

Minnesota State Veteran's Benefits

September 2021



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

- 1,473 active-duty service members
- 858 active-duty spouses
- 1,730 active-duty children
- 22,281 National Guard and reserve members
- 10,031 National Guard and reserve spouses
- 16,219 National Guard and reserve children

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs runs Minnesota's current five state Veterans Homes and assists Minnesota's 370,000 Veterans and their dependents to obtain the benefits and services provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The primary source of contact for all county benefits and services are the 120 specially trained and certified Veterans Advocates County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) and their assistants. CVSO's are located in each of Minnesota's counties and can be contacted by calling 1-888 LinkVet (546-5838) or through the website www.macvso.org. At <https://mn.gov/mdva/about/tribalvso.jsp> is a list of Tribal Veteran Service Officers (TVSOs) and their contact numbers. The Minnesota Association of County Veterans Service Officers (MACVSO) has subdivided the 87 MN County Officers into 9 regional groupings called districts. Each district comprises of a representative to the MACVSO Executive Board to advise on regional issues. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office is located in the Veterans Service Building in St. Paul, Minn.

The state provides several veteran benefits in the below categories which are covered more in depth in this addendum's following sections:

- Housing
- Healthcare

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

Housing

Minnesota Veterans' Homes

Minnesota Veterans' Homes are located in Fergus Falls, Hastings, Luverne, Minneapolis and Silver Bay. There is also an Adult Day Center located in the Minneapolis Veterans' Home. The Adult Day Center provides a broad array of therapeutic health care services – delivered by trained, highly dedicated professionals. It is a Veteran-based community that allows participants to connect with other Veterans in a safe, comfortable environment. The Adult Day Center allows participants to achieve the highest attainable level of physical, mental and social well-being – with the independence of living at home. It also provides much-needed respite – and a full array of support services – for Veterans' caregivers.

Admission to Minnesota Veterans Homes is available to honorably discharged veterans who entered service from Minnesota, or are current residents, who served 181 consecutive days on active duty, unless discharged earlier because of disability incurred in the line of duty. The spouse of an eligible Veteran who is at least 55 years old and meets residency requirements. The applicant must also be able to demonstrate a medical or clinical need for admission. Residents contribute to the cost of their care according to their means. Applications can be downloaded at https://mn.gov/mdva/assets/2021-07-09-admissions-application_tcm1066-491824.pdf. You might want to view the Admission video at <https://youtu.be/XTFkw9TUp5c>.

Fergus Falls Home



821 North Park Street Fergus Falls, MN 56537 (218) 736-0400 1-877-VET HMFF (1-877-838-4633)

Set among the rolling hills and blue lakes of Northwest Minnesota is an award-winning, caring home for Veterans and their spouses. Residents here enjoy the look and feel of a small-town community, complete with an inn and specialized shops and services. Each residence includes a living room and activity area – with personalized double and single rooms. Dining spaces provide a warm and cozy environment for delicious home-cooked meals. The casual elegance of our public areas invites community, conversation and connection. Every day – as you pass our Walk of Honor – you’re reminded of our nation’s gratitude for our Veterans and their service.

Fergus Falls offers everything to meet your physical, social and spiritual needs: • Skilled Nursing Care • Veterans Village – Providing Innovative, Specialized Dementia Care • Medical Service with 24-hour Nursing Care • Social Services • Individualized Recreational Services with over 200 Outings per year • Rehabilitation Services, including Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy • Mental/Behavioral Health Service • In House VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic • Dedicated Chapel with Chaplain and Spiritual Care Service • Beautiful Dining Spaces with Individualized Nutritional Services • Pharmaceutical Service • Medical Transportation Service Locally and to Fargo, ND • Barber and Beauty Services • End of Life Care with Family Hospice Suite • Multiple Daily Activities

At https://mn.gov/mdva/assets/2019-10-17-fergus-falls-brochure_tcm1066-407206.pdf you can check out their brochure. For more information refer to www.mvh.state.mn.us.

Hastings Home



1200 East 18th Street Hastings, Minnesota 55033 (651) 539-2400 1-877-VET-3803 (1-877-838-3803)

The mission of the Minnesota Veterans Homes is “serving those who have served” by providing quality health care in an environment of trust, dignity and sharing. The Minnesota Veterans Home – Hastings, is committed to providing a full continuum of high quality care and service focusing on rehabilitation, reintegration into the community, and supportive care for optimal enrichment of their Residents’ lives. Their care is enhanced by the natural beauty of the facility’s surroundings. They are located in Hastings – a tranquil, cozy community just minutes from the Twin Cities. Their beautiful 128-acre wooded campus includes nature trails, a biking path, an outdoor pavilion, a heated screened porch for year-round use, a horseshoe pit and much more. The campus has 179 domiciliary beds in private and semi-private rooms.

Hasting’s Residents enjoy an assortment of services designed to meet their individual needs, including: • Nursing staff on-site 24 hours a day to provide individualized care • Physicians and Nurse Practitioners on-site • Medication management • Meal services and snacks • Social services • Therapeutic recreation • Sobriety support • Vocational rehabilitation • Sheltered work opportunities • Mental health services • Transportation to medical appointments • Chaplain services • Benefits assistance • Cashier/banking • Linen service • Pharmaceutical services

At https://mn.gov/mdva/assets/2019-08-doms-brochure_tcm1066-396897.pdf you can check out their brochure. For more information refer to www.mvh.state.mn.us.

Luverne Home



1300 North Kniss Avenue P.O. Box 539 Luverne, Minnesota 56156 (507) 283-6200 (877) LUV VETS or (877) 588-8387

Nestled in a friendly small town 30 miles from Sioux Falls, SD, the Minnesota Veterans Home - Luverne offers three distinct living spaces to meet each Resident's unique needs, including a 17-bed special care unit for those with advanced dementia. During its 25-year history, their staff of 200 employees have cared for almost 1,000 residents since opening in 1994. The staff follows the Eden Philosophy social model of care to help provide spontaneity and make life worth living for Residents in their care. Each one features a living room, dining room, kitchenette, laundry room and several sitting/conversation areas. A computer and gaming room are available for Resident use.

The Eden philosophy guides them in creating a home-like atmosphere for Residents and their families. They are committed to creating a community where life is truly worth living - with activities and interactions that Residents find meaningful and enjoyable. Residents have access to

the outdoors, to plants and animals, and to numerous opportunities for interaction with the community. Creating this Eden-centered environment is a never-ending process. The facility continues to grow as a place where Residents want to live, families want to visit and our staff enjoys working.

Residents are a vital part of the Luverne community. Dedicated volunteers provide special activities. School kids visit regularly in our popular Adopt a Grandparent Program. There are abundant opportunities for shopping trips, meals out, participating in the fair and much more. Our internal environment is enhanced through consistent staffing and a range of small group activities.

Everything to meet your physical, social and spiritual needs is offered: • Skilled Nursing Care, including specialized Dementia Care • Medical Service with 24-hour Nursing Care • Social Services • Individualized Recreational Services • Rehabilitation Services, including Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy • Mental/Behavioral Health Service • Chaplain and Spiritual Care Service • Nutritional Service • Pharmaceutical Service • Medical Transportation Service, Locally and to Sioux Falls • Barber and Beauty Service • Wireless Internet (in portions of the building)

At https://mn.gov/mdva/assets/2019-11-15-luverne-brochure_tcm1066-412783.pdf you can check out their brochure. For more information refer to www.mvh.state.mn.us.

Minneapolis Home



5101 Minneapolis Ave., S Minneapolis, MN 55417 (612) 548-5700 www.minnesotaVeteran.org

The Minneapolis Veterans Home is located on a peaceful 53 acre wooded campus overlooking the Mississippi River near Minnehaha Falls. The campus contains 291 skilled nursing bed and 50 domiciliary beds in private and semiprivate rooms. Visiting friends and family will enjoy all of the activities and amenities that our campus and the Twin Cities have to offer:

- Walking and biking distance to a variety of city parks and lakes.
- Mall of America within 5 miles.
- VA Medical Center within 1 mile.
- Metro Transit stops on campus.

- Walking distance to Light Rail

The residents enjoy an assortment of services designed to meet their physical, social, and spiritual needs, These include: • Skilled Nursing Care with a specialty in Dementia Care • Dental services • Medical Service with 24-hour Nursing Care • Social Services • Recreational therapy • Rehabilitation Services, including Physical, Occupational and Speech Pathology Therapy • Mental Health Service • Chaplain and Spiritual Care Services • Diet and Nutritional Service • Pharmaceutical Services • Transportation to Minneapolis VA Health Care System for hospital appointments, treatment and emergency care • Barber and Beautician Services • Therapeutic work programs and special events to enhance quality of life and promote independence for the aging.

At https://mn.gov/mdva/assets/2018-01-26-brochure-minneapolis_tcm1066-325290.pdf you can check out their brochure. For more information refer to www.mvh.state.mn.us.

Silver Bay Home



45 Banks Boulevard Silver Bay, Minnesota 55614 (218) 353-8700 1-877-SBY VETS (1-877-729-8387)

Overlooking beautiful Lake Superior, the Minnesota Veterans Home - Silver Bay has four distinct neighborhood living spaces for Residents that combine the look and feel of a north woods lodge with all the comforts of a single-family home. Each residence includes a living room, dining room and kitchen, where meals and activities are offered to fit each Resident's individual preference. Personal choice is a way of life at the Silver Bay Veterans Home. Residents can sleep in or rise early. Whenever you want to eat, we'll prepare a delicious, nutritious meal for you. Everything revolves around our Residents and their daily routine. Our Home features a variety of private spaces for Residents and their families, including a large game room, craft shop, four season porch and private dining areas. The surrounding area abounds with opportunities for boating, fishing, hunting, and all kinds of outdoor activities.

Our Home features a variety of private spaces for Residents and their families, including a large game room, craft shop, four season porch and private dining areas. The surrounding area abounds with opportunities for boating, fishing, hunting, and all kinds of outdoor activities. Our program focus is enjoying the outdoors and fresh, northern Minnesota air. Our specialties include our garden, our pontoon boat, our club car rides, and our participation in the community

Our Residents enjoy an assortment of services designed to meet their physical, social and spiritual needs. They include: • Skilled Nursing Care, including specialized Dementia Care • Medical Service with 24-hour Nursing Care • Social Services • Individualized Recreational Services • Rehabilitation Services, including Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy • Large Rehabilitation Gym for Specialized Programming or Independent Activity • Mental/Behavioral Health Service • Chaplain and Spiritual Care Service • Nutritional Service • Pharmaceutical Service • Transportation Service Locally and to Duluth • Barber and Beauty Services • Activities that utilize our natural resources

At https://mn.gov/mdva/assets/2021-03-09-silver-bay-brochure_tcm1066-471236.pdf you can check out their brochure. For more information refer to www.mvh.state.mn.us.

Future Homes



After more than a decade of advocacy and fundraising, three new Minnesota Veterans Homes are becoming a reality in the communities of Bemidji, Montevideo and Preston. In March 2021 Governor Tim Walz announced that all three of Minnesota’s proposed new State Veterans Homes projects would receive more than \$80 million in federal VA funds federal funding this year. MDVA recently completed the Federal VA grant application process to obtain the funds. The final approval of the funds is expected in late July or early August.

In 2018, the Minnesota Legislature allocated \$33 million toward the cost of the three new Veterans Homes projects which will be funded by a combination of federal-granted (65 percent), state-bonded and pending community-provided monies (35 percent). “We are thrilled to be able to move forward on this long-awaited project,” said MDVA Commissioner Larry Herke. “The new Minnesota Veterans Homes will allow us to better serve aging Veterans throughout Minnesota, giving them and their families a new option for long-term care within a couple of hours from home.”

The project’s timeline includes earthwork beginning in late summer and the new Homes tentatively opening in summer 2023. All three Homes have a homey design and the public spaces that include a Town Center featuring a small coffee shop/cafe, theater/meeting room, family dining room, meditation room/chapel, and club room. Residential units will all be private with private bathrooms and will be split into smaller “households” of 18 Veterans each, avoiding long institutional-feeling hallways. Wold Architect’s Sara Malin said the new Veterans Homes will have many of the comforts of home. For example, the Residents will enjoy a serving kitchen and

dining area in each household where the smells and sounds of meal preparation will make the space feel like home.

Douglas Hughes, MDVA Deputy Commissioner - Veterans Healthcare, discussed Resident admissions and said that each Home will be able to accommodate Residents with dementia or Alzheimer's disease with a Memory Care unit. The number of rooms dedicated to Memory Care will depend on the Residents who are admitted needing that type of care. Hughes stressed that applications for admissions and employment are not yet being accepted. More information will be shared in the months ahead.

To be eligible for admission, residents must be a Minnesota-eligible Veteran per Minnesota Statute 197.447, or be a spouse of an eligible Veteran, or be a Gold Star Parent, and meet the clinical need for skilled nursing care. Interested Veterans can work with their local County Veterans Service Officer on the application process. For Admissions inquiries, email NewHomesAdmissions@state.mn.us. Hughes also noted that staffing the new Homes will be a challenge in the current economy. For more information, visit the MDVA website at <https://mn.gov/mdva/homes/futurehomes>.

Healthcare

The Veterans Health Administration is America's largest integrated health care system, with more than 1,200 sites of care, and it is consistently ranked among the nation's top healthcare providers. Many Veterans may be eligible for VA health care. Enrollment in VA health care satisfies your Affordable Care Act health coverage requirement—no add-on insurance plan is needed. VA encourages you to explore your health care benefits, including the following services:

- All enrolled Veterans have access to VA's comprehensive medical benefits package including preventive, primary, and specialty care; prescriptions; mental health care; home health care; geriatrics and extended care; medical equipment and prosthetics; and more
- Most Veterans qualify for cost-free health care services, although some Veterans must pay modest copays for health care or prescriptions
- Women Veterans can receive primary care, breast and cervical cancer screenings, prenatal care, maternity care coverage, and other gender-specific services
- Veterans who have served in combat-zones—and their family members—may visit VA's many community-based Vet Centers, which provide no-cost counseling, outreach, and referral services to help the whole family adjust to life after deployment
- Combat Veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after Jan. 28, 2003, are eligible to enroll in the VA healthcare system for five years from the date of their discharge or release, regardless of their disability claim status. Combat Veterans who enroll with VA under this enhanced Combat Veteran authority will continue to be

enrolled after their enhanced eligibility period ends, although their enrollment priority group may change.

Military Service Requirements for Enrollment

- Veterans must have served in the active military, naval, or air service and separated under any conditions other than dishonorable
- Most Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty. This includes current and former members of the Reserve or National Guard called to active duty by a federal order.

Application Requirements

- DD214
- Any additional health insurance information
- Wage and financial information, including previous calendar-year gross income for the Veteran, spouse, and dependent children

Minnesota Healthcare Locations

For locations, directions to, phone numbers, and clinical hours for the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and all VA Clinics throughout the state refer to <https://www.va.gov/minneapolis-health-care/locations>.

Minnesota Veterans have access to 4 Major Medical Centers:

- Fargo, with Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) at: Bemidji, Fergus Falls, and Grand Forks (ND).
- Minneapolis, with CBOCs located in Albert Lea, Chippewa Valley, Ely, Hayward (WI), Hibbing, Mankato, Maplewood, Ramsey, Rice Lake (WI), Rochester, Shakopee, St. James, and Superior (WI).
- Sioux Falls, with a CBOC located in Spirit Lake (IA)
- St. Cloud, with CBOCs located in Alexandria, Brainerd, and Montevideo

Dental Assistance (Including Extractions and Dentures)

Dental benefits are provided to Veterans and their dependents for routine dental, extraction, and denture procedures. This benefit is income and asset based, and upon MDVA approval of eligibility you and your dependents may receive up to \$1,000 for annual routine dental care paid to your choice of providers. If your dental provider determines that dentures are necessary, MDVA will issue an additional denture authorization for up to \$3,000 of once-per-lifetime benefits, and if needed, an additional once-per-lifetime extraction authorization for up to \$2,000 specifically for tooth extractions in preparation for the dentures.

If you qualify for this benefit, you may be eligible for other state Veterans benefits, to include optical, special needs grants and disaster relief. Contact your County Veteran Service Officer for assistance or more information on this and other benefits. Find your CVSO at www.macvso.org or by calling 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838), MDVA's one-stop customer service line for all Minnesota Veterans and their families.

Optical Assistance

Upon application, optical benefits are provided on an annual basis to Veterans and their dependents. This benefit is income and asset-based, and upon approval of eligibility you and your dependents may receive up to \$400 paid to your choice of providers for annual eye exams and prescription eyewear, to include contact lenses.

If you qualify for this benefit, you may be eligible for other state Veterans benefits, to include dental, special needs grants and disaster relief. Contact your County Veteran Service Officer for assistance or more information on this or other benefits. Find your CVSO at www.macvso.org or by calling 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838), MDVA's one-stop customer service line for all Minnesota Veterans and their families.

Financial Assistance

Income Taxes

Military pay and retirement pay are not taxed by the state.

Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption

Disabled veterans with a 70 percent or greater VA disability may qualify for a reduction in the assessed value of their home. The reduction varies depending on the amount of disability. Some surviving spouses may also qualify.

Short Term Financial Assistance (Subsistence)

The Subsistence program provides temporary assistance with shelter payments (rent/mortgage), current utility bills and health insurance premiums to eligible Veterans and their dependents. This benefit is income and asset based, and is designed to assist Veterans for up to six months for those who are unable to work his/her normal occupation due to a temporary disability, or who are permanently disabled and are waiting to receive a permanent disability benefit from VA Compensation, VA Pension, Social Security or other long term benefit. Veterans must provide proof of the temporary disability by his/her doctor on a medical report, and must have worked within one year of the date on the medical report. Surviving spouses may also be eligible for this benefit without a temporary disability if he/she applies within the first 12 months of his/her Veteran spouse's death. After that time limit the surviving spouse must provide proof of his/her

own temporary disability via a medical report. Contact your County Veteran Service Officer for assistance in applying for Subsistence benefits.

Special Needs Grant

Special Needs assistance provides a once-per-lifetime financial grant to help Veterans and dependents stabilize their lives in a time of hardship. Requests are reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis and applicants must demonstrate future sustainability beyond the requested amount of assistance. Approved amounts of assistance are paid directly to the vendors chosen by the Veteran as part of their application.

Contact your County Veteran Service Officer for assistance in applying for Special Needs benefits. Find your CVSO at www.macvso.org or by calling 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838), MDVA's one-stop customer service line for all Minnesota Veterans and their families.

MDVA Grants

Since 1993, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs has provided as many as 90 grants annually to legislatively selected organizations in Minnesota whose mission and purpose is to assist Veterans, and their families. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs SOT competitive grant program was launched in February 2016. These grants are financed from sales of the Minnesota "Support Our Troops" License Plates.

Minnesota organizations with programs designed to “support and improve the lives of Veterans and their families” now may apply for grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$100,000. MDVA accepts applications for the SOT grant twice per year. The current grant cycle application window closed as of 4 p.m. Friday, April 26. Refer to:

- <https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/federalresources/grants/q-a-addendum.jsp> for questions.
- https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDVA/subscriber/new?topic_id=MNDVA_18 to sign-up at to receive alerts for upcoming grant cycles.

Employment

Resources for Veterans Looking for Employment

Looking for employment is a daunting task for anyone and it can be especially challenging for Veterans. Frequently, a Veteran's military training and experience does not easily translate to fit the requirements that a civilian company seeks. Additionally, there is an overwhelming amount of resources to help Veterans find employment. As a first step, MDVA partners with the [Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development](#) (DEED) to support Veterans as they put their military skills to work in a new career. The three basic steps for every Veteran should include:

1. Visit your nearest [Minnesota Workforce Center](#) and contact a Veteran employment representative. Make sure you indicate that you are a Veteran
2. Use the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities [MyMilitary GPS Lifeplan](#) to create a career goal
3. Post your resume on www.MinnesotaWorks.net

For Veterans seeking employment assistance go to the [CareerForce website](#). On this page you can find your local Veteran Employment Representatives contact information. We strongly recommend that you connect with your local Veteran Employment Representative as they are connected with businesses looking to hire Veteran

On the Job Training and Apprenticeship Programs

Both on-the-job (OJT) and apprenticeship training programs are available for Veterans using their federal U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs education benefits, including the Post-9/11 GI Bill. These programs allow Veterans to learn a trade or skill through training on the job participation rather than attending formal classroom instruction. A Veteran generally enters into a training contract for a specific period with an employer or union, and at the end of the training period, the Veteran gains job certification or journeyman status. Approved employers can use this benefit as a recruiting tool by using wages and stipend to attract Veteran candidates.

Apprenticeship -- There is a shortage of skilled workers throughout many of the trades within Minnesota. Good apprenticeship training is a benefit to both employer and the employee. Apprenticeship is a company's investment in its employees and business future. Employees learn a skilled profession while earning a steadily increasing wage as their knowledge and skill increases. The employer develops a program integrating on-the-job training with related technical instruction. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry oversees the state's apprenticeship programs. It regulates, supervises and promotes apprenticeship programs that have been approved and meet state standard. For additional information contact the [Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry](#).

Apprentice Occupations in Minnesota -- You might be surprised at the number of occupations that qualify for apprenticeship programs within Minnesota. In general, an occupation may qualify for an apprenticeship program requires at least 2,000 hours of hands-on training to learn essential skills in conjunction with 144 hours of related technical instruction each year. Apprenticeship training is common in the following occupations:

- [Construction](#)
- [Graphic production](#)
- [Power Trade](#)
- [Manufacturing](#)
- [Service](#)
- [Professional](#)

Refer to <https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/employment/ojtapprenticeship.jsp> for additional information.

MN Veterans Preference Act

The Minnesota Veterans Preference Act (VPA) grants most Veterans a limited preference over non-Veterans in hiring and promotion for most Minnesota public employment positions, as granted in Minnesota Statutes 197.48, 43A.11, and 197.455. These statutes may apply to certain spouses of Veterans. The Minnesota VPA Statutes apply to Minnesota public employment, "civil service laws, charter provisions, ordinances, rules or regulations of a county, city, town, school district, or other municipality or political subdivision of this state."

Minnesota currently provides for a limited preference for Veterans in hiring and promotion in State and local government positions. Veterans applying for an open competitive position in a Minnesota county, city, school district or other political subdivision, who receive a passing rating, may choose to receive a credit of 10 extra points. Veterans with a compensable service-connected disability, who receive a passing rating, may choose to receive a credit of 15 extra points. Spouses of deceased Veterans or disabled Veterans who cannot qualify because of their disability, may also choose to receive extra points. For promotional positions, a service-connected disabled Veteran rated 50% or greater may choose to receive a credit of five extra points.

For Minnesota State Agency positions, once minimum qualifications are met, disabled Veterans are ranked ahead of Veterans, who are ranked ahead of non-Veterans. Recently separated Veterans, who served on or after September 11, 2001, must be considered for the position. The top five recently separated Veterans must be granted an interview.

For Minnesota State and local governmental positions, no Veteran who has completed an initial hiring probationary period shall be removed from such position or employment, except for incompetency or misconduct shown after a hearing, upon due notice, upon stated charges, in writing. A veteran facing removal must choose either a Veterans Preference Hearing or the Collective Bargaining Grievance Procedure, but not both. The Veterans Preference Hearing shall be held before the local civil service review body or before a single arbitrator. The Veteran has 30 days to request a hearing and to choose either the civil service review body or an arbitrator. If an arbitrator is chosen a list of seven arbitrators will be requested from the Bureau of Mediation Services and the employer and the veteran will each strike a name until one remains. The hearing is held and the removal is either upheld or reversed, or a lesser discipline is crafted based on the facts. Either party may appeal the decision to the District Court within 15 days. All costs associated with the hearing will be borne by the governmental employer, except for the veteran's attorney fees. However, if the Veteran prevails and the level of the alleged incompetency or misconduct requiring discharge is reversed, the governmental employer shall pay the Veteran's reasonable attorney fees.

A Veteran who has been denied Veterans preference rights, either in the hiring or the discharge process, may petition ([Veterans Preference Petition](#)) the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs for relief. The Commissioner then orders a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), who is from the independent Office of Administrative Hearings. The ALJ holds the hearing and issues Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law and Recommendations. The Commissioner then makes the final decision. Either party then has 30 days to appeal to the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Education

DVA's Higher Education Veterans Program staff are ready to assist Veterans and eligible family members with accessing the right benefits, school and programs. For more information on the campus rep Regional Coordinator Program and Veteran education benefits visit our [Veteran Support Portal](#) at <https://linkvet.org/app/custom/education>.

New education benefits, including the post 9/11 GI Bill[®] and sustained deployments have dramatically increased the number of Veterans attending college in recent years. For Federal Support refer to <https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/education/federalgibill.jsp>. For Minnesota programs refer to the below:

Higher Education Veterans Programs

(<https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/education/higheredveteransprograms.jsp>)

MDVA's Higher Education Veterans Programs helps connect you with educational benefits and resources to succeed in college. We support the success of Veterans, current military members and their families at Minnesota's colleges and universities by providing on-site comprehensive information about benefits and resources as well as creating institutional readiness in support of the unique needs of these students. This nation-leading program provides staff at colleges and universities throughout Minnesota to help identify and remove barriers to Veterans' enrollment and access to benefits, as well as to create and manage campus Veterans resource centers.

In 2006, the Minnesota Legislature passed a number of initiatives addressing the unique needs of students who are Veterans. In order to assist Minnesota's colleges and universities fulfill these requirements, the MDVA created the Higher Education Veterans Programs. The program consists of a director and regional coordinators located throughout the state. Specifically, the Higher Education Veterans Program coordinators help schools establish Veteran friendly policies and procedures. They can also help with things like:

- Payment extensions while awaiting properly applied for educational benefits
- Military transfer credit
- Veteran resident status
- Options for withdrawal from classes due to deployment

On-campus Veterans Resource Centers are unique to Minnesota and provide an environment where Veterans, military members and their families feel welcome. They also provide space for interaction with other Veterans and family members of Veterans. This space is a way for Veterans to connect with each other and representatives from the Higher Education Program. For more information call 1-800-456-8519 or +1 (651) 556-0596 (international) or 1-800-627-3529 TT. [Download our brochure](#), or for more information on the Campus Rep program and Veteran Education Benefits visit www.MyMilitaryEducation.org.

On-Campus Resource Centers (<https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/education/ocrc.jsp>)

MDVA's Higher Education Veterans Programs helps connect students with educational benefits and resources to succeed in college. We support the success of Veterans, current military members and their families at Minnesota's colleges and universities by providing on-site comprehensive information about benefits and resources.

This nation-leading program provides staff at colleges and universities throughout Minnesota to help identify and remove barriers to Veterans' enrollment and access to benefits, as well as to create and manage campus Veterans resource centers. In 2006, the Minnesota Legislature passed a number of initiatives addressing the unique needs of students who are Veterans. In order to assist Minnesota's colleges and universities fulfill these requirements, the MDVA created the Higher Education Veterans Programs. The program consists of a director and regional coordinators located throughout the state. Specifically, the Higher Education Veterans Program coordinators help schools establish Veteran friendly policies and procedures. Staff in this program also help with the following:

- Payment Extensions While Waiting for Educational Benefits
- Military Transfer Credits
- Veteran Resident Status
- Options for Withdrawal from Classes Due to Deployment

On-campus Veterans Resource Centers are unique to Minnesota and provide an environment where Veterans, military members and their families feel welcome. They also provide space for interaction with other Veterans and family members of Veterans. This space is a way for Veterans to connect with each other and representatives from the Higher Education Program. For more information:

- Call 1-800-456-8519 or +1 (651) 556-0596 (international) or 1-800-627-3529 TT.
- Download our [brochure](#), or for more information on the Campus Rep program and Veteran Education Benefits visit www.MyMilitaryEducation.org .

Minnesota GI Bill (<https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/education/minnesotagibill>)

The Minnesota GI Bill program provides assistance to eligible Minnesota Veterans, currently serving military, National Guard and Reserve members who served after September 11, 2001 and eligible spouse and children. The Program provides a maximum benefit of \$10,000, up to

age 62. Eligible participants can use the benefit in Higher Education, On-the-job training (OJT)/Apprenticeship or License and Certification. For more details refer to the brochure at https://mn.gov/mdva/assets/2018-11-21-mn-gi-bill-brochure_tcm1066-359825.pdf. Note that this program is different than the Federal GI Bill (Montgomery, Post 9-11, Veterans Education Assistance Program, Dependents Education Assistance Program, or Vocational rehabilitation). See the [MDVA page on Federal GI Bill Programs](#).

Eligibility Requirements

- Veteran who is serving or has served honorably in any branch of the United States armed forces at any time, or;
- Non-Veteran who has served honorably for a total of five credible years or more cumulatively as a member of the Minnesota National Guard or any other active or reserve component of the United States armed forces, and any part of that service occurred on or after September 11, 2001, or;
- Surviving spouse or children of a person who has served in the military at any time on, and who has died or has a 100% VA determined permanent and total disability as a direct result of that military service and must be eligible to receive federal education benefits under Chapter 33 Fry Scholarship, or Chapter 35 and provide a certificate of eligibility
- Minnesota Resident – see specific program for requirements

On Campus Resource Centers (<https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/education/ocrc.jsp>)

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- Payment Extensions While Waiting for Educational Benefits
- Military Transfer Credits
- Veteran Resident Status
- Options for Withdrawal from Classes Due to Deployment

On-campus Veterans Resource Centers are unique to Minnesota and provide an environment where Veterans, military members and their families feel welcome. They also provide space for

interaction with other Veterans and family members of Veterans. This space is a way for Veterans to connect with each other and representatives from the Higher Education Program. For more information call 1-800-456-8519 or +1 (651) 556-0596 (international) or 1-800-627-3529 TT. Download our brochure, or for more information on the Campus Rep program and Veteran Education Benefits visit www.MyMilitaryEducation.org.

State Approving Agency (<https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/education/stateapprovingagency.jsp>)

The State Approving Agencies (SAA) are authorized by Title 38 of the United States Code. Each state has a SAA that is responsible for ensuring the quality and integrity of programs of education and training for the use of GI Bill benefits. Benefits may be used in high schools, adult education centers, employers who provide on-the-job training and apprenticeship training, license and certification testing, vocational training, as well as all certificate and degree levels of post-secondary education both public and private. The SAA initiates approval for GI Bill benefits for new facilities in Minnesota and conducts compliance surveys. They also initiate the approval of all new programs at private for-profit institutions and conduct an annual review of their catalogs. The mission of the SAA is to:

- Promote and safeguard quality education and training for Veterans;
- Ensure greater educational and training opportunities to meet the changing needs of Veterans; and
- Protect the GI Bill[®] resources available for those programs by Assisting the VA in preventing fraud, waste, and abuse in the administration of the GI Bill[®].

Within Minnesota, there are more than 200 institutions and 6,500 programs that are approved for GI Bill[®] benefits. Learn more about whether a particular institution or program is approved for [VA educational benefits](#).

The GI Bill and the Minnesota GI Bill offer a great opportunity for Veterans to use their educational benefits while learning a skill or trade. Apprenticeship programs must be registered with the [Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry](#). If the program you are interested in is not listed or if you are interested in an On-the-Job Training opportunity, please contact the Minnesota State Approving Agency at (651) 757-1569 or SAA.Group.MDVA@state.mn.us.

Surviving Spouse & Dependent Education Benefit

(<https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/education/survivingspousebenefit.jsp>)

Surviving Spouse and Dependent Education assistance is provided to spouses and dependents, including adopted and step-children, whose Veteran spouse and/or Veteran parent died while on active duty, or as a result of a service-connected condition. The Veteran must have been a resident of Minnesota when entering the U.S. military, or have been a resident of Minnesota for at least six months prior to passing away due to a service connected disability as determined by the USDVA. Applicants must be Minnesota residents and the spouse cannot be remarried. There is no age limitation for eligible survivors.

If found eligible, survivors are allowed admission to Minnesota postsecondary education institutions either operated by this state or is operated publicly or privately and maintains academic standards substantially equivalent to those of comparable institutions operated in this state. Surviving spouses and dependents will be able to attend free of tuition until he/she obtains a bachelor's degree. In addition, MDVA will pay \$750 per fiscal year for fees, books and supplies, and/or room and board. You may apply for this benefit by accessing the application below and submitting directly to MDVA or applying with assistance through your County Veterans Service Officer.

- [Surviving Spouse/Dependent Application Form](#)
- [Surviving Spouse/Dependent Renewal Application Form](#)

Veteran Education Assistance (<https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/education/vea.jsp>)

Veteran Education assistance is provided to Veterans in the form of a one-time \$750 grant for tuition to Veterans who have exhausted, through use, all of their GI Bill benefits to assist with completing a bachelor's degree. This grant is paid directly to the institution, or may be reimbursed to Veteran upon verification that tuition has been paid. You may apply for this benefit by accessing the application below and submitting directly to MDVA or applying with assistance through your County Veterans Service Officer.

- [Veteran Education Assistance Application Form](#)

Eligibility Specifics

- The Veteran shall have been a resident of the State of Minnesota at the time of entry into the Armed Forces, and for six months immediately preceding entry
- The Veteran must be a citizen of the United States and a current resident of Minnesota
- The Veteran must have completely exhausted his/her federal educational benefits prior to the delimiting date or within the eligibility period during which benefits were available. Veterans who have allowed their educational benefits to expire without completely using them do not qualify for this program

Benefit May Be Used at Minnesota

- State Universities
- Community colleges
- Vocational technical colleges
- Any campus of the University of Minnesota
- Any college of higher learning which has been accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools
- Law college approved by the Supreme Court
- Theological seminary
- Nursing school approved by the Board of Nursing
- Vocational technical trade or business school approved by the State Department of Education

Burial

Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries (3)

Currently the state operate three State Veterans Cemeteries managed and maintained by the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs in Little Falls, Preston, and Duluth. The Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery - Duluth opened in late 2018. Burial is open to all Veterans discharged from active military service under conditions other than dishonorable. Their spouses, minor children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children are also eligible for burial. Eligible spouses may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran. Also eligible for burial are members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, the Army and National Guard, and the Reserve Officer Training Corps who die while on active duty for training or performing service, or who have 20 years of service in reserve components of the Armed Forces creditable for retired pay. Check out the Minnesota State Veterans Cemeteries Brochure at https://mn.gov/mdva/assets/2018-09-cemeteries-brochure-ada_tcm1066-351072.pdf. They provide:

- Gravesite or Columbarium Niche
- Pre-placed Grave liner (Standard Size)
- Headstone/Niche Cover
- Perpetual Care
- Veteran Cost is \$0 all burial options
- Spouse/Eligible Dependent cost is currently \$745 (all burial options). Fees cannot be prepaid and are subject to change. Visit www.MinnesotaVeteran.org/Cem or Call 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838) to verify if any changes have occurred.

Pre-Registration -- This ensures your eligibility in advance and eliminates delays in providing military documents to the cemetery. Pre-registration applications are available at the cemetery office, at your local CVSO office, or online at https://mn.gov/mdva/assets/2017-04-pre-registration-application-If_tcm1066-290602.pdf . Contact your CVSO at www.macvso.org or by calling 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838) MDVA's one-stop customer service line for all Minnesota Veterans and their families.

Burial Arrangements -- The funeral director or the next of kin makes burial arrangements for an eligible Veteran, spouse or dependent at the time of need by contacting the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery. A spouse or dependent is buried based upon the eligibility of the Veteran. To establish the Veteran's eligibility, a copy of the Veteran's military discharge document or a DD214 must be provided. If these documents are not available, the cemetery must be provided with sufficient military information to allow the cemetery to access federal U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and/or military records to establish eligibility. The cemetery staff will set a

tentative date for the committal service pending verification of service and character of discharge, and will notify the applicant when the committal service is scheduled. The proposed date and time will be approved only when the cemetery verifies eligibility and confirms the arrangements.

Floral Policies -- Fresh cut flowers may be placed on graves at any time. Temporary containers and water are provided in locations around the main cemetery drive. Floral items will be removed from graves by cemetery personnel as soon as they become faded or unsightly. Artificial flowers may be placed on graves during the periods specified on the floral regulation signs located around the main cemetery drive. Plantings, statues, vigil lights, breakable objects of any nature and any other type of commemorative items are not permitted on the graves. [Full floral policy available here.](#)

Committal Services -- The cemetery can do seven committal services per day, Monday - Friday, on a first-come first served basis, every hour from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (3 p.m. is cremation only). Committal services are limited to 20 minutes. All committal services should be brief and need to start on the hour at the scheduled time. Families who extend their services can greatly affect others who have reserved the following time. All committal services are held in the committal service building rather than at the actual gravesite because of burial rates and operational considerations. This ensures the family's safety and provides a fitting location for [military honors](#) and the ability of our staff to continue cemetery operations. The remains are removed from the committal service building for burial following the family's departure and are never left unattended by cemetery staff. Clergy services and other arrangements are the responsibility of the family or family representative. These arrangements are normally coordinated through the chosen funeral director.

Casket -- A pre-placed grave liner will be provided, by the cemetery, for all casket burials. Traditional gravesites are available for individuals who choose to purchase a sealed burial vault from their chosen funeral director.

Cremation (In-ground) -- In-ground cremation gravesites provide a traditional burial option for cremated remains. In-ground cremation gravesites are marked with an upright granite headstone. The choice for the placement of cremated remains either in-ground or above-ground will need to be determined by the next-of-kin.

Cremation (Columbarium) -- The columbarium provides an above-ground option for cremated remains. Columbarium niches are marked with a granite niche cover. The choice for the placement of cremated remains either in-ground or above-ground will need to be determined by the next-of-kin.

Bronze Star Grave Markers -- The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs offers bronze stars to mark the grave site of any veteran buried in the state, where permitted. Bronze Star Markers are available through your local county veterans service officer.

Hours of Operation -- All cemetery offices are open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday (closed on State Holidays). Visitors may visit the cemetery grounds during daylight hours, seven days per week.

Locations and contact information:

- **Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery - Little Falls:** 15550 Hwy 115. Little Falls, MN 56345 Phone: (320) 616-2527 FAX: (320) 616-2529 Email: info.cemlf@state.mn.us.



- **Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery - Preston:** 715 Highway 52, Preston, MN 55965 Phone: (507) 765-7320 Fax: (507) 765-3793 Email: Info.CemPR@state.mn.us.



- **Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery – Duluth:** 4777 Highway 53, Saginaw, MN 55779 Phone: (218) 520-0120 Fax: (507) 729-1343 Email: Info.CemDU@state.mn.us.



Recreation

Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake

The Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake, St Croix, is a Family campground that provides facilities and Veterans Campground signopportunities for recreation, rest, and recovery for all who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, their Families, and sponsored friends. The campground has a wide variety of recreational activities for the entire Family, to include camping (cabins, tents, and RV sites), boating, fishing, tubing, swimming, softball, volleyball, horseshoes, canteen, game room, lending library, and outdoor pavilions for parties, reunions, gatherings, and picnics.

Veterans Campground is open to all honorably discharged military Veterans, active and reserve component Service members, retired Service members, disabled Veterans, and military Families. Those making reservations must provide a DD214 or other separation papers. For more information please use the Veterans Campground on Big Marine Lake contact page at <https://vetscampmn.org>.



Minnesota State Park Passes

Service members, Purple Heart recipients, Disabled Veterans and their dependents can receive a free annual permit for Minnesota State Parks. Eligibility extends to:

- Service members from any component of the U.S. Armed Forces, must bring current military orders and military ID to the park
- Veterans with any level of service-connected disability, must bring a copy of their VA determination letter and a photo ID
- Purple Heart recipients, must bring documentation of their receipt of the Purple Heart medal (DD214, citation for award, etc.)

You can apply for a military permit at any staffed Minnesota state park office, or by calling or emailing Gooseberry Falls State Park at 218-595-7101 GooseberryFalls.StatePark@state.mn.us . Please put "Military Discount" in the subject line. To learn more about Minnesota State Park Military and Veteran Benefits go to https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/permit.html.

Minnesota State Park Vehicle Permits

- Any active military service personnel stationed outside of Minnesota within the past 90 days can get a free one-day Minnesota state park vehicle permit. Bring your current military orders and military ID, and let the park attendant know your military status when you arrive.
- Military personnel or their Dependents who have a Federal government access pass to Federal recreational sites can get a free one-day Minnesota state park vehicle permit. Bring your Federal access pass and military ID, and let the park attendant know your military status when you arrive.
- Any resident Veteran with any level of service-connected disability can get a free one-day Minnesota state park vehicle permit. Bring a copy of your determination letter and a photo ID, and let the park attendant know your military status when you arrive.
- Any Veteran who has a permanent and total service-connected disability can get a free annual Minnesota state park permit. Present a copy of your determination letter or VA ID card to the park attendant for the free annual sticker, which must be placed on a vehicle that is owned by the Veteran. If the Veteran with the permanent service-connected disability does not own the vehicle transporting the Veteran, you can still get a free one-day Minnesota state park permit.

Cross Country Ski Pass Exemptions

Minnesota residents who have served at any time during the preceding 24 months in federal active service outside the United States and has been discharged from active service is exempt from the pass requirement if the resident possesses official military discharge papers (DD214). Minnesota residents in the US Military who are stationed outside the state and home on leave are also eligible for a pass exemption, (must have leave form).

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Military and Veterans Benefits:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offers several benefits to Service members and Veterans.

Resident Service Members Benefits:

- Resident Service members in active and reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces, will receive first preference in drawings for special deer hunts, antlerless deer lottery, bear and turkey lotteries; applicants must submit the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Military Preference Application Form](#)
- Resident Service members on leave, who are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and stationed outside the state may:

- Hunt small game, no Minnesota waterfowl stamp or pheasant stamp is needed but they must have a federal duck stamp to hunt waterfowl
- Hunt deer, wild turkey, and wolf without charge after obtaining the appropriate licenses and tags through the [Minnesota Electronic License System](#), bonus permits are not included
- Fish without a license
- Use ski trails without a ski pass
- Must have a valid Minnesota Driver's License or State ID Card and leave papers while hunting, fishing or using ski trails.

Residents Discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces Benefits:

- Service members discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces within 10 days of the start of, or during, the firearm deer season may purchase a firearm deer license that is immediately valid, applicants must show official discharge papers when applying
- Service members discharged from federal active service outside the U.S., within the previous 24 months may:
 - Hunt small game without a license, no state stamps are required, Federal stamp is needed for waterfowl hunting if less than 65 years old
 - Fish without a license trout stamps are not required (Note: Free sturgeon tags are available only from the DNR License Center in St. Paul)
 - Get one free deer per year license, valid for one either-sex deer except in buck-only areas
 - Use ski trails without a ski pass
- Service members discharged from active duty in an active or reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces, during the previous 24 months, will receive first preference in drawings for special deer hunts, antlerless deer lottery, bear and turkey lotteries; applicants must submit the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Military Preference Application Form](#)

Residents Disabled Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces Benefits:

- Veterans that have a 100% service-connected disability may:
 - Get a free small game license, no state stamps are required, Federal stamp is needed for waterfowl hunting if less than 65 years old
 - Get one free deer license per year, free deer license is valid for one either-sex deer except in buck-only areas
 - Receive first preference in drawings for special deer hunts, antlerless deer lottery, bear and turkey lotteries; applicants must submit the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Military Preference Application Form](#)
 - Eligible for a card that serves as proof of eligibility for a free annual small game and/or deer license

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 100% Disabled Veteran License Permanent Card Application Form](#)

- Eligible for a free permanent angling license. This permanent license is available only from the DNR License Center in St. Paul. A trout stamp is not required with this license **[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Permanent Angling License Application Form](#)**
- Veterans that are patients of a Minnesota Veterans home may fish without a license with written permission of the superintendent or chief executive of the Veterans home **[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Authorization for Residents of State Institutions to Fish in Minnesota Application Form](#)**

Resident Purple Heart Recipient Benefits:

- Purple Heart recipients must still purchase licenses, but they will receive first preference in drawings for special deer hunts, antlerless deer lottery, bear and turkey lotteries; applicants must submit the **[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Military Preference Application Form](#)**.

Nonresident Benefits:

- Nonresident Spouses of resident Service members on active duty may purchase resident hunting and fishing licenses. Nonresidents must provide proof of their Spouse's residency and active duty status
- A Service member in the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in Minnesota, training at Camp Ripley or a Service member in the Minnesota National Guard may purchase resident hunting and fishing licenses; applicants must provide official military documents stating they are stationed in Minnesota, training at Camp Ripley or a member of the Minnesota National Guard. Elk licenses are excluded from this benefit.

Firearms Safety Training Exemptions for Military Service Members:

- Service members who have completed basic training in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard may obtain a hunting license or approval authorizing hunting even if they haven't been issued a firearms safety certificate; Service members only qualify for this exemption while they are on active duty; eligible Service members are exempt from the field day component of the classroom or home study course by providing proof of basic training, i.e., discharge papers (DD214), or current military ID to the instructor of the course; once discharged or no longer active duty they must complete a firearms safety training course if they were born after December 31, 1979.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing

Vehicle Plates

In order to prove eligibility, veteran applicants are required to present a copy of their separation papers (DD 214 or equivalent) at the time of application. “Ex-POW” may have plates for one vehicle and must have certification from the commissioner of veterans’ affairs. Veteran plates may be applied for at any Deputy Registrar office which can be located at <https://onlineservices.dps.mn.gov/EServices/#2> or by mailing an Application for Special Plates (PS2010) and appropriate fees and documents to **Driver and Vehicle Services**, 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 164, St. Paul, MN 55101-5164. To download an application go to https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/formsdocuments/Documents/MV_SpecialPlatesApplication.pdf

Veteran plates may be displayed on any passenger-class vehicle, 1-ton pickup, or self-propelled recreational vehicle, owned or jointly owned by a veteran. Motorcycle plates are also available for Vietnam, Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, Global War on Terrorism, Proud to be a Veteran, Korean Defense, and Congressional Medal of Honor. Most plates may be ordered with a disability decal if the applicant qualifies for disability license plates. To view plates refer to <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/forms-documents/Documents/Special-Plates-Brochure.pdf>.

Disabled 168.021		\$15.50 Initial \$15.50 Replace	Issued to an owner or primary operator of a passenger vehicle, one-ton pickup or self-propelled recreational vehicle (any weight) who meets medical criteria certifying irreversible physical disability
Disabled Motorcycle 168.021		\$15.50 Initial \$15.50 Replace	Issued to owner of a motorcycle who meets medical criteria certifying irreversible physical disability

Members of the Minnesota National Guard: Plates may be issued to passenger class vehicles owned by a regular enlisted, commissioned, or retired member of the Minnesota National Guard. Plate fee is \$10.

National Guard (MN) 168.12, subd. 2 (c)		\$15.50 Initial \$15.50 Replace	Passenger class vehicle owned by member or retired member of MN National Guard
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Ready Reserve:

Ready Reserve 168.12, subd. 2 (d)		\$15.50 Initial \$15.50 Replace	Passenger class vehicle owned by Ready Reservist
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Gold Star Family: Gold Star License plates are available on passenger cars and motorcycles. The parent, spouse, sibling or child of a person who has died while honorably serving in active military service may apply for these plates.

Gold Star Family 168.1253		\$0 Initial \$0 Replace	Passenger, one-ton pickup, self-propelled recreational vehicle owned by spouse, parent, sibling or child of fallen service member (No cost for plate but registration tax and filing fee are still due)
Gold Star Family motorcycle 168.1253		\$0 Initial \$0 Replace	Motorcycle owned by spouse, parent, sibling or child of fallen service member (No cost for plate but registration tax and filing fee are still due)

Proud To Be A Veteran: A one-time minimum contribution of \$30 to benefit the WWII memorial fund is due with initial application. “Proud to be a Veteran” plate contribution is due only at the time of initial application.

“Proud to be a Veteran” 168.1255		\$15.50 Initial \$15.50 Replace	Passenger class, one-ton pickup, or recreational vehicle owned by a veteran of the US Armed Forces. At time of initial application, there is a one-time contribution of \$30 to benefit the WWII memorial fund.
“Proud to be a Veteran” Motorcycle 168.1255		\$13.50 Initial \$13.50 Replace	Motorcycle owned by a veteran of the US Armed Forces. At time of initial application, there is a one-time contribution of \$30 to benefit the WWII memorial fund.

Driver’s License & ID

Driver's License or Identification Cards will be processed within three (3) business days. Customer should receive the card via UPS (United Parcel Service) within 10 business days. Refer to the DVS Office Locations Map at <https://onlineservices.dps.mn.gov/EServices/> to see participating offices.

Driver’s Licenses

Class A, regular \$51

Duplicate Driver’s License - all classes \$17

Veteran designation - Not available

Identification Cards

Under age 65 \$21.50

Age 65 and older \$20.75

Veteran designation - Not available

Real ID

Beginning May 3, 2023, Minnesotans will not be able to use their standard driver's license to board domestic flights or enter federal facilities. Instead, they will need a REAL ID, enhanced driver's license or ID card, passport or passport card or another acceptable form of identification for federal purposes.



With the launch of a new driver's license system Oct. 1, 2018, Minnesotans now have the option to apply for a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or ID card at most driver’s license

office locations. All REAL ID applications must be submitted, along with required documents, in person at a local DVS exam station, deputy registrar office or driver's license agent office. Use the Find Office Locations search at <https://onlineservices.dps.mn.gov/EServices/> for a listing of offices near you.

To help reduce wait times, please consider the pre-application feature that allows you to enter a significant portion of your driver's license or ID card application online - including REAL ID applications - reducing the time spent in driver's license offices. It's a good way to ensure you have all necessary documents ready when you visit a driver's license office. Visit the Required Documents page for a full list at <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/real-id/Pages/required-documents.aspx>. Minnesota airport travelers are able to apply for their REAL ID inside the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport's (MSP) Terminal 1. A person must provide the following in person when applying:

- One document proving identity, date of birth and legal presence in the United States.
 - *If the name on the identity document is not the same as a person's current name, a name change document must be submitted.*
- One document proving social security number.
 - *If you have not updated your name change with the Social Security Administration, you must do so prior to applying for a Real ID.*
- Two different documents proving current residency in Minnesota.
 - *Must have applicant's name as used at print and current address in Minnesota. A P.O. Box will not suffice as proof of current residency in Minnesota. Note: If you are under 18, one proof of residency document may be provided by a parent/guardian if it has the same address as the document you provide. They must also be present in office to certify that they are your parent/guardian and that you live at the given address.*

You must provide original documents or documents certified by the agency that issued them. Laminated documents will not be accepted. Digital documents shown on your phone or other electronic device will also not be accepted.

Cost for licenses and ID cards that expire after October 1, 2020

Cardholders may obtain a REAL ID-compliant card after October 1, 2018 and before their standard card expires for an additional fee. The fee, set in Minnesota law, is based on how many months the REAL ID is obtained before a person's driver's license or ID card expires:

- \$2 for a renewal up to 17 months before expiration.
- \$4 for a renewal 18-29 months before expiration.
- \$6 for a renewal more than 29 months before expiration.

Those who renew early will also have four years added to their original expiration date. So while an early renewal will cost a little more, Minnesotans who renew early will have their driver's license or ID card valid for a longer period of time.

Taxation

Sales Tax

- Statewide: 6.875%
- Counties can levy an additional sales tax of no more than 2.0%.
- Current average sales tax (with local taxes included): 7.29%
- Common Exceptions at State Level:
 - Prescription Medicine: Exempt
 - Unprepared Foods: Exempt
 - Clothing: Exempt
 - Prepared foods: 11%
- Gasoline Tax: 49.00 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local and federal taxes)
- Diesel Fuel Tax: 55.00 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local and federal taxes)
- Cigarette Tax: \$3.04/pack of 20

Personal Income Tax

- Personal Income Tax Rate Range: Four brackets from 5.35% to 9.85% (on income greater than \$166,040)
- Standard deduction: Single Filing Status: \$12,525. Married Filing Jointly: \$25,050
- Personal Exemption Allowance: Dependents: \$4,350
- Itemized Deductions Allowed?: Yes, subject to limitations
- Retirement Income
 - Social Security: Can deduct \$4,090 (\$5,200 filing jointly) of federally taxable Social Security income, subject to phase-out.
 - IRAs: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - 401Ks/Defined contribution employer retirement plans: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - Private pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - Public Pensions: Portion may be exempt based on income*
- 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: Exempt

Income tax comments: *Taxpayers 65 and over may exempt up to \$9,600 if income is less than \$33,700. Credit of \$750 for past military service available if meet certain requirements.

Property Tax

- Local municipalities average 1.12% of the property's assessed value.
- Calculation of assessed value: 100% of fair market value
- Relief programs for:
 - Regular Property Tax Refund: Tax credit up to \$2,840 if meet income requirements.
 - Renters: Tax credit up to \$2,210 if meet income requirements.
 - Special Property Tax Refund: Tax credit up to \$1,000 if meet property tax amount requirements.
 - Disabled/65 and over/Have Dependents: Additional tax credit may be available.
 - 65 and over: If income less than \$60,000, tax over 3% of income can be deferred.
 - Disabled Veterans/Surviving Spouse/Primary Caregiver: Up to \$300,000 of assessed value may be exempt if over 70% service-connected disability.
 - Disabled: Up to \$50,000 of assessed value may be reduced.
- Personal Property Tax: Yes. Rates and exemptions vary.
- Deferral programs are available.

Inheritance & Estate Taxes: Estates over \$3 million are taxed at a rate between 13% and 16%. Some businesses and farms may qualify for a \$5 million exemption. There is no inheritance tax.

Women Veteran Program

The mission of the Minnesota Women Veterans Program is to ensure women Veterans have equitable access to federal and state benefits and services. We respond to the gender specific needs of women Veterans and ensure that women Veterans are treated with dignity and respect. Our outreach events are geared to improve the awareness of available benefits, services, and eligibility criteria for the women who served in the United States Armed Forces.

Women Veterans Resources

- <http://www.minnesotanationalguard.org/sarc/prevention/index.php> - Minnesota National Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program
- <https://safehelpline.org> - US Dept. of Defense Safe Helpline
- <https://www.sapr.mil> - US Dept. of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response
- <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/womenveterans> - US Dept. of Labor Women Veteran Employment Resources
- <https://www.va.gov/womenvet> - Federal VA Center for Women Veterans

- <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/mentalhealth/msthome/index.asp> - Federal VA Military Sexual Trauma Information

Women's Health Centers

VA Women's Clinic is a multi-disciplinary clinic offering a full range of preventive care and treatment services for women of all ages. If you are already enrolled for VA medical benefits, contact your Primary Care Team for information about services available in the Women's Clinic.

- <https://www.va.gov/minneapolis-health-care> - Fargo VA Medical Center
- <https://www.va.gov/minneapolis-health-care> - Minneapolis VA Medical Center
- <https://www.va.gov/sioux-falls-health-care> - Sioux Falls VA Medical Center
- <https://www.va.gov/st-cloud-health-care> - St. Cloud VA Medical Center
- <https://www.paloalto.va.gov/locations/menlopark.asp> - Women's Trauma Recovery Program, Menlo Park, CA

Women's Comprehensive Primary Care Services

Exams and services:

- History and physical, including pelvic exam and breast exam
- Menopause treatment, including hormonal therapy, if appropriate
- Family planning and contraceptive care
- Maternity care referrals
- Assessment for heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke risk
- Tobacco use cessation counseling
- Sexual trauma referrals
- Flu and other vaccines
- Social Work referrals
- Medication therapy education
- Referrals for other services as needed by the patient

Screenings for:

- High blood pressure
- Breast cancer
- Cervical cancer
- Colorectal cancer
- Osteoporosis
- High cholesterol
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Diabetes
- Nutrition and dietary needs
- Psycho-social issues that impact women's health

Gynecology

Gynecology Clinic provides special services, including major or minor surgical procedures for treatment of women's gender-specific or reproductive disorders. These may include urologic-gynecology for treatment of urinary incontinence and referrals for gynecological oncology for treatment of cancers of the female reproductive organs.

Homeless Programs

Homeless Veteran Registry

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) and its partners have committed to end homelessness among Veterans. The [Homeless Veteran Registry](https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/homelessnessandprevention/homelessveteranregistry.jsp) which can be found at <https://mn.gov/mdva/resources/homelessnessandprevention/homelessveteranregistry.jsp> is used by MDVA and its partners to ensure that every Veteran experiencing homelessness has access to appropriate housing and services. i Anyone who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves or National Guard can join the Registry, regardless of the type of discharge. If you are a Veteran and choose to join, a team of housing and service professionals will work together to help you access housing and services that meet your needs. Participation is voluntary.

The Registry is intended to ensure that Minnesota works with every Veteran facing homelessness all the way to the point that they are housed. It is NOT a crisis response system, however. When Veterans join the Registry, the program works with other organizations who can help find a housing option for that Veteran. This can take some time. While that work is in process, if the Veteran is currently WITHOUT shelter (in their car, outdoors, etc.) we recommend that the Veteran also reach out to their CVSO, MACV, USDVA Healthcare System, local community action agency, or a local homeless shelter or outreach team to access shelter. The program's partners working with the Registry will then follow-up on working toward a housing solution.

Anyone who knows of a homeless Veteran is encouraged to call 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838). Veterans can choose to join directly and anyone can refer a Veteran to join by completing the release of information form. Housing and service professionals can FAX Release of Information's (ROI's) to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Veterans Linkage Line (LinkVet) at (218) 346-2338. For more information on the Homeless Veteran Registry, please contact the Homeless Programs Coordinators Office at homelessprograms.mdva@state.mn.us or 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838).

SOAR

The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) has partnered with the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) and the United States Social Security Administration

(SSA) to provide Minnesota's homeless and at-risk Veterans with expanded access to Social Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.



SOAR, which stands for SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access, and Recovery, is a program designed to increase access to SSI/SSDI for those who are eligible who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or co-occurring substance use disorder. Eligible Veterans are able to work with a trained MDVA SOAR advocate who will assist them with collecting the necessary information (personal and medical records), completing necessary SSA forms to file a comprehensive application packet to SSA, and aiding them through the determination process. For more information about the MDVA SOAR process, refer to <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/grant-programs-services/soar> or contact Paul Williams at (651) 201-8233. To refer someone to receive assistance under the SOAR Program, please contact LinkVet at 1-888-LinkVet.

MN Operation for Veterans Empowerment (MOVE)

The Minnesota Operation for Veterans Empowerment (MOVE) is a state program that helps homeless veterans at the Union Gospel Mission in St. Paul, Minnesota. The program offers one-on-one case management with a Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Outreach Representative. While you are getting case management services, you also can get a bed at the missions at no cost to you. The case managers work with veterans to figure out what resources they need to find housing and improve their situation. To apply for the MOVE program, call the MDVA receptionist at 1-651-296-2562.

Other

Claims

St. Paul Claims Office -- The St. Paul Claims Division represents Veterans and their dependents, who live within the jurisdiction of the St. Paul VA Regional Office, who seek federal Veterans benefits with regards to compensation, non-service connected pension, vocational rehabilitation or educational benefits. The division has an established relationship with County Veterans Service Officers and the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure Veterans are appropriately served. St. Paul Claims Office: (612) 970-5662

Northwest/Fargo Claims Office -- The Northwest/Fargo Claims Division represents Veterans and their dependents, who live within the 15 Minnesota counties under the jurisdiction of the Fargo VA Regional Office, who seek federal Veterans benefits with regards to compensation, non-service connected pension, vocational rehabilitation or educational benefits. The division

has an established relationship with 15 northwest Minnesota County Veterans Services Officers and the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure Veterans are appropriately served. Northwest/Fargo Claims Office: (701) 451-4641

If you have questions about what benefits and programs you may be eligible to receive, contact your County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) at www.macvso.org or call 1-888-LinkVet. The Federal VA Benefits Line is (800) 827-1000

Minnesota Service CORE

This is a nation-leading program designed to bring essential, community-based services directly to Veterans and their families across Minnesota at no cost to them. Due to its unique structure, this program also provides resources to previously underserved areas in greater Minnesota. By partnering with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS), CORE provides comprehensive assistance through the existing statewide network of resources. Services include individual and family counseling, financial counseling, debt management, addiction counseling, disability services and in-home counseling. The goal is to help Veterans and their families develop skills and draw on their own strengths to bring about successful and lasting family stability.

LSS case workers are based in field offices located throughout the state, including the Twin Cities metro area, Alexandria, Bemidji, Brainerd, Detroit Lakes, Duluth, Fergus Falls, Mankato, Moorhead, St. Cloud and Willmar. For more information, or to request services through CORE contact your County Veterans Service Officer. Find your CVSO at www.macvso.org or by calling 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838), MDVA's one-stop customer service line for all Minnesota Veterans and their families.

Discharge Certificates

Veterans' benefits require that applicants provide a copy of their form DD 214 or discharge record, which is evidence of their veteran status. This is an important document and must be safeguarded. If you do not have a copy of your DD 214, contact your County Veterans Service Officer for assistance in obtaining it. If you have a copy of your DD 214 it is recommended that it be recorded in your county courthouse, or at the very least be sure to keep it in a safe place and inform a family member or trusted individual of its location.

Veteran Identification Card

Veteran ID Card (VIC) is a form of photo ID one can use to get discounts offered to Veterans at many restaurants, hotels, stores, and other businesses. You may be eligible if you meet both of the requirements listed below:

- Served on active duty, in the Reserves, or in the National Guard (including the Coast Guard), and
- Received an honorable or general discharge (under honorable conditions)

If you received an other than honorable, bad conduct, or dishonorable character of discharge, you're not eligible for a Veteran ID Card. If you have an uncharacterized or unknown discharge status, a verification of your eligibility will be completed prior to approval of application. You'll need to provide a copy of your discharge papers, when you apply for a VIC to prove your character of discharge. Please note: Retail vendors volunteer to take part in discount programs. If a business decides to provide discounts to Veterans, it doesn't mean that VA or the state of Minnesota is recommending or favoring that business. Application for Veteran ID Card (VIC) is done online at <https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic> after you create an account.

After your eligibility has been verified, you'll be sent an email letting you know the status of your application. If you have an unknown or uncharacterized discharge status, your application will take more time to process while we verify your eligibility. (We may need to request your records from the National Personnel Records Center.) If you receive an email from us asking for additional information or evidence to process your application, you'll need to sign in to AccessVA and update your application with the information asked for. You can check the status of your application after you apply at <https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/?cspSelectFor=vic>.

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- For additional information on any of the above programs visit <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/State/Territory-Benefits/Minnesota> and the Minnesota Department of Veterans Services website <http://mn.gov/mdva>.
- For current issues affecting veterans residing in the state visit <https://www.moaa.org/content/state-report-card/statereportcard>.
- For additional info on federal veteran benefits you can refer to the Military.com website <https://www.military.com/topics/veteran-benefits>.
- 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/minnesota-state-veterans-benefits.html> | September 2021 ++]