues impacting veterans in Oregon including Federal VA hot topics, and state, local and regional happenings.

Sign-up online at [oregon.gov/odva/info/VetsNews.shtml](http://oregon.gov/odva/info/VetsNews.shtml)

Have a story idea? Email us at [vetsnews@odva.state.or.us](mailto:vetsnews@odva.state.or.us)

503 373 2390

Up to the minute news can also be found [facebook.com/odvavet](http://facebook.com/odvavet)
As a woman who has served in the military, you may not realize that you are an American veteran. That’s why every two years, the Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs partners with other state and federal organizations to host an Oregon Women Veterans Conference.

This free event offers women veterans an opportunity to connect with other women veterans and learn about the benefits that they have earned as a result of their honorable service.

The conference also offers workshops on topics such as women veterans health, military sexual trauma, VA benefits (federal and state), employment and stress reduction.

For more information on Women veteran issues or to find out more about the next conference held in March of 2014, please visit the Women Veteran Conference web page at www.oregon.gov/odva/Pages/wvc.aspx
How to file a Disability Claim

**STEP 1: FILE A CLAIM** Filing for veterans benefits is a free service provided by the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs and local County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO) who are accredited by the Federal VA and certified by the State of Oregon. Claims also can be filed by National Service Offices. The disability claim process begins the moment you file a claim.

To file, veterans must sign a power of attorney (POA) which authorizes County Veteran Service Officers (VSO’s) to act on your behalf when preparing presenting and prosecuting your claim for any and all benefits from the VA.

**STEP 2: OBTAIN EVIDENCE** You must submit evidence to support your disability claim. Evidence submitted at the time of the filing will help expedite your claim. Your disability evaluation will be based on the evidence so it is essential that the information is accurate and complete. VSO’s will assist you in this process.

**STEP 3: GET A VA PHYSICAL EXAM** The exams that the VA requests will depend on your claim and treatment history. Your nearest VA Medical Center will schedule the exam and contact you to let you know when and what exams are scheduled. After the exams, a report will be prepared and sent to the VA for review. You can help the process go faster by keeping your appointments and asking your private medical providers to send copies of your records to the VA office.

**TIP:** Ask your private doctor to include your VA file number on all records they submit.

**STEP 4: VA RATES COMPLETE RECORD** The VA will consider all evidence submitted and make a decision about whether or not the claim supports injuries and disabilities incurred while in service.

If the VA approves the claim, then a rating is decided based on how severe your conditions are. The ratings are defined and set based on federal law.

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**2013 VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION RATES FOR VETERANS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISABILITY RATING</th>
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Options for denied claims or if you disagree with decision

If the VA denies your claim you may appeal the decision. You may also appeal if your claim was approved, but you disagree with any part of the rating.

An appeal involves many steps, some of which are optional and some that are required, and have strict time limits and include:

1. Notice of Disagreement (NOD)
2. Statement of Case (SOC)
3. Hearings (Optional)
4. Formal Appeal (Form 9)
5. Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA)
6. U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans’ Claims (CAVC)

Unfortunately, this process can take years to come to a final decision, but once a decision has been made, you will be notified by mail.

Veterans Claims Advocacy for veterans, their survivors and dependents

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (Federal VA) benefit system actually is a legal system. In order to qualify for benefits, veterans must file a claim against the United States proving they are eligible for these benefits through the submission of legal, military and medical evidence.

ODVA employs federally accredited and state certified Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) who are subject matter experts in Federal VA law (Chapter 38 United States Code and Chapter 38 Code of Federal Regulations) and are allowed to practice by taking Power of Attorney for veterans seeking benefits. These VSOs represent veterans, their dependents and survivors before the Federal VA in their claims and appeals.

With its County Veteran Service Officer and National Service Officer partners, ODVA provides claims and counseling advocacy and representation to Oregon’s 340,000 veterans, resulting in more than 32,000 claims filed on their behalf during 2011. Currently, ODVA holds Power of Attorney for nearly 70,000 Oregon veterans.

Besides claims work, VSO’s regularly help veterans and their families learn about other benefits that they may be eligible for. VSO’s are knowledgeable about the many resources available within the state and can usually assist in finding help and solutions to issues that you may be facing.

To schedule an appointment with your local VSO, refer to the directory on this page.

Check Your VA Disability Claim Online

Sign up for eBenefits at www.ebenefits.va.gov.
Disability and Pay

Disability Compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service-connected.

Disability compensation is paid monthly and varies with the degree of disability, the impairment of a veteran’s earning capacity and the number of dependents. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation. The benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax.

National Guard/Select Reserve

Reservists who serve on active duty establish veteran status and may be eligible for the full-range of VA benefits, depending on the length of active military service and a discharge or release from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable. In addition, reservists not activated may qualify for some VA benefits.

National Guard members can establish eligibility for VA benefits if activated for federal service during a period of war or domestic emergency. Activation for other than federal service does not qualify guard members for all VA benefits.

Claims for VA benefits based on federal service filed by National Guard members should include a copy of the military orders, presidential proclamation or executive order that clearly demonstrates the nature of their federal service.

Military Retired Pay

Historically, veterans have not been permitted to receive full military pay and VA compensation for benefits at the same time. Veterans who were entitled to both have had to either choose one of the benefits, or waive the amount of retirement pay which equaled the amount of VA disability compensation to which he or she was entitled.

This was commonly known as “concurrent receipt.” Since this type of rule against concurrent receipt does not apply to another group of federal or state retirees, many individuals and service organizations have considered this was unfair discrimination against disabled military retirees.

Because of the complexity of this issue, visit www.dfas.mil for more information.

Presumptive Health Conditions

There are three categories in which veterans may qualify for a service-connected disability based on a condition to be presumed by military service. These groups are veterans who were diagnosed with a chronic disease such as arthritis, diabetes, or hyper tension within one year of being released from active duty; veterans diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) any time after discharge after service at least 90 days of continuous service or more; and veterans who served in the conflicts/geographic regions associated with those diagnosed conditions identified below. For more information on presumptives, please contact a VSO.

**Former POW’s**

Imprisoned for any length of time and disability at least 10 percent disabling:
- Psychosis
- Any of the anxiety states
- Dysthymic disorder
- Organic residuals of frostbite
- Post-traumatic osteoarthritis
- Heart disease or hypertensive vascular disease and their complications
- Stroke and its residuals
- Osteoporosis, if veteran has PTSD, on or after Oct. 10, 2008

Imprisoned for at least 30 days and disability at least 10 percent disabling:
- Avitaminosis
- Beriberi
- Chronic dysentery
- Helminthiasis
- Malnutrition (including optic atrophy)
- Pellagra
- Any other nutritional deficiency
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Peptic ulcer disease
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Cirrhosis of the liver
- Osteoporosis, on or after Sept. 28, 2009

**Vietnam Veterans**

[Exposed to Agent Orange]

Served in the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 5, 1975:
- AL amyloidosis
- Chloracne or other acneform disease similar to chloracne
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondro sarcoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma or mesothelioma
- Hodgkin’s disease
- Multiple myeloma
- Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx, trachea)
- Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- Prostate cancer
- Acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy
- Type 2 diabetes
- Chronic B-cell leukemia
- Ischemic heart disease
- Parkinson’s disease

**Atomic Veterans**

[Exposed to Ionizing Radiation]

Participated in atmospheric nuclear testing; occupied or was a POW in Hiroshima or Nagasaki; service before Feb. 1, 1992 at diffusion plant in Paducah, KY, Portsmouth, OH, or Oak Ridge, TN; or service before Jan. 1, 1974 at Amchitka Island, AK:
- All cancers
- Non-malignant thyroid nodular disease
- Parathyroid adenoma
- Posterior subcapsular cataracts
- Tumors of the brain and central nervous system

Note: VA also will consider other diseases not listed above were caused by radiation, if supported by medical or scientific evidence. To be eligible for disability compensation, VA must be able to establish that it is at least as likely as not that a veteran’s disease was caused by his/her exposure to radiation during military service.
VA Disability Pension Benefit for Wartime Veterans

A non-service connected Disability VA Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans who have limited or no income, and who are age 65 or older, or, under 65 and are permanently and totally disabled, or, a patient in a nursing home, or, are receiving Social Security disability payments. The amount that’s payable depends upon the type and amount of income the veteran and family members receive from other sources.

Veterans who are more seriously disabled may qualify for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits. These benefits are paid in addition to the basic pension rate. Monthly payments are made to qualified veterans to bring their total income to a congressionally established support level (including other retirement and Social Security income).

Gulf War Veterans
Served in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations during the Gulf War with condition at least 10 percent disabling by Dec. 31, 2011. Included are medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms that have existed for six months or more, such as:

- Chronic fatigue syndrome
- Fibromyalgia
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Any diagnosed or undiagnosed illness that the Secretary of VA determines warrants a presumption of service connection.

There are nine specific infectious diseases associated with military service during this period that are prevalent in Southwest Asia, and have been diagnosed among U.S. troops serving there, and known to cause long-term adverse health effects:

- Brocellosis
- Campylobacter jejuni
- Coxiella burnetii (Q fever)
- Malaria
- Mycobacterium tuberculosis
- Nontyphoid Salmonella
- Shigella
- Visceral leishmaniasis
- West Nile virus

Contact a VSO (listed on page 7) to file a disability claim if you have been diagnosed or experienced any of the presumptive symptoms described above.

Aid and Attendance (A&A) is a benefit paid in addition to monthly pension. It may not be paid without eligibility to a pension. A&A is allowed if the veteran: requires the aid of another person in order to perform his or her daily living activities; is bedridden; is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity; or has corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

Housebound Benefits may not be paid without eligibility to pension. Qualifying veterans must have a single permanent disability (rated 100 percent disabled), and need assistance, or have a single permanent disability (100 percent disabled) and another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling.

A veteran cannot receive both A&A and Housebound Benefits at the same time.
Basic Eligibility

A person who served in the active military service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for VA health care benefits. Reservists and National Guard members also may qualify for VA health care benefits if they were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty.

Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to veterans discharged for hardship, early out, or a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Enrollment

For most veterans, entry into the VA health care system begins by applying for enrollment.

To apply, complete VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits, which may be obtained from any VA health care facility or regional benefits office, online or by calling VA.

Once enrolled, veterans can receive health care at VA health care facilities anywhere in the country. Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system are afforded privacy rights under federal law.

During enrollment, each veteran is assigned to a priority group based on their service connected disability rating and other factors. VA uses priority groups to balance demand for VA health care enrollment with resources.

Standard Benefits

VA’s medical benefits package provides you the following health care services to all enrolled veterans:

- Preventive Care Services
- Ambulatory (Outpatient) Diagnostic and Treatment Services
- Hospital (Inpatient) Diagnostic Treatment
- VA prescribed Medications and Supplies

Acute care services, which may have limitations and special eligibility criteria, include:

- Ambulance service
- Dental Care
- Durable Medical equipment
- Eyeglasses
- Hearing Aids
- Home Health Care Homeless programs
- Maternity and Parturition services
- Non-VA Health Care Services
- Orthopedic, Prosthetic, and Rehabilitative Devices

Rehabilitative Services

- Readjustment Counseling
- Sexual Trauma Counseling

Women Veterans Healthcare

Women veterans are eligible for the same VA benefits as male veterans. Comprehensive health services are available to women veterans including primary care, specialty care, mental health care and reproductive health care services VA provides management of acute and chronic illnesses, preventive care, contraceptive services, menopause management, and cancer screenings, including pap smear and mammograms, and gynecology.

Maternity care is covered in the Medical Benefits package to include care for newborn children of women veterans for up to 7 days after birth. VA is also mandated to implement pilot programs to provide child care to women veterans receiving medical care, and to provide readjustment services to women veterans. Infertility evaluation and limited treatments also are available.

Expanding Healthcare services for women veterans is requiring VA to report to Congress on its comprehensive assessment of the barriers in providing health care to women veterans. VA is required to train its mental health providers in the treatment of military sexual trauma.

Women Veterans Program Managers are available at all VA facilities to help veterans seeking treatment and benefits.
TriCare

TriCare is the Department of Defense’s managed health care program for active duty military and their dependents, as well as military retirees and their dependents.

There are four options for your health care; TriCare Prime, TriCare Extra, TriCare Standard and TriCare for Life.

Each of these options has specific benefits, exclusions, co-pay and deductible requirements. Enrollment is not mandatory for TriCare Extra or TriCare Standard.

Enrollment is required for TriCare Prime, and at age 65 you become eligible as long as you have Medicare Parts A and B. TriCare Prime also has fewer out-of-pocket costs than other TriCare options.

TriCare For Life has minimal out of pocket costs, aside from Medicare part B premiums. Benefits should be coordinated between Medicare and TriCare.

To contact TriCare call 888-TRIWEST (888-874-9378).

Non-VA Medical Center Emergency Care

Veterans are eligible for emergency care at non-VA facilities under certain circumstances. The 2010 Veterans Emergency Care Protective Act enable VA to reimburse veterans enrolled in VA health care for the remaining cost of emergency treatment if the veteran has outside insurance that only covers part of the cost.

If non-VA emergency care is received, notification to the nearest VA health care facility must be made within 72 hours of hospitalization. VA payment is limited up to the point that veteran’s condition is stable for transport to a VA facility.

The VA can also provide retroactive reimbursements for emergency care received on or after July 19, 2001, if considered appropriate under the circumstances.

Online management

Managing your health information - appointments, prescriptions, labs, blood tests and even exchanging messages with your health care team - has never been easier.

My HealtheVet, your online Personal Health Record, helps you gain a better understanding of your health status and allows you to explore a variety of ways to monitor and improve your health, 24 hours a day/7 days a week.

To get the most out of My HealtheVet, Veterans are urged to visit their local VA health care facility to get an upgraded account, known as In-Person Authentication (IPA). This simple process allows you to use My HealtheVet to:

- View your VA appointments
- Access VA wellness reminders
- Communicate online through secure messaging
- View laboratory results and more

To begin using My HealtheVet, register today at www.myhealth.va.gov.
Veterans Affairs Medical Centers

PORTLAND VA MEDICAL CENTER
3710 SW. US Veterans Hospital Rd.
Portland, OR 97239
503 220 8262 or 800 949 1004
www.portland.va.gov

ROSEBURG VA MEDICAL CENTER
913 NW Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, OR 97471
541 440 1000 or 800 549 8387
www.roseburg.va.gov

WHITE CITY (SORCC)
8495 Crater Lake Hwy.
White City, OR 97503
541 826 2111 or 800 809 8725
www.southernoregon.va.gov

Community-Based Outpatient Clinics

BEND
2650 NE Coventry Dr.
541 647 5200
BROOKINGS
555 Fifth St.
541 412 1152
EUGENE
100 River Ave.
541 607 0897
HILLSBORO
1925 Amberglen Pkwy.
3rd Floor
503 906 5000
KLAMATH FALLS
2819 Dahlia St.
541 273 6206
LA GRANDE
202 12th St.
541 963 0627
NEWPORT
1010 SW Coast Hwy.
541 265 4182
NORTH BEND
2191 Marion St.
541 756 8002
PORTLAND (EAST)
10535 NE Glisan St.
2nd Floor
503 273 5142
SALEM
1660 Oak St. SE, Ste 100
503 220 8262
THE DALLES
704 Veterans Dr.
800 949 1004
WARRENTON
91400 Neacoxie St.
Bldg. 7315
Camp Rilea
503 220 8262
WEST LINN
1750 SW Blankenship Rd.
Suite 300
503 210 4900

Vet Centers

Services provided at Vet Center include bereavement and readjustment counseling to individuals, groups, couples, and families.

If you served in a combat zone and received a campaign ribbon, you and your family are eligible for Vet Center services. In addition, parents, siblings, spouses and children of any active duty service member who dies while on active duty are eligible for bereavement counseling services. Services are also provided to any veteran who experienced military related sexual trauma while on active duty.

BEND
1645 NE Forbes Rd. Ste. 105
541 749 2112
EUGENE
1255 Pearl St. Ste. 200
541 465 6918
GRANTS PASS
211 SE 10th St.
541 479 6912
PORTLAND
1505 NE 122nd Ave. Ste. 110
503 688 5361
SALEM
2645 Portland Rd. Ste. 250
503 362 9911
VA Transportation Service Program

To enhance the Veterans Healthcare Administration (VHA) system, the Central Business Office (CBO) has a new transportation program for non-ambulatory and remote VA patients. The Veterans Transportation Service (VTS) provides transport for veterans to VA Medical Centers (VAMCs). These services include vehicle routing and scheduling software for VA Medical Facilities.

VA especially recognizes the barriers for veterans who are visually impaired, elderly, or immobilized due to disease or disability, particularly those living in remote and rural areas, when traveling to access VA health care. The mission of VTS is to improve the quality of life for veterans by increasing access to health care through integrated and cost effective transportation.

The VTS is dedicated to overcoming barriers to providing care by ensuring effective and efficient transportation by coordinating with veterans receiving scheduled medical care funded by VA.

While all veterans with VA funded medical appointments are eligible to ride VTS, a first priority is given to wheelchair-bound patients who have no other transportation alternatives. VTS is establishing a network of community and volunteer transportation service providers to improve access to VA health care, including the Portland VAMC.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED for transportation at least four full business days before the date transport is needed. Specific information about the veteran also is required. To make a reservation, call 503-723-5044, or 800-949-1004, ext. 55044.

Travel Reimbursement

VA has the authority to provide eligible beneficiaries reimbursement for mileage, special mode of transportation, and in certain circumstances, a taxi or hired car. If you meet the criteria below, you may be eligible for mileage reimbursement or special mode transport. You qualify if:

- You have a service-connected (SC) rating of 30 percent or more, or
- You are traveling for treatment of a SC condition, or
- You receive a VA pension, or
- Your income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate, or
- You are traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension examination

You qualify for Special Mode Transportation (Ambulance, Wheelchair van, etc.) if:

- Your medical condition requires an ambulance or a specially equipped van as determined by a VA clinician, and
- You meet one of the eligibility criteria listed above, and
- The travel is pre-authorized (authorization is not required for emergencies if a delay would be hazardous to life or health)

Scheduled appointments qualify for round-trip mileage. Unscheduled visits may be limited to return mileage only.

In order to be eligible for travel benefits when transporting to VA care or treatment, a veteran must actually be incurring an expense. Should one or more veterans travel together in a private vehicle, only the owner of the vehicle is actually incurring expenses and therefore is the only person entitled to travel reimbursement. However, should multiple veterans share a vehicle where passengers must pay for their transport such as a taxi or where one veteran pays another veteran for transport, then all are entitled to travel reimbursement either at the mileage reimbursement rate or actual expense, whichever is less. Such persons must provide a receipt to indicate an incurred expense and to receive reimbursement. Find your local medical center for reimbursement.

The DAV Transportation Network

Because many veterans lack transportation to and from VA medical facilities for needed treatment, the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) operates a nationwide Transportation Network to meet this need. Through the Transportation Network, DAV volunteers drive veterans to and from VA medical facilities for treatment.

The Transportation Network is a clear example of veterans helping veterans. The DAV stepped in to meet a substantial community need when the federal government terminated its program that helped many veterans pay for transportation to VA medical facilities. The DAV has 189 Hospital Service Coordinators around the country who coordinate the transportation needs for disabled veterans. Contact your local medical center for more information.

Use the DAV Hospital Service Coordinator Directory to contact the nearest HSC for information or assistance. Please remember that the DAV Transportation Network is staffed by volunteers; therefore, it is unable to cover every community.
Trauma and PTSD

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a mental health problem that can occur after someone goes through a traumatic event such as war, assault, or disaster. Most people have some stress reactions after a trauma.

Each service member will have their own experiences. However, understand that almost all service members will need time to readjust after being in a war zone. This can be especially intense during the first months at home. Common stress reactions are a normal part of readjustment.

Below are common physical, mental/emotional, and behavioral reactions that service members may experience:

**COMMON PHYSICAL REACTIONS**
- Trouble sleeping, overly tired
- Upset stomach, trouble eating
- Headaches and sweating when thinking of the war
- Rapid heartbeat or breathing
- Existing health problems become worse

**COMMON MENTAL/EMOTIONAL REACTIONS**
- Bad dreams, nightmares
- Flashbacks or frequent unwanted memories
- Anger
- Feeling nervous, helpless, or fearful
- Feeling guilty, self-blame, shame
- Feeling sad, rejected, or abandoned
- Agitated, easily upset, irritated, or annoyed
- Feeling hopeless about the future
- Experiencing shock, being numb, unable to feel happy

Service members may have unwanted memories of the war zone. If something happens that reminds them of a war experience, they may have a range of reactions, from intrusive images and thoughts, all the way to a feeling of reliving their experiences (“flashbacks”) that are so realistic they feel like they are back in the war.

Irritations or reacting more strongly to common family issues, anger and aggression are common war zone stress reactions. Even minor incidents can lead to significant reactions.

**COMMON BEHAVIORAL REACTIONS**
- Trouble concentrating
- Being jumpy and easily startled
- Being on guard, always alert, concerned about safety and security
- Avoiding people or places related to the trauma
- Excessive drinking, smoking, or drug use
- Lack of exercise, poor diet, or health care
- Problems doing regular tasks at work or school
- Aggressive driving habits

Reactions like these that last for months can affect relationships, work, and overall well-being if not treated. Emotional or psychological problems are not a sign of weakness. Injuries, including psychological injuries, affect the strong and the brave just like physical injuries. But stigma of mental health issues can be a huge barrier for people who need help, but knowing when and how to get help is actually part of military training.

Visit your local Vet Center (complete list of locations are on the previous page) if you would like to talk to someone about what you are experiencing. You can also learn more about PTSD at www ptsd va gov

A Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) happens when something outside the body hits the head with significant force. This could happen when a head hits a windshield during a car accident, when a piece of shrapnel enters the brain, or during an explosion of an improvised explosive device (IED).

Individuals who sustain a TBI may experience a variety of effects, such as an inability to concentrate, an alteration of the senses (hearing, vision, smell, taste, and touch), difficulty speaking, and emotional and behavioral changes.

If you experienced head trauma during your service, please contact the VA to schedule an examination. To learn more about TBI, visit www polytrauma va gov

Military Sexual Trauma

In both civilian and military settings, service members can experience a range of unwanted sexual behaviors that they may find distressing. These experiences happen to both women and men. “Military sexual trauma” or MST is the term used by the VA to refer to experiences of sexual assault or repeated, threatening acts of sexual harassment.

MST includes any sexual activity where you are involved or pressured against your will. Other MST experiences include unwanted sexual touching or grabbing, threatening, offensive remarks about your body or your sexual activities, or unwelcome sexual advances.

For more information, veterans can speak with a VA healthcare provider, contact the MST Coordinator at their nearest VA Medical Center, or contact their local Vet Center. More MST information can be found at www mentalhealth va gov mst home asp
IT’S YOUR CALL

Confidential help for Veterans and their families

1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net

Talk to someone now! Text to 838255, go online or call.
Long Term Care

Standard Benefits

**Geriatric Evaluation** A geriatric evaluation is the comprehensive assessment of a veteran’s ability to care for himself/herself, his/her physical health, and social environment, which leads to a plan of care. The plan could include treatment, rehabilitation, health promotion, and social services. These evaluations are performed by inpatient Geriatric Evaluation and Management (GEM) Units, GEM clinics, geriatric primary care clinics, and other outpatient settings.

**Adult Day Health Care** The adult day health care (ADHC) program is a therapeutic day care program, providing medical and rehabilitation services to disabled veterans in a combined setting.

**Respite Care** Respite care provides supportive care to veterans on a short-term basis to give the caregiver a planned period of relief from the physical and emotional demands associated with providing care. Respite care can be provided in the home or other non-institutional settings.

**Home Care** Skilled home care is provided by VA and contract agencies to veterans that are homebound with chronic diseases and includes nursing, physical/occupational therapy, and social services.

**Hospice/Palliative Care** Hospice and palliative care programs offer pain management, symptom control, and other medical services to terminally ill veterans or veterans in the late stages of the chronic disease process. Services also include respite care as well as bereavement counseling to family members.

**Limited Benefits**

**Nursing Home Care** While some veterans qualify for indefinite nursing home care services, other veterans may qualify for a limited period of time. Among those that automatically qualify for indefinite nursing home care are veterans whose service-connected condition is clinically determined to require nursing home care and veterans with a service-connected rating of 70% percent or more. Other veterans may be provided short-term nursing home care if space and resources are available.

**Domiciliary Care** Domiciliary care provides rehabilitative and long-term, health maintenance care for veterans who require some medical care, but who do not require all the services provided in nursing homes. Domiciliary care emphasizes rehabilitation and return to the community. VA may provide domiciliary care to veterans whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual rate of a VA pension or to veterans that have no adequate means of support.

Oregon Veterans’ Homes

The Oregon Veterans’ Home provides skilled nursing, Alzheimer’s and memory-related, and rehabilitative care in an environment that understands the unique needs of the men and women who served our country in uniform. Care at the Oregon Veteran’s Home is an earned benefit available to veterans, their spouses and parents who had a child die while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. To be eligible for this benefit, qualifying veterans must have served as defined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Federal VA) and received an honorable discharge from their branch of service.

Conservatorship Program

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Conservatorship Program serves veterans, their surviving spouses, minor children or helpless adult children of veterans, and dependent parents.

Professional Trust Officers assist Oregon veterans manage their financial affairs and property while helping ease the burdens often associated with paying bills, collecting funds on debts owed to the veteran, corresponding with creditors, buying or selling real-estate, or other investments.

Trust officers are experts in Oregon law, administrative rules and veterans law and regulation. Whenever possible they work closely with interested family members in planning for the welfare and best interest of the veteran, their spouse or dependent.

A conservator gains possession of all income and assets and establishes a personal budget and pays for care, personal needs, dependent support, property maintenance, etc., according to that budget. A conservator applies for all benefits for which the protected person may be eligible and invests or otherwise conserves unused funds.

An accounting of financial activities is submitted to the court, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, protected persons and others as required by law.

For a person with a substantial amount of income, assets or property, who is unable to manage his or her finances well enough to provide adequate care themselves, a conservator may be needed. Causes may include mental illness or deficiency, physical illness or disability, chronic use of drugs or controlled substances, disappearance or confinement, chronic intoxication, and helpless or minor children.

A petition asking for the appointment of a conservator may be submitted to a court by anyone interested in the estate, affairs or welfare of the person. This includes parents, guardian, custodians or any person who would be adversely affected by lack of effective management of the property or affairs.

The court appoints a conservator and the order remains in effect until the person’s condition improves, majority is reached or until death.
Oregon Veterans’ Homes

The place where honor lives.

Skilled nursing, Alzheimer’s and memory-related care, rehabilitative care in an environment that honors veterans.

The Oregon Veterans’ Home has received the Step II Award for Quality Achievement from the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL). To date, the Home is one of approximately 200 care facilities in the nation – and one of only two state veterans’ homes – to achieve this level of recognition.

Oregon locations in The Dalles and Lebanon (COMING FALL 2014)

The Home welcomes donations and volunteers. Call or visit online to learn more.

oregon.gov/odva/vetshome | 800 846 8460 or 541 296 7190
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is the primary monthly monetary benefit payable to surviving dependents of a deceased veteran, and is the equivalent benefit to disability compensation for veterans. Although it is usually a service-connected benefit, DIC may also be authorized for certain nonservice-connected deaths as well.

This benefit is payable if the veteran died while on active duty, in the line of duty and not due to willful misconduct or, if death was after service, the death was caused or attributed to a service-connected disability.

The current basic monthly rate of DIC is $1,154 for an eligible surviving spouse. The rate is increased for each dependent child, and also if the surviving spouse is housebound or in need of aid and attendance. VA also adds a transitional benefit of $286 to the surviving spouse’s monthly DIC if there are children under age 18. The amount is based on a family unit, not individual children.

Death Pensions

Survivors’ (Death) Pension is a needs-based benefit paid to an unremarried surviving spouse, or an unmarried child, who meets certain age or disability requirements, of a deceased wartime veteran.

In order to qualify for a VA Death Pension, the VA calculates income received from most sources by the surviving spouse and any eligible children. It includes earnings, disability and retirement payments, unemployment insurance payments, interest and dividends payments, and net income from farming, business or rental property.

If the income is below a certain level, the dependent or surviving spouse may be eligible for this pension.

Burial Benefits

Dependents and surviving spouses of an eligible veteran are eligible to be buried in national cemeteries.

When a death occurs and eligibility for interment in a national cemetery is determined, grave space is assigned by the cemetery director in the name of the veteran or family member. One gravesite is permitted for the interment of all eligible family members, unless soil conditions or the number of family decedents necessitate more than one grave. There is no charge for burial in a national cemetery.

Headstones and Markers

Spouses and dependents are not eligible for a Government-furnished headstone or marker unless they are buried in a national cemetery, state veteran’s cemetery, or military post/base cemetery.
Survivor Benefit Plan

When a military retiree dies their retirement pay stops. This means that the surviving spouse is without this income source. If a veteran is a military retiree, thought needs to be given as to how to protect the spouse from the hardships caused by the loss of the retirement pay.

One option available is the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). The SBP is an insurance plan that will pay the veteran’s surviving spouse a monthly payment (annuity) to help make up for the loss the retirement income. The plan is designed to protect survivors against the risks of the veteran’s early death, a survivor outliving the benefits, and inflation.

Survivors should report retiree deaths to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) casualty office at 800-321-1080.

CHAMPVA and Tricare

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) is a comprehensive health care program in which the VA shares the cost of covered health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. The program is administered by Health Administration Center.

Due to the similarity between CHAMPVA and the Department of Defense (DoD) TRICARE program (sometimes referred to by its old name, CHAMPUS) the two are often mistaken for each other. CHAMPVA is a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program whereas TRICARE is a regionally managed health care program for active duty and retired members of the uniformed services, their families, and survivors. In some cases a veterans may look to be eligible for both/either program on paper. However, if you are a military retiree, or the spouse of a veteran who was killed in action, you are and will always be a TRICARE beneficiary.

Incarcerated Veterans

When a veteran receiving VA disability compensation is incarcerated, payments to the veteran is suspended, however, benefit payments may be apportioned to the veteran’s spouse, child or children, and dependent parents on the basis of individual need. In determining individual need, consideration shall be given to such factors as the claimant’s income and living expenses, the amount of compensation available to be apportioned, and any special needs.

Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Entitlement

The Post-9/11 GI Bill also offers some service members the opportunity to transfer their GI Bill to dependents. An individual approved to transfer an entitlement to educational assistance under this section may transfer the individual’s entitlement to the individual’s spouse, or one or more of the individual’s children any combination of spouse and child. A family member must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) and be eligible for benefits, at the time of transfer to receive transferred educational benefits.

A child’s subsequent marriage will not affect his or her eligibility to receive the educational benefit; however, after an individual has designated a child as a transferee under this section, the individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time.


Oregon’s Veterans’ Dependent Tuition Waiver

Offered by the State of Oregon University System (OUS) and local community colleges, this state benefit provides a full tuition waiver (not fees) for a bachelor’s, master’s or associates degree at an OUS institution or community college for children and spouses (who have not remarried) of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who either died in active duty, became 100 percent disabled in connection with military service (universities only), or died as a result of a disability sustained in active duty.

Eligibility differs slightly for community colleges and universities. Call the college admissions department for detailed information on this benefit.

Dependants’ Educational Assistance (DEA)

DEA is a federal VA benefit that provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents, spouses and survivors of certain veterans. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits.

To be eligible, you must be the dependent or spouse of a veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability, a veteran who died from any service-connected disability, a service member missing in action or captured in line of duty by a hostile force, a service member forcibly detained or interned in line of duty, or a service member who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service connected permanent and total disability.

A dependent who wishes to receive benefits for attending school or job training must be between the ages of 18 and 26. In certain instances, it is possible to begin before age 18 and to continue after age 26. Marriage is not a bar to this benefit.
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits Administration oversees a burial benefits program designed to assist claimants in meeting the funeral and burial costs of a deceased veteran. The VA does not make funeral arrangements or perform cremations. Families should make these arrangements with a funeral provider or cremation office. You should advise your family of your wishes and where your discharge papers are kept. These papers are very important in establishing your eligibility. You may wish to make pre-need arrangements with a funeral home.

**SERVICE-CONNECTED DEATH** If a veteran’s death is service-connected, the VA will pay a burial allowance of up to $2,000 for deaths on or after Sept. 11, 2011. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of moving the veteran’s body to the national cemetery nearest the veteran’s home may also be reimbursed. There is no time limit for applying for a service-connected burial allowance. The person who bore the veteran’s burial expense may claim reimbursement from any VA regional office.

**NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DEATH** If a veteran’s death is not service-connected, there are two types of payments the VA may make: Burial and Funeral Expense Allowance – The VA will pay a burial and funeral allowance provided the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable; and the veteran was in receipt of VA pension or compensation at the time of death; or the veteran was, at the time of death, receiving military retired pay in lieu of compensation; or the veteran, at the time of death, had an original or reopened claim pending, and had been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date or death; or the veteran’s death occurred in a VA facility; or the veteran died while traveling, under proper authorization and at VA expense, to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care; or the veteran died on or after Oct. 9, 1996, while a patient at an approved state nursing home or while residing in a VA-approved state nursing home is transferred to a non-VA facility for acute medical care, and then dies at that location; or the veteran’s remains are being held by a state or political subdivision of a state, there is no next of kin or other person claiming the body and the veteran’s estate does not have enough resources to cover the cost of the funeral and burial, and the veteran served during wartime or was released from active service for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

**BURIAL PLOT ALLOWANCE** When a veteran is buried in a cemetery that is not under the U.S. government jurisdiction, the VA may also pay a plot allowance, provided that the veteran was discharged under a condition other than dishonorable;
and meet other qualifications similar to that of a non-service connected death.

FILING A CLAIM FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES To file for reimbursement of burial expenses an Application of Burial Allowance form must be submitted to the VA. The person filing the claim must also provide a certified copy of the veteran’s death certificate and proof of the veteran’s military service (Form DD-214), and itemized bills of the funeral and burial expenses.

BURIAL FLAG A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran’s military service to his or her country.

When burial is in a national, state or post cemetery, a burial flag will automatically be provided. When burial is in a private cemetery, the funeral director will generally help the next of kin with this process.

HEADSTONES AND MARKERS The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

For eligible veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990 and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the graves or a Medallion to be affixed to the privately purchased headstone.

Eligible veterans are entitled to either a Government-furnished headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both.

BRONZE MEDALLIONS FOR HEADSTONES AND MARKERS The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a medallion, by request, to be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased’s status as a veteran.

If requested, the medallion is furnished in lieu of a traditional Government headstone or marker for veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

BURIAL AT SEA The VA National Cemetery Administration cannot provide burial at sea. For information, contact the U.S. Navy Mortuary Affairs office toll free at 888-647-6676.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS The Department of Defense (DoD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors. “Honoring Those Who Served” is the title of the DoD program for providing dignified military funeral honors to veterans who have defended our nation.

Upon the family’s request, Public Law 106-65 requires that every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATES A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current president, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans.
**EDUCATION**

**POST 9/11 GI BILL**

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to honorably discharged veterans with at least 90 days of aggregate service on Title 10 Active Duty or Title 32 Active Guard Reserve Duty after Sept. 10, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. The Post 9-11 GI Bill will pay eligible individuals:

- Full tuition and fees directly to the school for all public school in-state students.
- For those attending classes at the greater than half-time rate, a monthly housing allowance (MHA) based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for an E-5 with dependents at the school’s location. A Distance Learning enrollee’s housing allowance is equal to half the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents.
- An annual books and supplies stipend of $1,000 paid proportionately based on enrollment.

This benefit provides up to 36 months of education benefits, generally benefits are payable for 15 years following release from active duty. This benefit may be transferred to dependents and spouses based on six years of active duty service.

**TUITION ASSISTANCE – TOP-UP**

Top-up allows the VA to reimburse an individual for all or a portion of the charges for courses that are not reimbursed under certain military education programs. The amount of this benefit can be equal to the difference between the total cost of a college course and the amount of Tuition Assistance that is paid by the military for the course.

To be eligible for the Top-up benefit, the person must be approved for federal Tuition Assistance by a military department and be eligible for Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB)-Active Duty benefits or the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

**YELLOW RIBBON GI EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM**

The program was enacted to assist eligible individuals with payment of their tuition and fees in instances where costs exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher education.

To be eligible, the student must be a veteran receiving benefits at the 100 percent benefit rate payable, a transfer-of-entitlement-eligible dependent child or spouse of a veteran.

VA will match the school’s percentage (up to 50 percent) to reduce or eliminate out-of-pocket costs for eligible participants.

To receive this benefit your school must agree to participate in the Yellow Program. Six of seven OUS institutions participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

**STATEWIDE APPRENTICESHIPS (BOLI)**

Oregon Apprenticeship Opportunities Statewide is offered through the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI).

If eligible, an apprentice may use veterans’ educational benefits while registered in an apprenticeship program. If an existing apprenticeship program does not have an approved veteran’s program in place, veterans can coordinate the establishment of a new training program by communicating with an employer and the Apprenticeship and Training Division.

The employer can be a current employer or a prospective employer who is willing to coordinate apprentice training with the VA and the Apprenticeship and Training Division. An apprenticeship representative can assist you in determining eligibility for your apprenticeship/training goals.

Typically, an apprenticeship lasts two to five years, depending on industry requirements.

**COLLEGE CREDIT FOR YOUR MILITARY TRAINING**

All universities and local community colleges in Oregon use the recommendations made by the American Council on Education (ACE) to award academic credit toward a degree for education and training received in the military.

To claim college credit for military training, request a transcript from your military service branch. At no charge, each service will provide official copies to schools.

ACE recommended credits can be used to fulfill your free-elective requirements, but the number of credits that can apply to your degree program is determined by each individual college. Some schools may even refuse to grant any credit for military experience, so ensure you are attending a school that will respect and award you for your valuable service.

**MONTGOMERY GI BILL**

Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) benefits are available for service members and veterans to help with education and training costs by providing up to $51,000 in cash and numerous support programs.

MGIB can be used to pay for many different programs including the following degrees, business technical or vocational courses, distance learning including correspondence courses, apprenticeship/job training, flight training, licensing and certification exams.

VA educational benefits may be used while the service member is on active duty or after the service member’s separation from active duty with a fully honorable military discharge. Discharges “under honorable conditions” and “general” discharges do not establish eligibility.

Eligibility generally expires 10 years after the service member’s discharge. However, there are exceptions for disability, re-entering active duty, and upgraded discharges.
RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (REAP)

REAP is a Department of Defense (DoD) education benefit program designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the president or Congress.

Eligible veterans must be a member of a Ready Reserve component (Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, or Inactive National Guard) to pay into the “buy-up” program. Guard members are eligible if they were serving under Title 32 orders for 90 consecutive days as authorized by the president or secretary of defense for a national emergency and is supported by federal funds.

The DoD and Department of Homeland Security (Coast Guard) will determine eligibility.

VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VEAP)

The Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Education Assistance Program (VEAP), is available if you elected to make contributions from your military pay to participate in this education benefit program. You can use this benefit for degree, certification, correspondence, apprenticeship/job training programs, and vocational flight training programs.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT (VR&E)

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) VetSuccess Program assists veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. For veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, VetSuccess offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

Eligibility and entitlement for VR&E are two different things. You may meet eligibility criteria, yet not be entitled to services. The first step in the VR&E process is to be evaluated to determine if you qualify for services.

TUITION ASSISTANCE WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY

This DoD program is administered by the individual branches of the armed forces. Tuition Assistance (TA) can be used to pay up to 100 percent of a service member’s tuition while taking eligible courses during off-duty hours.

Tuition Assistance benefits are capped at $250 per semester credit hour, with a $4,500 yearly cap.

Oregon Veteran Educational Aid Program

The Oregon Veteran Educational Aid Program provides educational benefits to veterans pursuing approved training or coursework equal to the months of active duty service up to 36 months. Benefits are paid while pursuing classroom instruction, home study courses, vocational training, licensing and certificates from accredited Oregon educational institutions.

Full-time students may receive up to $150 per month and up to $100 per month for part-time students. This benefit is not available if you are receiving educational aid under any federal act based on service in the Armed Forces.

Oregon Nonresident Veteran Fee Remission

The Nonresident Veteran Fee Remission is a tuition and fee reduction for qualified students who are not Oregon residents and who are attending classes as an admitted undergraduate at one of the seven OUS campuses.

To qualify for the discount, the nonresident veteran must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and was relieved or discharged from that service under honorable conditions. Eligible nonresident veteran students should contact the financial aid office at the OUS institution they are applying to or currently enrolled in, to request this benefit.

Voyager Tuition Assistance Program

Voyager is a tuition benefit that is available to honor and support Oregon residents who served the nation as members of the National Guard or Reserves in an active duty capacity in a combat zone since Sept. 11, 2001.

Voyager is a “last dollar award.” Qualifying students will be awarded a fee remission for no more than the difference between campus tuition and mandatory fees and expected military tuition benefits. The student is responsible for obtaining federal military tuition benefits. If a student is not eligible for federal tuition benefits they must demonstrate proof of ineligibility.

Application forms or process information is available at campus financial aid offices. Contact your university financial assistance department for more information.
You served your country and now it's your country's turn to serve you by financing the home you’ve been dreaming of. With the ORVET Home Loan, you will always be offered a low interest rate with flexible terms and a simple application process.

Since 1946, the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs has helped more than 334,000 veterans realize their dreams of owning a home, loaning over $7.5 billion to veterans.

NOW THAT YOU’RE HOME
LEARN ABOUT YOUR HOME BENEFITS

To apply or to find out more about your qualifications, please call the Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs Home Loan Department at 888-673-8387. www.oregon.gov/odva/homeloans
Home Loans for Oregon Veterans

The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs offers a state veterans’ home loan that is an additional and distinctively separate benefit from the Federal VA Home Loan Guaranty Program. The current maximum loan amount for a single family, owner-occupied residence is $417,000 or a veteran’s remaining eligibility amount if there has been a previous ODVA loan. The program is designed specifically to provide veterans the lowest interest rate possible and is secured through special federal bonding only available to state home loan programs.

ODVA takes pride in achieving consistent high levels of customer satisfaction, makes every attempt to be flexible and provide an easy application process.

Federal VA Home Loan Guaranties

The purpose of the VA loan guaranty program is to help veterans and active duty personnel finance the purchase of homes with competitive loan terms and interest rates. The VA does not actually lend the money to veterans. VA guaranteed loans are made by private lenders, such as banks, savings & loans, or mortgage companies. The VA guaranty means the lender is protected against loss if the veteran fails to repay the loan.

You can apply for a VA loan with any mortgage lender that participates in the VA home loan program. You will need to get a Certificate of Eligibility from the VA to prove to the lender that you are eligible for a VA loan.

HUD / FHA Loans

Veterans are not eligible for VA financing based on service in World War I, Active Duty for Training in the Reserves, or Active Duty for Training in the National Guard (unless “activated” under the authority of Title 10, US Code). However, these veterans may qualify for a HUD / FHA veteran’s loan.

The VA’s only role in the HUD / FHA program is to determine the eligibility of the veteran, and issue a Certificate of Veteran Status, if qualified. Under this program, financing is available for veterans at terms slightly more favorable than those available to non-veterans.

Oregon Property Tax Exemption

If you are a disabled veteran, you may be entitled to exempt some of your homestead property’s assessed value from your property taxes. To qualify, veterans must be certified by the VA or any branch of the Armed Forces as having disabilities of 40 percent or more or be a veteran who served and is certified each year by a licensed physician as being 40 percent or more disabled.

Active duty service members, including National Guard and Military reserve forces, also may qualify for a residential property tax exemption. For more details contact the Oregon Department of Revenue or your county assessor.

Oregon Property Tax Deferrals

Disabled veterans may qualify to “borrow” from the state of Oregon to pay property taxes to the county.

To qualify, veterans must be determined eligible to receive or be receiving federal Social Security disability benefits due to disability or blindness. If you qualify, the Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR) will pay property taxes to the county. Six percent on the taxes are deferred and a lien will be placed on the property. All taxes plus interest and fees must be repaid.

Applicants must file their requests with their local county assessor’s office. For more details contact the Oregon Department of Revenue or your county assessor.

Specially Adaptive Housing Grants

The VA may approve a grant of not more than half of the cost of building, buying, or remodeling adapted homes, or paying indebtedness on homes previously acquired, up to a maximum of $64,960.

To qualify for this grant, veterans must be entitled to compensation for permanent and total service-connected disability due to certain specifications.

Special Housing Adaptations Grant

VA may approve a grant for the actual cost, up to a maximum of $12,992, for adaptations to a veteran’s residence that are determined by the VA to be reasonably necessary.

The grant also may be used to assist veterans in acquiring a residence that already has been adapted with special features for the veteran’s disability.

To qualify for this grant, veterans must be entitled to compensation for permanent and total service-connected disability due to certain specifications.

Supplemental Financing–Loan Guaranty

Veterans who have available loan guaranty entitlement may also obtain a guaranteed loan or possibly a direct loan from VA to supplement the grants to acquire a specially adapted home.

Home Improvements and Structural Alterations

The HISA program provides funding for disabled veterans to make home improvements necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home, essential lavatory and sanitary facilities.

Disabled veterans may be eligible for HISA when it is determined medically necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of the service-connected disability.
Veterans, service members and spouses may qualify for priority
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES

Let the Employment Department help you connect with employers who are waiting to hire veterans and military personnel. Our iMatch system can help match your skills to job opportunities.

We also have representatives that work exclusively with veterans and military service members. Visit us online to learn more!
Knowing your employment rights as a veteran or service member is a right you served to defend.

And defending those rights is our duty.

**USERRA** is a federal statute which provides job protections and employment rights to employees who may serve, currently serve, or have served on military duty. [www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm](http://www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm)

**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ACT**

The VEOA allows preference eligible persons or veterans who are honorably discharged from the armed forces to compete for vacant federal positions. VEOA offers protection to eligible veterans during a Reduction in Force (RIF) and against adverse actions. VETS staff investigates 5 and 10 point federal Veteran Preference complaints and answer inquiries regarding VEOA.

[www.opm.gov/veterans/](http://www.opm.gov/veterans/)

**REALIFELINES**

The primary mission of REALifelines is to provide wounded and injured service members, and their families, with personal assistance through a seamless network to ensure a successful transition to civilian life by addressing the challenges they face outside of their recovery.


**STAND DOWNS**

Stand down is a military term referring to a brief respite from combat and are events coordinated in local communities to provide veterans with a wide range of social services. Stand Downs foster employment opportunities for veterans to promote self-sufficiency and improve veterans’ connections with community-based service providers. Potential applicants can access stand down information at the following website or contact the VETS office in Salem, Ore.


**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE (VETS)**

503-9471490

[www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets)
Veterans and disabled veterans receive preference when applying for state, county and local government jobs in Oregon.

**5 POINT VETERANS’ PREFERENCE**
Veterans who provide proof of their veteran status when applying for public employment will receive a 5-point preference. This preference is added to the total possible points based on your qualifications for the job. This preference is also applicable when being considered for promotions.

**10-POINT DISABLED VETERANS’ PREFERENCE**
Disabled veterans who provide proof of their service-connected disability when applying for a government job will receive a 10-point preference.

**DOCUMENTATION**
To prove your veteran or disabled veteran status, please provide a copy of your DD-214 and/or a service-connected disability rating letter from the VA.

**Direct Professional Licensing for Military Experience**
A Oregon law passed by the 2012 Legislature was designed to quickly get service members back to work after serving in the military. This statute requires certain professional licensing agencies and boards in Oregon to accept military training or experience as an acceptable substitution for education or experience required for licensure, certification or registration. The bill eliminates the need for veterans to go back to school for training that they have already received in the military, saving time and money.

Requirements that must be met in addition to the military education or experience are outlined by professions specified in the bill. These professions include: private security professional, teacher, engineer, land surveyor, psychologist, occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, physician assistant, nursing assistant, denture technology, chiropractor, physical therapist, radiologist, hemodialysis technician, athletic trainer, respiratory care, polysomnographic technologist, pharmacist, pharmacy technician, cosmetologist, mortician, embalmer, polygraph examiner, private investigator, and commercial driver.

**Public Employment Interviews**
In 2011 the Legislature passed HB 3207, which mandates public employers to interview veterans for positions if the veteran can prove their military education and skills meet the minimum qualifications and desired attributes of the position. The intention of this statute is to get veterans into interviews with hiring managers so veterans can prove they are qualified.

It is the responsibility of the veteran to plainly demonstrate through the application process that their experience in the military qualifies them for the position they are seeking.
Find Employers who value the skills of Veterans

Employers from around the country are looking for skilled and dedicated employees to join their ranks and they have noticed that veterans fit that bill. Below are some of the more useful and popular websites that feature employers who are specifically looking to hire veterans, like you.

Oregon Disabled Veterans’ and Veteran Employment Representatives
Veterans can find employment information, education and training opportunities, job counseling, job search workshops, and resume preparation assistance at state Workforce Career or One-Stop Centers through the Employment Department. These offices have specialists who work directly with veterans and disabled veterans to find employment.

Disabled Veterans’ Outreach Program Specialists (DVOP) and Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER) assist veterans in applying for federal, state, local government and private sector employment. DVOPs and LVERs have offices to serve all veterans in more than 20 Oregon cities.

Veteran Career Fairs, Expos and Websites
The federal government, including DoD, the VA and many state and local entities hold career expos and job fairs throughout the state. There are also many websites that feature job openings with companies looking to hire veterans. The benefits of using these resources include engaging with employers who are actively seeking to hire veterans and tools to help translate military experience into civilian equivalent experience.

- veterans.jobs
- veteranscareerfair.com
- uschamber.com/hiringourheroes
- employvets.com
- mynextmove.org/vets
**Guide Dogs and Service Dogs**

VA may provide guide dogs to blind veterans including the expense of training the veteran on how to use them, and the cost of the dog’s medical care.

Additionally, VA may also provide service dogs trained for the aid of hearing impaired veterans and veterans with spinal cord injuries, dysfunction and other chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility. Currently there are pilot programs being conducted by the VA to provide service dogs to veterans who have conditions such as PTSD.

There are also many private non-profit organizations that provide service dogs to disabled veterans.

**Clothing Allowance**

The VA pays a clothing allowance to veterans who, because of a service-connected disability, wears or uses a prosthetic or orthopedic appliance (including a wheelchair) in which the VA determines tends to wear out or tear the clothing. The VA will also pay a clothing allowance to veterans who use medication prescribed by VA physicians for skin conditions caused by a service-connected disability which the VA determines causes irreparable damage to the veteran’s outer garment.

**Automobile Assistance Program**

The VA offers qualified veterans and active duty service members a one-time payment of up to $18,900 to be used toward the purchase of an automobile or other forms of conveyance. To qualify, a veteran or service member must have one of the following disabilities including loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both feet, loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both hands, or permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to a certain degree.

**Adaptive Equipment**

VA will pay for installation of adaptive equipment for automobiles deemed necessary to ensure that eligible veterans will be able to safely operate vehicles, and to satisfy the applicable state standards of licensure. This equipment includes power steering, power breaks, power window lifts, power seats and other special equipment necessary to assist the person into and out of the vehicle or other conveyance.

VA will also repair, replace, or reinstall adaptive equipment determined necessary for the operation of a vehicle acquired under this program, or for the operation of a vehicle an eligible veteran may previously or subsequently have acquired.
The men and women of the Guard and Reserve depend on their military units, families, and employers for support. Whether serving our country or supporting those who do . . .

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Help us to protect our country and serve our communities across Oregon. Learn leadership, discipline, and the career skills that matter. Now is the time for you to step forward. Join the proud ranks of the Oregon Army National Guard.

When We Are Needed, We Are There
Veteran Designation on ODL

The DMV now offers a veteran designation that can be voluntarily placed on Oregon driver licenses. In order to receive the designation, veterans must be a United States veteran, provide proof of veteran status (DD-214 or DD-215), and meet all other Oregon requirements for a driving privilege or identification card including payment of the original, renewal or replacement fee.

There is no additional fee for the veteran designation. Call your local DMV for more details.

Veterans Recognition License Plate

Oregon DMV offers specialty license plates to veterans and service members who want to display their military service.

You can choose from plates that indicate branch of service, campaign or service medals and some specialty military plates such as the Gold Star Family plate.

A portion of the fees from the veteran plates helps support the Oregon Veterans’ Home, a skilled-nursing care facility, located in The Dalles.

To obtain a veteran plate, proof of military service (DD-214) and/or proof of award of a military related medal must be presented upon application at DMV.

Copies of Discharge Papers

Most veteran’s benefits require a copy of their DD-214 or discharge record. This is an important document and must be safeguarded. It is recommended that you file a copy with your county courthouse and maintain a copy in a safe place. ODVA may also have a copy of file.

Military Records and Medals

Veterans or their next of kin who need assistance in obtaining service records, a DD-214, or replacement awards and medals must formally request them through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). The NPRC is the records custodian for most discharged and retired members of all branches of service. The fastest way to obtain a copy is through their website.

If you do not have access to the internet, you can order a copy by mailing or faxing a Standard Form 180. The forms are available in any CVSO office or online at www.archives.gov/veterans.

Correction of Errors or Injustices on Military Records

Requests to have military records corrected are handled through each branch of service’s Board for the Correction of Military Records.

All requests to correct an error to military records must be filed within three years of discovery of the error and contain evidence, such as signed statements from you and other witnesses or copies of records that support your case. It is not enough to provide the names of the witnesses.

Applying for a correction is a simple process, however, it is recommended you use the services of a VSO.

Applying for Review of Discharge

You must make your application for discharge upgrade within 15 years of discharge. If your discharge is older than 15 years, you must apply for a change to your military records using the process detailed above.

Form DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge or Dismissal from the Armed Forces) can be obtained from ODVA or a local VSO.

Veterans Naturalization Preference

Qualifying immigrants who have served honorably on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces and certain components of the National Guard and the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, may apply for expedited citizenship processing under special wartime provisions in the Immigration and Naturalization Act.

To honor the service and sacrifices that these immigrants have made for their adopted nation, these troops can naturalize in overseas ceremonies instead of waiting until their return to the U.S. The spouses and children of these military members may also naturalize abroad without having to return to the U.S. for any part of the process.
If you are a homeless veteran, you can receive support to get back on your feet. Contact VA’s National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838) to speak to a trained VA responder. The hotline and online chat are free and neither VA registration nor enrollment in VA healthcare is required to use these services.

Expert responders staff the hotline for homeless veterans 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The responders can provide emergency support and resources to homeless veterans, family members, as well as community agencies and non-VA providers.

When you call or join the online chat you will be connected to a trained VA responder. The responder will ask a few questions to assess your needs. If you’re a veteran, you may be connected with the Homeless Program point of contact at the nearest VA facility.

VA offers these services to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness and their families.
According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV), about 23 percent of America’s homeless population are veterans. That equates to between 529,000 and 840,000 veterans who are homeless at some time each year. Because of this, the Department of Veterans Affairs and other non-profit organizations have devised a number of initiatives to help our homeless veterans. Here are some of the initiatives provided by VA for our veterans.

**VA’s Compensated Work Therapy**

VA’s Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) is comprised of three unique programs which assist homeless veterans in returning to competitive employment: Sheltered Workshop, Transitional Work, and Supported Employment. Veterans in CWT are paid at least the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is the higher.

The Homeless Veteran Supported Employment Program (HVSEP) provides vocational assistance, job development and placement, and ongoing supports to improve employment outcomes among homeless veterans and veterans at-risk of homelessness. Formerly homeless veterans who have been trained as Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists (VRSs) provide these services.

CWT veterans have been successfully employed over the years in various competitive positions including, but not limited to, health care, information technology, manufacturing, warehousing, construction trades, clerical and office support, retail and the services delivery. CWT programs develop an individual rehabilitation plan for each veteran and provide a wide range of support services to the veteran at the CWT locations. VA benefits including service-connected compensation, and non-service connected pensions cannot be reduced, denied, or discontinued based on participation in CWT.

The CWT program mission is to provide realistic and meaningful vocational opportunities to veterans; encouraging successful reintegration into the community at the veterans' highest functional level.

*Find an Oregon location: [www.cwt.va.gov/locations.asp](http://www.cwt.va.gov/locations.asp)*

**Transitional Residence Program**

The Transitional Residence (TR) program is a work-based Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program offering a therapeutic residential setting for veterans involved in CWT. The TR program provides a rehabilitation-focused residential setting for veterans recovering from chronic mental illness, chemical dependency and homelessness. TR provides a bridge between hospitalization or intensive outpatient treatment and successful community reintegration. It utilizes a residential therapeutic community of peer and professional support, with a strong emphasis on increasing personal responsibility and achievement of individualized rehabilitation goals.

This program differs from other VA-operated residential bed programs in that participants contribute (using their CWT earnings) to the cost of operating and maintaining their residences and are responsible for planning, purchasing and preparing their own meals.

*Find an Oregon location: [www.cwt.va.gov/locations.asp](http://www.cwt.va.gov/locations.asp)*

**HUD-VASH**

This joint Supported Housing Program with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides permanent housing and ongoing case management treatment services for homeless Veterans who would not be able to live independently without the support of case management. HUD’s Section 8 Voucher Program has designated more than 10,000 Vouchers to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) throughout the country for veterans who are homeless. This program allows veterans to live in veteran selected apartment units with a Housing Choice Voucher. These vouchers are portable so that veterans can live in communities served by their VA medical facility where case management services can be provided.

*Contact HUD-VASH Regional Coordinator at Teresa.Pittman@va.gov*

**Drop-in Centers**

These programs provide a daytime sanctuary where homeless veterans can clean up, wash their clothing, and participate in a variety of therapeutic and rehabilitative activities. Linkages with longer-term assistance are also available. Locations vary. Contact your local Vet Center or VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (see page 12) for locations and services in your area.

**Stand Downs**

Stand Downs are one-to-three day events that provide homeless veterans a variety of services and allow VA and community-based service providers to reach more homeless veterans. Stand downs give homeless veterans a temporary refuge where they can obtain food, shelter, clothing and a range of community and VA assistance. In many locations, stand downs provide health screenings, referral and access to long-term treatment, benefits counseling, ID cards and access to other programs to meet their immediate needs.

*For information on Stand Down dates and locations, please contact the Homeless Veterans Programs Office at 202-461-1857 or visit [www.va.gov/HOMELESS](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS).*

**Veterans Emergency Relief Programs**

Many military and service organizations have emergency relief programs specifically designated to help veterans and military members and their families. Inquire within local organizations about programs such as the Air Force Aid Society, American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance, Army Emergency Relief, Disabled American Veterans Disaster Relief Grants, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief, Salvation Army Home Front War Relief Program, and VFW Unmet Needs.
Incarcerated Veterans

Incarcerated Veterans Benefits

VA benefits are affected if a beneficiary is convicted of a felony and imprisoned for more than 60 days. Disability compensation paid to an incarcerated veteran rated 20 percent or more disabled is limited to the 10 percent rate.

Payments are not reduced for participants in work-release programs, residing in halfway houses or under community control.

Failure to notify VA of a veteran’s incarceration can result in overpayment of benefits and the subsequent loss of all VA financial benefits until the overpayment is recovered. VA benefits will not be provided to any veteran or dependent wanted for an outstanding felony warrant.

VA may be able to take a portion of the amount that an incarcerated veteran is not receiving and pay it to his or her dependents, if they can show need.

When a veteran is released from prison, his or her compensation or pension benefits may be restored. Depending upon the type of disability, the VA may schedule a medical examination to see if the veteran’s disability has improved or worsened.

The Healthcare for Reentry Veterans Program

This program offers outreach to veterans incarcerated in state and federal prisons, and referrals and short-term case management assistance upon release from prison.

Veteran Courts Offer Diversion

There is a growing effort nationally, and in Oregon, to institute veterans’ courts or dockets to allow district attorneys to send military members and veterans into treatment, rather than jail, when they commit a non-violent offense.

These courts are staffed by people who take into consideration the charges and challenges facing veterans who return home from war. They may allow some military members to enter into mental health diversion programs as treatment for non-violent infractions as opposed to automatically jailing the offender.

The law relies on the judgment of a prosecutor, who will determine, on a case-by-case basis, which defendants may be eligible for diversion. These prosecutors must consider, for example, whether a veteran who spent four years at a military base should be offered the same diversion opportunity as one who deployed twice to combat situations in Afghanistan or Iraq.

Prosecutors must decide how serious the crime must be before diversion is taken off the table and must consider the victim of the offense.

The Veterans Justice Outreach Program (VJO)

VJO offers outreach and case management to veterans involved in law enforcement encounters, overseen by treatment courts, and incarcerated in local jails. Call Oregon’s VJO Coordinator, 503-220-8262, ext. 32716.

The Healthcare for Reentry Veterans Program

This program offers outreach to veterans incarcerated in state and federal prisons, and referrals and short-term case management assistance upon release from prison.
Recreation Passes and Memorials

Oregon Hunting and Fishing Licenses
A free hunting and angling license for disabled war veterans rated at 25 percent service-connected disabled or more with the VA is offered through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Veterans must be Oregon residents for at least six months.

Special Access Pass for Disabled Veterans
Service-connected disabled veterans can apply for this pass from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Passes are valid for four years and allows free year-round camping and day-use privileges at RV and tent sites at 26 Oregon State Parks.

Active Duty Leave Reimbursement
Active Duty Military on official leave are eligible to be reimbursed for state park visits. After your visit, send the camping receipt for the dates of your stay, and a letter from your CO on official letterhead stating you were on leave for the dates you camped.

The refund request must arrive no later than 30 days after departure date of your stay. Send a receipt to Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept., Reservations Northwest, 2501 SW 1st Ave., Suite 100, Portland, OR 97201-4751.

America the Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Series
The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass Series is your ticket to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites. Each pass covers entrance fees at national parks and national wildlife refuges, standard amenity fees at national forests and grasslands and at lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation. You can obtain an Access Pass in person, with proper documentation, from a participating Federal recreation site or office.

Veteran Memorials Across Oregon
The Oregon Department of Veterans’ Affairs in Salem is home to memorials honoring Oregon veterans and current service members dating as far back as the Spanish American War. A walking tour leads you through winding paths and lush landscaping starting at the Korean War Memorial and finishing at the WWI Doughboy. These memorials are visited year round by veterans, their families and civilians alike to honor, remember and pay tribute to the amazing men and women who have, and continue to fight for our freedoms and liberties.

The Department has also compiled a list of the veteran memorials across the state. You can find the complete list at: www.oregon.gov/odva/veteranmemorials
ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

AUTOMOBILE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

GUIDE AND SERVICE DOGS
Contact VA Primary Care Provider.

BURIAL BENEFITS

BRONZE MEDALLIONS
www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp

BURIAL AT SEA
U.S. Navy Mortuary Affairs at 888 647 6676

BURIAL FLAGS
www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp

BURIAL PLOT ALLOWANCES
www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp

FILING A CLAIM FOR REIMBURSEMENT
www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp

HEADSTONES AND MARKERS
www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS
www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp

OREGON NATIONAL CEMETERIES
See page 21

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATES
www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp

CLAIMS

2013 VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION RATES
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

EBENEFITS
www.ebenefits.va.gov

HOW TO FILE A CLAIM
PREPARE TO FILE YOUR CLAIM
VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS IN YOUR AREA
See page 7 for a complete list.

DEPENDENTS & SURVIVORS

APPORTIONMENT
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

CHAMPVA
www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp

DEPENDENTS’ EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/dea.html

HEADSTONES and MARKERS
www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp

POST 9/11 GI BILL TRANSFER ENTITLEMENT
www.gibill.va.gov

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN
800 321 1080

TRICARE
888 TRIWEST (888 847 9378)

VETERANS’ DEPENDENT TUITION WAIVER
Contact college admissions office.

DISABILITY & PENSIONS

AID & ATTENDANCE
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

DISABILITY COMPENSATION
800 692 9666 or 503 373 2085

HOUSEBOUND BENEFITS
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

NATIONAL GUARD/SELECT RESERVE
Call Oregon Military Department.

MILITARY RETIRED PAY
www.dfas.mil

PENSIONS
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

EDUCATION

COLLEGE CREDIT FOR MILITARY TRAINING
Contact college registrar’s office

MONTGOMERY GI BILL
www.gibill.va.gov

NON-RESIDENT VETERAN FEE REMISSION
Contact the financial aid department at any Oregon university.

OREGON EDUCATIONAL AID
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

POST 9/11 GI BILL
www.gibill.va.gov

RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (REAP)
www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs

STATEWIDE APPRENTICESHIPS (BOLI)
Contact the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry 971 673 0761 or www.oregon.gov/boli

TUITION ASSISTANCE/TOP-UP
www.gibill.va.gov

TUITION ASSISTANCE WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY
www.gibill.va.gov

VETERANS’ EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (VEAP)
www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs

VOC REHAB AND EMPLOYMENT (VR&E)
www.gibill.va.gov

VOYAGER TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Contact college financial aid offices

YELLOW RIBBON ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill

EMPLOYMENT

CAREER FAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT SITES
Contact the Oregon Employment Department

DIRECT LICENSING FOR MILITARY TRAINING
Contact ODVA for details.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT INTERVIEWS
Contact ODVA for details.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REPS
www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/VETS

VETERANS PREFERENCE
Contact ODVA for details.

DVOP / LVER LOCATOR
www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/VETS/pages/contact_us.aspx
HEALTH CARE

5-YEAR POST-DEPLOYMENT BENEFITS
Contact the OIF/OEF Coordinator at local Medical Center. Complete list of centers in Oregon on page 12.

COMMUNITY BASED OUT-PATIENT CLINICS (CBOC’S)
Complete list on page 12.

ENROLLMENT
Contact your local Medical Center, ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

MEDICAL CENTERS IN OREGON
Complete list on page 12.

MY HEALTH eVET
www.myhealth.va.gov.com

NON-VA MEDICAL EMERGENCY CARE
Contact your local Medical Center.

STANDARD HEALTH CARE BENEFITS
TRICARE
888 TRIWEST (888 847 9378)

VETS CENTERS
Complete list on page 12.

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE
Women Veterans Program Managers are available at each VA Medical Center. See the Medical Center listing on page 12.

HOME LOANS/TAXATION

FEDERAL VA HOME LOAN GUARANTEE
www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans

HOME IMPROVEMENTS
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

HUD/FHA LOANS
www.fha.com

OREGON PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION
Contact County Tax Assessors or Revenue office

OREGON PROPERTY TAX DEFERRALS
Contact County Tax Assessors or Revenue office

ORVET HOME LOAN
888 673 8387
www.oregon.gov/odva/homeloans

SPECIALTY ADAPTIVE HOUSING GRANTS
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

SPECIALTY HOUSING ADAPTATIONS GRANT
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCING
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

HOMELESS RESOURCES

DROP-IN CENTERS
877 424 3838 (877 4AID VET) or your local Vet Center or CBOC.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT AND RESOURCES
877 424 3838 (877 4AID VET)

HUD/VASH
HUD-VASH Regional Coordinator
www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash_eligibility.asp

OREGON VETERANS EMERGENCY GRANT
503 373 2186

STAND DOWNS
Contact ODVA, a CVSO for know events in your area or www.va.gov/homeless.

TRANSITIONAL RESIDENCE PROGRAM
www.cwt.va.gov/locations.asp

VETERANS EMERGENCY RELIEF
Contact local Service Organizations

ID’S/DMV PLATES/RECORDS

MILITARY RECORDS AND MEDALS
www.archives.gov/veterans
Or contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

MILITARY VETERANS LICENSE PLATES
Contact your local DMV.

NATURALIZATION PREFERENCE
USCIS has established a toll-free military help line, 877 247 4645

RECORDS CORRECTIONS, REVIEW OF DISCHARGE
Each branch of service’s Board for the Correction of Military Records, ODVA or local CVSO.

VETERAN DESIGNATION ON ODL
Contact your local DMV.

LONG TERM CARE

CONSERVATORSHIP SERVICES
800 692 9666 or 503 373 2085

LONG TERM CARE BENEFITS
Contact your local Medical Center.

VETERANS’ HOME
800 846 8460 or 541 296 7190

RECREATION & MEMORIALS

ACTIVE DUTY LEAVE REIMBURSEMENT
www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PARKS/fee waivers

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASS
www.store.usgs.gov/pass/military.html

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES
www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/licenses_regs/lifetime.asp

SPECIAL ACCESS PASS FOR DISABLED VETERANS
www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PARKS/fee waivers

VETERAN MEMORIALS ACROSS OREGON
www.oregon.gov/odva/veteransmemorials

TRAUMA

VETERANS CRISIS LINE
800 273 8255 Press 1
www.VeteransCrisisLine.net

TRAVEL

DAV TRANSPORTATION NETWORK
www.dav.org/volunteers/Transportation.aspx

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT
Contact your local Medical Center.

VA VET TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
Contact your local Medical Center appointment line. Complete list on page 12.

VETERAN COURTS

HEALTH CARE RE-ENTRY
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

INCARCERATED VETERAN BENEFITS
Contact ODVA or a CVSO for assistance.

VETERAN COURT DIVERSION
Contact your local District Attorney’s office.

VETERANS JUSTICE OUTREACH (VJO)
Contact ODVA, a CVSO or VJO for assistance.
Serving your country is no small feat. You have given years of your life, your sweat, blood and determination. You have joined the ranks of the true 1%.

That is why the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs is absolutely committed to serving veterans and their families to ensure you receive the benefits that your country has entitled you to.

Whether you served in 1941 or 2013, or any time in between, there are service officers across the state ready to meet with you and discuss your individual needs. Call us today to make an appointment. We look forward to meeting you and thanking you for your service.

**STATE AND FEDERAL VETERAN BENEFITS**

- Disability Compensation and Pensions
- Health Care and Long Term Care
- Conservatorship Services
- Benefits for Dependents and Spouses
- Burial and Cemetery Benefits
- Auto, Adaptive and Clothing Allowances
- Home Loans and Housing Benefits
- Education and Employment Benefits
- Recreation and Driving Benefits
- Emergency Grants and more

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**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS’ AFFAIRS**

- **Call**: 800 692 9666 (Toll free in Oregon)
- **Click**: web [oregon.gov/odva](http://oregon.gov/odva)  blog [oregonva.com](http://oregonva.com)
- **Like us**: facebook.com/odvavet