



Do you know about these...



Benefits and Services for Veterans and their Families



**Call:
1-888-VETS-NYS**



Veterans, you've earned it!

Some veterans don't use their veterans' benefits because they don't know they're eligible. Don't let it happen to you.

Did you know:

- ★ Eligibility for most veterans' benefits is based solely on having served full-time in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard (as well as Merchant Marine during WW II) and discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.
- ★ Veterans' benefits are **not** just for those who served in combat.
- ★ Veterans' health care is **not** just for service-connected injuries or medical conditions.
- ★ Veterans' health care facilities are **not** for "men only." VA offers full-service health care to women veterans.

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the primary source of monetary and medical benefits for veterans. These benefits are not automatic and must be applied for by the veteran or family. New York's veterans also have the advantage of additional benefits and services available through the **New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs**.

The NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs has been a strong advocate for veterans and veteran issues at the local, state, and national level for more than half a century. New York has a proud history of service to those who have served their country.

New York's veteran counselors are recognized as some of the best in the nation. Each one is a veteran, and brings a wealth of knowledge and a desire to help all fellow veterans access the benefits and services to which they are entitled.

Who To Contact

New York State Division of Veterans Affairs (NYS DVA)

For free, professional assistance in accessing your veteran benefits, contact your State, County or Local veteran benefits counselor. To locate a counselor in your area call:

1-888-VETS-NYS

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) General Benefits

VA Hotline: (disability, compensation, pension, home loan, burial, vocational rehabilitation, survivor, and insurance benefits) 1-800-827-1000

Education & Training 1-888-442-4551

Veterans Employment Hotline 1-800-342-3358

Life Insurance 1-800-669-8477

Headstones/Markers 1-800-697-6947

Health Care Benefits

Veterans Health Care 1-877-222-VETS

Health Eligibility Center 1-800-929-8387

CHAMPVA (medical care for dependents & survivors of veterans) 1-800-733-8387

Mammography Helpline 1-888-492-7844

Spina Bifida 1-800-733-8387

Miscellaneous

Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) 1-800-829-4833

Gulf War Veterans Helpline 1-800-PGW-VETS

Debt Management Center (information about debts owed to VA) 1-800-827-0648

New York State
Division of Veterans Affairs
5 Empire Plaza - Suite 2836
Albany, New York 12223-1551
VA Healthcare Network
Upstate New York
New York New Jersey
Veterans Healthcare Network

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Do you know about these benefits for Veterans?

Medical/Health Care

The VA provides a broad spectrum of medical, surgical & rehabilitative care to eligible veterans. To receive health care, veterans generally must be enrolled with VA. Once enrolled, you are eligible for a comprehensive benefits package of inpatient and outpatient services that include:

- ★ Primary & Specialty Care
- ★ Preventive Medicine Services
- ★ Surgery
- ★ Emergency Care
- ★ Drugs & Pharmaceuticals
- ★ Mental Health Treatment
- ★ Substance Abuse Treatment
- ★ Nursing Homes/Long-Term Care
- ★ Home Health Care
- ★ Respite & Hospice Care
- ★ Homeless Veterans Programs
- ★ Vet Centers
- ★ Sexual Trauma Counseling and Treatment
- ★ Women Veterans Health Programs



For a facility near you,
CALL 1-877-222-VETS

Home Loan Guaranty

VA loan guaranties are made to service members, veterans, reservists and unmarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes, condominiums and manufactured homes. VA also guarantees loans for building, repairing, and improving homes. If you already have a mortgage, VA may be able to help you refinance your loan at a lower interest rate. Members of the Selected Reserve are also eligible if they have completed at least six years in the reserves or National Guard or were discharged because of a service-connected disability.

- ★ No down payment required for most home loans
- ★ Specially adapted housing grants available for severely disabled veterans

Employment Services

The NYS Department of Labor assists veterans in gaining a competitive edge in today's labor market. Whether you are unemployed, underemployed, or interested in a training program, skilled Veterans Program staff is available to give you the priority service you are entitled to! For more information, call:

Veterans Employment Hotline
1-800-342-3358

Disability Compensation and Pension

Disability Compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by an injury or disease incurred or aggravated as the result of military service. Veterans with low incomes who are permanently and totally disabled may also be eligible for monetary support even if the injury, disease, or disability is not the result of military service.



Programs include:

- ★ Prisoners of War
- ★ Agent Orange & other herbicides
- ★ Veterans exposed to radiation
- ★ Gulf War-related conditions
- ★ Allowances for family members

Burial

Veterans discharged under other than dishonorable conditions are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. Burial benefits include the gravesite, the headstone or marker, opening and closing of the grave, and maintenance of the grounds. Also includes:

- ★ Burial Flag
- ★ Presidential Memorial Certificate
- ★ Burial of eligible family members

Life Insurance

If you were recently separated from the military, you may be eligible for life insurance. Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is available to those released from active duty and to separated reservists. VGLI is renewable 5-year term coverage. You can convert your VGLI to a commercial policy. You must complete conversions for "no health questions asked" within 120 days of separation from either active duty or the reserves. However, you have 16 months from the date of separation from service to make "good health" conversions.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits

The VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program assists veterans with service-connected disabilities by offering them services and assistance to help them prepare for, find, and keep suitable employment. These services include:

- ★ Employment Assistance
- ★ Transition Assistance Programs
- ★ Vocational-Education/Career Counseling
- ★ Vocational Rehabilitation
- ★ Small Business Administration
- ★ Small and Disadvantaged Business utilization



Family & Survivor Benefits

Some family members of disabled or deceased veterans are eligible for certain benefits such as:

- ★ Educational Benefits
- ★ Home Loan Guaranty for Surviving Spouse
- ★ Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
 - ★ DIC payments to surviving spouse
 - ★ DIC payments to parents & children
- ★ Medical Care for Family & Survivors (CHAMPVA)
- ★ Death Pension
- ★ Burial of spouse and eligible family members

Educational

The VA pays monthly benefits to eligible veterans, dependents, reservists, and service members. These monthly education benefits can help you finance your education. You can use your education benefits for:

- ★ Undergraduate or Graduate Training at a college or University
- ★ Technical/Vocational Training
- ★ On-the-Job/Apprenticeship Training

You might also qualify for a work-study allowance.

**INQUIRE ABOUT YOUR
BENEFITS TODAY!**

Call 1-888-VETS-NYS

OR VISIT US ONLINE AT:

www.veterans.state.ny.us OR www.va.gov

Other Federal and State Veterans Benefits and Services:

VETERANS MAY ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR: ★ State Veterans Home ★ Homeless Veterans Programs

★ Civil Service Preference ★ Annual Blind Annuity ★ Property Tax Exemption

★ Vietnam/Persian Gulf Veterans Tuition Awards ★ Child of a Veteran Award ★ Low-Cost Hunting/Fishing Licenses

★ Free Use of State Parks & Recreational Facilities for Certain Disabled Veterans

★ Free Auto Registration/NYS Thruway Permits for Certain Disabled Veterans ★ Review of Discharge Services

CONTACT THE NYS DIVISION OF VETERAN AFFAIRS ABOUT ADDITIONAL BENEFITS/INFORMATION 1-888-VETS-NYS