

# VETERANS

## BENEFITS & SERVICES

FOR MICHIGAN VETERANS  
WHO SERVED IN THE  
MILITARY



To better assist you, the veterans information listed in this booklet has been organized into 3 levels of available Veterans programs – **FEDERAL, STATE, and LOCAL**. State benefits are shaded gray in each specific category for clarity.

Much of the information contained in this booklet comes from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs web site at **www.va.gov**. For more state and local information, visit **www.michigan.gov**.

This booklet also provides valuable federal, state and local veteran contact information.

Prepared by the Michigan Legislature

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# Dear Veteran

## Thank You for Your Service . . .

It is indeed a pleasure to serve veterans who gave so much of themselves to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. Your sacrifices have given us the security of peace in our homeland and abroad, as well as preserved and protected our constitutional right of self-government, for which we are very grateful.

This booklet has been compiled through federal, state, and local agencies especially for *You, Our Veterans and Your Families*, to:

- Provide information about benefits and services
- Provide links to direct sources – computer-based and professional – for answers to specific questions
- Assist in communicating more effectively with your elected representatives
- Educate state, nonprofit, and community providers about benefits and services available through other agencies or service providers

Eligibility for most Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, the Environmental Services Administration, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Current and former members of the Selected Reserve may be eligible for benefits.

Any Michigan veteran, or dependent of a veteran, can request the assistance of a Veterans Service Officer or County Counselor. See page 39 for a listing of County Veterans Service Officers in Michigan and page 40 for the listing of Veterans Service Organizations.

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency can be reached at **1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)** or visit the website at **[www.MichiganVeterans.com](http://www.MichiganVeterans.com)**. The Federal Regional VA Michigan Office Hotline is **1-800-827-1000**.

This booklet is intended as an introduction to the many programs and services available. Please contact the sources cited to assist you and your family to obtain benefits you have earned.

Thank you for your service.

**INFORMATION ON ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE BENEFITS IS AVAILABLE FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS OR YOUR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE.**





# Education and Training



## Education and Training – U.S. Federal Programs

### *Post-9/11 GI Bill*

Eligibility: The Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) is an education benefit program for service members and veterans who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

To be eligible, the service member or veteran must serve at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 10, 2001, and remain on active duty or be honorably discharged.

Veterans may also be eligible if they were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001.

Generally, service members or veterans may receive up to 36 months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Eligibility for benefits lasts for 15 years from the point of eligibility.

Service members or veterans who are eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill\* – Selected Reserve or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program – and who qualify for the Post-9/11 GI bill, must select one or the other program. Generally, benefits cannot be collected under both programs.

Based on the length of active duty service, eligible participants may be entitled to receive between 40-100% of the following:

- (1) Cost of in-state tuition and fees at public institutions and up to \$21,084.89 toward tuition and fees at private institutions, per year (paid directly to the school);
- (2) Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) equal to 50-100% of the basic allowance for housing payable to a military E-5 with dependents, in the same zip code as the primary school (paid directly to the service member, veteran, or eligible dependents);

- (3) The Monthly Housing Allowance for students enrolled exclusively in online programs whose Rate of Pursuit (ROP) is more than half-time, can receive an MHA up to \$783.00 per month;
- (4) Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to \$1,000 per year (paid directly to the service member, veteran, or eligible dependent); and
- (5) A one-time payment of \$500 paid to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas.

### *Transfer of Entitlement*

The Department of Defense (DoD) may offer members of the Armed Forces on or after August 1, 2009, the opportunity to transfer Chapter 33 benefits to a spouse or dependent children. DoD and the military services must approve all requests for this benefit. Members of the Armed Forces approved for the Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) may only transfer any unused portion of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits while on active duty, subject to their period of eligibility.

### *The Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program*

The Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program was enacted to potentially assist eligible individuals with payment of their tuition and fees in instances where costs exceed the in-state tuition charges at a public institution or the national maximum payable at private and foreign institutions. To be eligible, the student must be: a veteran receiving benefits at the 100% benefit rate payable, a transfer-of-entitlement-eligible dependent child, or a transfer-of-entitlement-eligible spouse of a veteran.

The school of attendance must have accepted Veteran Affairs' (VA) invitation to participate in the program, state how much student tuition will be waived (up to 50%) and how many participants will be accepted into the program during the

current academic year. VA will match the school's percentage (up to 50%) to reduce or eliminate out-of-pocket costs for eligible participants.

### ***Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship***

This scholarship entitles children and surviving spouses of those who die in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, to use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

#### ***Eligible children:***

- are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level;
- have 15 years to use the benefit beginning on their 18th birthday;
- may use the benefit until their 33rd birthday;
- are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program.

#### ***Eligible spouses:***

- can receive benefits for terms beginning on or after January 1, 2015;
- have 15 years after the servicemember's death to use the benefit;
- are no longer eligible if he/she remarries within the 15-year period.

### ***Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA)***

Children and spouses of veterans who died on active duty, or who became one hundred percent permanently disabled due to a service-related injury may qualify for educational benefits under the Survivors and Dependents Assistance (DEA) program. Beginning October 1, 2014, this benefit may pay up to \$1,018 per month to eligible children and spouses in approved full-time degree and non-degree educational programs. Benefits are also available for apprenticeship, on-the-job, farm cooperative, and special restorative training programs at lower rates.

Dependents are not eligible for both the Fry Scholarship and DEA based on the same event. Unless a parent died prior to August 1, 2011, the child will be required to elect benefits from only one program.

### ***Legacy Educational Benefits***

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) provides a program of educational benefits to honorably discharged veterans. The participant generally must have a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate before beginning training. Completing a minimum of 12 credit hours toward a college degree meets this requirement. Credits granted by colleges for life experiences may be used to meet this requirement.

Basic eligibility applies to veterans who entered active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985. Active duty includes certain full-time Reserve and National Guard duty performed after June 30, 1985. To participate in the MGIB, service members have their military pay reduced by \$100 a month for the first 12 months of active duty. This money is not refundable.

Individuals who had remaining entitlement under the Vietnam Era GI Bill when that program ended on December 31, 1989, must have served on active duty for any number of days during the period October 19, 1984, to June 30, 1985; or served on active duty for at least three continuous years beginning on July 1, 1985; or served at least two years active duty beginning after June 30, 1985, followed by a minimum of four years in the Selected Reserve. Those who were not on active duty on October 19, 1984, if they served three continuous years on active duty at any time beginning on or after July 1, 1985, or two continuous years of active duty at any time followed by four continuous years in the Selected Reserve, may also be eligible for MGIB benefits.

Veterans who qualify for Active Duty (MGIB-AD – Chapter 30) benefits under MGIB can receive up to \$1,789 per month for full-time pursuit of an educational program, effective October 1, 2015. This stipend may be increased if the vet participated in the \$600 “buy up” program. MGIB payments are made directly to the vet, irrespective of the tuition and fees charged by the school. MGIB benefits do not include stipends for housing (MHA) or for books and supplies. Benefits are also available for flight, apprenticeship, cooperative or on-the-job training.

Individuals who were participants under the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance



Program (VEAP) may be eligible if they served on active duty on October 9, 1996, participated in VEAP and contributed money to a VEAP account, and elected MGIB by October 9, 1997, and paid \$1,200. Veterans who participated in VEAP on or before October 9, 1996, may also be eligible even if they did not deposit money in a VEAP account if they served on active duty from October 9, 1996 through April 1, 2000, elected MGIB by October 31, 2001, and contributed \$2,700 to MGIB. Certain National Guard service members may also qualify if they served on full-time active duty in the National Guard between June 30, 1985 and November 29, 1989, elected to have National Guard service count toward establishing eligibility for MGIB during the nine-month window ending on July 9, 1997, and paid \$1,200.

Contact your county veterans service office or call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at **1-888-442-4551** for further information, particularly on eligibility. Additional information for school officials, veterans, and dependents can be found on the VA's Education Services web site at **[www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)**.

### ***Vocational Rehabilitation***

Veterans who have received a service-connected disability rating from VA may qualify for education and training benefits under the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program (Chapter 31). The focus of this program is on employment preparation, placement and retention, but it can also include financial support for education and training expenses as part of a veteran's rehabilitation plan. An application and details about the program are available on the VR&E web site: **[www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre)**.

### ***VetSuccess on Campus***

This program is designed to provide on-campus benefits assistance and readjustment counseling to veterans completing their college educations and entering the labor market in viable careers. An experienced Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and a Vet Center Outreach Coordinator are assigned at each campus to provide VA benefits outreach, support,

and assistance to ensure their health, educational, and benefit needs are met.

Current Michigan locations include Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kellogg Community College, Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, and Washtenaw Community College.

### ***VA Work-Study Program***

The VA Work-Study Program allows veterans to earn additional income while attending school under certain programs (usually in the form of a part-time job with a veteran-related organization). Talk to your local veterans affairs representative at any university or community college. Veterans with specific questions may call the GI Bill Hotline: **1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551)** between 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Central Time), Monday through Friday. Veterans may also visit **[www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)** for guidance on benefits and on selecting a school and career.

### ***Federal Pell Grant Program***

The federal government is a source for education grants. Applicants must be undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's degree. Each applicant must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen and needs to have a high school diploma or a GED or demonstrate the ability to benefit from the program.

### ***Pell Grant Eligibility***

The U.S. Department of Education uses a standard formula established by Congress to evaluate the information a student supplies when applying for a Pell Grant. This formula produces an EFC (expected family contribution) number, which will determine if the student is eligible for the grant. The formula relies heavily on families' federal tax returns.

### ***Award Amount***

The amount of the Pell Grant depends on the student's EFC and several other factors, including program funding. The maximum award for the 2015-2016 school year is \$5,775. For more information, visit **[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)**.



### ***How and When to Apply***

Students apply not only for Pell Grants, but for all federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs (except scholarships) by completing the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. The FAFSA form is available from high school guidance offices, or the application can be completed online at **[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**. Be aware of the application deadlines for submission and corrections.

## **Education and Training – State of Michigan Programs**

### ***Department of Civil Rights, Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing***

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights responds to and advocates on behalf of Michigan's 1.3 million people with disabilities. This is done through information and technical assistance, disability rights training, working with the Michigan Business Leaders Network on employment for people with disabilities, coordinating the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum, and conducting disability awareness and sensitivity training. The Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing deals with issues involving Michigan citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing. Their mission is to provide statewide leadership to empower and integrate people with disabilities into all aspects of society.

For more information, contact:

### **Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing**

110 West Michigan Avenue

Suite 800

Lansing, MI 48913

Phone: **517-335-6004**

Toll-Free: **1-877-499-6232**

Video Phone: **517-507-5223**

Fax: **517-241-3963**

E-Mail: **[DODDBHH@michigan.gov](mailto:DODDBHH@michigan.gov)**

## **Educational Benefits for Children of Disabled or Deceased Veterans**

### ***Tuition Grant Program***

The **Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG)** was established under Public Act 248 of 2005 to provide an undergraduate tuition program for children of certain deceased or disabled members of the armed forces of the United States.

The program is designed to provide undergraduate tuition assistance to certain children older than 16 and less than 26 years of age who have been Michigan residents for the 12 months prior to application. To be eligible, a student must be the natural or adopted child of a Michigan veteran. Stepchildren of the veteran are not eligible. The veteran must have been a legal resident of Michigan immediately before entering military service and must not have later resided outside of Michigan for more than two years; or the veteran must have established legal residency in Michigan after entering military service.

Students may receive scholarship assistance for up to four academic years for a total of up to \$11,200. Awards are for an academic year with the amount determined by the student's enrollment status. Full-time students can receive up to a maximum of \$2,800 per academic year. Information on eligibility and application forms are available at: **[www.michigan.gov/ssg](http://www.michigan.gov/ssg)**, select "programs." Toll-Free: **1-888-447-2687**.





# Employment



## Employment – U.S. Federal Programs

### ***Transition Assistance Program (TAP)***

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Transition GPS (Goals, Plans, Success) are available to service members (and their spouses) who are scheduled for separation from active duty. The program provides employment and training information to service members within 18 months of their separation or retirement from the military. Briefings focus on education, benefits, VA health care disability compensation, vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits. A companion workshop for disabled veterans is also available. One-on-one appointments with VA representatives are available. Additional information can be found at [www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap](http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap).

Visit [www.taonline.com](http://www.taonline.com) for mini courses on conducting successful job search campaigns, writing resumes, using the Internet to find a job, and links to job search and recruiting web sites. Locations and phone numbers for Transition Assistance Offices can be found at [www.taonline.com/TAPOffice](http://www.taonline.com/TAPOffice). Use [www.acinet.org/acinet/moc](http://www.acinet.org/acinet/moc) to translate military occupations to civilian counterparts.

### ***Verification of Military Experience and Training***

The Transition GPS (Goals, Plans, Success) web site is designed to provide separating service members access to their Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) documents and completed Transition GPS Sessions. VMET documents help service members verify previous experience and training to potential employers, negotiate credits at schools, and obtain certificates or licenses. VMET documents are available only through Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Transition Support offices and are intended for separating or retiring service

members who have at least six months of active duty service. Service members should obtain VMET documents from their Transition Support office within 12 months of separation or 24 months of retirement. For assistance, visit [www.dmdc.osd.mil/tgps](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tgps)

### ***Veterans Preference for Federal Jobs***

Certain veterans, principally those who are disabled or who served on active duty during specified times, are entitled to preference for federal civil service jobs when hiring is from competitive lists of eligible candidates.

Preference is also provided for certain widows and widowers of deceased veterans who died in service; spouses of service-connected disabled veterans; and mothers of veterans who died under honorable conditions on active duty or have permanent and total service-connected disabilities. Individuals interested in federal information should visit the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) web site at [www.fedshirevets.gov](http://www.fedshirevets.gov). Federal job opportunities can be found at [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov).

### ***The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program***

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program provides educational and vocational counseling to service members, veterans, and certain dependents at no charge. These counseling services are designed to help an individual choose a vocational direction, determine the course needed to achieve the chosen goal, and evaluate the career possibilities open to them.

Assistance may include interest and aptitude testing, occupational exploration, setting occupational goals, locating the right type of training program, and exploring educational or training facilities which can be utilized to achieve an occupational goal.

## ***Eligibility***

Educational and vocational counseling services are available during the period the individual is on active duty with the armed forces and within 180 days of the estimated date of his or her discharge or release from active duty. The projected discharge must be under conditions other than dishonorable.

Veterans are eligible if not more than one year has elapsed since the date they were last discharged or released from active duty.

For more information, visit  
[www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre).

## ***Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services***

**Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services** (HVCES) is an employment program aimed at helping job-ready veterans exiting homelessness and those on the brink of homelessness gain stable and long-term employment. Community Employment Coordinators work with local employers to identify suitable jobs based on a veteran's skills and abilities. Community Employment Coordinators work out of VA Medical Centers and are responsible for connecting homeless and at-risk veterans to appropriate VA and community-based employment services. For assistance in finding a Community Employment Coordinator in Michigan, visit [www.va.gov/homeless/cec-contacts.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/cec-contacts.asp).

## ***Re-Employment Rights***

A person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the armed forces may be entitled to return to the job after discharge or release from active duty.

To be re-employed, four requirements must be met:

- The person must give advance notice of military service to the employer;
- The cumulative absence from the civilian job shall not exceed five years (with some exceptions);
- The person must submit a timely application for re-employment; and

- The person must not have been released with a dishonorable or other punitive discharge.

The law calls for the returning veteran to be placed in the job as if the veteran had remained continuously employed. This means that the person may be entitled to benefits that are based on seniority, such as pensions, pay increases, and promotions. The law also prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, or other advantages of employment on the basis of military service.

Applications for re-employment should be given, verbally or in writing, to a person authorized to represent the company for hiring purposes. A record should be kept of the application. If there are problems gaining re-employment, the employee should contact the **Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)** in the employer's state. This applies to private sector, as well as state, local, and federal government employees, including the Postal Service. For assistance, visit [www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/main.htm](http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/main.htm).

## ***Veterans Economic Communities Initiative***

The VA's **Veterans Economic Communities Initiative** (VECI) has been created to help veterans and their families find meaningful employment and education opportunities. VECI has launched in 50 communities across the country to create networks of institutions and organizations that will serve veterans.

Accelerated Learning Programs (ALPs) have been established under VECI to help veterans from all eras learn skills, earn credentials, and advance in civilian careers following separation from service. ALPs offer transitioning veterans the opportunity to build on their military training and technical skills gained through their service and earn certifications in high-demand fields. Seven courses will be included in the first cohort, all IT- and computer-related. Although VECI has not been established in any Michigan cities, some of the training will be available online. The ALPs took applications beginning in August 2015 and

will pilot the first cohort of courses. To find out when new sessions will begin, visit <http://benefits.va.gov/tap/alp.asp>.

Twenty-seven Learning Hubs, also part of the VECI, have been established in 27 cities nationwide. Veterans can take advantage classroom and online learning. More information about VECI, ALPs, and Learning Hubs can be obtained by contacting [VeteranEmployment.vbaco@va.gov](mailto:VeteranEmployment.vbaco@va.gov).

## Employment – State of Michigan Programs

### *Pure Michigan Talent Connect*

Michigan has recreated its labor exchange system under Pure Michigan Talent Connect. Talent Connect includes an online Talent Marketplace where job seekers can connect to job opportunities, education, and training and employers can connect to qualified talent. Talent Connect includes specific assistance for veterans to make a successful transition from military to civilian employment.

Written and video tutorials are available to help job seekers navigate Talent Connect. In addition, accounts previously registered under the Michigan Talent Bank have been transferred to Talent Connect.

Pure Michigan Talent Connect: [www.mitalent.org](http://www.mitalent.org)  
Customer Service Center: **1-888-522-0103**

### *Occupational Licensing*

Several state statutes have been recently revised to allow the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) to consider experience received in the military to be counted toward qualifications required for certain occupational licenses such as electrician and plumber. In addition, a number of license application fees have been waived for veterans with an honorable discharge.

The Licensing Division can be found on the web at [www.michigan.gov/lara](http://www.michigan.gov/lara) or reached by e-mail at [bcslic@Michigan.gov](mailto:bcslic@Michigan.gov). Phone: **517-241-9288**.

Michigan Department of Licensing and  
Regulatory Affairs  
Corporations, Securities and Commercial  
Licensing  
Licensing Division  
P.O. Box 30018  
Lansing, MI 48909

### *Workforce Development Agency*

The Workforce Development Agency's Veterans Services Division provides program-specific services with eligibility requirements as defined by federal law. A host of intensive services are available to eligible veterans and spouses who are unable to obtain employment through the core services provided by Michigan Works! Service Centers.

For additional information on training and employment services available to veterans, contact your local **Michigan Works! Service Center**.

**Michigan Works! Agency**  
**1-800-285-WORK**  
[www.michiganworks.org](http://www.michiganworks.org)



### *Unemployment Compensation*

Veterans who do not begin civilian employment immediately after leaving military service may receive weekly unemployment compensation for a limited time. Veterans attending school full-time may also be eligible for unemployment. Contact Michigan Works! for more information.

### *How to File Your Claim*

**By Internet:** To file your new unemployment claim or to reopen an established claim through the Internet, visit [www.michigan.gov/uia](http://www.michigan.gov/uia) from 7:00 a.m. Monday to 7:00 p.m. Saturday (Eastern Time).

**By Phone:** To file your new claim or to reopen a claim through a toll-free telephone number, call **1-866-500-0017** using a touch-tone telephone. TTY callers may use **1-866-366-0004**.

You can also sign up for unemployment benefits by visiting any of the Michigan Works! offices and using one of the computer stations.



Michigan Works! Employees or Veterans Employment Representatives are available to give you additional help if you need it.

In many cases, once you have signed up for unemployment benefits, you will also need to register for work with the Michigan Works! Agency. You may enter or update your resume on the Internet at **www.mitalent.org**.

**Information Needed to File a Claim:** To file a claim, you will need your Social Security number, your driver's license number or state identification number or your MARVIN PIN (if you have one), a copy of your DD-214, and the names and addresses of employers you have worked for in the past 18 months, your quarterly gross earnings, the first and last dates of employment with each employer and your date of birth. If you are not a U.S. citizen or national, you will need your Alien Registration Number and the expiration date of your work authorization.

If you have general questions about unemployment benefits, or if you have a question about your Claims by Mail application, call the **Telephone File Claim** at **1-866-500-0017** weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### ***Re-Employment Rights for Veterans***

In 2002, the Michigan Legislature strengthened the Michigan law regarding re-employment of employees after military service (MCL 32.273). The act prioritized the employment positions in which a person would be re-employed following active service. The act specifies that the person is entitled to the seniority and the seniority-based rights and benefits he or she would have otherwise been entitled to, as well as other rights provided to employees on a leave of absence. Under certain circumstances, a person may not be entitled to re-employment under the law. State re-employment rights, when enhanced or in addition to federal rights, are not superseded or diminished by federal law.

For more information, please call the Veterans Hotline **1-800-642-4838**.

### ***Veterans Preference for State Jobs***

The **Michigan Civil Service Commission** has information on state jobs. The Civil Service Commission provides for a veterans hiring preference for Michigan state classified service through rules adopted by the commission. (Rule 3-8 provides for a preference for an eligible veteran or spouse of a veteran.)

A qualifying veteran, including retirees, and/or spouse must register with the Department of Civil Service using form CS-1791, and include the required documentation.

For more information, call **517-335-0308** or visit **www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcs/Veterans\_Preference\_382044\_7.pdf**.

### ***Michigan Rehabilitation Services***

Veterans with disabilities should also look into the State of Michigan Rehabilitation Services program administered by the Michigan Department of Human Services. Services may be available to supplement VA allowances for vocational rehabilitation in cases of special need or for vocational rehabilitation, guidance, and counseling. Employment services may also be available to veterans whose disabilities are not service-related.

For more information:

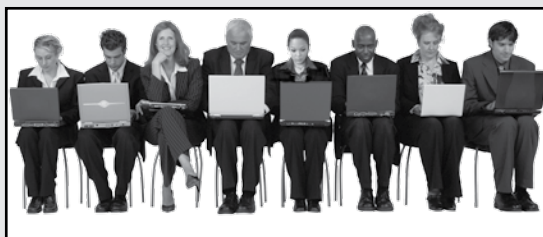
Toll-Free: **1-800-605-6722**

TTY: **Dial 711 and provide toll-free number**  
**www.michigan.gov/mrs**

### ***Service-Disabled Veteran Business Owners***

Service-disabled veteran business owners may be eligible for a 10% pricing preference when bidding for certain state **government purchase contracts** under MCL 18.1261 and for certain state **construction contracts** under MCL 18.1241.

For more information, contact **517-284-7023** or **517-284-7014**.



# Apprenticeship Programs for Discharged Veterans

## *U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration*

This web site lists sponsored apprenticeship programs. Apprenticeship programs are sponsored and operated on a voluntary basis by individual employers, employer associations, or partnerships between employers and labor unions.

Visit **[www.doleta.gov/oa](http://www.doleta.gov/oa)**.

## *Helmets to Hardhats*

Helmets to Hardhats is a national, nonprofit program that helps transitioning military, guardsmen, and reservists find quality career opportunities in the construction industry. Most career opportunities offered by the program are connected to federally-approved apprenticeship training programs. Such training is provided by the trade organizations themselves at no cost to the veteran. No prior experience is needed. All participating trade organizations conduct three-to five-year earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship training programs. Because these apprenticeship programs are regulated and approved at both federal and state levels, veterans can utilize their Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits to supplement their income while they are learning valuable skills and on-the-job training.

Visit **[www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org)**.



## *Troops to Teachers*

The Michigan Troops to Teachers program provides advisory services to eligible veterans to transition to a new career as classroom teachers in K-12 public schools. The Troops to Teachers Program is available to:

- Military retirees,
- Members on active duty who are within one year of their retirement date,
- Members of the National Guard and Selective Reserves with ten or more years of creditable service,
- Members transitioning from active duty with at least six years of active duty and who commit for three years of service in the National Guard or Selective Reserves,
- Members separated due to physical disability after January 8, 2002. Must register within 4 years of separation.

Counseling assistance related to teacher certification requirements and limited job placement assistance is provided. Financial support is also offered to certain eligible participants.

The Troops to Teachers Programs are not certification programs nor employment agencies. Each state has authority over certification requirements and, usually, each district has authority over the selection and employment process. Therefore, each participant must complete the certification requirements for the state in which they desire to teach, and then apply for a teaching position as would any other teacher. Each state office provides information regarding certification requirements, teacher preparation programs leading to certification, and assistance in identifying teaching positions.

For more information, contact the **Troops to Teachers** program at:

Phone: **517-373-9732**

Toll-Free: **1-866-801-0007**

**[www.michigan.gov/TroopstoTeachers](http://www.michigan.gov/TroopstoTeachers)**





## Health Care and Hospital Benefits – U.S. Federal Programs

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

**To apply**, complete VA Form 1010EZ, Application for Health Benefits, which may be obtained from any VA health care facility or regional benefits office, and online at [www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/](http://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/), or by calling **1-877-222-VETS (8387)**. Once enrolled, veterans can receive health care at VA health care facilities anywhere in the country.

If you have questions about your health care eligibility, call your nearest health care facility or the **Health Benefits Service Center** at **1-877-222-8387** to obtain the latest information.

### ***Financial Assessment***

Most veterans not receiving VA disability compensation or pension payments must complete a financial assessment at the time of health care enrollment. Veterans provide their total gross household income (includes spouse and dependents, if any) and deductible expenses from the previous calendar year. This income information will be used to determine the veteran's enrollment status and co-pay responsibility for VA health care and/or prescription medication.

The VA also receives income information from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA), and will contact the veterans if the information received indicates a change in their VA health benefits may be appropriate.

### ***Recently Discharged Combat Veterans***

Veterans, including activated reservists and members of the National Guard, are eligible for the

enhanced Combat Veteran benefits if they served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

With "Combat Veteran" benefits, the VA provides cost-free health care services and nursing home care for conditions possibly related to military service and enrollment in Priority Group 6 or higher for 5 years from the date of discharge or release from active duty, unless eligible for enrollment in a higher priority group.

Combat Veterans who enroll with VA under this enhanced Combat Veteran authority will continue to be enrolled even after their enhanced eligibility period ends, although they may be shifted to a lower Priority Group, depending on their income level. Co-payments may be required depending on their financial assessment and other eligibility factors.

### ***Services Requiring Co-Payments***

Co-payments are required for certain services. These include:

- Inpatient care for veterans requires co-pays depending on income and service-connected disability status.
- Extended-care co-pays are based on level of care: \$5 per day for domiciliary; \$15 per day for outpatient; and \$97 for inpatient.
- Medication usually requires an \$8 or \$9 co-pay for each 30-day supply or less of medication provided by VA for a condition that is not service-connected. A maximum annual co-pay of \$960 is currently charged for medications.
- Outpatient care: While many veterans qualify for free health care services based on a VA compensable service-connected condition or other qualifying factor, most veterans are asked to complete an annual financial assessment to determine if they qualify for free services. Veterans whose income



exceeds the established VA Income Thresholds as well as those who choose not to complete the financial assessment must agree to pay required co-pays to become eligible for VA healthcare services.

Primary Care Services: \$15

Specialty Care Services: \$50

Certain outpatient services do not require a co-pay.

### ***Choice Program***

VA Choice Program allows eligible veterans to receive health care from non-VA doctors. To be eligible, a veteran must have been enrolled in VA health care on or before August 1, 2014, or be eligible to enroll as a recently discharged combat veteran within 5 years of separation. Additionally, a veteran must meet at least one of the following criteria.

- The veteran has been or will be waiting more than 30 days for medical care.
- The veteran's current residence is more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest VA health care facility.
- The veteran resides in a location other than Guam, American Samoa, or the Republic of the Philippines and needs to travel by air, boat, or ferry to the VA medical facility closest to his/her home.
- The veteran faces an unusual or excessive burden in traveling to a VA medical facility.
- The veteran resides in a state or a United States Territory without a full-service VA medical facility that provides hospital care, emergency services and surgical care having a surgical complexity of standard, and resides more than 20 miles from such a VA facility.

For more information or to determine your eligibility, please call: **1-866-606-8198**.

### ***Overseas Benefits***

VA will reimburse for medical services for the treatment of service-connected disabilities and related conditions for veterans living or traveling outside the United States. Before using

the program, veterans living in the Philippines should register with the VA office in Pasay City, phone **011-632-318-8387** or e-mail at **manlopc.inqry@vba.va.gov**. All other veterans living or planning to travel outside the U.S. should register with the

#### **VA Foreign Medical Program Office**

P.O. Box 469061, Denver, CO 80246-9061, USA

Phone: **303-331-7590**

### ***Online Health Services***

VA offers veterans, service members, their dependents and caregivers their own personal health record through My HealtheVet, found at **www.myhealth.va.gov**.

My HealtheVet's free, online Personal Health Record is available 24/7, with Internet access. Those with an upgraded account (obtained by completing the one-time In-Person Authentication process) can:

- Participate in secure messaging with VA health care team members;
- View key portions of DoD military service information;
- Get VA wellness reminders;
- View VA appointments;
- View VA lab results;
- View VA allergies and adverse reactions;
- View their VA Comprehensive Care Document.

With My HealtheVet, veterans can access trusted health information to better manage personal health care and learn about other VA benefits and services.

### ***Caregiver Programs and Services***

VA has long advocated for caregivers as vital partners in providing care worthy of the sacrifices by America's veterans and service members. Each VA medical center houses a designated caregiver support point of contact to coordinate caregiver activities and serve as a resource expert for veterans, their families and VA providers. Several programs are available for all veteran caregivers including:

- **Caregiver Support Line**  
**1-855-260-3274**

- Home Telehealth
- Caregiver Support Coordinator
- In-Home and Community-Based Care;
- Respite Care;
- Caregiver Education and Training Programs;
- Family Support Services;
- Travel.

The VA also provides durable medical equipment and prosthetic and sensory aides to improve function, financial assistance with home modifications to improve access and mobility, and transportation assistance for some veterans to and from medical appointments.

On May 5, 2010, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 was signed into law to provide unprecedented benefits to eligible caregivers who support the veterans who have given so much for this Nation. Support provided to this group includes a monthly stipend, travel and lodging while accompanying veterans undergoing care, mental health services and counseling, and caregiver training.

For more information, visit [www.caregiver.va.gov/index.asp](http://www.caregiver.va.gov/index.asp).

### ***Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program***

**Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (MH RRTP)** (including Domiciliary RRTPs) provides residential rehabilitative and clinical care to eligible veterans who have a wide range of problems, illnesses, or rehabilitative care needs which can be medical, psychiatric, substance use, homelessness, vocational, educational, or social.

The MH RRTP provides a 24-hour therapeutic setting utilizing a peer and professional support environment. The programs help veterans work on improving their quality of life, maintaining their health, and participating in their communities. Evidence-based treatment for mental illness, including PTSD and substance use disorders, is provided. There are several types of MH RRTPs. Call your nearest benefits office or health care facility for additional information.

### ***Medication***

Co-pays are required for many medications. Veterans with a nonservice-connected condition in Priority Groups 7 and 8 are charged \$9 for each 30-day or less supply of medication provided on an out-patient basis. Veterans enrolled in Priority Groups 2 through 5 are charged \$8 for each 30-day or less supply of medication. The maximum annual co-pay charged for nonservice-connected medications is \$960.



Other veterans are exempt from medication co-pays including veterans with a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more; veterans receiving medication for service-connected conditions; veterans whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual rate of the VA pension; veterans who are determined to be Catastrophically Disabled; veterans receiving medication for conditions related to sexual trauma related to service on active duty; certain veterans receiving medication for treatment of cancer of the head or neck; veterans receiving medication for a VA-approved research project; and former POWs.

### ***Outpatient Dental Treatment***

Outpatient dental benefits are provided by VA according to law. Dental care is categorized in classes and, in some cases, treatment may be limited. The following veterans may receive care:

- have a service-connected compensable dental disability or condition;
- are a former prisoner of war;
- have service-connected disabilities rated 100% disabling or are unemployable due to service-connected conditions;
- are participating in a VA vocational rehabilitation program;
- those who apply for dental care within 180 days of discharge or release (under conditions other than dishonorable) from a period of active duty of 90 days or more during the Persian Gulf War era;

- have a service-connected noncompensable dental condition or disability resulting from combat wounds or service trauma;
- have a dental condition clinically determined by VA to be currently aggravating a service-connected medical condition;
- are receiving outpatient care or are scheduled for inpatient care and require dental care for a condition complicating a medical condition currently under treatment; and
- certain veterans enrolled in the VA Homeless Program for 60 consecutive days or more.

For more information, call the **VA Health Center** toll-free at **1-877-222-8387**.

### ***Nursing Home Care***

VA provides nursing home services to veterans through three national programs: VA-owned and -operated Community Living Centers (CLC), State Veterans' Homes owned and operated by the states, and the community nursing home program. Each program has admission and eligibility criteria specific to the program. Nursing home care is available for enrolled veterans who need nursing home care for a service-connected disability, or veterans with a 70 percent or greater service-connected disability, and veterans with a rating of total disability based on individual unemployability. VA-provided nursing home care for all other veterans is based on available resources.

### ***Readjustment Counseling***

Veterans may need help after they return home from war. Friends and family who have not shared similar experiences may be unable to understand how they can help. There are resources that veterans have available to help cope with the impact of war once back home. Families who have lost loved ones in the military may also experience grief beyond their ability to cope with alone. Help is available for these family members as well.

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides readjustment counseling services through community-based Vet Centers. This counseling is

designed to help combat veterans readjust to civilian life.

Veterans are eligible for readjustment counseling if they served on active duty in a combat theater or area of hostility during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, or the campaigns in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Global War on Terror. Also eligible are veterans who provided direct emergent medical care or mortuary services to the casualties of war while on active military service, those who experienced military sexual trauma, and those who served as a member of an unmanned aerial vehicle crew providing direct support to operations in a combat zone. Veterans who served in the active military during the Vietnam-era, but not in the Republic of Vietnam, must have requested services at a Vet Center before January 1, 2004. Vet Centers do not require enrollment in the VHA Health Care System.

Contact the nearest **Vet Center** or visit **[www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov)** for assistance or call **202-461-6530**.

### ***Other Counseling Services***

**Vet Center Combat Call Center (1-877-WAR-VETS)** is an around-the-clock confidential call center where combat veterans and their families can call to talk about their military experience or any other issue they are facing in their readjustment to civilian life. The staff is comprised of combat veterans from several eras as well as family members of combat veterans.

**Bereavement Counseling** is available to all immediate family members including spouses, children, parents, and siblings of service members who died while on active duty. Information is available by calling **(202) 461-6530**.

### ***Other Health Services***

VA health care includes a number of other services including VA prosthetic appliances, equipment and services, such as home

respiratory therapy, artificial limbs, orthopedic braces and therapeutic shoes, wheelchairs, powered mobility, crutches, canes, walkers, special aids, appliances, optical and electronic devices for visual impairment and other durable medical equipment and supplies. Benefits are also available for veterans approved for a guide or service dog including veterinary care and equipment. Special services for veterans' children with Spina Bifida, vocational rehabilitation services for veterans, and work restoration programs are also available.

Veterans eligible for VA medical care may apply for substance abuse treatment. Contact the nearest VA medical facility to apply (see page 23). Additional information is available at [www.va.gov/health/](http://www.va.gov/health/).

### ***Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder***

According to the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, the condition known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, is an anxiety disorder that can occur following the experience or witnessing of life-threatening events such as military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or violent personal assaults like rape. Most survivors of trauma return to normal given a little time. However, some people will have stress reactions that do not go away on their own, or may even get worse over time. These individuals may develop PTSD. People who suffer from PTSD often relive the experience through nightmares and flashbacks, have difficulty sleeping, and feel detached or estranged, and these symptoms can be severe enough and last long enough to significantly impair the person's daily life.

PTSD is marked by clear biological changes as well as psychological symptoms. PTSD is complicated by the fact that it frequently occurs in conjunction with related disorders such as depression, substance abuse, problems of memory and cognition, and other problems of physical and mental health. The disorder is also associated with impairment of the person's ability to function in social or family life, including occupational instability, marital

problems and divorces, family discord, and difficulties in parenting.

Eleven to 30 percent of the men and women who have spent time in war zones experience PTSD. An additional 20 to 25 percent have had partial PTSD at some point in their lives. More than half of all male Vietnam veterans and almost half of all female Vietnam veterans have experienced "clinically serious stress reaction symptoms." PTSD has also been diagnosed among veterans of the Gulf War, with some estimates running as high as 12 percent. An estimated 11-20% of veterans from the operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year.

**The National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder** web site is [www.ptsd.va.gov](http://www.ptsd.va.gov).

If you are a veteran or a spouse of a veteran who wants to learn more about Post-Traumatic Stress, you may call your nearest VA medical facility (see page 23) or contact one of the **Michigan Vet Centers** listed below:

#### **Dearborn Vet Center**

19855 Outer Drive, Suite 105 W  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
**313-277-1428**

#### **Detroit Vet Center**

4161 Cass Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201  
**313-831-6509**

#### **Escanaba Vet Center**

3500 Ludington Street, Suite 110  
Escanaba, MI 49829  
**906-233-0244**

#### **Grand Rapids Vet Center**

2050 Breton Road, SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546  
**616-285-5795**

#### **Macomb County Vet Center**

42621 Garfield Road, Suite 105  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
**586-412-0107**

#### **Pontiac Vet Center**

44200 Woodward Avenue, Suite 208  
Pontiac, MI 48341  
**248-874-1015**



### **Saginaw Vet Center**

5360 Hampton Place  
Saginaw, MI 48604  
**989-321-4650**

### **Traverse City Vet Center**

3766 N. US-31 South  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
**231-935-0051**

### ***PTSD Coach***

PTSD Coach is a mobile application that provides information about PTSD, self-assessment and symptom management tools and resources available for help in dealing with post trauma effects. The app is free and can be used on iPhone or Android devices. To download, visit **[www.ptsd.va.gov/public/materials/apps/PTSDCoach.asp](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/materials/apps/PTSDCoach.asp)**

### ***Traumatic Brain Injury***

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is an injury caused by direct or indirect involvement with an improvised explosive device (IED), attacks by mortars, grenades, bullets, car accidents, or falls.

It is sometimes called the invisible wound because the injury can be sustained without visible external wounds. The extent of damage from TBI might not be realized until after the soldier, Marine, airman, or sailor is back home. Further, the symptoms may not be recognized as TBI and may even be confused with PTSD.

#### **The Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury**

(AL-TBI) provides specialized residential care and rehabilitation to eligible veterans with TBI. Eligible veterans are placed in private sector care facilities and receive rehabilitation in areas such as speech, memory, and mobility. The program is effective through October 2017. To be eligible for the AL-TBI program veterans must be enrolled in VA care, have received hospital care or medical services provided by the VA for TBI, and be unable to manage two or more routine or instrumental activities of daily living without supervision and assistance. Veterans and families interested in more information should contact the VA Case Manager at their local VA medical center.

**The Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI)** works to improve the lives of those affected by brain injury through education, advocacy, research, and local support groups. In 2007, BIAMI created a Veteran's Program to specifically help veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with TBI.

Contact **1-800-444-6443** or **[www.biami.org](http://www.biami.org)**.

The Michigan TBI web site is **[www.michigan.gov/tbi](http://www.michigan.gov/tbi)**

### ***Coaching Into Care***

Coaching Into Care provides a "coaching" service for family and friends of veterans who become aware of a veteran's post-deployment difficulties and need assistance in finding help for the veteran. Coaching involves helping the caller figure out how to motivate the veteran to seek services. The service is free and provided by licensed clinical social workers and psychologists. The goal of the service is to help the veteran and family members find the appropriate services in their community. All calls are confidential, except for cases in which the lives of the caller, the veteran, or others may be in danger.

## **Military Exposures**

VA offers health care benefits for Veterans who may have been exposed to certain environmental hazards during military service. These services include health registry evaluations and clinical treatment at VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Center.

### ***Gulf War, Depleted Uranium, Agent Orange, and Ionizing Radiation Registry Programs***

VA has developed databases called registries to help analyze health conditions of veterans who may have been exposed to certain environmental hazards during military service. These health registries track and monitor the health of specific groups of veterans, including the Agent Orange Registry; Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry; Gulf War Registry (includes Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn); Ionizing Radiation Registry; Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program; and Toxic Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center.

## ***Agent Orange, Radiation, Depleted Uranium, and Gulf War Exposures***

A veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, is presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in support of military operations. Fourteen illnesses are presumed by VA to be service-connected for such veterans.

A new regulation published in June of 2015 expands the eligibility for benefits related to presumed exposure to Agent Orange to a select group of Air Force veterans and Air Force Reserve personnel who may have had regular and repeated contact with contaminated C-123 aircraft that was used in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand. Eligible personnel who submit a disability compensation claim for any of the 14 medical conditions presumed by VA to be service-connected can receive benefits. As many as 1,500 to 2,100 Air Force and Air Force Reserve personnel who served as flight, medical and ground maintenance crew members for the affected aircraft may have been exposed to the herbicide.

Veterans who participated in “radiation risk activities” as defined in VA regulations while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, certain conditions are presumed to be service-connected. Those who may be eligible include individuals with on-site participation in a test involving the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device, participation in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki from August 6, 1945 to July 1, 1946, internment as a prisoner of war in Japan during World War II, or recipients of nose and throat radium irradiation treatments while in the active military. Individuals who were involved in certain activities at the Department of Energy gaseous diffusion plants in Paducah, Kentucky, Portsmouth, Ohio, or the K25 area at Oak Ridge, Tennessee for at least 250 days prior to February 1, 1992 as well as certain tests at Amchitka Island, Alaska prior to January 1, 1974 may also be eligible.

Conditions presumed to be service-connected include: all forms of leukemia (except for chronic

lymphocytic leukemia); several cancers; bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma; multiple myeloma; lymphomas (other than Hodgkin’s disease), and primary liver cancer (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated).

To determine service connection for other conditions or exposures not eligible for presumptive service connection, VA considers factors such as the amount of radiation exposure, duration of exposure, elapsed time between exposure and onset of the disease, gender and family history, age at time of exposure, the extent to which a non-service-related exposure could contribute to disease, and the relative sensitivity of exposed tissue.

Gulf War veterans with chronic disabilities may receive disability compensation for chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses and/or medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms. A disability is considered chronic if it has existed for at least six months.

The undiagnosed illnesses must have appeared either during active service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War period of August 2, 1990, to July 31, 1991, or to a degree of at least 10 percent at any time since then through December 31, 2016. This theater of operations includes Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

To learn more about VA health registries and military exposures, please contact VA Health Care at **1-877-222-8387** or online at:

**[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/health-care.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/health-care.asp)**

## ***Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Program***

The Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Program provides funding for eligible veterans to make home improvements necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability

access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. Home improvement benefits up to \$6,800 for service-connected reasons and up to \$2,000 for nonservice-connected reasons may be provided. For application information, contact the prosthetic representative at the nearest VA medical center or outpatient clinic (see page 23).

## Health Care and Hospital Benefits – State of Michigan

### *Michigan Veterans Homes*

A unit of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the **Grand Rapids Home for Veterans** provides physician care; skilled nursing care services; social work care; nutritional care; physical, occupational, speech, and rehabilitation therapy programs; and programs for Alzheimer's and special needs care for qualified disabled veterans.

A second veterans home, the **D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans**, is located in Marquette. This Upper Peninsula home provides physician coverage for a variety of services as well as additional services on a fee-for-service basis. The home has a domiciliary unit, skilled nursing care, basic nursing care, and a special needs unit for qualified disabled veterans. For information on eligibility, enrollment procedures and life at the homes, contact the **Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency** at **1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)** or visit the website at **www.MichiganVeterans.com**.

### *Veterans Treatment Court*

In late 2012, legislation was enacted to create a **Veterans Treatment Court** program that will address the need to better support Michigan veterans and assist them with their transition to civilian life. Veterans treatment court uses a hybrid integration of drug court and mental health court principles. The courts promote sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with the traditional partners found in drug courts and mental health courts, as well as the

Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, state Departments of Veterans Affairs, volunteer mentors, and organizations that support veterans and veterans' families. To be eligible to participate in veterans treatment court, a veteran cannot be charged with a violent offense. He or she must complete a confidential preadmissions screening and evaluation assessment. As of March 2015, 17 district and 5 circuit courts had established veterans treatment courts as allowed by law.

## Homeless Veterans

VA provides comprehensive medical, psychological and rehabilitation treatment for eligible homeless veterans. Health care services, including mental health services, are available for homeless vets at many VA medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics, and vet centers.

Stand Down events are another way VA reaches homeless veterans to provide food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, counseling, and referrals. Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events and are held in numerous cities throughout the year.

The **VA Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program** provides a gateway to VA and community supportive services for eligible veterans. The program conducts outreach to homeless veterans and provides case management and residential treatment in the community. Michigan's HCHV contact can be reached at **1-313-576-1000**, ext. **64602**.

The **National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV)** assists homeless veterans, at-risk veterans, their families and other interested parties with access to appropriate VA and community-based resources. The call center provides trained VA staff members 24 hours a day, seven days a week that assess a caller's needs and connect them to appropriate resources. The call center can be reached at **1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838)**.



The **Housing and Urban Development - Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) Program** provides permanent housing and ongoing case management for eligible homeless veterans who would not be able to live independently without the support of case management. These services may be accessed at VA medical centers and community-based outreach clinics.

Through the **Supportive Services for Low-Income Veterans Program**, VA aims to improve very low-income veteran families' housing stability by providing supportive services to families in or transitioning to permanent housing. VA funds community-based organizations to provide eligible veteran families with outreach, case management and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits. For assistance call **1-877-4-AID-VET**.

**Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)** provides veterans with realistic and meaningful vocational opportunities, encouraging successful reintegration into the community at the veterans' highest functional level. An individual rehabilitation plan is developed for each veteran allowing veterans to work for pay, learn new job skills, and relearn successful work habits. The **Transitional Residence (TR)** Program provides a therapeutic residential setting for veterans involved in CWT. TR provides a bridge between hospitalization or intensive outpatient treatment and successful reintegration. Veterans interested in learning more about CWT can call **1-800-929-7690** ext. **5335** or **757-722-9961** ext. **1123** for information on the TR program.

The **Healthcare for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV) Program** offers outreach, referrals and short-term case management assistance for incarcerated veterans who may be at risk for homelessness upon their release. A guidebook for incarcerated vets in Michigan is available at **[www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/reentry/09\\_mi.pdf](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/reentry/09_mi.pdf)**. Michigan's reentry specialist can be reached at **734-645-2505**, or visit **[www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless)** to find contact information on VA homeless veteran coordinators in each state.

## ***Michigan Programs for Homeless Veterans***

If you are in immediate need of shelter, please call the **Homeless Shelter Hotline** at **1-800-A-SHELTER (1-800-274-3583)**. They will arrange for a temporary emergency shelter or motel stay.

## ***Veterans Housing Program – Volunteers of America***

Volunteers of America Michigan is the largest contract provider of veterans services in the Lansing region. Volunteers of America Michigan operates a 50-bed overnight emergency shelter for men and a 14-bed overnight emergency shelter for women and children in the Lansing area.

The shelters provide a safe place to stay and access to important services. All residents of this overnight shelter can also receive services from New Hope Day Center. The center collaborates with eight other agencies to provide a variety of services including employment assistance, substance abuse education, and health care.

In addition, Volunteers of America Michigan operates three programs for homeless veterans: the Veterans Dormitory Program is a 16-bed program available to male and female veterans. Residents can stay for up to 6 months free of charge if weekly progress is made on their Treatment Plan. The Veterans Housing Program provides longer-term transitional housing for veterans including those with substance-related disorders and/or mental illness (located in Lansing and Niles). The Veterans Reintegration Program assists homeless veterans to gain and maintain gainful employment. Current locations include Lansing, Detroit, and Flint.

For additional information, please contact:  
**877-509-8387**

**[www.voami.org/Services](http://www.voami.org/Services)**

## ***Lansing Shelter System***

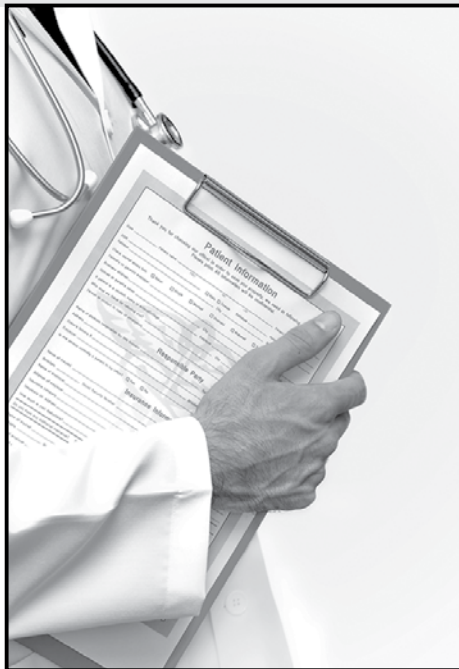
Program Coordinator  
430 N. Larch Street  
Lansing, MI 48912  
Phone: **517-484-4414**  
Toll-Free: **1-877-509-8387**

**Michigan Volunteers of America,  
Michigan Housing Department**  
21415 Civic Center Drive, Suite 306  
Southfield, MI 48076  
Phone: **248-945-0101**

### ***Additional Resources***

#### ***Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness***

15851 S. Old US-27, Building 30, Suite 315  
Lansing, MI 48906  
Phone: **517-485-6536**  
Fax: **517-485-6682**  
E-mail: **[mcah@mihomeless.org](mailto:mcah@mihomeless.org)**  
**[www.mihomeless.org](http://www.mihomeless.org)**



## **Women Veterans Health Care**

At each VA Medical Center nationwide, a Women Veterans Program Manager is designated to advise and advocate for women veterans. She can help coordinate all services needed, from primary care to specialized care for chronic conditions or reproductive health.

Woman veterans who are interested in receiving care at VA should contact the nearest VA Medical Center and ask for the Women Veterans Program Manager.

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. Women veterans receive maternity care from an OB/GYN, and care for their newborn children is covered for seven days after birth. Infertility evaluation and limited treatments are also available.

For more information:

***Women Veterans Call Center***

Toll-Free: **1-855-829-6636** or

**[www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov)**

# Michigan VA Medical Facilities and Outpatient Clinics

Various U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities operate in Michigan. They are listed below by the city in which they are located.

## **Alpena**

180 N. State Avenue 49707  
**989-356-8720**

## **Ann Arbor**

2215 Fuller Road 48105  
**734-769-7100**

## **Bad Axe**

1142 S. Van Dyke Road,  
Suite 100 48413  
**989-269-7445**

## **Battle Creek**

5500 Armstrong Road 49037  
**269-966-5600**

## **Benton Harbor**

115 Main Street 49022  
**269-934-9123**

## **Cadillac**

1909 N. Mitchell Street 49601  
**231-775-4401**

## **Clare**

11775 N. Isabella Road 48617  
**989-386-8113**

## **Detroit**

4646 John R Street 48201  
**313-576-1000**

## **Flint**

G-2360 S. Linden Road 48532  
**810-720-2913**

## **Gaylord**

806 South Otsego 49732  
**989-732-7525**

## **Grand Rapids**

2050 Breton, S.E. 49546  
**616-285-5795**

## **Grayling**

1680 Hartwick Pines Road 49738  
**989-344-2002**

## **Hancock**

787 Market Street  
Quincy Center,  
Suite 9 49930-1495  
**906-482-7762**

## **Iron Mountain**

325 East H Street 49801  
**906-774-3300**

## **Ironwood**

629 W. Cloverland Drive  
Suite 1 49938  
**906-932-0032**

## **Lansing**

2025 S. Washington 48910  
**517-267-3925**

## **Mackinaw City**

14540 Mackinaw Highway 49701  
**231-436-5176**

## **Manistique**

813 E. Lakeshore Drive 49854  
**906-341-3420**

## **Marquette**

1414 W. Fair Avenue  
Suite 285 49855  
**906-226-4618**

## **Menominee**

1110 10th Avenue  
Suite 101 49858  
**906-863-1286**

## **Michigan Center (Jackson)**

4328 Page Avenue 49254  
**517-764-3609**

## **Muskegon**

5000 Hakes Drive 49441  
**231-798-4445**

## **Oscoda**

5671 Skeel Avenue  
Suite 4 48750  
**989-497-2500**, ext. 11411

## **Pontiac**

44200 Woodward Avenue  
Suite 208 48341  
**248-332-4540**

## **Saginaw Healthcare Annex**

4241 Barnard Road 48603  
**800-406-5143**, ext. 11230

## **Saginaw Medical Center**

1500 Weiss Street 48602  
**989-497-2500**

## **Sault Ste. Marie**

509 Osborn Boulevard  
Suite 306 49783  
**906-253-9383**

## **Traverse City**

3271 Racquet Club Drive 49684  
**989-497-2500**, ext. 11412

## **Wyoming**

5838 Metro Way 49519  
**616-249-5300**

## **Yale**

7470 Brockway Drive 48097  
**810-387-3211**

**The State of Michigan operates two veterans homes at the following locations:**

### **Grand Rapids Home for Veterans**

3000 Monroe Avenue, N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
**616-364-5389 • 1-844-711-7986**

### **D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans**

425 Fisher  
Marquette, MI 49855  
**906-226-3576 • 1-800-433-6760**

# Monetary Benefits

## eBenefits

Through eBenefits veterans can apply for benefits, view their disability compensation claim status, access official military personnel documents (e.g., DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), obtain a VA-guaranteed home loan Certificate of Eligibility, and register for and update direct deposit information for certain benefits. New features are added regularly.

The National Resource Directory is part of the eBenefits site. This directory provides access to thousands of services and resources at the national, state, and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation, and community reintegration for the wounded warrior. The NRD includes extensive information for veterans seeking resources on VA benefits such as disability benefits, pensions for veterans and their families, VA health care insurance and the GI Bill. eBenefits is accessed at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>. Veterans must register for an eBenefits account at one of two levels: Basic or Premium. A Premium account allows the user to access personal data in VA and DoD systems, as well as apply for benefits online, check the status of claims, update address records, and more. The Basic account allows access to information entered into eBenefits by the veteran only. Basic accounts cannot access VA or DoD systems.

To register for an eBenefits account, veterans must be listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and obtain a DoD Self Service (DS) Logon (user name and password). Note: For those without a DEERS record, VA will first need to verify military service and add the information to DEERS. This is most likely for veterans who served prior to 1982. Individuals should contact a VA regional office for assistance in being added to DEERS.

**Identity verification:** Many veterans will be able to verify their identity online by answering a few security questions. A few may need to visit a VA regional office or TRICARE Service Center to have their identities verified.

Military retirees may verify their identity online using their Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Logon. Veterans in receipt of VA benefits via direct deposit may have their identity verified by calling **1-800-827-1000** and selecting option 7. eBenefits users with Premium access with appropriate My HealtheVet access can login to their My HealtheVet account using the single sign-on feature.

## VA Disability Compensation

VA disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service. The service of the veteran must have been terminated through separation or discharge under conditions that were other than dishonorable. Disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of dependents, and is paid monthly.

Veterans with disability ratings between 30 percent and 100 percent are eligible for additional allowances for a spouse and for each minor child, 18-23 years of age attending school, child if disabled before 18 years of age, and dependent parent. The amount depends on the disability rating.

### 2014 VA Disability Compensation (no dependents)

Disability Percentage	Monthly Payment
10 percent	\$ 133.17
20 percent	263.23
30 percent	407.75
40 percent	587.36
50 percent	863.13
60 percent	1,059.09
70 percent	1,334.71
80 percent	1,551.48
90 percent	1,743.48
100 percent	2,906.83

*Figures may be adjusted annually for inflation.*

VA offers two methods for receiving disability benefit payments. Most veterans receive their disability benefit payments by direct deposit to a bank, savings and loan or credit union account. Veterans also have the option of receiving their benefits via a prepaid



debit card, even if they do not have a bank account. There is no credit check, no minimum balance required, and basic services are free.

To sign up for the **Debit Card Program**, call **1-800-333-1795**.

## ***Pensions***

Pension benefits are available to certain veterans based on need. To be eligible for pension benefits, a veteran must be 65 or older with limited or no income, or totally and permanently disabled, or a patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, or receiving social security disability insurance or supplemental security income. In addition, service requirements also apply. Veterans must have 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war. (Veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, or officers who entered active duty on or after October 16, 1981, may have to meet a longer minimum period of active duty.) The veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable and their disability must be for reasons other than their own willful misconduct. Payments are made to bring the veteran's total income, including other retirement or Social Security income, to a level set by Congress. Unreimbursed medical expenses may reduce countable income for VA purposes.

For more information, visit **www.benefits.va.gov/pension**.

## ***Social Security Benefits***

Social Security provides expedited processing of disability claims for disabled veterans.

Monthly retirement, disability and survivor benefits under Social Security are payable to veterans and dependents if the veteran has earned enough work credits under the program. In addition, a veteran may qualify at age 65 for Medicare's hospital insurance and medical insurance. Medicare protection is available to people who have received Social Security disability benefits for 24 months, and to insured people and their dependents who need dialysis or kidney transplants, or who have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease).

Those 65 or older and those who are blind or otherwise disabled may be eligible for monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments if they have little or no income or resources. States

may supplement the federal payments to eligible persons and may disregard additional income.

Upon the veteran's death, a one-time payment of \$255 also may be made to the veteran's spouse or child.

For more information, call **1-800-772-1213** or visit **www.socialsecurity.gov**.

## ***Additional Monetary Benefits for Eligible Military Retirees***

**Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)** provides military retirees a monthly compensation that is intended to replace some or all of their retired pay that is withheld due to receipt of VA compensation.

Disabilities related to in-service exposure to hazards (e.g., Agent Orange, Gulf War illnesses, radiation exposure) for which VA awards compensation are considered combat-related for CRSC purposes.

CRSC is not a VA program. For information, contact your parent military service branch:

**Army 1-888-281-3254**

**www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC**

or e-mail at **askhrc.army@us.army.mil**

**Navy/Marine Corps 1-877-366-2772**

**www.public.navy.mil/asnmra/corb/CRSCB/**

or e-mail at **CRSC@navy.mil**

**Air Force 1-800-525-0102, option 5, option 1**

**www.retirees.af.mil/**

or e-mail at **AFPC.DPPDC.AFCRSC@us.af.mil**

**Coast Guard 1-703-872-6626**

**www.uscg.mil/psd/de/crsc.asp**

or e-mail at **Vinkle.J.Valentin@uscg.mil**

**Disability Compensation for Presumptive Conditions** – VA *presumes* that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by their military service. If one of these conditions is diagnosed in a veteran in one of these groups, VA presumes that the circumstances of his/her service caused the condition, and disability compensation can be awarded. Certain time limits for diagnosis apply depending on the disease.

All veterans who develop Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, at any time after separation from service may be eligible for compensation for that disability.

For more information or a list of diseases, visit **benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf**.



# Home Loans and Tax Credits



## Home Loan Guaranties – U.S. Federal Programs

Veterans Affairs loan guaranties may be made to eligible service members, veterans, reservists, National Guard, and unmarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes, condominiums, and manufactured homes and for refinancing loans. VA home loans are usually handled by private lenders, with the VA “standing behind” the loan to guarantee a portion of it. Applicants must have a good credit rating, have an income sufficient to support mortgage payments, and agree to live in the property.

**A VA loan guaranty** can be used to:

- Buy or build a home;
- Buy a residential condominium;
- Repair, alter, or improve a veteran’s home;
- Refinance an existing home loan;
- Buy a manufactured home and/or a lot;
- Install a solar heating or cooling system or other energy-efficient improvements.

### *Service Eligibility*

Applications under other than dishonorable conditions.

#### **Service during:**

WWII	09/16/40 to 07/25/47
Post WWII	07/26/47 to 06/26/50
Korean	06/27/50 to 01/31/55
Post Korean	02/01/55 to 08/04/64
Vietnam	08/05/64 to 05/07/75; or beginning 02/28/61 for veterans who served in Republic of Vietnam
Post Vietnam	05/8/75 to 08/1/90
Persian Gulf Era	08/02/90 to the present

If service was between September 8, 1980 (October 16, 1981, for officers) and August 1, 1990, veterans must generally complete

24 months of continuous active duty service or the full period (at least 181 days) for which they were called or ordered to active duty, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable (“24-month rule”).

Veterans who served fewer than 181 days may be eligible if discharged for a service-connected disability.

Veterans of the Gulf War era must generally complete 24 months of continuous active duty or the full period (at least 90 days) for which they were called to active duty, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Exceptions are allowed if the veteran completed at least 90 days of active duty but was discharged earlier than 24 months for:

- hardship;
- the convenience of the government;
- reduction-in-force;
- certain medical conditions; or
- service-connected disability.

Reservists and National Guard members are eligible if they were activated after August 1, 1990, served 6 years and have 90 days of active service, and received an honorable discharge.

Until the Gulf War era is ended, persons on active duty are eligible after serving 90 continuous days.

A funding fee must be paid to VA unless the veteran is exempt from such a fee because he or she receives VA disability compensation. The fee may be paid in cash or included in the loan. Closing costs such as VA appraisal, credit report, loan processing fee, title search, title insurance, recording fees, transfer taxes, survey charges, or hazard insurance may not be included in the loan.

#### **VA Assistance to Veterans in Default:**

VA urges all veterans who are encountering problems making their mortgage payments to speak with their servicers as soon as possible to

explore options to avoid foreclosure. Contrary to popular opinion, servicers do not want to foreclose because foreclosure costs a lot of money. Depending on a veteran's specific situation, servicers may offer any of the following options to avoid foreclosure:

- Repayment Plan
- Special Forbearance
- Loan Modification
- Short Sale
- Deed-in-Lieu of Foreclosure
- Additional time to arrange a private sale.

If the loan servicer is unable to help, the VA has loan technicians in eight Regional Loan Centers and a special servicing center who take an active role exploring all options to avoid foreclosure. Veterans with **VA-guaranteed home loans** can call **1-877-827-3702** to reach the nearest VA office where loan specialists are prepared to discuss potential ways to help save the loan. Veterans with non-VA-guaranteed loans may also call this number. However, VA does not have the legal authority to intervene on a non-VA-guaranteed borrower's behalf.

Veterans may be able to refinance a non-VA-guaranteed loan with a VA-guaranteed loan which may be helpful in situations where the veteran is in risk of defaulting. Finally, VA warns homeowners behind in their payments to be careful about accepting help from strangers. Please contact your mortgage lender or the Loan Guaranty Division for assistance.

### ***Specially Adapted Homes***

VA has two grants available for veterans with certain service-connected disabilities to assist in either building a new specially adapted home, adapting a home they already own, or in purchasing an existing home to modify and remodel to meet their disability requirements. Eligible veterans may receive up to three grants, the sum total not to exceed the maximum dollar amount. The maximum dollar amount for the SAH grant is \$70,465 and for the SHA grant is \$14,093. For more information on the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant or the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant e-mail **sahinfo.vbaco@va.gov** or call **1-877-827-3702**.





## State of Michigan Benefits

### *Tax Benefits*

The **Home Heating Credit** is designed to assist low-income families and seniors in paying their home heating costs. Homesteads can be a rented apartment or a mobile home on a lot in a mobile home park. Qualified disabled veterans or their spouses generally are eligible for an increased credit. Applications for the Home Heating Credit are accepted from mid to late January through September 30 of each year.

The **Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit** is available if the homestead is located in Michigan, the owner was a Michigan resident at least six months in the tax year, and the owner pays property taxes or rents a Michigan homestead. Taxpayers are not eligible for this tax credit if their household income is more than \$50,000 or the value of their home is greater than \$135,000. Some veterans are eligible for an increased credit (see MI-1040CR-2). Homestead Property Tax Credit forms must be filed by the time state income tax forms are due each April. The tax form, MI-1040CR-2 or MI-1040CR, can be found online at [www.michigan.gov/treasury/](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury/). For property tax matters, call **517-636-4486** or **517-373-3200**.

The **Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption** allows certain honorably discharged, disabled veterans (or their surviving unremarried spouses) to apply for an exemption for their homestead from property taxation. To qualify, a veteran must meet one of these three qualification categories:

- The disabled veteran must have been determined by the United States department of veterans' affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate, or
- The disabled veteran must have received a certificate from the United States veterans' administration, or its successors, certifying that he or she is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing, or
- The disabled veteran must have been rated by the United States department of veterans' affairs as individually unemployable.

A qualified veteran must submit an affidavit and a certificate from the VA confirming the monetary assistance for specially adapted housing. Contact your township supervisor or other assessing officer for further information and deadlines.

**CONTACT THE MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
ON THE HOMESTEAD  
PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.**



# Life Insurance



## ***Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)***

Active duty members and reservists of uniformed services are automatically insured for \$400,000 under the Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI). Also available is traumatic injury group life insurance and family coverage.

At the time of separation from service, SGLI can be converted to either Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) or a commercial plan through participating companies. You must apply to convert SGLI to VGLI within one year and 120 days from discharge. If you submit your application within 240 days after discharge (for those discharged on or after November 1, 2012) or within 120 days after discharge (for those discharged before November 1, 2012), you do not need to submit evidence of good health. Those who apply after the no-health period are required to answer questions about their health.

Once enrolled in VGLI, policyholders have an opportunity to increase their VGLI coverage by \$25,000, once every 5 years, up to the maximum \$400,000 until age 60.

Monthly premium rates for VGLI can be found at: [www.benefits.va.gov/INSURANCE/vgli\\_rates\\_new.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/INSURANCE/vgli_rates_new.asp).

Service members who are totally disabled at the time of separation are eligible for free SGLI Disability Extension of up to two years. They must apply to the Office of Service members' Group Life Insurance (OSGLI).

Those covered under the SGLI Disability Extension are automatically converted to VGLI, subject to premium payments, at the end of their extension period. VGLI is convertible at any time to a permanent plan policy with any participating commercial insurance company.

VGLI policyholders who are terminally ill (prognosis of nine months or less to live) have a one-time option of requesting up to 50 percent of their coverage in a lump sum accelerated payment.

Spousal and dependent coverage cannot at present be carried over into the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program; however, spouses have the option of converting their coverage to a private life insurance policy with a participating company within 120 days of the service member leaving active duty or if the service member drops the primary SGLI coverage.

## ***Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI)***

S-DVI provides life insurance coverage to veterans whom VA has granted service connection for a new disability within the last two years. Totally disabled veterans are eligible for free coverage and have the opportunity to purchase additional insurance up to \$10,000. Veterans must be in good health, other than the service-connected disability. In addition, eligible veterans had to have left service after April 24, 1951 and apply for additional coverage within two years of approval of a new service-connected disability.

Veterans who are totally disabled may apply for a waiver of premiums and additional supplemental insurance coverage of up to \$30,000. However, premiums cannot be waived on the additional supplemental insurance. To be eligible for this type of supplemental insurance, veterans must be under age 65, be eligible for a waiver of premiums due to total disability, and apply for additional insurance within one year from the date of notification of waiver approval on the S-DVI policy.

## ***Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)***

The maximum amount of mortgage life insurance available to severely disabled veterans granted a specially adapted housing grant is \$200,000. Protection is automatic when the veteran submits required information and assuming he/she does not decline coverage. Coverage terminates when the mortgage is paid off.

If a mortgage is disposed of, VMLI may be obtained on the mortgage of another home.

Payment is to the current mortgage lender.

## ***Assistance With Government Life Insurance Programs***

Call the **VA Insurance Center** toll-free **1-800-669-8477** or visit **www.insurance.va.gov**. For VGLI call **1-800-419-1473**. For all other VA life insurance programs call **1-800-669-8477**. Specialists are available between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Eastern Time, to discuss premium payments, insurance dividends, changes of address, policy loans, naming beneficiaries and reporting the death of the insured.

If the insurance policy number is unknown, send the veteran's VA file number, date of birth, Social Security number, military serial number or military service branch and dates of service to:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Insurance Center  
P.O. Box 42954  
Philadelphia, PA 19101





# Dependent & Survivor Benefits



## Burial Benefits

### *Headstones and Markers*

Veterans and retired Reservists and National Guard service members are eligible for an inscribed headstone or marker for their unmarked grave at any cemetery. VA will deliver a headstone or marker at no cost, anywhere in the world. For eligible veterans or service members who died on or after November 1, 1990 and are buried in a private cemetery, VA may furnish a government headstone or marker (for marked or unmarked graves) or furnish a medallion to affix to an already existing privately-purchased headstone or marker.

Spouses and dependent children are eligible for a government headstone or marker only if they are buried in a national or state veterans cemetery.

Before ordering, check with the cemetery to ensure that the government-furnished headstone or marker will be accepted. All installation fees at private cemeteries are the responsibility of the applicant.

To apply, mail a completed VA Form 40-1330, along with a copy of the veteran's military service discharge document and death certificate to:

### **Memorial Programs Service (41B)**

Department of Veterans Affairs  
5109 Russell Road  
Quantico, VA 22134-3903  
or fax documents to **1-800-455-7143**.

[Do not send original discharge documents, as they will not be returned.]

For more information and instructions, visit **[www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)**.

### *Presidential Memorial Certificates*

Certificates signed by the President are issued upon request to recognize the military service of honorably discharged deceased veterans. Next of kin, relatives, and friends may request Presidential Memorial Certificates in person at

any VA regional office or by mailing a completed VA Form 40-0247 to:

### **Presidential Memorial Certificates (41B3)**

National Cemetery Administration  
5109 Russell Road  
Quantico, VA 22134-3903  
or fax documents to **1-800-455-7143**.

There is no time limit for requesting these certificates, but requests should include a copy, not the original, of the deceased veteran's discharge document and clearly indicate to what address the certificate should be sent.

Additional information can be found at **[www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)**.

### *Burial Flags*

Generally, VA will furnish a U.S. burial flag to memorialize veterans who received an other than dishonorable discharge. This includes certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951. Also eligible for a burial flag are veterans who were entitled to retired pay for service in the Reserves or National Guard, or would have been entitled if over age 60; and members or former members of the Selected Reserve who served their initial obligation, or were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or died while a member of the Selected Reserve.

Additional information and VA Form 27-2008 can be found at **[www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp)**.

### *Military Funeral Honors*

Upon request, the Department of Defense (DoD) will provide military funeral honors consisting of folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of "Taps."

Family members should inform their funeral directors if they want military funeral honors. DoD maintains a toll-free number (**1-877-MIL-HONR**) for use by funeral directors only to request honors. For more information, visit **[www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh)**.



## ***Reimbursement of Burial Expenses***

VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$2,000 if the veteran's death is service-connected. In such cases, the person who bore the veteran's burial expenses may claim reimbursement from VA. In some instances, VA also will pay the cost of transporting the remains of a veteran whose death was service-connected to the national cemetery nearest the home of the deceased that has available gravesites. There is no time limit for filing reimbursement claims in service-connected death cases.

VA will pay a \$300 burial and funeral expense allowance for veterans who, at the time of death, were entitled to receive a pension or compensation or would have been entitled to compensation if they weren't receiving military retirement pay. There is a 2-year time limit.

VA will pay a plot allowance of up to \$734 when a veteran is buried in a cemetery not under U.S. government jurisdiction if the veteran was discharged from active duty because of disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; the veteran was receiving compensation or pension or would have been if the veteran was not receiving military retired pay; or the veteran died in a VA facility.

For information on monetary benefits, call **1-800-827-1000**. Additional information about burial and memorial benefits may be obtained at any **VA National Cemetery**, regional office, or at **www.cem.va.gov**. To check on the status of an application for a headstone or marker, call **1-800-697-6947**.

## ***Burial in VA National Cemeteries***

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available for eligible veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For veterans, benefits may also include a burial flag (with case for active duty), and military funeral honors. Family members and other loved ones of deceased veterans may request Presidential Memorial Certificates.

The funeral director or the next of kin makes interment arrangements by contacting the

National Cemetery Scheduling Office or, in some cases, the national cemetery in which burial is desired. VA does not normally conduct burials on weekends. Gravesites cannot be reserved; however, VA will honor reservations made before 1973 by the Department of the Army.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs currently has two national cemeteries in Michigan:

### **Fort Custer National Cemetery**

15501 Dickman Road  
Augusta, MI 49012  
Phone: **269-731-4164**  
Fax: **269-731-2428**

### **Great Lakes National Cemetery**

4200 Belford Road  
Holly, MI 48442  
Phone: **248-328-0386**  
or **1-866-348-8603**  
Fax: **248-328-0612**



## ***State Veterans' Burial Expenses***

Under Michigan law, eligible veterans (or the wife or widow of a qualified veteran) who meet residency and asset limits may qualify for \$300 for burial expenses paid by the County Board of Commissioners or the Board of County Auditors. The Soldiers Relief Commission of each county has the responsibility for investigating each claim.

## **Survivor Benefits for Spouse and Children – U.S. Federal Benefits**

### ***Survivors Pension***

VA provides pension benefits to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service.

Spouses must not have remarried and children must be under age 18, or under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, or have become permanently incapable of self-support because of disability before age 18.

The veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have

had 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war, or a service-connected disability justifying discharge. Longer periods of service may be required for veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, or if an officer October 16, 1981. If the veteran died in service, but not in the line of duty, survivors pension may be payable if the veteran had completed at least two years of honorable service.

Children who become incapable of self-support because of a disability before age 18 may be eligible for a survivors pension as long as the condition exists, unless the child marries or the child's income exceeds the applicable limit.

Survivors pension provides a monthly payment to bring an eligible person's income to a level established by law. The payment is reduced by the annual income from other sources such as Social Security. The payment may be increased if the recipient has unreimbursed medical expenses that can be deducted from countable income.

For more information, call **1-800-827-1000** or visit **[www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spousepen.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spousepen.asp)**.

### ***Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)***

For a survivor to be eligible for **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)**, the veteran's death must have resulted from one of the following causes:

- An injury or disease deemed to be related to military service, or
- A nonservice-related injury or disease, but the veteran was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA compensation for a service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling

- For at least 10 years immediately before death, or
- Since the veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, or
- For at least one year before death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.

Payments will be offset by any amount received from judicial proceedings brought on by the veteran's death. The discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable.

Surviving spouses must meet certain eligibility requirements also. To apply, complete VA Form 21-534 or visit the Detroit Benefits office located at 477 Michigan Ave., Detroit, or call **1-800-827-1000**.

### ***Aid and Attendance and Housebound Benefits***

Veterans and surviving spouses who are eligible for a VA pension, DIC, or survivors pension may also be eligible for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits. To apply for these benefits, send evidence to the VA regional office validating the need for aid and attendance or housebound care. The request should include information as to whether there is disease or injury producing physical or mental impairment, loss of coordination, or conditions affecting the ability to dress and undress, to feed oneself, to attend to sanitary needs, and to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable.



# Financial Emergencies & Veterans Resources



## Programs – State of Michigan

### *Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program*

Financial assistance may be available to certain Michigan veterans serving at least 180 days of active duty in a wartime period who were discharged under honorable conditions. The program assists with an unforeseen situation that causes a temporary or short-term financial emergency or hardship that a grant will resolve. Examples of such needs include delay in unemployment benefits or other income or unexpected hospitalizations that cause reductions in income to meet household needs. The grants may assist with housing, utilities, car payments or insurance or medical assistive devices. Coordination is made with other agencies that may also assist with these types of needs.

Contact the **Veterans Trust Fund** at **1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)** or your County Veterans Affairs Office (see page 37). Information is also available online at **[www.MichiganVeterans.com](http://www.MichiganVeterans.com)**.

### *State of Michigan – Department of Health and Human Services*

The Department of Health and Human Services (see county contacts on page 38) provides cash assistance to families with children and pregnant women to help them pay for living expenses such as rent, heat, utilities, clothing, food, and personal care items. Assistance in finding a job or developing needed job skills, help with transportation, child care, and other needs related to employment and training may also be provided.

### *Soldiers Relief Commission*

In some counties, emergency relief grants are available to Michigan veterans who do not meet Michigan Veterans Trust Fund criteria. Funds are limited, so the commission makes an effort to refer veterans who are eligible to other sources of financial assistance.

Contact a **County Veterans Service Officer** at **[www.michiganveterans.com/Home/Benefit-Counselors](http://www.michiganveterans.com/Home/Benefit-Counselors)** for assistance. See page 39 for phone numbers of county officers.

You may also consult your local phonebook for county government. Usually this is handled by the office of Veteran Affairs.

### *Additional State Benefits*

**Hunting and Fishing Licenses.** As of March 2013, fees for fishing and hunting licenses will be waived for disabled veterans. Only licenses that do not require a lottery can be obtained free of charge. Proof of eligibility must be presented at time of purchase and carried when hunting or fishing. Disabled hunters are those who have been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service or is rated as individually unemployable.

**State ID and Drivers Licenses.** Honorably discharged veterans may request their drivers license or state ID card to include a special veteran designation. This will allow veterans to take advantage of many discounts and services available to them that require proof of military service.

### *Michigan National Guard and Michigan-Based Active Military*

Many veterans continue to serve in the Michigan National Guard. If you are a member of the National Guard, there are resources and information focused on your unique needs.



You may call the **National Guard Family Program** office at **517-481-9893** for information on available assistance if you are a member of the Michigan National Guard.

The National Guard has established Family Assistance Centers (FAC) and Wing Coordinators (WC) across the state to provide National Guard members or active duty military members stationed in Michigan, and their families, a point of contact when the family's soldier, sailor, Marine or Airman is deployed.

**Sault Ste. Marie Armory FAC**

1170 E. Portage Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
Phone: **906-632-7861**  
Fax: **906-632-4753**

**Camp Grayling Armory FAC**

Building #3, Grayling, MI 49739  
Phone: **989-344-6144**  
Fax: **989-344-6421**

**Grand Ledge/Flint Armory FAC**

10600 Eaton Highway, Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
Phone: **517-481-8850**  
Fax: **517-481-8822**

**Jackson Armory FAC**

4850 Cooper Road, Jackson, MI 49201  
Phone: **517-990-1186**  
Fax: **517-990-1108**

**Grand Valley Armory FAC**

1200 44th Street SW, Wyoming, MI 49509  
Phone: **616-249-2741**  
Fax: **616-249-2671**

**Taylor Armory FAC**

12450 Beech Daly Road, Taylor, MI 48180  
Phone: **734-946-2553**  
Fax: **734-946-2540**

**110th Airlift Wing**

3545 Mustang Avenue, Building 6905  
Battle Creek, MI 49015  
Phone: **269-969-3493**  
Fax: **269-969-3556**

**127th Family Support Center**

29868 George Avenue, Building 168  
Selfridge ANGB, MI 48045  
Phone: **586-239-5583**  
Toll-Free: **800-645-9416**  
Fax: **586-239-5786**

**Alpena CRTC WC**

5884 A Street, Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone: **989-354-6557**

**Michigan National Guard**

**[minationalguard.com/familyprograms](http://minationalguard.com/familyprograms)**

**Family Assistance Centers**

Toll-Free: **877-394-1042**

Each FAC or WC will act as a call center for military families for a large scope of issues. Some personal issues may require counseling and referral to an area Chaplain, legal matters may require reference to a military Judge Advocate General, and military pay problems require help from the military pay section at the State Headquarters.

These call centers may also receive a variety of family calls and questions that relate to insurance, financial debt, or a variety of maintenance issues.

For further information and to identify the FAC or WC closest to you, contact:

**JFHQ - Family Program Office**

3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Lansing, MI 48906  
Phone: **517-481-9893**  
Toll-Free: **1-877-394-1042**  
Fax: **517-481-8150**

Michigan National Guard Family Fund was created to assist Air and Army National Guard families who experience financial difficulties with temporary emergency financial assistance, and to fund programs and training to maintain and improve the quality of life of our Michigan National Guard families. The fund provides a grant up to \$500 to soldiers and airmen and their family members who encounter financial hardships.

What constitutes a need? Emergency loss of income through activation for military duty; inability to maintain employment due to injury, sudden illness, or job loss; unexpected medical expenses; pay problems; or the accumulation of legitimate bills (e.g., rent, mortgage, electric, oil, gas, etc.). Also included is the inability to pay for basic needs such as food, shelter, utilities, clothing, medical bills, and transportation due to unforeseen circumstances.

An application must be submitted with the necessary documentation. Please call the Michigan National Guard family programs for more information at: **517-481-9893**.

### ***Army Strong Community Center***

The ASCC supports all branches of the military, veterans, retirees and their families by working one-on-one through every situation until a resolution has been reached. The ASCC can help veterans with benefits and entitlements, web access, employment and resume assistance, emergency assistance, and community resources. Staff at the center is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Michigan has one ASCC located in Walker:

**Dr. Mary Edwards**

**Walker Army Reserve Center**

3870 Three Mile Road NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Phone: **616-735-4050**, extension 166 or 169

After-Hours Assistance (Fort Family Outreach Center): **1-866-345-8248**

### ***Energy Assistance Programs***

The **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** provides federal funds to each state to assist low-income families with energy costs. In Michigan, the LIHEAP block grant is used for the following programs:

- Home Heating Credit
- State Emergency Relief (SER)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

For more information, visit the

**Department of Health and Human Services** at **[www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance](http://www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance)**.

### ***Additional Resources***

- **Army Emergency Relief**  
[www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org)
- **Air Force Aid Society**  
[www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org)
- **Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society**  
[www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org)
- **Coast Guard Mutual Assistance**  
[www.cgmahq.org](http://www.cgmahq.org)

#### ***Within Local Communities:***

- **American Red Cross**  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) or  
[www.redcross.org/find-help/military-families/veterans-services](http://www.redcross.org/find-help/military-families/veterans-services)
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars**  
(see page 40 for list)
- **The American Legion**  
(see page 40 for list)

The **Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors (MACVC)** may be able to assist veterans and their families in obtaining county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled. Visit the MACVC web site at **[www.macvc.net](http://www.macvc.net)** for additional information.

**EACH ORGANIZATION HAS ITS OWN  
SET OF PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW.  
PLEASE CONTACT THEM DIRECTLY  
FOR THEIR REQUIREMENTS.**

# Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Representatives

## Contact Information by County

1 Alcona . . . . .	989-354-9671	43 Lake . . . . .	231-845-3234
2 Alger . . . . .	906-387-1635	44 Lapeer . . . . .	810-667-0256
3 Allegan . . . . .	269-673-0501	45 Leelanau . . . . .	231-995-6070
4 Alpena . . . . .	989-354-9671	46 Lenawee . . . . .	517-264-5335
5 Antrim . . . . .	231-533-8499	47 Livingston . . . . .	517-546-6338
6 Arenac . . . . .	517-284-5299	48 Luce . . . . .	906-293-4890
7 Baraga . . . . .	906-524-5454	49 Mackinac . . . . .	906-643-9411
8 Barry . . . . .	269-945-4010	50 Macomb . . . . .	586-469-5315
9 Bay . . . . .	989-895-4189	51 Manistee . . . . .	231-398-3587
10 Benzie . . . . .	231-995-6070	52 Marquette . . . . .	906-226-3576, ext. 395
11 Berrien . . . . .	269-983-7111, ext. 8510	53 Mason . . . . .	231-233-8113
12 Branch . . . . .	517-279-4322	54 Mecosta . . . . .	231-592-0124
13 Calhoun . . . . .	269-969-6734	55 Menominee . . . . .	906-863-5691
14 Cass . . . . .	269-445-4472	56 Midland . . . . .	989-832-6843
15 Charlevoix . . . . .	231-547-7220	57 Missaukee . . . . .	231-839-7839
16 Cheboygan . . . . .	231-627-8833	58 Monroe . . . . .	734-240-3285
17 Chippewa . . . . .	906-635-6370	59 Montcalm . . . . .	989-291-9680
18 Clare . . . . .	989-539-3273	60 Montmorency . . . . .	989-785-8043
19 Clinton . . . . .	517-887-4331	61 Muskegon . . . . .	231-724-7143
20 Crawford . . . . .	989-344-3861	62 Newaygo . . . . .	231-689-7030
21 Delta . . . . .	906-786-7228	63 Oakland . . . . .	248-655-1250
22 Dickinson . . . . .	906-774-2820	64 Oceana . . . . .	231-873-6836
23 Eaton . . . . .	517-543-3740	65 Ogemaw . . . . .	989-345-5170
24 Emmet . . . . .	231-348-1780	66 Ontonagon . . . . .	906-884-6204
25 Genesee . . . . .	810-257-3068	67 Osceola . . . . .	231-743-6217
26 Gladwin . . . . .	989-426-4891	68 Oscoda . . . . .	989-826-1647
27 Gogebic . . . . .	906-667-1110	69 Otsego . . . . .	989-731-7576
28 Grand Traverse . . . . .	231-995-6070	70 Ottawa . . . . .	616-393-8387
29 Gratiot . . . . .	517-284-5299	71 Presque Isle . . . . .	989-734-0302
30 Hillsdale . . . . .	517-437-3630	72 Roscommon . . . . .	989-826-1647
31 Houghton . . . . .	906-482-0102	73 Saginaw . . . . .	989-793-9560
32 Huron . . . . .	989-269-8911	74 Sanilac . . . . .	810-648-0212
33 Ingham . . . . .	517-887-4389	75 Schoolcraft . . . . .	906-341-3669
34 Ionia . . . . .	616-894-1212	76 Shiawassee . . . . .	989-743-2231
35 Iosco . . . . .	989-362-6571	77 St. Clair . . . . .	810-989-6945
36 Iron . . . . .	906-265-3819	78 St. Joseph . . . . .	269-467-5557
37 Isabella . . . . .	989-317-4093	79 Tuscola . . . . .	989-673-8148
38 Jackson . . . . .	517-788-4424	80 Van Buren . . . . .	269-657-7376
39 Kalamazoo . . . . .	269-373-5284	81 Washtenaw . . . . .	734-973-4540
40 Kalkaska . . . . .	231-258-3370	82 Wayne . . . . .	313-224-5045
41 Kent . . . . .	616-632-5722	83 Wexford . . . . .	231-775-6654
42 Keweenaw . . . . .	906-482-0102		

Visit [www.michiganveterans.com/Home/Benefit-Counselors](http://www.michiganveterans.com/Home/Benefit-Counselors) for more information.

# Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

## Contact Information by County

1 Alcona . . . . .	989-354-7200	43 Lake . . . . .	231-745-8159
2 Alger . . . . .	906-387-4440	44 Lapeer . . . . .	810-667-0800
3 Allegan . . . . .	269-673-7700	45 Leelanau . . . . .	231-941-3900
4 Alpena . . . . .	989-354-7200	46 Lenawee . . . . .	517-264-6300
5 Antrim . . . . .	231-533-8664	47 Livingston . . . . .	517-548-0200
6 Arenac . . . . .	989-846-5500	48 Luce . . . . .	906-293-5144
7 Baraga . . . . .	906-353-4700	49 Mackinac . . . . .	906-643-9550
8 Barry . . . . .	269-948-3200	50 Macomb . . . . .	586-412-6100
9 Bay . . . . .	989-895-2100	51 Manistee . . . . .	231-723-8375
10 Benzie . . . . .	231-882-1330	52 Marquette . . . . .	906-228-9691
11 Berrien . . . . .	269-934-2000	53 Mason . . . . .	231-845-7391
12 Branch . . . . .	517-279-4200	54 Mecosta . . . . .	231-796-4300
13 Calhoun . . . . .	269-966-1284	55 Menominee . . . . .	906-863-9965
14 Cass . . . . .	269-445-0200	56 Midland . . . . .	989-835-7040
15 Charlevoix . . . . .	231-348-1600	57 Missaukee . . . . .	231-779-4500
16 Cheboygan . . . . .	231-627-8500	58 Monroe . . . . .	734-243-7200
17 Chippewa . . . . .	906-635-4100	59 Montcalm . . . . .	989-831-8400
18 Clare . . . . .	989-539-4260	60 Montmorency . . . . .	989-785-4218
19 Clinton . . . . .	989-224-5500	61 Muskegon . . . . .	231-733-3700
20 Crawford . . . . .	989-348-7691	62 Newaygo . . . . .	231-689-5500
21 Delta . . . . .	906-786-5394	63 Oakland . . . . .	248-975-4800
22 Dickinson . . . . .	906-779-4100	64 Oceana . . . . .	231-873-7251
23 Eaton . . . . .	517-543-0860	65 Ogemaw . . . . .	989-345-5135
24 Emmet . . . . .	231-348-1600	66 Ontonagon . . . . .	906-884-4951
25 Genesee . . . . .	810-760-2200	67 Osceola . . . . .	231-796-4300
26 Gladwin . . . . .	989-426-3300	68 Oscoda . . . . .	989-826-4000
27 Gogebic . . . . .	906-663-6200	69 Otsego . . . . .	989-732-1702
28 Grand Traverse . . . . .	231-941-3900	70 Ottawa . . . . .	616-394-7200
29 Gratiot . . . . .	989-875-5181	71 Presque Isle . . . . .	989-734-2108
30 Hillsdale . . . . .	517-439-2200	72 Roscommon . . . . .	989-275-5107
31 Houghton . . . . .	906-482-0500	73 Saginaw . . . . .	989-758-1100
32 Huron . . . . .	989-269-9201	74 Sanilac . . . . .	810-648-4420
33 Ingham . . . . .	517-887-9400	75 Schoolcraft . . . . .	906-341-2114
34 Ionia . . . . .	616-527-5200	76 Shiawassee . . . . .	989-725-3200
35 Iosco . . . . .	989-362-0300	77 St. Clair . . . . .	810-966-2000
36 Iron . . . . .	906-265-9958	78 St. Joseph . . . . .	269-467-1200
37 Isabella . . . . .	989-772-8400	79 Tuscola . . . . .	989-673-9100
38 Jackson . . . . .	517-780-7400	80 Van Buren . . . . .	269-621-2800
39 Kalamazoo . . . . .	269-337-4900	81 Washtenaw . . . . .	734-481-2000
40 Kalkaska . . . . .	231-258-1200	82 Wayne . . . . .	313-456-1000
41 Kent . . . . .	616-248-1000	83 Wexford . . . . .	231-779-4500
42 Keweenaw . . . . .	906-337-3302		

Visit [www.michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs) for more information.



# County Veterans Service Officers

## Contact Information by County

1 Alcona . . . . .	989-724-9510	43 Lapeer . . . . .	810-667-0256
2 Alger . . . . .	906-387-1635	44 Leelanau . . . . .	231-995-6070
3 Allegan . . . . .	269-673-0501	45 Lenawee . . . . .	517-264-5335
4 Alpena . . . . .	989-354-9671	46 Livingston . . . . .	517-546-6338
5 Antrim . . . . .	231-533-8499	47 Luce . . . . .	906-293-4890
6 Baraga . . . . .	906-524-5454	48 Mackinac . . . . .	906-643-9411
7 Barry . . . . .	269-945-4010	49 Macomb . . . . .	586-469-5315
8 Bay . . . . .	989-895-4190	50 Manistee . . . . .	231-398-3587
9 Benzie . . . . .	231-995-6070	51 Marquette . . . . .	906-226-3576, ext. 318
10 Berrien . . . . .	269-983-7111, ext. 8118 or 8224	52 Mason . . . . .	231-590-6200
11 Branch . . . . .	517-279-4322	53 Mecosta . . . . .	231-592-0124
12 Calhoun . . . . .	269-969-6735	54 Menominee . . . . .	906-863-5691
13 Cass . . . . .	269-445-4472	55 Midland . . . . .	989-832-6843
14 Charlevoix . . . . .	231-547-7220	56 Missaukee . . . . .	231-839-7839
15 Cheboygan . . . . .	231-627-8833	57 Monroe . . . . .	Vacant, call 1-800-MICH-VET
16 Chippewa . . . . .	906-635-6370	58 Montcalm . . . . .	989-831-7437
17 Clare . . . . .	989-539-3273	59 Montmorency . . . . .	989-785-8043
18 Clinton . . . . .	517-887-4395	60 Muskegon . . . . .	231-724-7143
19 Crawford . . . . .	989-344-3861	61 Newaygo . . . . .	231-689-7030
20 Delta . . . . .	906-786-7228	62 Oakland . . . . .	Pontiac Office 248-858-0785 Troy Office 248-655-1250
21 Dickinson . . . . .	906-774-2820	63 Oceana . . . . .	231-873-6834
22 Eaton . . . . .	517-543-3740	64 Ogemaw . . . . .	989-345-5170
23 Emmet . . . . .	231-348-1783	65 Ontonagon . . . . .	906-884-6204
24 Genesee . . . . .	810-257-3068	66 Osceola . . . . .	231-743-6217
25 Gladwin . . . . .	989-426-4891	67 Oscoda . . . . .	989-826-1647
26 Gogebic . . . . .	906-667-1110	68 Otsego . . . . .	989-731-7575
27 Grand Traverse . . . . .	231-995-6070	69 Ottawa . . . . .	616-393-8387
28 Gratiot . . . . .	989-875-5258	70 Presque Isle . . . . .	989-734-0302
29 Hillsdale . . . . .	517-437-3630	71 Roscommon . . . . .	989-275-7697
30 Houghton . . . . .	906-482-0102	72 Saginaw . . . . .	989-497-2500
31 Huron . . . . .	989-269-8911	73 Sanilac . . . . .	810-648-0212
32 Ingham . . . . .	517-887-4395	74 Schoolcraft . . . . .	906-341-3669
33 Ionia . . . . .	616-527-5341	75 Shiawassee . . . . .	989-743-2231
34 Iosco . . . . .	989-362-6571	76 St. Clair . . . . .	810-989-6945
35 Iron . . . . .	906-265-3819	77 St. Joseph . . . . .	269-467-5512 and 269-467-5557
36 Isabella . . . . .	989-317-4093	78 Tuscola . . . . .	989-673-8148
37 Jackson . . . . .	517-788-4425	79 Van Buren . . . . .	269-657-7376
38 Kalamazoo . . . . .	269-373-5284	80 Washtenaw . . . . .	734-973-4540
39 Kalkaska . . . . .	231-258-3370	81 Wayne . . . . .	313-224-5045
40 Kent . . . . .	616-632-5722	82 Wexford . . . . .	231-775-6654
41 Keweenaw . . . . .	906-482-0102		
42 Lake . . . . .	231-590-6200		

Visit [www.michiganveterans.com/Home/Benefit-Counselors](http://www.michiganveterans.com/Home/Benefit-Counselors) for more information.

## Veterans Service Organizations

### ***American Legion***

1210 McNamara Building  
477 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226-2584  
Phone: **313-964-6640**

### ***AMVETS***

1227 McNamara Building  
477 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226-2584  
Phone: **313-471-3982**

### ***Disabled American Veterans***

1200 McNamara Building  
477 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226-2584  
Phone: **313-964-6595**

### ***Marine Corps League***

1232 McNamara Building  
477 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226-2584  
Phone: **313-964-6830**

### ***Military Order of the Purple Heart***

1226 McNamara Building  
477 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226-2584  
Phone: **313-964-6510**

### ***Non-Commissioned Officer Association of America***

John D. Dingell VA Medical Center  
4646 John R Street  
Room A-1011  
Detroit, MI 48201  
Phone: **313-576-3382**

### ***Paralyzed Veterans of America***

1233 McNamara Building  
477 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226-2584  
Phone: **313-471-3996**

### ***Veterans of Foreign Wars***

1210 McNamara Building  
477 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226-2584  
Phone: **313-964-6510**

### ***Vietnam Veterans of America***

1210 McNamara Building  
477 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226-2584  
Phone: **313-961-9568**

NOTE: Local veterans organizations may have a service officer who can help fill out forms or advise on benefits.

## Federal Agencies

### ***Department of Justice***

#### **Civil Rights Division**

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Disability Rights Section - NYA  
Washington, DC 20530  
Toll-Free:  
**1-800-514-0301 (voice)**  
TTY: **1-800-514-0383**

### ***U.S. Department of Labor - Veterans Employment and Training (USDOL/VET)***

Victor Office Center, Suite 120  
201 N. Washington Square  
Lansing, MI 48913  
Phone: **517-373-7094**

### ***U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA)***

McNamara Building,  
12th Floor  
477 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226  
Toll-Free: **1-800-827-1000**

## State Agencies

Visit [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov).

### ***Michigan Department of Civil Rights***

#### **Detroit Executive Office**

Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600  
3054 W. Grand Boulevard  
Detroit, MI 48202  
Phone: **313-456-3700**  
Fax: **313-456-3791**

#### **Lansing Office**

Capitol Tower Building  
110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 800  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Phone: **517-241-6300**  
Toll-Free: **1-800-482-3604**  
Fax: **517-241-0546**  
TTY: **517-241-1965**

#### **Division on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing**

201 N. Washington Square, Suite 150  
Lansing, MI 48913  
Phone: **517-335-6004** T/V  
Toll-Free: **1-877-499-6232** T/V  
Fax: **517-335-7773**  
E-mail: **DODDBHH@michigan.gov**

### ***Michigan Department of Health and Human Services***

Capitol View Building  
201 Townsend Street, 7th Floor  
Lansing, MI 48913  
Phone: **517-373-3740**  
Michigan Relay Center at **711**  
or **1-800-649-3777** and ask for **517-373-3740**.

#### **Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council**

201 Townsend Street, Suite 120  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Phone: **517-335-3158**  
Fax: **517-335-2751**  
TDD: **517-335-3171**

### **Michigan Rehabilitation Services**

201 N. Washington Square, 4th Floor  
P.O. Box 30010  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Toll-Free: **1-800-605-6722**  
TTY Toll-Free: **1-888-605-6722**  
E-mail: **CustomerAssistance@michigan.gov**

### ***Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs***

#### **Bureau of Services for Blind Persons**

201 N. Washington Square  
Victor Building, 2nd Floor  
P.O. Box 30652  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: **517-373-2062**  
Fax: **517-335-5140**  
Toll-Free: **1-800-292-4200**

### ***Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs***

3411 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Lansing, MI 48906

#### **Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency**

Phoenix Building, 5th Floor  
222 N. Washington Square  
P.O. Box 30104  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: **1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)**

### ***Michigan Department of Treasury***

Treasury Building  
430 W. Allegan Street  
Lansing, MI 48922  
Phone: **1-800-373-3200**  
TTY: **1-800-649-3777 or 711**

## Additional Resources

### ***Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents***

If you would like more detailed information on veteran benefits and services, contact:

#### **United States Department of Veterans Affairs**

810 Vermont Ave., NW

Washington, DC 20420

Phone: **1-800-827-1000**

TDD: **711**

**www.va.gov**

The Federal Benefits Booklet, 2014 edition, is available online at **www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\_book.asp**. eReader editions are also available at this site.

The booklet is also available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, open Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (EST). Call toll-free **1-866-512-1800** or in the District of Columbia area **1-202-512-1800**. The GPO can be reached by e-mail at **contactcenter@gpo.gov**.

### ***Helpful Phone Numbers:***



Bereavement Counseling . . . . . 1-202-461-6530  
Education . . . . . 1-888-442-4551  
Headstones and Markers . . . . . 1-800-697-6947  
Health Care . . . . . 1-877-222-8387  
Homeless Veterans . . . . . 1-877-424-3838  
Home Loans . . . . . 1-877-827-3702  
Life Insurance. . . . . 1-800-669-8477  
Pension Management Center . . 1-877-294-6380  
Special Health Issues. . . . . 1-800-749-8387  
Telecommunication Device  
for the Deaf (TDD) . . . . . 711  
VA Benefits . . . . . 1-800-827-1000  
Veterans Crisis Line . . . . . 1-800-273-8255  
Press 1  
Women Veterans . . . . . 1-855-829-6636

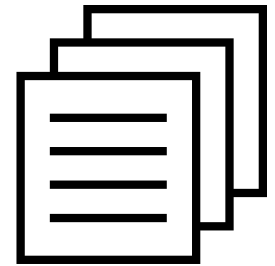
### ***Forms, Documents:***

VA Forms

**www.va.gov/vaforms**

U.S. Government Forms

**www.usa.gov**



### ***DD-214 Lost Documents:***

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased veterans can obtain free copies of DD-214s from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. In addition, a veteran who received Michigan's WWII, Korean, or Vietnam bonus may request, by letter, a copy of the discharge from military service. A letter should be mailed to the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, P.O. Box 30104, Lansing, MI 48909. For additional information please contact:

#### **Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency**

Phoenix Building, 5th Floor

222 N. Washington Square

P.O. Box 30104

Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: **1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)**

Discharge documents are also available from the National Personnel Records Center (PRC) online military personnel records systems. The electronic application can be accessed at **http://vetrecs.archives.gov**.



### ***Helpful Links:***

#### **VA Home Page**

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

#### **Education Benefits**

[www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)

#### **Health Care Eligibility**

[www.va.gov/healthbenefits](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits)

#### **Returning Service Members**

[www.oefoif.va.gov](http://www.oefoif.va.gov)

#### **Home Loan Guaranty**

[www.homeloans.va.gov](http://www.homeloans.va.gov)

#### **Records**

[www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel](http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel)

#### **VA Benefit Payment Rates**

[www.benefits.va.gov/compensation](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation)

#### **Mental Health**

[www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov)

#### **Life Insurance**

[www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov)

#### **Women Veterans Health Care**

[www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov)

#### **My HealtheVet**

[www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov)

#### **VA Fact Sheets**

[www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp#BM7](http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp#BM7)

#### **Michigan Veterans Benefits Site**

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

#### **TRICARE**

[www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

#### **Military OneSource**

[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

#### **National Resource Directory**

[www.nrd.gov](http://www.nrd.gov)

#### **Department of Defense**

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

#### **Military Funeral Honors**

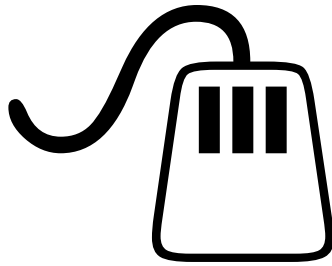
[www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh)

#### **Arlington National Cemetery**

[www.arlingtoncemetery.org](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.org)

#### **Burial and Memorial Benefits**

[www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)



### ***Employment Assistance Web Addresses:***

#### **Veteran Employment Services**

[www.mitalent.org/veteran](http://www.mitalent.org/veteran)

#### **Veterans' Preference**

[www.fedshirevets.gov](http://www.fedshirevets.gov)

#### **Federal Government Job Openings**

[www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)

#### **Department of Labor Employment and Training**

[www.dol.gov/vets](http://www.dol.gov/vets)

#### **Returning Service Members**

[www.oefoif.va.gov](http://www.oefoif.va.gov)

### ***Business Assistance:***

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE)

810 Vermont Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C. 20420

Phone: (202) 303-3260 or 1-866-584-2344

E-mail: [vip@va.gov](mailto:vip@va.gov)

[www.vetbiz.gov](http://www.vetbiz.gov)

#### **Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center**

[www.misbtdc.org](http://www.misbtdc.org)

#### **Small Business Administration**

[www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)

#### **Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization**

[www4.va.gov/OSDBU](http://www4.va.gov/OSDBU)



# Of Interest to Veterans



## Veteran Holidays

### ***Veterans Day***

Veterans Day is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contributions of living veterans. Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar congressional action.

If World War I had indeed been “the war to end all wars,” November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of World War II and Korea, Congress decided to make the day an occasion to honor all those who have served America. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. (Historically, the first Veterans Day parade was held in 1953 in Emporia, Kansas.)

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

### ***Memorial Day***

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873.

By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is

now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90-363) to ensure a three-day weekend for Federal holidays), though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas; April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis’ birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

## Flag Etiquette

Federal law stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette. The section of law dealing with American Flag etiquette is generally referred to as the Flag Code. Some general guidelines from the Flag Code answer many of the most common questions.



### ***Flag Displayed Outdoors***

#### ***Over the Middle of the Street***

The flag should be suspended vertically with the union or blue field to the north on an east and west street or to the east on a north and south street.

#### ***Flown at Half-Staff***

The flag should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. “Half-staff” means the flag has been lowered to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.

Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstuffs in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.

### ***Flown on the Same Halyard With Non-National Flags***

The American flag should always be at the peak. When flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No flag or pennant may be placed above or to the right of the flag of the United States.

### ***Suspended Over a Sidewalk***

The flag may be suspended from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk. The flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

### ***From a Staff Projecting Horizontally or at an Angle***

The flag may be projected from a window sill, balcony, or front of a building, with the union of the flag placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.

### ***In a Parade With Other Flags***

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right (that is, the flag's own right), or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

### ***With Non-National Flags***

The flag of the United States should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

### ***With Other National Flags***

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

### ***With Another Flag Against a Wall From Crossed Staffs***

The American flag should be on the right (the flag's own right which is the viewer's left) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

### ***Flag Displayed Indoors***

#### ***From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium on a Podium***

The flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he/she faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker (to the right of the audience).

#### ***From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium off the Podium***

Custom – not the Flag Code – holds that the flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, as part of the audience, in the position of honor at the audience's right.

### ***Used to Cover a Casket***

The American flag should be so placed on a casket that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder of the deceased. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

### ***Other Than Being Flown From a Staff***

The flag should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (that is, to the observer's left). When displayed in a window, it should be displayed in the same way (that is, with the union to the left of the observer in the street). When festoons, rosettes, or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white, and red should be used, but never the flag itself.

Read a more comprehensive set of Flag Code etiquette rules for display of the American Flag at the "Americanism" link at the **American Legion** web site **[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)**.

PL. 110-181 amended section 9, title 4, USC, to allow veterans to render the hand salute to the United States flag. The section reads: "During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart or, if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes."

### ***State Policy for Flying American Flags at Half-Staff***

State policy for displaying the United States flag at half-staff as a mark of respect for the memory of military personnel who are killed in the line of duty is found in Executive Order No. 2006-10.

As recognized under Proclamation 2003-4, the flag of the United States shall be displayed at half-staff throughout the State of Michigan on a day designated by the Governor when a member of

the Michigan National Guard or a Michigan resident servicing as a member of the United States Armed Forces is killed in the line of duty.

When an order providing for the flag to be displayed at half-staff on a statewide basis is issued, Michigan residents, businesses, schools, local governments, and other organizations also are urged to display the flag at half-staff. Half-flag announcements can be found at this website: [www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,1607,7-277-28502---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,1607,7-277-28502---,00.html).

## **Flag Disposal**

The **United States Flag Code** provides:

*"The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."*

Many veterans service organizations conduct ceremonies for the destruction of unserviceable flags by burning. Such ceremonies may be done on June 14, Flag Day, to mark the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. Some local governments may also conduct these ceremonies.

In practice, for individuals who wish to destroy a flag in poor condition, this should be done discreetly so the act of destruction is not perceived as a protest or desecration.





## Michigan Congressional Delegation – 114th Congress

### *United States Senate*

Like every state, Michigan has two Senators in the United States Senate: **Gary Peters** and **Debbie Stabenow**. You will find contact information for Senator Stabenow and Senator Peters at the Senate web site: **[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)**

Select “Senators”. Select “Michigan” from the “Find Your Senators” drop-down box and you will get the phone number and address for the Senator as well as a link to contact the Senator via the web. My United States Senators contact information:

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### *United States House of Representatives*

Michigan currently has 14 Representatives in the United States House of Representatives. This number is determined by our population and may be adjusted following each decennial census.

You may obtain contact information about our 14 United States Representatives at the House of Representatives web site: **[www.house.gov/writerep](http://www.house.gov/writerep)**

By entering your zip code, and clicking Go, you will be provided with your Representative’s name and contact information.

My United States Representative:

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## Michigan Governor and Lieutenant Governor

Contact information for the Governor may be found at: **[www.michigan.gov/gov](http://www.michigan.gov/gov)**

Contact information for the Lieutenant Governor may be found at: **[www.michigan.gov/lsgov](http://www.michigan.gov/lsgov)**

## Michigan State Senate

The Michigan State Senate is composed of 38 State Senators whose districts are apportioned by population.

You may obtain contact information for your State Senator at the State Senate web site: **[www.senate.michigan.gov](http://www.senate.michigan.gov)**

Click the “Senators” link on far right to obtain the phone number, address, and e-mail of your State Senator.

My State Senator: \_\_\_\_\_

## Michigan House of Representatives

The Michigan House of Representatives is composed of 110 State Representatives whose districts are apportioned by population.

You may obtain contact information for your State Representative at the State House of Representatives web site: **[www.house.mi.gov](http://www.house.mi.gov)**

By using the “Find a Representative” feature or the clickable map, you will obtain the phone number, address, and e-mail of your State Representative.

My State Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Letters to any of the State Senators or State Representatives may be addressed:**

The Honorable (name of senator)  
State Senator  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536

The Honorable (name of representative)  
State Representative  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514

### **Senate or House Committee**

You may wish to contact State Senators or State Representatives on the committee that is designated to review proposed legislation regarding veterans affairs. The name of this committee may change over time. You may find the current name of the committee and the members of the committee as follows.

State Senate committee page:

**[www.senate.michigan.gov/committee.html](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/committee.html)**

State House of Representatives committee page:

**[www.house.michigan.gov/mhrpublic/committee.aspx](http://www.house.michigan.gov/mhrpublic/committee.aspx)**

## ***Notes***

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*The information in this publication is available,  
upon request, in an alternative, accessible format.*

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For more information regarding the Michigan Legislature,  
scan this QR code with your smartphone.