

# Michigan State Veteran's Benefits

August 2021



The State of Michigan as of Dec. 31, 2020 per Defense Manpower Data Center contained a Military community that consisted of the following residents

- 3,821 active-duty service members
- 2,212 active-duty spouses
- 4,468 active-duty children
- 22,260 National Guard and reserve members
- 9,926 National Guard and reserve spouses
- 15,091 National Guard and reserve children

The number of military veterans in Michigan grew for the first time in over a decade last year, while the amount of federal disability benefits paid to the state's veterans also increased significantly, according to an annual report from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Michigan's veteran population increased by 15,507 -- to 567,919 in fiscal year 2020 (FY20) from 552,412 the previous fiscal year. That 2.8% increase topped the national increase of 1.8% and reverses the state's yearly skid of declining veteran population that dates back to at least 2010, when Michigan had more than 703,000 veterans.

Zaneta Adams, Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA), said the latest report suggests Michigan is improving in its efforts to reach veterans in their communities and to get them connected to the benefits and resources they earned for their service. As the state's coordinating agency for veterans and their families, the MVAA is available 24/7 through its 1-800-MICH-VET hotline and at [michiganveterans.com](http://michiganveterans.com).

"This latest GDX report is promising on several fronts," Adams said. "Michigan continues to see an increase in overall federal expenditures to our veterans and their families. We also experienced a significant rise in compensation and pension benefits to our veterans, as well as

the first increase in our veteran population in years. That points to the fact that our messaging is being received and veterans in Michigan, who weren't previously connected with VA, are making that connection and starting to receive the benefits they've earned."

One key to getting more Michigan veterans connected to benefits is to first get them to identify as veterans. Adams said the MVAA has made significant strides in reaching former service members who may not identify as veterans, including women veterans through its "[She is A Veteran](#)" campaign, as well as tribal veterans and peacetime veterans. Overall, Michigan has the 11th largest veteran population in the nation. According to the latest GDX report:

- Overall, the VA spent \$4.88 billion in Michigan in FY20, up from \$4.53 billion the previous fiscal year. That equated to \$8,592 per veteran, on average, in Michigan - the eighth straight year that figure has increased. Michigan's rank among the 53 states and territories improved to 49th in FY20 from 50th the year before.
- Michigan received \$4,406 per veteran, on average, for compensation and pension benefits in FY20, a 3.2% increase from the previous year. Michigan's ranking in this key category improved to 36th, up two spots from 38th in FY19.
- VA tracks the funding it sends to states for construction and infrastructure projects such as improvements to state-run veteran homes and cemeteries. Michigan received \$46 per veteran, on average, for construction expenditures. This is a drop from \$55 per veteran in FY19, but still higher than any other fiscal year in the past 10 years. Michigan ranked 23rd among the 53 states and territories in FY20.
- Education benefits (including the G.I. Bill) and vocational rehabilitation are combined into one category. Michigan received an average of \$352 per veteran in education and voc-rehab in FY20. This was a decrease from \$405 per veteran in FY19 and dropped Michigan from 46th to 49th among the states and territories. However, when compared to its peer states, Michigan ranked higher than Wisconsin (50th) and Indiana (53rd), while Ohio was 47th and Illinois was 39th.

Michigan's VA include 9 full service medical facilities, 28 community based Outpatient Clinics, ~80 Veteran Service Offices (refer to), 2 Veteran Homes, and 2 available Veteran Cemeteries for veteran utilization. Field Benefit Representatives certified in filing claims and appeals, as well as, VA healthcare applications, are available free of charge throughout the state. They are and can assist to help make your transition as smooth as possible to civilian life and state residency. You can find their locations by clicking on:

- <https://www.michiganveterans.com/find-benefits-counselor>
- <https://www.michiganveterans.com/p/VA-Health-Care-System-In-Michigan>
- <https://www.michigan.gov/mvh>

The state of Michigan provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each in the following categories:

- Housing
- Financial Assistance
- Employment
- Education
- Recreation
- Driver and Vehicle Licensing
- Burial
- Taxation
- Women Veterans
- Homeless Vet Programs
- Other

### **Housing**

There are 2 Michigan State Veterans Homes, the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette, and the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. There is also the Southeast Michigan Veterans Home under construction. To monitor its progress go to <https://www.michiganveterans.com/p/State-Veterans-Homes-Construction>. Email [MI-VeteransHomes@michigan.gov](mailto:MI-VeteransHomes@michigan.gov) if you are interested in the new veterans homes or have questions.

All members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been honorably discharged, served more than 90 days on active duty (more than 24 months if entering service after October 16, 1981), and served after December 7, 1941 may apply for admission to these homes. Michigan residency is not required, and spouses or surviving spouses may be admitted if space is available. Fees are income based. Both the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans are State of Michigan facilities operated by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency.

The homes' Board of Managers annually determines the cost of care based on operational costs. The amount of individual assessments for care can range from zero to the full cost of care. Factors considered in the assessment of care are assets, income, marital status and dependent expenses. Those residents unable to pay the maximum amounts will be assessed according to their individual circumstances. All residents with the ability to pay the full cost of care are expected to do so. If paying the full cost of care, the monthly amount due will fluctuate based upon the number of days included within each month. Care at the homes is primarily not paid for by Medicare or other health insurance. There are a limited number of beds that are CMS certified. Long-term care insurance may reimburse the resident for the cost of assessment. It is the responsibility of the applicant to consult with their insurance agent prior to admission. The

cost to individual members is determined by a monthly assessment based on each member's ability to pay. The monthly cost of care rates as of 1 JSN 2019 for each home is:

- Vets: Domiciliary Care \$2,631 month | Nursing Care \$175.88a day
- Non-Veterans Domiciliary Care \$4210 month | Nursing Care \$291.5 a day.

The D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans is located in Marquette. The Home provides two levels of care - domiciliary and nursing. In addition, other services, such as spiritual, medical, social, recreational and educational are provided. All services are supported from individual members, Federal subsidies and appropriations by the State of Michigan. Refer to <https://www.michiganveterans.com/p/D-J-Jacobetti-Home-for-Veterans> for more info on the home.

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is located on 90 acres of land adjacent to the Grand River in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Home offers veterans a wooded area with a pond formed along Lamberton Creek, an amphitheater, nature trail, picnic pavilion and extensive picnic areas for residents. The buildings and grounds are groomed and maintained by an experienced and dedicated staff. Grounds beautification and building remodeling projects are continuously underway. GRHV has capacity for 450 nursing care beds and more than 100 domiciliary beds. The nursing care beds include 115 special needs beds, with two 35-bed nursing units for the care of Alzheimer's and dementia patients and one 45-bed nursing unit for dual diagnoses patients. Refer to <https://www.michiganveterans.com/p/Grand-Rapids-Home-for-Veterans> for more info on the home.



**D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans**  
425 Fisher St. Marquette, MI 49855  
Tel: 800-433-6760 | 906-226-3576



**Grand Rapids Home for Veterans**  
3000 Monroe Ave. N.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
Tel: 844-711-7986 | 616-364-5389

For additional information policies, available services, and application procedures for each home refer to:

- D.J. Jacobetti Home: [http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2362\\_2763---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2362_2763---,00.html)
- The Grand Rapids Home: [http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362\\_2749---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362_2749---,00.html)

## Veterans' Facility Ombudsman

An ombudsman has been established within the Michigan Legislature by PA 198 of 2016. The Veterans' Facility Ombudsman will investigate complaints and concerns brought by residents of the veterans homes or their family members. To file a complaint or to learn more about how the ombudsman can be of assistance email [MVFO@legislature.mi.gov](mailto:MVFO@legislature.mi.gov), call 1-517-373-1347 refer to <http://council.legislature.mi.gov/VeteranOmbudsman/mvfo>.

## **Financial Assistance**

### **Income Tax**

Military pay is not taxed. Military retirement benefits in Michigan may be tax-free depending on your age, filing status, other pensions, and income from other sources.

### **Property Tax Waiver**

100 percent disabled veterans (and those rated 100 percent due to individual unemployability) may be exempt from paying taxes on their home. The veteran must have an other-than-dishonorable discharge and be a Michigan resident. Unremarried surviving spouses are also eligible.

### **Vehicle Registration**

100 percent permanently and totally disabled veterans may be eligible to register one vehicle with a disabled veteran plate for free, there is a \$5 administrative fee when the plate is first issued.

### **Emergency Assistance**

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency offers emergency assistance to those having temporary financial issues who require assistance with utility bills, vehicle or home repairs, medical bills or other debts. There are many resources available including county Soldier & Sailor Relief Funds, the Michigan Veteran Trust Fund (below), and the National Guard Family Program.

### **Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF)**

The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) is a program used when an unforeseen situation has caused a temporary financial emergency or hardship that a grant, if approved, would resolve and the applicant can show that they will be able to meet future expenses. Eligibility requirements are:

- Honorable Discharge
- 180 days during a period of war
- 180 days of active duty with award of Armed - Forces/Navy Expeditionary Medal
- Less than 180 days of wartime service due to service-incurred disability

**Note:** Dependents can apply if veteran is eligible under certain circumstances

The MVTF Main Office can be reached at 517-284-5299 or by mail to P.O. Box 30104 Lansing, MI 48909. Applicants must apply in county where they reside. They should call and

make appointment and insure they bring all required documents and information to complete the application. This includes:

- Military discharge document (DD214 or other)
- Proof of Residence
- Documents for Dependents
- Proof of Income and Expenses
- Other documents depending on types of assistance

### **Home Heating Credit**

This 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 may be eligible for an increased credit. Applications for the Home Heating Credit are accepted from mid to late January through September 30 of each year.

### **Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit**

This is available if the homestead is located in Michigan, the owner was a Michigan resident for at least six months during the tax year, and the owner pays property taxes or rents a house or apartment in the state. Taxpayers are not eligible for this tax credit if their household income is more than \$60,000 or the taxable 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. Call 1-517-636-4486 or 1-517-373-320, Tax forms MI-1040CR-2 or MI-1040CR can be found online at [www.michigan.gov/treasury](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury).

### **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 online at [www.michiganveterans.com/find-benefits-counselor](http://www.michiganveterans.com/find-benefits-counselor) or call 1-800-642-4838. You may also consult your local phone book for county government. Usually this is handled by the office of Veteran Affairs

For additional information refer to [http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362\\_66822---.00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362_66822---.00.html).

## **Employment**

### *State of Michigan Programs in Addition to Federal Ones*

#### **MVAA Veteran-Friendly Employer Program**



The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency created the Veteran-Friendly Employer Certification Program to assist employers in attracting veteran talent to their workplaces . These employers at [www.michiganveterans.com/p/Certified-Veteran-Friendly-Employers](http://www.michiganveterans.com/p/Certified-Veteran-Friendly-Employers) have all committed to creating a veteran-friendly culture, have set

### **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 website [www.mitalent.org](http://www.mitalent.org). For Customer Service Center call 1-888-522-0103.

### **Occupational Licensing**

Several state statutes have been 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. Refer to [www.Michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-10573\\_95401\\_95403\\_95404---,00.html](http://www.Michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-10573_95401_95403_95404---,00.html).

### **Workforce Development Agency**

The Workforce Development Agency's Veterans Employment Services 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 1-800-285-WORK (9675) or refer to [www.michiganworks.org](http://www.michiganworks.org).

### **Unemployment Compensation**

Veterans who do not begin civilian employment immediately after leaving military service may be eligible to 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 . To file your new unemployment claim or to reopen an established claim through the internet, see below .

- *How to File Your Claim* – Online at [www.michigan.gov/uia](http://www.michigan.gov/uia). To file your new claim by phone 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 .
- *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

### **Reemployment Rights for Veterans**

In 2002, the Michigan Legislature strengthened the Michigan law regarding reemployment of employees after military service (MCL 32 .273) . The act prioritizes the employment positions in which a person would be reemployed 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 reemployment under the law . State reemployment rights, when enhanced or in addition to federal rights, are not superseded or diminished by federal law . For more information, call the Veterans' Hotline at 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. Refer to the following for information on Michigan jobs:

- <http://www.uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes>
- <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/michigan/default.cfm>

### **Michigan Rehabilitation Services**

Veterans with disabilities should also look into the State of Michigan Rehabilitation Services program administered by the Michigan Department of Health and 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. Call 1-800-605-6722 TTY: Dial 711 and provide toll-free number or refer to [www.michigan.gov/mrs](http://www.michigan.gov/mrs).

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

Service-disabled veteran business owners may be eligible for up to 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 1-517-388-6012

### **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

Note: Members separated due to physical disability after January 8, 2002 must register within four 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. Contact Troops to Teachers 1-517-241-7045 or 1-866-801-0007 or refer to [www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5683\\_14795\\_83462-36797--,00.htm](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-5683_14795_83462-36797--,00.htm).

## **Education**

### *State of Michigan Education and Training Programs in addition to Federal ones*

#### **MVAA Veteran-Friendly School Program**

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Veteran-Friendly School Program recognizes academic institutions of higher learning who are committed to supporting the needs of student veterans and their dependents. These institutions offer veteran-specific services such as career advising, on-campus veteran coordinators, evaluation of military training and experience with possible award of credit, and others. A full list of participating institutions can be found on the website. [www.michiganveterans.com/p/Michigan-s-Veteran-Friendly-Schools](http://www.michiganveterans.com/p/Michigan-s-Veteran-Friendly-Schools).

#### **Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program**

Public Act 259 of 2014 established the Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program (MINGSTAP) to provide tuition assistance to members of the Michigan National Guard who are attending any public or private college, university, vocational school, technical school or trade school located in Michigan. Qualifying members of the Guard can receive up to \$600 per credit hour or \$6,000 per year for tuition and fees combined. Send an email to [MINGSTAP@michigan.gov](mailto:MINGSTAP@michigan.gov) or call 517-481-7640

### **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. 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, Cadillac Place, 3054 W. Grand Boulevard, Suite 3-600, Detroit, MI 48202 or email: [DODDBHH@michigan.gov](mailto:DODDBHH@michigan.gov) or call VP: 313-437-7035 Toll-Free Voice/TTY: 313-437-7035 Fax: 313-456-3721

### **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 a Michigan resident 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. Go to [www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid](http://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid), Select students and families and then MI student aid programs [www.michigan.gov/documents/mistudentaid/CVTGFactSheet2016-17\\_532792\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mistudentaid/CVTGFactSheet2016-17_532792_7.pdf) or call 1-888-447-2687

## **Veterans Recreation**

### **Hunting and Fishing Privileges**

Michigan residents who are currently in federal active duty status may obtain hunting and fishing licenses, for which a lottery is not required, free of charge. Non-residents who are in federal active duty status and currently stationed in Michigan are eligible to receive resident pricing on hunting and fishing licenses.

### **Resident Veterans with Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Privilege**

Permanently & totally disabled veterans can get any resident hunting or fishing license for which a lottery is not required, free of charge.

### **State Parks**

100 percent permanently and totally disabled veterans get free entry into Michigan state parks.

## **Burial**

### *State of Michigan Benefits in addition to Federal ones*

#### **Michigan Veteran Cemeteries**

The Federal government has two national cemeteries in Michigan which are open for burials:

- Fort Custer National Cemetery, 15501 Dickman Road, Augusta, MI 49012 Tel: 269-731-4164 Fax: 269-731-2428



<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftcuster.asp>

- Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Road, Holly, MI 48442 Tel: 248-328-0386 or 1-866-348-8603 Fax: 248-328-0612



<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/greatlakes.asp>

There are two state cemeteries that are closed to burials located at:

- Fort Mackinac Post Cemetery, Mackinac State Park, Mackinac Island, MI 49757 Phone: 248-328-0386 FAX: 248-328-0612
- Lakeside Cemetery Soldiers' Lot, 3781 Gratiot Street, Port Huron, MI 48060 Phone: 248-328-0386 FAX: 248-328-0612

### **Michigan 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.


## **Driver and Vehicle Licensing**


### **Veteran License Plates**


The Department of State offers veteran and military service plates for motorcycles and other passenger vehicles. Plates are available in two options; a plain white background or the Spectacular Peninsulas plate background. Trailers and vehicles used commercially are not eligible for these specialty plates. The fee for the standard design is \$5. The Spectacular Peninsulas design is \$10. If purchasing an original plate or replacing an existing plate when renewing, other registration fees may apply. Veteran plates can also be personalized for an additional fee.


A Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty form (DD-214) must be presented when applying for certain veteran license plates. Visit the Secretary of State website [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-96435\\_1595\\_1598---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-96435_1595_1598---,00.html) for a full listing of plates and requirements. Veterans interested in obtaining one of the veteran license plates may apply at their local Secretary of State office by submitting a completed Application for Veteran License Plate at [https://www.michigan.gov/documents/bdvr-87\\_16253\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/bdvr-87_16253_7.pdf). All plate can be personalized for an additional \$30 fee.


## Veteran/Military Service Plates


-  A white Michigan license plate with "PURE MICHIGAN" at the top, "AFGHANISTAN" on the left, "SAMPL" in large blue letters in the center, and "VETERAN" at the bottom.


[Afghanistan Conflict Veteran](#)
-  A white Michigan license plate with "PURE MICHIGAN" at the top, "AFGHANISTAN" on the left, a campaign medal icon on the left, "SAMPL" in large blue letters in the center, and "VETERAN" at the bottom.


[Afghanistan Campaign Medal Veteran](#)
-  A white Michigan license plate with "PURE MICHIGAN" at the top, the Air Force emblem on the left, "SAMPL" in large blue letters in the center, and "VETERAN" at the bottom.


[Air Force Veteran](#)
-  A white Michigan license plate with "PURE MICHIGAN" at the top, the Army emblem on the left, "SAMPL" in large blue letters in the center, and "VETERAN" at the bottom.


[Army Veteran](#)
-  A white Michigan license plate with "PURE MICHIGAN" at the top, the Coast Guard emblem on the left, "SAMPL" in large blue letters in the center, and "VETERAN" at the bottom.

[Coast Guard Veteran](#)
-  A white Michigan license plate with "PURE MICHIGAN" at the top, the Purple Heart emblem on the left, "SAMPL" in large blue letters in the center, and "COMBAT WOUNDED VETERAN" at the bottom.

[Combat Wounded Veteran \(Purple Heart\)](#)
-  A white Michigan license plate with "PURE MICHIGAN" at the top, "CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS" on the left, "SAMPL" in large blue letters in the center, and "VETERAN" at the bottom.

[Cuban Missile Crisis](#)
-  A white Michigan license plate with "PURE MICHIGAN" at the top, "D V" on the left, "DVOOOA" in large blue letters in the center, and "DISABLED VETERAN" at the bottom.

[Disabled Veteran](#)
-  A white Michigan license plate with "PURE MICHIGAN" at the top, "DOMINICAN REPUBLIC" on the left, "SAMPL" in large blue letters in the center, and "VETERAN" at the bottom.

[Dominican Republic Veteran](#)
-  A white Michigan license plate with "PURE MICHIGAN" at the top, "EX POW" on the left, "SAMPL" in large blue letters in the center, and "EX-PRISONER OF WAR" at the bottom.

[Ex-Prisoner of War \(Ex-POW\)](#)





-  [Gold Star Family Plate](#)
-  [Grenada Conflict Veteran](#)
-  [Iraq Conflict Veteran](#)
-  [Iraq Campaign Medal Veteran](#)
-  [Korean War Veteran](#)
-  [Laos Conflict Veteran](#)
-  [Lebanon Conflict Veteran](#)
-  [Marine Corps Veteran](#)
- [Medal of Honor](#)
-  [Military Reserve Member](#)
-  [National Guard Member](#)



-  [Navy Veteran](#)
-  [Panama Conflict Veteran](#)
-  [Pearl Harbor Survivor](#)
-  [Persian Gulf \(Desert Storm\) Veteran](#)
-  [Somalia Conflict Veteran](#)
-  [Vietnam War Veteran](#)
-  [Vietnam Service Medal Veteran](#)
-  [World War II Veteran](#)

## Veteran/Military Service Motorcycle Plates

-  [Air Force Veteran](#)
-  [Army Veteran](#)

-  [Coast Guard Veteran](#)
-  [Marine Corps Veteran](#)
-  [National Guard Member](#)
- 



All of the Veteran Plates are also available in a Spectacular Peninsula version.

### Veteran Driver's License Designation

Military veterans who served in any branch of the U.S. armed forces and have an honorable or under honorable conditions (general) discharge may have a veteran designation printed on their Michigan driver's license or state identification card. The word "Veteran" will be printed in red on the front of the card.



The veteran designation gives veterans an easy and optional way to prove their veteran status to receive discounts from businesses. Eligible veterans may get the designation by submitting a veteran designation application

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/SOS\\_Veteran\\_designation\\_application\\_452112\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/SOS_Veteran_designation_application_452112_7.pdf)

at any Secretary of State office or when renewing through the mail. The designation is available when applying for an original or renewal Michigan license or ID at no additional charge. If added at another time, correction fees will apply as indicated at <https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127--75447--,00.html>. For more information, visit the [Secretary of State website](#).

## Taxes

### **Sales Tax**

- Statewide: 6.0%
- Counties cannot levy an additional sales tax.
- Common Exceptions at State Level:
  - Prescription Medicine: Exempt
  - Unprepared Foods: Exempt
  - Residential heating fuel and electricity: 4%
- Gasoline Tax: 60.38 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local, and federal taxes)
- Diesel Fuel Tax: 67.58 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local, and federal taxes)
- Cigarette Tax: \$2.00/pack of 20

### **Personal Income Tax**

- Personal Income Tax Rate Range: 4.25%.
- Standard deduction: None
- Personal Exemption Allowance: \$4,800. Dependent Exemption: \$4,800. Disabled Veterans: Additional \$400
- Itemized Deductions Allowed? No
- Retirement Income
  - Social Security: Exempt
  - IRAs: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates unless a Michigan retirement plan\*
  - 401Ks/Defined contribution employer retirement plans: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*
  - Private pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*
  - Public Pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*
- Military Pay
  - Active Duty Pay: Exempt
  - Military Retirement Pay: Exempt
  - Military Disability Pay: Exempt
  - VA Disability Dependency & Indemnity Compensation Benefits: Exempt
  - SBP/SSBP/RCSBP/RSFPP: Michigan will not tax military survivor benefits that are exempt from federal income tax and are not included in federal adjusted gross income. Survivor benefits that

are classified as military compensation or military retirement pay may be deducted to the extent they are included in federal adjusted gross income for the surviving spouse only. Military retirement benefits must be reported on the Schedule W even if no Michigan tax was withheld. ([Source](#))

### **Property Tax**

- Statewide property tax: \$6 per \$1,000 of assessed value
- Local municipalities average 1.54% of the property's assessed value.
- Calculation of assessed value: 100% of fair market value
- Relief programs for:
  - Owner-occupied: Property tax credit of up to \$1,500 if meet income and property value requirements. Cannot increase more than 5% or the CPI per year, whichever is lower.
  - Disabled Veterans: 100% tax credit available if 100% service-connected disability
- Personal Property Tax: Yes. Rates and exemptions vary.
- Deferral programs are also available.

**Inheritance & Estate Taxes:** None

**Department of Revenue website:** [www.michigan.gov/treasury](http://www.michigan.gov/treasury)

## **Women Veterans**

### **Women Veterans Program Manager**

Each VA Medical Center has a Women Veterans Program Manager available to assist and coordinate services for women veterans. They are a great resource for understanding what kind of services you may eligible for at the VA. Find your VA Medical Center and ask for the [Women Veterans Program Manager](#).



### **Military Sexual Trauma**

If a veteran has experienced sexual trauma while serving in the military, they may be eligible to receive care even if: they are not service connected, did not report the incident(s) when it occurred, or whether they have submitted a disability claim to receive care. Find your military sexual trauma coordinator in Michigan and get started with the healing process.

### **Military Sexual Trauma Coordinators**

[Ann Arbor VA](#)

[Battle Creek VA](#)

[Detroit VA](#)

[Saginaw VA](#)

[Iron Mountain VA](#)

[Beyond MST mobile app](#)

### **Connect with Us**

- To be connected to resources or the Women Veterans Coordinator call 1-800-MICH-VET

Women Veterans Call Center- Monday through Friday 8am to 10 pm EST. A trained VA woman staff member will answer the call and assess the veteran or family members' needs.

- Call or text 855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636)
- Chat online at [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov)

Both call and chat are anonymous

## **Homeless Vet Programs**

### **The Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)**

The HCHV program serves as the hub for a myriad of housing and other services that provide VA with a way to reach and assist homeless veterans by offering them entry to VA care. Outreach is the core of the HCHV program . The central goal is to reduce homelessness among veterans by conducting outreach to those who are the most vulnerable and not currently receiving services and engaging them in treatment and rehabilitative programs .

The Contract Residential Treatment program, a part of the HCHV program, places veterans with serious mental health diagnoses into quality, community-based, supportive housing .TheVA also uses Stand Down events to reach 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 . HCHV contacts:

- Ann Arbor VA Medical Center 1-734-845-5058
- Battle Creek VA Medical Center 1-269-966-5600, ext. 31648
- Detroit VA Medical Center 1-313-576-1000, ext. 64249
- Marquette Clinic 1-906-226-4618
- Saginaw VA Medical Center 1-989-497-2500, ext. 11686 .
- The National Call Center for

### **Homeless Veterans (NCCHV)**

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 connects 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)**

The 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 Veteran Families 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 . Several Michigan organizations have received funding to assist Michigan veterans . For assistance call 1-877-4-AID-VET .

### **Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)**

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 Work (TW)**

The TW program provides a therapeutic residential setting for veterans involved in CWT. TW provides a bridge between hospitalization or intensive outpatient treatment and successful reintegration. Five centers in Michigan have CWT programs (Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Detroit, Iron Mountain, and Saginaw) . Battle Creek also has a TW program . Veterans should call the medical center near them for additional information on CWT or TW.



## **The Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV)**

The HCRV program offers outreach, referrals and short-term case management assistance for incarcerated veterans who may be at risk for homelessness upon their release. Refer to [www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp).

## **Michigan Programs for Homeless Veterans**

- *Homeless Shelter* - If you are in immediate need of shelter, 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 .
- *Volunteers of America* - VOA is the largest contract provider of veterans services in Mid-Michigan . 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 .Volunteers of America Michigan offers additional services for veterans statewide. Call 1-877-509-8387 or refer to [www.voami.org/veterans](http://www.voami.org/veterans).
- *Michigan Volunteers of America* - Michigan Housing Department, 21415 Civic Center Drive, Suite 306 , Southfield, MI 48076 Phone: 1-248-945-0101
- *Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness*, 15851 S . Old US-27, Building 30, Suite 315 Lansing, MI 48906 Phone: 1-517-485-6536 Fax: 1-517-485-6682 [www.mihomeless.org](http://www.mihomeless.org)'

## **Other**

### **Michigan Veterans' Benefits and Services Handbook**

At <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/Publications/VeteransBenefits.pdf> is a handbook that has been compiled especially for veterans and their families to fulfill three important purposes:

- To provide information concerning veterans benefits and service available through federal, state, and local agencies;
- To provide veterans and their families with links to direct sources, both computer-based and professional, knowledgeable counselors, for answers to specific questions; and
- To assist veterans in communicating more effectively with their elected representatives.

### **Veterans Treatment Court**

Michigan's Veterans Treatment Courts 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 health care 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. Twenty-one district and six circuit courts have established veterans treatment courts as allowed by law

### **Requesting A DD-214**

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs maintains copies of DD Forms 214, Release from Active Duty, for persons who served on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces and who requested a copy of their DD Form 214 be forwarded to the State of Michigan. Veterans or their next of kin with proof of death of the veteran such as a copy of death certificate, letter from funeral home or published obituary can request DD-214 military service records free of charge through MVAA. The online DD-214 Request Format available at <https://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/0,9878,7-414-104927-551403--,00.html> needs to be completed, signed and submitted to MVAA. Send the request to: Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Attn: Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, P.O. Box 30104, Lansing, MI 48909 Tel: Phone: 800621-4838 | Fax: 517-284-5297

Another source to obtain a DD-214 copy is the SF-180 form at <https://www.michiganveterans.com/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=00Pt000000V21DcEAJ> which can be downloaded and either emailed to [MVAAResourceCenter@michigan.gov](mailto:MVAAResourceCenter@michigan.gov) or faxed to 517-284-5297.

*Requesting an Expedited DD-214.* For urgent DD-214 requests (e.g. upcoming surgery, funeral, etc.) or to request an expedited DD-214 after hours or on holidays, visit the [National Archives website](#) or call 314-801-0800. Requests may be made using [eVetRecs](#) or by downloading the [Standard Form 180 \(SF-180\) to Request Military Records](#). The nature of the emergency must be provided in the "purpose" section of the SF-180 which can be faxed to 314-801-0764.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs maintains copies of DD Forms 214, Release from Active Duty, for persons who served on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces and who requested a copy of their DD Form 214 be forwarded to the State of Michigan. The individual (or next of kin for deceased veterans) may request a copy using the DD-214 Request form at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/DD-214\\_Request\\_480135\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/DD-214_Request_480135_7.pdf). The next of kin must attach a copy of the veteran's death certificate with the request. Send the request to: Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Attn: Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, P.O. Box 30104, Lansing, MI 48909 Tel: Phone: 800621-4838 | Fax: 517-284-5297

Both the Michigan Army and Air National Guard have current military records of their members on file at State Headquarters. Current members should request their records through their unit or command. Retired members can request their records by contacting the Army National Guard at 517-481-8331 or the Air National Guard at 517-481-8277.

**State Archives of Michigan** has records of members of the Michigan State Troops, including rosters, lineage of units, and records of individuals for World War I and before. State the service member's name and the war in which the individual served and send your request to: State Archives of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48915 Tel: 517-373-3559

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Visit the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs website <http://www.michigan.gov/dmva> and <https://www.michiganveterans.com> for more information on any of the above programs. For additional info on federal veteran benefits you can also refer to Military.com's <https://www.military.com/topics/veteran-benefits> and you may want to check out <https://www.moaa.org/content/state-report-card/statereportcard> for current issues affecting veterans residing in Michigan. If emergency assistance is needed call the 24 Hour Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 and Press 1.

[Source: <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/michigan-state-veterans-benefits.html> | August 2021 ++]