

# Rhode Island State Veteran's Benefits

November 2019



The state of Rhode Island provides several veteran benefits. This attachment offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- Housing Benefits
- Financial Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Recreation Benefits
- Other Benefits

## Housing Benefits

### **Veteran's Home**

The Rhode Island Veterans Home, a 110-acre complex located on Mount Hope Bay, at 480 Metacom Avenue in Bristol, Rhode Island. Phone: (401) 253-8000 Fax: (401) 254-1340



**Rendering of new Rhode Island Veterans Home**

The mission of the home is to provide quality nursing and residential care to those Rhode Island war veterans in need. Social, medical, nursing and rehabilitative services are also provided to veterans and their survivors and/or dependents to improve their physical, emotional and economic well-being. The Veterans Home Offers:

- 260 nursing care beds in six long term care units, including a Alzheimer's Care Unit. There are also two ambulatory care units with 79 beds. Additional services include: dental, x-ray and pharmacy services and transportation to and from the Veterans Administration Hospital clinics in Providence.
- Rehabilitation Services includes physical and occupational therapy.
- Social Services includes individual and group therapy and specialized support groups.
- Transitional Services include short-term stays in dorms or a more intensive Transitional Supportive Program for homeless veterans. The Veterans Transitional Supportive Program assists homeless veterans in their return to community living. The mission of the program is to provide necessary services so that homeless veterans or those at risk of becoming homeless can function independently in the community. Services Include
  - Individual Counseling
  - Education and Training
  - Work Therapy
  - Outpatient and/or Residential Substance Abuse Treatment
  - Medical Care and Psychiatric Treatment
  - For more information, please contact: RI Veterans Affairs Office, 480 Metacom Avenue, Bristol, RI 02809 Tel: (401) 253-8000 ext. 495
- Activities and Services for Residents include movies, crafts, card games, bingo, birthday parties, cookouts. Religious Services are also available.
- Resident Rights. Each resident shall have personal rights which include, but are not limited to, the following:
  1. To be accorded dignity in their personal relationships with staff, residents and other persons.
  2. To be accorded safe, healthful and comfortable accommodations, furnishings and equipment.
  3. To be free from corporal or unusual punishment, freedom from abuse, neglect and exploitation such as forced isolation, humiliation, intimidation, mental abuse or other actions of a punitive nature, such as withholding of monetary allowances or interfering with daily living functions such as eating or sleeping patterns or elimination.
  4. To be informed by the licensee of the provisions of law regarding complaints such as confidentiality.
  5. To have the freedom of attending religious services or activities of their choice and to have visits from the spiritual advisor of their choice.
  6. To visit the facility prior to residence along with their family and responsible persons.
  7. To have their family or responsible persons regularly informed by the licensee of activities related to their care or services including ongoing evaluations, as appropriate to the resident's needs.

8. To have communications to the licensee from their family and responsible persons answered promptly and appropriately.
9. To have their visitors, including ombudspersons and advocacy representatives, visit privately during reasonable hours but without prior notice, provided that the rights of other residents are not infringed upon.
10. To wear their own clothes; to keep and use their own personal possessions, including their own toilet articles; and to keep and be allowed to spend their own money unless contraindicated.
11. To have access to individual storage space for private use.
12. To have reasonable access to telephones, to make and receive confidential calls.
13. To mail and receive unopened personal correspondence.
14. To receive or reject medical care, including right to choose a physician (this may require a transfer to the unit that physician covers).
15. To receive assistance in exercising the right to vote.
16. To move from the facility.

In addition to the Veterans Home buildings, the facilities include a library, gift shop, cafe, bank, barbershop, and beautician. The Veterans Home has an active Family Council that is open to family members. They meet monthly to discuss common issues and concerns affecting the residents of the home.

The Rhode Island Veterans Home has an active Family Council that is made up of family members. They meet on the last Friday of the month to discuss common issues and concerns that affect the residents of the Home. The Family Council also discusses legislation affecting not only the residents of the Home, but veterans in general. Speakers of interest are invited to address the group. To review the notice of Rhode Island Veteran Home regulations and the Rhode Island Veterans Home Administrative Procedures for Billing and Collection of Maintenance Fees refer to:

- [http://www.vets.ri.gov/Documents/RI%20Veterans%20Home%20Regulations%20180-RICR-10-00-3\\_Final.pdf](http://www.vets.ri.gov/Documents/RI%20Veterans%20Home%20Regulations%20180-RICR-10-00-3_Final.pdf)
- <http://www.vets.ri.gov/Documents/Public%20Notice%20of%20Proposed%20Rulemaking%20180ricr100002.pdf>

Admission to the RI Veterans Home is open to veterans of the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Merchant Marine, Coast Guard or Air Force who were honorably discharged and who served for 90 days or more during any foreign war or conflict in which the United States was engaged or in any expedition or campaign for which the United States government issued a campaign medal or as a result of service, acquired a service-related disability or disease. Cost is 80% adjusted net income.

Applicants must be honorably discharged and deemed in need of the care and services provided at the Home. In addition, war service veterans need to have lived in the state at least two years prior to the date of application or who were inducted into military services while a resident of the State of Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island Veterans Home will accept any veteran they are licensed to accept, however, the Medical Director has the authority to approve or disapprove any veteran's diagnosis for admission to the Home. Admission to the Rhode Island Veterans Home is voluntary. Applications can be downloaded at:

- [www.vets.ri.gov/documents/RIVeteransHome/rivh\\_application.pdf](http://www.vets.ri.gov/documents/RIVeteransHome/rivh_application.pdf) RI Veterans Home Application

- [www.vets.ri.gov/documents/RIVeteransHome/rivh\\_application\\_palliative\\_care.pdf](http://www.vets.ri.gov/documents/RIVeteransHome/rivh_application_palliative_care.pdf) Application for Palliative Care

For more information on how to apply please call the RI Veterans Affairs Office at (401) 253-8000 ext. 495. The RI Office of Veterans Affairs will conduct home visits, if needed, for veterans applying for admission

### **Other Housing Benefits/Assistance**

- [American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance](#)
- [Bus Pass Program for Individuals with Disabilities](#)
- [United Way 2-1-1](#)
- [City Housing Authorities' Veterans' Preference](#)
- [Foreclosure Protection](#)
- [Grant and Per Diem Transitional Housing](#)
- [Honor House](#)
- [HUD-VA Supportive Housing](#)
- [National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](#)
- [New Home Program](#)
- [Permanent Housing Facilities](#)
- [PVAMC Homeless Outreach](#)
- [South County Habitat for Humanity Veterans' Preference](#)
- [Supportive Services for Veteran Families](#)
- [VA Adapted Housing Grants](#)
- [VA Home Improvements and Structural Alterations](#)
- [VA Home Loan Guaranty](#)
- [Resources for Homeless Veterans](#)
- [The Elisha Project](#)
- [Lockbox Program](#)

## **Financial Benefits**

### **Property Tax Exemption**

Eligible Veterans residing in Rhode Island may receive an exemption either on their real estate tax bill or on their motor vehicle tax bill. The seven exemption categories include:

1. Veterans' regular exemption
2. Unmarried widow/widower of qualified veteran
3. Veterans' exemption for totally disabled through service connected disability
4. Veterans' exemption partially disabled through service connected disability
5. Gold Star parents' exemption
6. Prisoner of war exemption
7. Specially adapted housing exemption

### **Employment Assistance**

- [RI Department of Labor and Training Veterans' Workforce Development Services](#)

- [RING Employment Transition](#)
- [State of RI Veterans' Hiring Preference](#)
- [Find an Occupation in RI](#)
- [Residential Construction Jobs Bank](#)
- [USAJOBS](#)
- [VA Educational and Vocational Counseling](#)
- [Laborers Apprenticeship Program](#)
- [The Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance \(SENEDIA\)](#)

### **Financial Assistance**

- [Property Tax Exemptions](#)
- [Unemployment Benefits](#)
- [VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#)
- [VA Disability Compensation](#)
- [VA Pension](#)
- [VA Survivors' Pension](#)
- [Financial Coaching](#)
- [Rhode Island Family Relief Fund](#)

## **Education Benefits**

### **Free Tuition for Disabled Veterans**

Veterans with 10 - 100% service-connected disability get free tuition at RI's public colleges and universities. Permanent resident of Rhode Island only. Student must apply for and use financial aid first.

### **Education Programs**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers a variety of education benefit programs. Many Veterans and active duty personnel can qualify for more than one education benefits program. Answers to VA's Education Benefit Programs can be found on their FAQs website <https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/home/session/L3RpbWUvMTM4ODAxNzU4NS9zaWQvdjNsSIVLSWw%3D>. Available Education Programs include:

- Educational Assistance Test Program (Section 901): An Educational Assistance Test Program created by the Department of Defense Authorization Act of 1981 (Public Law 96-342) to encourage enlistment and reenlistment in the Armed Forces.
- Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty (MGIB-AD): The MGIB program provides up to 36 months of education benefits. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and correspondence courses.
- Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR): The MGIB-SR program may be available to you if you are a member of the Selected Reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve, and the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard.

- National Call to Service Program: This program requires a participant to perform a period of national service to be eligible for benefits. It is a Department of Defense program that is administered by VA.
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP): A Department of Defense education benefit program designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President or Congress.
- Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA): Dependents' Educational Assistance provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits.
- The Post-9/11 GI Bill: The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service after September 10, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. You must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP): VEAP is available if you elected to make contributions from your military pay to participate in this education benefit program. Your contributions are matched on a \$2 for \$1 basis by the Government.
- Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP): VRAP offers up to 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans.

### **RI Colleges & Universities**

- Brown University: The University participates in the Department of Veterans Affairs' new Post 9/11 GI Bill and the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program.
- Bryant University: The University participates in the Department of Veterans Affairs' Yellow Ribbon Program and offers participation in the Army ROTC program as well as individual support services. It also offers scholarships for military students and veterans.
- Community College of Rhode Island: CCRI was chosen by the VA to participate as one of eight schools nationwide for the VetSuccess on Campus pilot program.
- Johnson and Wales University: Among a select number of colleges and universities that participate in the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program).
- New England Institute of Technology: New England Tech has a dedicated VA Representative on campus to guide you through the process of utilizing your GI Bill benefits.
- Providence College
- Rhode Island College: Visit the Veteran Resource Center for assistance and resources related to veterans education benefits and a wide range of other benefit programs for military members, veterans, and their families.
- Rhode Island School of Design
- Roger Williams University: Roger Williams University is approved for benefits for the education of veterans, active duty service personnel, disabled veterans, and qualified dependents.
- Salve Regina University: Veterans' benefits may be provided to veterans of the armed services who have had active duty service, and benefits are also available to children of deceased or disabled veterans. In addition, Salve Regina participates in the Yellow Ribbon program.

- University of Rhode Island: The Veterans Office at the University of Rhode Island is available to assist you with your VA benefits.

## **Recreation Benefits**

### **Free Hunting & Fishing Licenses For Disabled Veterans**

Every 100% disabled veteran can get a hunting and fishing license for free.

### **Hunting And Fishing License For Military Members**

Non-resident military members stationed in Rhode Island can get hunting and fishing licenses for the resident rate.

### **Goddard Park Golf Course Exemption**

Any veteran who is a resident of the state, and who is determined by the VA to be totally disabled through service connected disability shall be exempt from paying any fee to play golf at the Goddard Park Golf Course.

### **State Park Admission**

No fee shall be charged to any 100% service-connected disabled veteran or an automobile transporting the disabled veteran at any recreational facility owned by the state. For this section "fees" shall include all fees for parking, admittance, or other user-fees for playing golf. The term "fees" *shall not* include licensing fees; camping fees, picnic table fees or specialized facility use fees, including, but not limited to fees for the use of equestrian areas, performing art centers, game fields and mule shed.

## **Other Rhode Island State Veteran Benefits**

### **Veteran's Cemetery**

The Division of Veterans Affairs maintains a dignified and solemn military cemetery on 265 acres in Exeter, Rhode Island. To date there have been 22,625 internments at the cemetery. The cemetery serves as a final resting place for Rhode Island Veterans who have served their country honorably during wartime and their eligible dependents. Twenty-year retirees of the Rhode Island National Guard have recently become eligible, as have reserve components of the National Guard and two-year active services personnel with honorable discharges. Veterans, his or her spouse, and an eligible dependent child may be buried at the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery located at 301 S County Trl, Exeter, RI 02822 Tel: (401) 268-3088. Refer to <http://www.vets.ri.gov/slideshow/index.htm> for photos of the various memorials located within the cemetery. For [Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery Regulations](#) refer to [http://www.vets.ri.gov/Documents/180-RICR-20-00-1%20RI%20Veterans%20Memorial%20Cemetery%20\(current\).pdf](http://www.vets.ri.gov/Documents/180-RICR-20-00-1%20RI%20Veterans%20Memorial%20Cemetery%20(current).pdf).



Click on the below subjects for details contained within the RI General Laws Chapter 30-25 Burial of Veterans.

Section 30-25-1: [Firing squad for funerals](#)

Section 30-25-2: [Appropriations for firing squads](#)

Section 30-25-3: [Burial at public expense](#)

Section 30-25-4: [Designation of person to conduct burial - Burial by relatives or friends - Maximum allowance](#)

Section 30-25-5: [Place of burial - Place of burial - Disinterment from pauper cemetery](#)

Section 30-25-6: [Repealed](#)

Section 30-25-7: [Veterans dying in state institutions](#)

Section 30-25-8: [Maintenance of north cemetery](#)

Section 30-25-9: [Expenses of north cemetery](#)

Section 30-25-10: [Care of neglected graves](#)

Section 30-25-11: [Consent of custodian of neglected grave](#)

Section 30-25-12: [Appropriations for care of graves](#)

Section 30-25-13: [Acceptance and administration of gifts](#)

Section 30-25-14: [Rhode Island veterans' memorial cemetery](#)

### **Burial Benefits Information**

- [Burial Flag](#)
- [RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery](#)
- [VA Burial Allowance](#)
- [VA Headstones, Markers, and Medallions](#)

### **Providence VAMC**

Providence VA Medical Center, Rhode Island offers a variety of health services to meet the needs of Veterans. Many of the services are listed below; however, you may also view the [phone directory](#) or [contact us](#) for additional information.

- ALS - information and resources for patients and families members with ALS-Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis Tel: 401-273-7100 Ext. 3234
- Caregiver Program - Whether you and the Veteran you care for could use some help at home or you just need someone to listen, we're here to support you. Tel: 401-273-7100 Ext. 3283 or 4249
- Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Veterans - Information for Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Veterans Tel: 401-273-7100 Ext. 3293



- Oncology / Hematology - Clinical services provided to Veterans for oncology and hematology Tel: 401-273-7100 Ext. 3450, 3451, 319
- Out-Patient Pharmacy Process Improvements Tel: 401-273-7100
- Pharmacy - PVAMC prescription, RX information Tel: 401-273-7100 or 866-363-4486
- Release of Information - Staff can assist you with requests for medical records and are experts in our patients' rights and their health records. Tel: 401-273-7100 Ext. 3481/3482/3485
- Returning Service Members - VA is ready to provide health care and other medical services to our nation's returning OEF/OIF/OND Servicemembers. Tel: 401-273-7100 Ext. 6137
- Social Work Services / Geriatrics & Extended Care (GEC) Tel: 401-273-7100 Ext. 6105
- Women Veterans - Services available to women Veterans include comprehensive primary care as well as specialty care such as reproductive services and treatment for military sexual trauma. Tel: 401-273-7100 Ext. 6191

### **Homeless Veterans**

Contact VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838) to speak to a trained VA responder. The hotline and online chat are free and neither VA registration nor enrollment in VA healthcare is required to use either service. Housing Resources include

- [Guidebook for Incarcerated Veterans](#): Helps previously incarcerated Veterans avoid homelessness by providing state-specific resources on housing, health care, treatment, and community re-adjustment. Developed in partnership with the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans.
- [Homeless Assistance Resources \(RI\)](#): Provides a state-specific list of resources for the homeless, including shelters, food banks, legal services, emergency rent and utility assistance, housing counselors, and help hotlines. Provided by the Department of Housing & Urban Development.
- [HUD Continuum of Care Contacts \(CoC\) for Homeless Programs \(RI\)](#): Provides a statewide list of lead agencies responsible for coordinating HUD's homeless programs. A CoC lead agency can identify homeless assistance resources in your area. Provided by the Department of Housing & Urban Development.
- [Operation Stand Down \(RI\)](#): Combats homelessness among veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces by providing housing, educational, and financial resources, and connecting them with vital human resources and social services.
- [The Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program](#): Provides grants and per diem payments (as funding is available) to help public and nonprofit organizations establish and operate supportive housing and service centers for homeless Veterans.
- [VA Homeless Veteran Program Coordinators \(RI\)](#): Find contact information for the VA Homeless Coordinator in your community. Services include outreach, case management, and referrals for shelter and housing. After hours, contact your VA medical center's emergency room for information on emergency

### **Property Tax Exemptions**

Exemptions shall be applied to the property in the municipality where the person resides, and if there is not sufficient property to exhaust the exemption, the person may claim the balance in any other city or town where the person may own property. An exemption shall not be allowed to persons who are not

legal residents of the State of Rhode Island. To qualify for an exemption, appropriate documentation will be required by the municipality at time of application. The seven exemption categories include:

- Veterans' regular exemption.
- Unmarried widow/widower of qualified veteran.
- Veterans' exemption for totally disabled through service connected disability.
- Veterans' exemption partially disabled through service connected disability.
- Gold Star parents' exemption.
- Prisoner of war exemption.
- Specially adapted housing exemption.

### **Free Vehicle Registration For Disabled Veterans**

Any honorably discharged veteran who lost a limb, or the use of a limb in combat gets a lifetime exemption for the annual vehicle registration and license. Totally disabled veterans also get this benefit.

### **Veteran License Plates**

The Rhode Island DMV offers the following military related specialty plates. No photos are available online however, fees and ordering information is at <http://www.dmv.ri.gov/plates/veteran>.

- Disabled Veteran
- National Guard
- Prisoner of War (POW)
- Purple Heart
- Veteran
- Veteran Gold Star Parent

### **Legal & Records**

- [Rhode Island Legal Services](#)
- [Veterans Justice Outreach](#)
- [Veterans Treatment Court](#)
- [HealthVet](#)
- [Records Request](#)
- [RI Veteran Designation Driver's License](#)
- [RI Veteran Designation License Plates](#)

### **Veterans Benefits Counseling**

The Rhode Island Veterans Affairs Office offers benefit counseling including a variety of social services to Rhode Island armed forces personnel, veterans, and their dependents who are seeking assistance. This office processes all applications for admissions to the RI Veterans Home and will conduct home visits, if needed, for those veterans applying for admission. Other services handled by this office include casework, counseling, referral, budget management, and completion of claims (i.e. pensions, compensations, social security). The Veterans Affairs Office also provides information needed for the admission team at the Rhode Island Veterans Home to assign the proper level of nursing care to the veterans it serves. In addition, staff at the Veterans Affairs Office work with all state veteran services organizations to assist veterans with their requests for services. Additional information is provided at the below sites for a multitude of veteran programs to assist veterans

- [Aid & Attendance](#)

- [Housebound Assistance](#)
- [PTSD: National Center for PTSD](#)
- [PVAMC Substance Abuse Treatment Program](#)
- [Warwick Vet Center](#)
- [Middletown Community-Based Outpatient Clinic](#)
- [PVAMC Caregiver Support Services](#)
- [PVAMC Eligibility and Enrollment Office](#)
- [PVAMC Geriatrics and Extended Care](#)
- [PVAMC OEF/OIF/OND Program](#)
- [PVAMC Women Veterans Program](#)
- [RI Veterans' Home Community Living Center](#)
- [Veterans Affairs Dental Insurance Program](#)
- [Benefits for Medicaid Eligible Veterans](#)
- [YMCA Membership for Veterans](#)

#### **Veteran Organizations and Transition Services**

- [VFW Department of RI](#)
- [Disabled American Veterans](#)
- [Dreams for Veterans](#)
- [RING Retirement Service Office](#)
- [Transition Assistance Advisor](#)
- [Transition Assistance Program/Disabled Transition Assistance Program \(TAP/DTAP\)](#)

#### **Minority Voices**

- [PVAMC Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Veterans](#)
- [LGBT Veteran Training](#)
- [LGBT Veteran Care](#)

#### **POW**

- [POW Veterans Outreach Coordinators](#)
- [PVAMC Eligibility and Enrollment Office](#)
- [PVAMC Caregiver Support Services](#)
- [VA Disability Compensation for Former Prisoners of War \(POWs\)](#)
- [VA Benefits for Dependents and Survivors of Former POWs](#)

#### **RI Office of Veterans Services**

- 560 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick RI 02886 Tel: (401) 921-2119
- Use <http://www.vets.ri.gov/contact> to send them a message.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/rhode-island-state-veterans-benefits.html> & <http://www.vets.ri.gov> | November 2019 ++]

