

Montana State Veteran's Benefits



2019

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

- Housing Benefits
- Financial Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Recreational Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Housing

Location and Function of Homes

Montana veterans' homes are located in Columbia Falls and Glendive. Their primary function is to provide a home and subsistence for veterans. The department of public health and human services may also admit spouses or surviving spouses of veterans to the homes if space allows.

Montana Veterans' Home (MVH). This is a Medicare/Medicaid and Veterans' Administration certified facility with 105 intermediate/skilled-care beds and 12 domiciliary beds. It is located at 400 Veterans Dr, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. The nursing facility includes a 15-bed Alzheimer's unit. MVH has been providing services to Veterans since 1896. Most rooms are double occupancy including bath and shower facilities. Construction of the current facility began in 1970 with additions in 1974, 1984, 2002 and a remodel in 2009. The Montana Veterans' Home is located next to the Flathead River just minutes away

from Glacier National Park. A large pavilion, walking paths and protected courtyards provide ample opportunities for outdoor access.

The facility offers individual and group activities, spiritual services, support group services and social services. The skilled and rehabilitative services include: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and dietitian services. Physician services are provided on site by North Valley Hospital of Whitefish. Admission to MVH nursing program is for honorably discharged veterans who have served in the armed forces of the United States and who qualify for skilled/intermediate nursing care or domiciliary self-care living. This is a non-smoking facility, but has a smoking program. Smoking is done in a structure designed for this purpose. Residents may not possess any smoking materials in the building. Each resident is evaluated for permission to smoke. Spouses of veterans will be admitted on a space-available basis. A veteran and spouse may be admitted together if they both qualify for nursing-home care or domiciliary living. MVH has an open admission policy regardless of race, color, creed, age, national origin, medical diagnosis or handicap. Administrative Rules of Montana, Chapter 37.45 Residents pay on the basis of their ability. The Veterans' Administration contributes toward the cost of care for each veteran; spouses do not qualify for this benefit. Cost per day is less than what is charged in most private or nonprofit nursing homes. Montana Veterans Affairs.

Refer to <http://dphhs.mt.gov/sltc/HomeLivingOptions/montanaveteranshomes/cfmvh/Admission.aspx>. for admission policy, cost, and applications. Contact the Director of Social Services at (406) 892-3256 x 261 for remainder of needed admission paperwork. You will be placed on the wait list. When an opening occurs, they will evaluate your medical status at that time to be sure they can meet your needs and will provide additional information about the rules and regulations of the Home. You will also be notified in writing if your application has been denied and reason for denial.



Eastern Montana Veterans Home (EMVH). This is an 80-bed Long Term Care facility, built by the State of Montana with the assistance of the Federal Veteran's Administration, with a 16-bed designated Special Care Unit for residents with special needs. It is located at 2000 Montana Dr., Glendive, MT 59330 Tel: 406-345-3306 and managed by Glendive Medical Center. EMVH offers a broad array of services and amenities to meet veteran's needs and provides a comfortable home for them or their loved ones. Services offered include Nursing, Activities, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Respiratory Therapy, Pharmacy Services, Special Care Unit - (Alzheimer's), Registered Dietician, Social Services, Discharge Planning, Spiritual Needs, Laundry Services, and Support Groups.

The admission policy of the Eastern Montana Veterans Home is to admit veterans from anywhere in the United States if they qualify for skilled and intermediate nursing care. Spouses and surviving spouses are admitted on a space-available basis. A veteran and spouse may be admitted together if they both qualify for nursing home care. EMVH has an open admission policy regardless of race, color, creed, age, national origin, medical diagnosis or handicap. An order from a medical provider is required for admission. For additional information refer to <http://www.gmc.org/getpage.php?name=home>.



Financial

State Income Tax

- Active duty and reserve/guard pay is not taxed by the state of Montana.

Property Tax Exemption

A residence, including the lot on which it is built, that is owned and occupied by a veteran or a veteran's spouse is exempt from property taxation if the veteran:

- Was killed while on active duty or died as a result of a service-connected disability; or
- If living, was honorably discharged from active service in any branch of the armed services; and is currently rated 100% disabled or is paid at the 100% disabled rate by the U.S. department of veterans affairs for a service-connected disability, as verified by official documentation from the U.S. department of veterans affairs.

Employment

Point Preference in Hiring Veterans

Whenever a public employer uses a scored procedure, an applicant for an initial hiring, must have added to the applicant's score the following percentage points of the total possible points that may be granted in the scored procedure:

- 5 percentage points if the applicant is a veteran; and
- 10 percentage points if the applicant is a disabled veteran or an eligible relative.

A disabled veteran who receives 10 percentage points may not receive an additional 5 percentage points. Whenever a public employer uses a selection procedure other than a scored procedure, the public employer

shall give preference to a disabled veteran, eligible relative, or veteran, in that order, over any non-preferred applicant holding substantially equal qualifications.

Military Waiver for CDL

Service members currently licensed and who are or were employed in the past year in a military position requiring the operation of a military motor vehicle equivalent to a commercial motor vehicle may apply for a skills test waiver for their commercial driver license (CDL). Written tests cannot be waived.

Education

Montana Honorably Discharged Veteran Tuition Waiver

The Montana Honorably Discharged Veteran Tuition Waiver eliminates tuition costs charged to a qualifying student. To qualify a veteran must:

- Be honorably discharged
- Used up all their federal GI bill benefits
- Be classified as in-state for admissions purposes
- Have served in a war zone (Vietnam, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq) and received a campaign or expeditionary medal

Montana War Orphan Tuition Waiver

For children under 25, whose parent was killed in action, or died as a result of combat related injury or disease. It covers 100 percent of the cost of resident tuition

Montana University System Veterans Services Website

The website www.mus.edu/veterans provides veterans a "one stop shop" location that includes all of the tools necessary for veterans to access and succeed in higher education. Veterans are able to find information on planning for college, veterans benefits, credit transfer, online learning and links to individual campus information including links to the veterans services offices and financial aid.

Veterans Upward Bound Program

The Veterans' Upward Bound Program is offering free statewide classes that prepare veterans for college and other post-secondary training. If you are a military veteran, we can assist you in achieving your educational goals. Veterans' Upward Bound is offering free classes in math, algebra, grammar, writing, computers, college survival and Spanish. A new law enacted for reservists activated after 9/11 are now eligible for educational benefits under Chapter 1607.

For Information Contact: Veterans Upward Bound 1500 University Drive, Cisel Hall 109, Billings, MT 59101 Tel: (406) 657-2075, Text: (406) 794-3244 or toll free 1-877-356-8387

1. Veterans Education Related Links:
 - [VA Office of Economic Opportunity](#)
 - [GI Bill Website](#)

- [Purple Heart Job Training Program](#)
 - [Troops to Teachers](#)
 - [Veterans Upward Bound MSU-Northern News Letter](#)
 - [Guide to Online Military Student Resources](#)
2. Montana University / College Veterans Education Contact Websites:
- [University of Montana \(U of M\)](#)
 - [University of Montana - Montana Tech - Butte](#)
 - [Montana State University - Billings](#)
 - [Montana State University - Bozeman](#)
 - [Montana State University - Great Falls](#)
 - [Montana State University - Northern](#)
3. Related Documents:
- [A list of Schools and contacts for them](#)

Grateful Nation Montana

Grateful Nation Montana was formed for the specific purpose of facilitating college educations for the children of soldiers killed while on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. Working with a combination of public and private resources, they link eligible students with the financial resources and non-monetary support they will need to have a successful college experience. Grateful Nation currently focuses solely on providing these resources and support to Montana military families. To date, 43 soldiers from Montana have been killed in these conflicts, leaving a total of 38 children behind.

Grateful Nation targets both the financial and educational needs of these children. Even with sufficient financial resources in place, the road to a successful college education may not be assured for these students, who face many hurdles growing up without a parent. Participating colleges and universities provide student tutoring and mentoring to eligible students during their high school years so that these students are academically and emotionally prepared to succeed in college. They also host an Annual Freedom Run in Bigfork, Montana on July 4th. All profits from the race registration go directly to the Grateful Nation Montana scholarship fund. To learn more about Grateful Nation Montana go to:

- The Grateful Nation Memorial <http://www.gratefulnationmontana.com/donate/donate-to-the-memorial-fund> – Montana’s official Iraq/Afghanistan war memorial
- Pledges of Support <http://www.gratefulnationmontana.com/news/quotes>
- Funding: College Education Costs <http://www.gratefulnationmontana.com/about/funding>
- Outreach: Including involvement in campus activities, tutoring, and counseling <http://www.gratefulnationmontana.com/about/outreach>
- Our Team <http://www.gratefulnationmontana.com/about/our-team>

Recreational

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Persons with disabilities are entitled to fish and to hunt game birds, not including turkeys, with only a conservation license if they are residents of Montana not residing in an institution and are certified as disabled as prescribed by departmental rule. A person who has purchased a conservation license and a resident fishing license or game bird license for a particular license year and who is subsequently certified as disabled is entitled to a refund for the fishing license or game bird license previously purchased for that license year. A person who is certified as disabled pursuant to subsection (3) and who was issued a permit to hunt from a vehicle for license year 2000 or a subsequent license year is automatically entitled to a permit to hunt from a vehicle for subsequent license years if the criteria for obtaining a permit does not change. Disabled Montana residents may be eligible for 1/2 price hunting and fishing licenses. Please contact the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department at <http://fwp.mt.gov> for more information.

Active duty non-residents and their families can buy hunting and fishing licenses for the resident rate.

Other Montana State Veteran Benefits

Aid by State, County, and Municipal Officers

All state, county, and municipal officers shall render such aid to the board as shall be within their power and consistent with the duties of their respective offices.

Special Plates for Military Personnel, Veterans, and Spouses

Active military personnel, veterans, or the surviving spouse of an eligible veteran, if the spouse has not remarried, may be issued special military or veteran license plates.



Air Force Reserve



Air Force Veteran



Purple Heart Veteran



Ex-Prisoner of War



Army Reserve



Army Veteran



Coast Guard Veteran



Disabled Veteran



Gold Star Family



Pearl Harbor Survivor



Navy Veteran



Navy Reserve



National Guard



National Guard Retired



Legion of Valor



Marine Corps Veteran



Marine Corps Reserve



Purple Heart Disabled Veteran

Veterans' Cemetery Fee for Special Veteran License Plates

An applicant for special veteran license plates shall pay \$10 for each set issued, renewed, or transferred, in addition to any other taxes or fees applicable. Fees collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund and transferred to the special revenue account for state veterans' cemeteries.

Vehicle Registration Fee and Veterans' Cemetery Fee Waivers

Eligible persons are exempt from the veterans' cemetery fee for two sets of special veteran license plates and all motor vehicle registration fees for two motor vehicles that are not used for commercial purposes.

Veterans' Clubhouse Exemption -- Incompetent Veterans' Trusts

A clubhouse or building erected by or belonging to any society or organization of honorably discharged United States military personnel that is used primarily for educational, fraternal, benevolent, or purely public charitable purposes rather than for gain or profit, together with the personal property necessarily used in the building, is exempt from taxation. The exemption provided for in this section applies even if a business, intended primarily for the use of the members, is required to be open to the public and is operated in a portion of the building.

All property, real or personal, in the possession of legal guardians of incompetent veterans of U.S. military service or minor dependents of the veterans, when the property is funds or derived from funds received from the United States as pension, compensation, insurance, adjusted compensation, or gratuity, is exempt from all taxation as minor's own right on account of removal of legal disability.

State Veterans' Cemeteries

The State of Montana maintains three Veterans Cemeteries, they are located in Helena, Missoula, and Miles City. Spouses may be buried along with the Veteran for a \$500 fee. Non residents may also be eligible. The following documents are required for burial at the State Veterans Cemeteries:

Veteran:

- A copy of the death certificate.
- Discharge papers. (DD-214 or equivalent)
- Burial transit permit for full body burial or cremation certificate. This will be provided by the Mortuary.
- Headstone application: This will be filled out by the funeral home or the cemetery sexton. There is a \$115.00 charge to set the headstone at all three State Veteran Cemeteries. The county of residence will pay \$70.00 and the family will be responsible for the remaining \$45.00. Out-of-state residents must pay the full \$115.00 charge for setting the headstone.

Spouse:

- A copy of death certificate.
- Discharge papers. (DD-214 or equivalent)
- \$500.00 fee for opening and closing of grave.
- Headstone application. This will be filled out by the funeral home or the cemetery sexton. There is a \$115.00 charge to set the spouses headstone at all three state veteran cemeteries.
- Burial transit permit for full body burial or cremation certificate. This will be provided by the Mortuary.



Fort Harrison



Missoula



Miles City

- **Montana State Veterans Cemetery**, Fort Harrison, Helena, MT Office - (406) 324-3740 Cemetery Sexton - (406) 324-3742 & 226-74599F <http://montanadma.org/montana-state-veterans-cemetery>
- **Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery**, 1911 Tower Street, Missoula, MT 59804 <http://montanadma.org/western-montana-state-veterans-cemetery>
- **Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery**, Cemetery Road, Miles City, MT 59301 Office - (406) 951-1325/232-2019F <http://montanadma.org/eastern-montana-state-veterans-cemetery>

Ω Ω Ω Ω Ω Ω Ω Ω

For further information visit <http://montanadma.org/montana-veterans-affairs> or call the State Administrative Office or your nearest state Veterans Service Office:

State Administrative Office (<http://montanadma.org/addresses-and-facilities>)

- Ackerman, Administrator Tel: (406) 324-3741 or kelly.ackerman@mt.gov
- Casey McInerney, Office Manager Tel: (406) 324-3740 or casey.mcinerney@mt.gov
- Curt Aasved, Cemetery Program Manager Tel:(406) 721-2995 or caasved@mt.gov

VA Service Offices

- Belgrade: (406) 388-4601
- Billings: (406) 248-8579
- Butte: (406) 533-0910
- Great Falls: (406) 452-2265
- Havre: (406) 265-4225
- Helena: (406) 495-2082
- Kalispell: (406) 755-3795
- Miles City: (406) 232-1203
- Missoula: (406) 542-2501

Other Contact Info

- [Federal Veterans Services Facilities](#)
- [Board addresses with qualifications](#)
- [State Veterans Affairs Addresses and Phone Numbers](#)

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/montana-state-veterans-benefits> | August 2019 ++]