

Kentucky State Veteran's Benefits 2017



The state of Kentucky provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- Housing Benefits
- Financial Assistance Benefits
- Employment Assistance
- Education Benefits
- Recreation Benefits
- Other Commonwealth Veteran Benefits

Veteran Housing Programs

State Veterans Long Term Care Facilities

The Commonwealth of Kentucky is committed to providing long-term care facilities for Kentucky's veterans, offering a broad range of versatile nursing care.

Each of Kentucky's four facilities has a compassionate and professional staff committed to providing thoughtful, quality care. These facilities are also fully prepared to provide care for dementia and Alzheimer residents. Additionally, each of our homes are outfitted with state of the art equipment.

Physical therapy and recreational activities are available to help our residents achieve their ultimate functioning abilities. To apply for admission refer to

<http://veterans.ky.gov/nursinghomes/Documents/Generic%20KVC%20Application%20Packet.pdf>

Eligibility criteria for admission:

- Be a veteran
- Be disabled by reason of disease, wounds, age, or otherwise is in need of nursing care
- Be a Kentucky resident as of the date of admission to a Kentucky Veteran Center
- Have a military discharge that is not of a dishonorable nature.

A person shall not be eligible for admission if the person:

- Has been diagnosed by a qualified health care professional as acutely mentally ill, as an acute alcoholic, as addicted to drugs, as continuously disruptive, or as dangerous to self or others.
- Is ventilator dependent.
- Has needs that cannot be met by the Veterans' Center

No veteran shall be denied admission based on the grounds of race, color, handicap, age, gender, religion, national origin, or HIV status. The actual charges assessed to a resident of EKVC shall not exceed the cost of care which is provided.

Eastern Kentucky Veteran Center



- 200 Veterans Dr., Hazard, KY 41701 Tel: (606) 435-6196 | 1-877-856-0004 Fax (606) 435-6201.
- Located in the beautiful mountains of Southeastern Kentucky, the Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center is a 120 bed long-term care facility providing skilled nursing care and rehabilitation for Kentucky veterans. EKVC is operated by the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs and was built for the sole purpose of taking care of Kentucky Veterans
- Amenities: Primary care physicians services, 24 hour nursing care, Physical Therapy, Pharmaceutical services, Walking Track, Library on site with computers for residents, Wireless Internet, Gift shop, Activities 7 days per week, Specialty Care Unit, and Pet Therapy.

Thomas Hood Veteran Center



- 100 Veterans Drive, Wilmore, KY 40390 Tel: 859-858-2814 | 1-800-928-4838 | Fax: 859-858-4039
- Thomson-Hood Veterans Center is a 285 bed long-term care facility that has served more than 2,782 veterans from all branches of the armed forces since admitting the first resident on August 25, 1991. Thomson-Hood is the largest facility operated by the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs. By providing skilled nursing care and rehabilitation, Thomson-Hood is dedicated to promoting and maintaining excellence in the care of Kentucky Veterans. Emphasis is placed on preserving residents' rights and helping Veterans maintain the highest possible level of independence.
- For Resident Guide refer to <http://thvc.ky.gov/ai/Pages/default.aspx>

Western Kentucky Veteran Center



- 926 Veterans Drive, Hanson, Kentucky 42413 Tel: (270) 322-9087 | (877) 662-0008 | TTY: (270) 322-9752
- Amenities. WKVC offers a wide array of important services for the convenience, comfort and well being of their veterans. These include: primary care physician on site, 24-hour nursing care, pharmacy services, physical therapy in house, gift shop, chaplain on staff, daily activities, arts and crafts, library on site, and one wing designated for dementia/Alzheimer's disease.
- Cost. Call the Financial Services Department at (270) 322-9087 regarding the cost of care.
- For Resident Guide refer to <http://veterans.ky.gov/nursinghomes/Pages/WKVC/WKVC.aspx>

Radcliff Veteran Center



Kentucky's newest 120-bed State Veteran Home located at 100 Veterans Drive, Radcliff, Kentucky 40160 (270-352-6700 TTY 270-352-6839) incorporates the Community Living Centers model. There are 4 Neighborhoods with 3 Households in each Neighborhood. Each of the 3 Households houses only 10 veterans. Each Neighborhood has a covered porch, enclosed courtyard and private entrances. The Community Center will encompass Rehabilitative Services, Administrative Staff and a Great Room for large or small functions. The Veterans Center is scheduled to be open in late Fall 2016/Early Winter 2017. If you have any questions, call 270-352-6716 and we will be happy to help you or you can contact the administrator, Israel Ray at Israel.Ray@ky.gov with any questions. the facility offers:

- All private rooms with private baths
- Only 10 veterans in one household, 3 households to a neighborhood
- Each household has an enclosed courtyard and covered porch
- Country Kitchen Dining Service, spacious activity/lounge areas

Learn more about the State Veterans Long Term Care Facilities at <http://veterans.ky.gov/nursinghomes>.

Financial Assistance Benefits

Income Tax Exemptions

Military income is not taxed. Military retirement pay is tax-exempt if retired before January 1, 1998 and partially exempt if retired after December 31, 1997.

Homeless Veterans Trust Fund

The Commonwealth of Kentucky has a Homeless Veterans Trust Fund that can help with rent or utilities to help a veteran in financial need from becoming homeless. Funds are limited and assistance is limited to once per veteran.

Veterans Loan Program

KDVA has a program to offer small sum loans to Kentucky Veterans, the loans may be up to \$10,000 and are offered at below-market interest rates.

Garnishment Protection.

If you receive Social Security or VA benefits by direct deposit, then your bank must protect 2 months' worth of benefits in your account. This means you can continue using that money. However, Social Security and SSDI can be garnished to pay government debts such as back taxes or federal student loans, and debts for child or spousal support. Some other means-tested benefits, such as SSI, are protected from garnishment – even to pay a government debt or child or spousal support.

Contact your nearest Kentucky Dept. of Veterans' Affairs Representative at <http://veterans.ky.gov> for more information.

Employment Assistance

Employment Assistance

KDVA and the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet work together to ensure that veterans are able to take full advantage of the state employment opportunities available to them. The Veterans Liaison at Personnel helps veterans to identify jobs appropriate for them and compose applications that fully explore the skills they learned in the military.

State Employment Preference Points

Kentucky offers state employment preference points for veterans, their Spouses, widows, widowers, and parents. The program provides 5 hiring preference points for honorably discharged veterans and for former members of the Kentucky National Guard. 10 points are awarded to veterans with service-connected disabilities and certain spouses of veterans with service-connected disabilities. Surviving spouses of certain war veterans and parents who were dependent on a veteran who lost his/her life under honorable conditions while on active duty are also entitled to 10 preference points. (Preference points are credited towards state employment when testing at the Personnel Cabinet in Frankfort.)

Examination - Ratings - Eligibility Lists

Veterans who have served during a wartime period are authorized an increase of 5 percentage points on any local or county civil service examination for employment.

Where Opportunity Knox

Where Opportunity Knox is Greater Louisville's goal to connect 10,000 veterans to jobs in the Greater Louisville Region by 2017. For more information go to <http://www.whereopportunityknox.com>'

Kentucky Vets tool Kit

Designed to tool Kentucky veterans to a successful long term career pathway. This tool kit will aid a veteran no matter their starting point. Whether their desire is to update their resume, effectively seek employment, or improve their workforce skills, the veteran will have the resources they need to reach their career goal! To join the database and request employment assistance - Call or email Kelli at 502-564-9203, kelli.carter@ky.gov. To check out the tool kit go to http://veterans.ky.gov/employmentinfo/Documents/KY%20VETS%20Job_Seeker_Resources_.pdf

Learn more about the State of Kentucky Veteran Employment Programs. at <http://veterans.ky.gov/employmentinfo>

Education Benefits

Tuition Waiver Program

A waiver of tuition is an education benefit provided by the Commonwealth of Kentucky in recognition of military service of certain Kentucky veterans. The tuition waiver is provided for children, stepchildren, adopted children, spouses, and unremarried widows & widowers. An approved tuition waiver means a

student may attend any two-year, four-year schools or vocational technical schools that are operated and funded by the Kentucky Department of Education.

You may qualify if one of the following is true of the veteran:

- Died on active duty.
- Died as a direct result of a service connected disability as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- 100% service connected disabled.
- Totally disabled (non-service connected) with wartime service.
- Upon the death of any veteran who served during a wartime period.

Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship Awards

Students who attend high school out-of-state while a parent or guardian is serving in the military and who maintains Kentucky as the home-of-record are qualified for Kentucky educational excellence scholarship awards.

High School Diploma Program

Kentucky's High School Diploma Program allows veterans who left school to enroll in the military and served during the World War II, Korea and Vietnam conflicts to receive an official high school diploma from their school. Since beginning in 2002, the program has proven highly popular and deeply moving for the veterans and their families. To apply: Complete the Application Form available at <http://veterans.ky.gov/otherprograms/Documents/High%20School%20Diploma%20for%20Veterans/Fillable%20High%20School%20Diploma%20Application.pdf> and send it to KDVA along with a copy (not the original) of the veteran's discharge papers that show he/she entered the service during WWII or the Korean War. These items should be sent to: Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, 1111 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601 Phone: (502) 564-9203/(800) 572-6245 FAX: (502) 564-9240.

Visit the Kentucky Dept. of Veterans' Affairs website <http://veterans.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx> for more information.

Recreation Benefits

Hunting, Trapping, or Fishing Licenses

Kentucky veterans with 50% of more service connected disability are authorized a discounted license.

Other State Veteran Benefits

Homeless Veterans Program

KDVA has partnered with Volunteers of America (VOA) to operate a drug/alcohol treatment/transitional housing program at the Lexington, Kentucky VAMC (Leestown Campus), this is a 40-bed program facility.

Women Veterans Program

The mission of the program is to ensure Kentucky's women veterans have equitable access to federal and state veterans' services and benefits. The program provides assistance to women who served in the United States Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the United States Armed Forces and who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. The Women Veterans Coordinator for the Commonwealth collaborates with federal, state, and local agencies on issues related to women veterans;

performs outreach to improve awareness of eligibility for services and benefits; assesses the needs of women veterans with respect to benefits and services; makes recommendations to the commissioner to improve benefits and services; and incorporates women veterans' issues in strategic planning concerning benefits and services.

Military Records.

Submit request form at <http://veterans.ky.gov/Documents/FillableMilitaryRecordsRequestForm.pdf>

Veteran Service Organizations

Locate via <http://veterans.ky.gov/Pages/HidPages/VSOs.aspx>

Medical Appointment Transportation

Go to <http://transportation.ky.gov/vetconnect/Pages/default.aspx> or call 1-855-838-4646 (1-855 VetGoGo) to locate free transportation to veteran medical appointments or public transportation schedules and fees.

Special Military-related License Plates

Kentucky veterans may qualify for special licenses based on their service or affiliation. For information on how to obtain plates, their cost, and the eligibility requirements for each of the below refer to <http://mvl.ky.gov/MVLWeb/PIServlet#ABC4>. The site also includes motorcycle plates.





State Veterans Cemeteries

Burial in a state veteran's cemetery is based on military service. The eligibility criteria is the same criteria for burial in VA national cemeteries. Internment applications can be downloaded at:

- <http://veterans.ky.gov/cemeteries/Documents/KVCW%20eligibility%20ap%20June%202014.pdf>.
- <http://veterans.ky.gov/cemeteries/Documents/IndigentVeteranBurialApplication.pdf>.

Services - Total interment services include:

- Furnishing grave or columbarium space
- Opening and closing the grave
- Providing the interment site with perpetual care
- Supplying a suitable marker or headstone
- Furnishing an optional concrete grave liner for all casketed burials

Burial Honors

- KDVA helps implement and assist Veterans Service Organizations with Burial Honors Programs.
- Refer to <http://veterans.ky.gov/cemeteries/Documents/Burial%20Honors/BurialHonorsContactList.pdf> for contact information to arrange for burial honors by service for Kentucky counties.
- Any Veterans Service Organization seeking a stipend for providing honors should call our Burial Honors Program Coordinator at (888) 724-7683. To obtain a Stipend Request Form go to

<http://veterans.ky.gov/cemeteries/Documents/Burial%20Honors/BurialHonorsStipendrequestJan2012.pdf>.

- Certification of Veterans Service Organizations performing Burial Honors by the National Guard, Ft. Knox or Ft. Campbell has been suspended as a result of operational requirements brought about by current world events.

Cemetery Locations

- Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West, 5817 Fort Campbell Boulevard, Hopkinsville, KY 42240
Tel: 270-889-6106 | Fax: 270-889-6109 | Email: kdva.kvcw@ky.gov
- Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, 2501 North Dixie Boulevard, Radcliff, KY 40160
Tel: 270-351-5115 | Fax: 270-351-5445 | Email: kdva.kvcc@ky.gov
- Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North, 205 Eibeck Lane, Williamstown, KY 41097
Tel: 859-823-0720 | Fax: 859-824-0324 | Email: kdva.kvcn@ky.gov
- Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Northeast, 100 Veterans Memorial Drive, Greenup County, Kentucky 41143
Tel: 606-929-5354 | Fax: 606-929-5347 | Email: kdva.kvcne@ky.gov
- Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East, Leslie County (Planned construction beginning in 2016 on about 40 acres on Kentucky Highway 118 just north of Hyden.)

Visit the Kentucky Dept. of Veterans' Affairs website <http://veterans.ky.gov> for more information or contact them at KDVA Headquarters, 1111B Louisville Rd, Frankfort, KY 40601
Tel: (502) 564-9203 | (800) 572-6245 | Fax: (502) 564-9240

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/kentucky-state-veterans-benefits> | June 2017
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Military Discounts in Kentucky

1. MVDC has a list of close to 3,500 locations in Kentucky that have discounts for military personnel or veterans. Similar to businesses, the state of Illinois provides discounts for its veterans and military population. If you are looking for business discounts, use the search tool at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/kentucky.html>

2. **Veterans Designation on driver's license:** Yes

3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes**

- \$20 tax credits for members of the National Guard
- Military retirement pay is partially exempt from state income tax.
- State income tax exemption of all income sources for members of the active and reserve component killed in line of duty, for the year during and the year prior.
- State income tax exemption on all military pay when filing a Kentucky individual tax return.
- Veterans' personal loan program, up to \$10,000 and 10 years.

4. **Education Discounts**

- State tuition Assistance - Kentucky State Tuition assistance pays 100% of tuition for state supported public institutions up to 12 hours. Kentucky State tuition assistance also pays tuition for KHEAA approved private colleges at a capped rate.
- State tuition waiver for dependents of a veteran who died while serving on active duty.
- State tuition waiver for dependents of a disabled veteran.

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/kentucky.html> | June 2017 ++]