Wisconsin State Veteran's Benefits



2021

The state of Wisconsin provides a number of services and benefits to its veterans. A brief description of each the following categories follows:

- Housing
- Financial
- Employment
- Education
- Recreation
- Burial
- Driver and Vehicle Licensing
- Other Veteran Benefits

Housing

Wisconsin Veterans Homes

One of our major responsibilities at the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs is providing 24-hour skilled nursing care to our nation's heroes. The WDVA is proud of the three veterans homes they operate in Chippewa Falls, King and Union Grove which serve nearly 1,000 veterans and their spouses. You don't have to be a Wisconsin resident to be admitted, however Wisconsin residents get priority. You must have an honorable discharge to be admitted. Spouses, surviving spouses, and Gold Star Parents are also eligible for admission. There is a monthly fee.

The Wisconsin Veterans Homes are among the best in the country, boasting an excellent safety record and the highest quality of care ratings. Their homes are very popular among Wisconsin's veterans, evidenced by the occupancy levels and waiting lists associated with each home, and the staff retention rates that exceed those of comparable facilities across the state. WDVA homes are here to serve those who have served us all.

To be eligible for admission the veteran must have entered service from the state of Wisconsin, or must have resided in the state of Wisconsin for 12 consecutive months since his/her discharge from military service. The application form must reflect a Wisconsin address for the home address. A spouse of a veteran can also reside at the Wisconsin Veterans Home, provided they are admitted while the veteran is at some type of facility (i.e. assisted living, nursing home, hospital) or if the spouse is a widow/widower. You are encouraged to visit each of the Wisconsin Veterans Homes to learn more. To do so online go to:

- http://dva.state.wi.us/Documents/veteransHomesDocuments/Admissions/WDVA_B6000-WVH-ChippewaFalls.pdf
- https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/veteransHomes/VeteransHomeUG.aspx
- http://dva.state.wi.us/Documents/veteransHomesDocuments/2016%20King/WDVA_B3401-King-Brochure 8.5x14 May%202016.pdf

To apply for admission refer to:

- http://dva.state.wi.us/Documents/veteransHomesDocuments/Admissions/WDVA_4006-WVH-Applicant-Admission-Checklist.pdf for an application checklist
- http://dva.state.wi.us/Documents/veteransHomesDocuments/Admissions/WDVA_4000-Application-for-Admission.pdf for an application form.



Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls

2175 East Park Avenue, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

(715) 720-6775 Fax: 888-966-8821 E-Mail: Veterans.Home-CF@dva.wi.gov



Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove

21425 G Spring Street, Union Grove, WI 53182

Phone: (262) 878-6700 Toll-free (866) NOW-VETS (866-669-8387) E-Mail veterans.home-

UG@dva.wisconsin.gov



Wisconsin Veterans Home at King N2665 Cty. Rd QQ, King, WI 54946

(715) 258-5586 or 1(888) 458-5586 Fax: (715) 258-3496 E-Mail: Veterans. Home@dva.wisconsin.gov

Veteran Housing and Recovery Program

The Veteran Housing and Recovery Program (VHRP) provides temporary housing, training, and supportive services to military veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in order to help them obtain permanent housing. The VHRP is designed to help homeless veterans receive the job training, education, counseling and rehabilitative services needed to obtain steady employment, affordable housing and skills to sustain a productive lifestyle. The Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs has operated the VHRP program since 1994 and has locations in Chippewa Falls, Green Bay, and Union Grove. Lutheran Social Services is the contracted program provider. The program uses a Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) and Resident Handbook to direct policies, procedures and guidelines.

The program partners with federal, state and local governments, county veterans service offices, and local stakeholders. This outreach and referral network provides needed supportive services. VHRP collaborates with the WDVA Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) for VORP to assist in their outreach efforts as well as assisting veterans to enter, and discharge from, the VHRP. The program serves any male or female veteran of the active U.S. Armed Forces regardless of length of service. The USDVA assists in final determination of eligibility. VHRP is not able to accept a veteran who has a dishonorable discharge. While spouses and children are not eligible for this program, our staff will assist a veteran's family in trying to obtain adequate housing. VHRP offers secure and safe housing to veterans while they receive training and services to become stably housed. VHRP staff will work with residents on:

- Permanent Housing
- Employment Assistance
- Education & Job Training
- Healthcare & Mental Health Services
- Substance Abuse Recovery Support

Veterans may stay at a VHRP for up to 24 months, however many complete the program in 6 to 10 months. The number one goal of the program is to assist you in securing safe and stable housing, as supportive service can be received once housed. Under this program veterans can expect:

 Highly trained professionals who are dedicated to serving veterans and providing ongoing support.

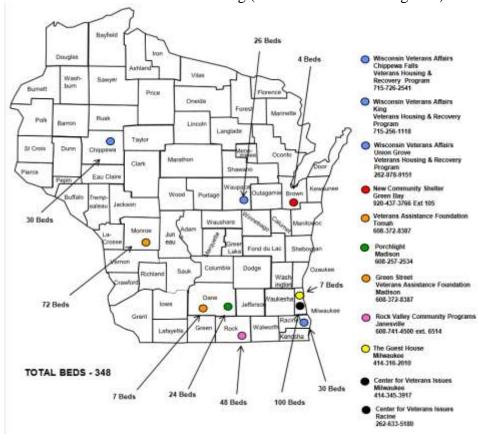
- Many amenities to assist in daily living such as a meal plan, activity room, laundry, recreational activities, access to computers, and assistance with transportation.
- To build a sense of community and restore pride and confidence by working together to maintain the common living areas they reside in and volunteering their time in the local community.
- Encouragement to earn and save money while in the program in order to obtain permanent housing after graduation.

Locations and Contact Information

- VHRP Chippewa Falls, 2820 East Park Avenue, Bldg. 128, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729 Phone: 715.726.2541
- VHRP Green Bay, 2500 Bel Meadow Drive, Green Bay, WI 54311-6775 Phone: 920.391.4370
- VHRP Union Grove, 21425 Spring Street, Building D, Fairchild Hall Union Grove, WI 53182 Phone: 262.878.9151

Transitional Living Programs

- Veteran Assistance Foundation (VAF) for transitional living programs at 608-372-8387
- Center for Veteran Issues 414.345.3917
- Rock Valley Community Program Janesville (RCVP) for transitional living programs at 608.741.4500
- New Community Shelter Program 920.437.3766
- Guest House of Milwaukee at 414.345.3240
- Porchlight Community Program 608.257.2534
- Wisconsin Veterans Transitional Housing (Grant & Per-Diem Programs)



Financial

Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit

The Wisconsin Veterans & Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit provides eligible veterans and unremarried, surviving spouses a refundable property tax credit for their primary, in-state residence. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs verifies the veteran's eligibility for the program. The credit is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue through the state income tax return.

The definitions of an eligible veteran and an eligible unremarried surviving spouse are expanded to include:

- A veteran who had been a Wisconsin resident for a consecutive 5-year period after entering active duty or was a Wisconsin resident when entering active duty.
- The veteran must have either an SCD rating of 100 percent under 38 USC 1114 or 1134 or a 100% disability rating based on individual unemployability. Individual unemployability means a condition under which a veteran has an SCD rating of either 60% under 38 USC 1114 or 1134 or two or more SCD conditions where one condition has at least a 40% scheduler rating and the combined scheduler rating for all conditions is at least 70%, and has an administrative adjustment added to the SCD, due to individual unemployability, such that the VA rates the veteran 100% disabled.
- Effective for taxable years, beginning on or after January 1, 2014. The Wisconsin Property Tax Credit is extended to include the unremarried surviving spouse of an eligible veteran, who following the veteran's death, began to receive and continues to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Federal VA.

Wisconsin Individual Income Taxes

- Combat Pay Exemption -- Military pay that is exempt from federal taxation, such as combat pay or hazardous duty pay, is also exempt from Wisconsin state taxation.
- Death Gratuity Exemption -- The death gratuity paid to the surviving dependent in the event of a line of duty death of a military service member is exempt from Wisconsin individual income taxes.
- Military Pay -- Regular pay received by Wisconsin residents serving in the military on active duty or on inactive Reserve duty or in the Wisconsin National Guard is not exempted from income tax.
- Military Retirement Benefits -- Military retirement benefits are exempt from Wisconsin state taxation
- Mobilized Reserve/Guard Pay Exemption -- For taxable years beginning in 2004 and thereafter, military pay received by certain members of the Reserves and National Guard may also be exempt for Wisconsin tax purposes.
 - To qualify for the exemption, the military pay must have been received from the federal government after being called into active federal service or into special state service authorized by the federal Department of Defense.
 - The pay must have been for a period of time during which the Reserve or National Guard member was on active duty. This exemption does not apply to military pay that members

of the Reserves or National Guard receive during their weekend and two-week annual training.

Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant

The Assistance to Needy Veterans Grant (ANVG) program provides limited financial assistance to those in need and who have exhausted all other sources of aid. The grants may be used for specified health care and subsistence needs up to maximum grant limits. General eligibility consists of two broad requirements:

- 1. Military service (Character; Type; Duration), and
- 2. Wisconsin state residency

Applications for the Health Care Aid and Subsistence Aid Grants may be submitted through your local County Veterans Service Office (CVSO).

- Click here for the Application for the Health Care Aid Grant
- Click <u>here</u> for the Application for the Subsistence Aid Grant

Aid to Military Famlies

Unremarried surviving spouses and dependent children of an eligible veteran who died in the line of duty while on active duty or inactive duty for training OR, the qualified spouse and dependent children of an activated or deployed military service member, who have suffered or are suffering a loss of income because of the activation or deployment and have experienced an economic emergency, may qualify for assistance. An economic emergency includes:

- Failure of the sole means of transportation.
- Failure of a stove or refrigerator or of heating, electrical or plumbing systems, etc.
- A medical emergency.
- Severe damage to the primary residence as a result of a natural disaster.

The service member must be a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or of the Wisconsin National Guard who has been activated or deployed to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. The service member must be a resident of Wisconsin. For military family members, federal poverty guidelines do not apply, although a loss of income due to the deployment or activation must be demonstrated.

Employment

Transition Assistance for Veterans Leaving Active Duty

Veterans transitioning from active duty can contact the WDVA Transition & Employment Section for state-wide employment information. The office provides employment assistance and labor market information to veterans in transition from active duty to civilian life and the civilian job market in Wisconsin.

Veterans Retraining Grants

Recently unemployed or underemployed veterans may receive up to \$3,000 per year, for a maximum of two years, if they have a financial need while being retrained for employment. The amount of the grant is determined by the applicant's financial need as calculated by the WDVA. Other education or retraining grants will be included when determining the veteran's financial need for this program and should be included on the application. Visit the WDVA Veterans Retraining Grant webpage for more information.

Local Veterans Employment Representatives

The Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) program makes employment assistance available to all Wisconsin veterans in local one-stop job centers. The Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) and Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER) are the two primary programs providing employment and training services to eligible veterans.

Veterans Representatives (DVOPs or LVERs) provide the latest information on local labor markets. They offer workshops and guidance on resume writing, job interviewing skills, and job seeking skills. They also identify training and education needs. They can help veterans make career choices by assessing aptitudes, interests, and abilities through the use of aptitude tests and career counseling.

Locate a Veterans Employment Representative at your local Wisconsin Job Center by calling toll-free 888-258-9966, view the online staff directory at http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/veterans/vetreps.htm, or register online at http://wiscjobsforvets.wi.gov/public/index.asp

Veterans as Apprentices

In Wisconsin, the Department of Workforce Development Bureau of Apprentice Standards reviews and approves registered apprenticeship and formal on-the-job training programs for veterans. To determine if you are eligible to get employment through apprentice or on-the-job training programs which could lead to professional certification and/or licensing:

- Review http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/publications/dws/apprenticeship/apprenticebooklet.pdf
- Go to http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/contacts.htm to contact an Apprenticeship Standards field representative in your area.
- Check out the DWD Apprenticeship Webpage at http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship

Veterans Hiring Preference

Civil Service Preference (Federal) – Veterans who are disabled or who served on active duty during certain periods or campaigns are entitled to preference over non-veterans both in federal hiring and in retention during reductions in force. Candidates who pass an examination are ranked by their scores. Those eligible for preference are entitled to have 5 to 10 extra points added to a passing grade of 70% or higher. Qualified veterans with a VA-approved service-connected disability (SCD) rating of 10% or more are placed at the top of most civil service exam lists.

Civil Service Preference (State) – Refer to the Division of Personnel Management (DPM)'s rules for veteran preference.

Employment Assistance Opportunities

- <u>Act2Teach</u> A program to initial licensure as a secondary mathematics or science teacher.
 Entrepreneurship Resources for Wisconsin veterans in business or interested in starting a new business.
- <u>Hire a Hero</u> An online social network to help the military community connect with caring volunteers, local events, and Military-friendly employers to better the chances for obtaining a dream job. Hire a Hero provides the platform for the general public to do more than just put a yellow ribbon on their car a chance to actively say "thank you for your service" while helping a hero network transition into a meaningful civilian career.

- <u>Troops to Teachers</u> A U.S. Department of Education & U.S. Department of Defense sponsored program established to assist veterans and eligible members of the Selected Reserve gain teacher licensure in order to obtain employment as public school teachers. WDVA is supported by the State of Montana's office for the program.
- <u>Unemployment Compensation</u> for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX) Members of the military leaving active duty discharged under honorable conditions unable to find employment may be eligible for UCX. Application for Unemployment Insurance, including UCX, is made by telephone. To file a new claim application call Madison: (608) 232-0678 or Milwaukee: (414) 438-7700 Toll-free: 800-822-5246. Have the following available: (1) Form DD-214, (2) Social Security number, and (3) Wisconsin Driver's License number (if you have one).
- Vocational Rehabilitation The federal VA provides Vocational Rehabilitation to eligible disabled veterans through the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VRE) program. Additionally, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation offers a state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program.
- Veterans In Piping The United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters and Sprinklerfitters (UA)
 has partnered with the U.S. military to create the UA Veterans In Piping (VIP) Program, which
 provides returning vets with 16 weeks of accelerated welding training.
- <u>Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative</u> Learn about an economic development corporation that
 provides quality business education, technical assistance and access to capital for small
 businesses throughout Wisconsin.
- <u>Employment Links</u> Employment assistance is available through many websites. Here you will
 find Wisconsin, military, veteran, and federal job boards as well as job search and entrepreneurial
 resources.

Education

The State of Wisconsin proudly leads the nation in providing education benefits to those who have served, as well as to their family members. We provide a number of educational programs for state veterans that are in addition to any federal Veterans educational benefits that may be available. The WDVA is ready to assist veterans and eligible family members with accessing the right education benefits and programs. Their experts can talk you through your options, help determine your eligibility, and give you the information you need to make the best choices for you and your family.

Academic Credit for Military Experience (ACME)

Service members, reservists, and veterans pursuing a college education may be able to obtain academic credit for military courses they have completed through the military. Prior to enrollment, individuals should discuss possible credit with the Veterans' Coordinator at the college or university they plan to attend; credit received may reduce attendance time and cost. They may obtain information regarding transcripts and potential credit for military experience from the links below contained in the website http://dva.state.wi.us/Pages/educationEmployment/Academic-Credit-for-Military-Experience.aspx

High School diplomas

Local School Boards in the state of Wisconsin, under the authority of Wisconsin Statutes section 120.13 (37), may award a high school diploma to veterans who left high school before receiving a high school diploma to join the U.S. armed forces during a statutorily designated war period. The high school diploma may be awarded if the veteran applies directly to the local school district, and meets all of the following requirements:

- 1. Is at least 65 years old, or is at least 55 years old and has a service-connected disability;
- 2. Attended high school in the school district, or attended high school in Wisconsin and resides in the school district:
- 3. Left high school before receiving a high school diploma to join the U.S. armed forces during a <u>statutorily designated war period</u>; and Served on active duty under honorable conditions in the U.S. armed forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces (such as the National Guard or Merchant Marine).
- 4. The high school diploma may also be awarded to veterans who received a High School Equivalency Diploma (HSED) after serving on active duty under honorable conditions, and meet the conditions of items 1-3 above.
- 5. The high school diploma may be posthumously awarded if the deceased veteran met the conditions of items 2-4 above.

For more information, please contact the Veterans Benefits Resource Center (VBRC) at 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387).

Wisconsin G.I. Bill

The Wisconsin GI Bill remits (forgives) full tuition and segregated fees for eligible veterans and their dependents for up to eight semesters or 128 credits, whichever is greater, at any University of Wisconsin System or Wisconsin Technical College System school. The Wisconsin GI Bill is a state program that is entirely separate from the Federal GI Bill. For additional information, eligibility criteria and instructions on how to apply for the Wisconsin GI Bill program, see the WI GI Bill information and application booklet.

Eligibility determination is a two part process. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs certifies the veteran's eligibility. The post-secondary educational institution determines if the student meets the statutory requirements for eligibility. If the eligible student is a spouse or child they must also meet the "Residency for tuition purposes" criteria. If you are also eligible for and plan to use the Federal VA Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30), or any other Federal VA educational benefits, please contact the school's Veteran Certifying Official in order to financially plan your education and better understand the complex relationship between these Federal benefits and the Wisconsin GI Bill. Contact information for the Veteran Certifying Officials:

- University of Wisconsin System
- Wisconsin Technical College System

Veterans Education (VetEd) Reimbursement Grant

The Veterans Education (VetEd) grant program provides a reimbursement grant based on a credit-bank system that is based on length of active duty military service to eligible veterans who have not yet been awarded a bachelor's degree for the reimbursement of tuition and fees following successful course completion at an eligible UW, technical college, or approved private institution of higher learning. Veterans may currently receive federal VA Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill benefits and VetEd for the same semester. Individuals eligible for

Wisconsin GI Bill benefits must apply for, and use those benefits in order to be eligible for VetEd reimbursement. VetEd reimbursement will be reduced to the extent that tuition and fees have already been paid by other grants, scholarships, and remissions provided for the payment of tuition and fees, including federal VA Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill tuition benefits. For additional information refer to https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/educationEmployment/Vet-Ed-Reimbursement-Grant.aspx/.

Troops to Teachers (TTT)

Wisconsin Troops to Teachers (TTT) is a joint program of the U.S. Departments of Defense and Education that assists departing active duty military personnel, veterans and certain members/retirees who are associated with the reserve components, to transition to new careers as public school teachers. Wisconsin Troops to Teachers is part of the Lewis & Clark Regional Troops to Teachers which includes Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The program provides information, referral and financial assistance to eligible individuals who are interested in gaining certification and employment as teachers. These services are provided through a network of state offices across the country and a national office in Pensacola, Florida. For more information refer to http://dva.state.wi.us/Pages/educationEmployment/Troops-to-Teachers.aspx

Veterans Upward Bound

Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is a federally funded TRIO Program (U.S. Department of Education) designed to help qualified military veterans become college-ready and enroll in a postsecondary school (university, community college, and vocational/technical programs). VUB provides basic skills instruction and educational and career advising to enable veterans to achieve their academic goals. Those veterans without a high school diploma can take the basic skills classes to prepare to take the GED exam. Refer to https://uwm.edu/trio/adult-programs/veterans-upward-bound for more information on this program.

Recreation

Disabled Veterans Fishing License

Wisconsin disabled Veterans with a combined service-connected disability rating by the VA of 70% or greater; or are receiving service-connected disability benefits as individually unemployable are eligible for a disabled Veteran reduced-fee fishing license.

Purple Heart Recipients Licenses

Purple Heart recipients can buy a spring turkey harvest authorization without being awarded a harvest authorization through the turkey drawing. They can also get a one-time transfer of a Class 'A' bear license. Purple Heart recipients can get the Conservation Patron license at reduced fees (for both residents and non-residents). Non-resident Purple Heart recipients can get hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses at the resident rate.

Conservation Patron License for Purple Heart Recipients

Any resident Purple Heart recipient who exhibits proof at a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Service Center of having received a Purple Heart medal is eligible to purchase a Conservation Patron license for \$10. Nonresident Purple Heart recipients may purchase the license for \$161.

Returning Veterans Hunting & Fishing Licenses

Recently returning Wisconsin resident veterans can get a one-time free small game, archery, gun deer or annual fishing license.

Military Free Fishing and Small Game Hunting License

Any active duty Wisconsin resident who presents their military I. D. and leave papers is eligible for a free small game license, turkey permit, and fishing license. They may also purchase one bonus antlerless deer carcass tag for any ONE unit with a quota; even if the unit is sold out, a sturgeon spearing license after the October 31 deadline, through the end of the open season for spearing sturgeon; and are eligible to receive a one-time transfer of a Class A Bear license. All other hunting, trapping or fishing licenses can be purchased at resident rates.

Active Duty Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing Licenses

Active duty Wisconsin residents on leave can get a free small game license, turkey permit, & fishing license. They can also buy a bonus antlerless deer carcass tag for any ONE unit with a quota; even if the unit is sold out, a sturgeon spearing license after the October 31 deadline, through the end of the open season for spearing sturgeon; and can get a one-time transfer of a Class A Bear license. All other hunting, trapping or fishing licenses can be purchased at resident rates. Non-Resident active duty members stationed in Wisconsin can get licenses at the resident rate.

State Parks

Disabled veterans with 70% or greater disability may receive waivers of vehicle admission and trail pass fees to Wisconsin state parks.

Burial

Wisconsin Veterans Cemeteries

Wisconsin has three veterans cemeteries in King, Spooner, and Union Grove. Honorably discharged Wisconsin resident veterans and their dependents are eligible for burial. There is no fee for the veteran's burial and a small fee for the dependents. Visit the <u>Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs</u> website for more information on any of these programs.

Preregistration Program

Pre-registration allows a veteran, spouse, and/or dependent child to establish eligibility for interment at one of the three state veteran's cemeteries. There is no cost for pre-registration and it does not obligate the veteran to be interred at the cemetery selected. Pre-registration is intended to establish eligibility and simplify the process for the veteran's next-of-kin at the time of death. A separate pre-registration is not necessary for dependents. Grave spaces are assigned at time of need, specific gravesites are not reserved.

The easiest and quickest way for a Veteran to pre-register at one of our three cemeteries located at Spooner, King, or Union Grove, is to use the MyWisVets benefits portal. Once you have registered and established an account on the MyWisVets portal you can select to pre-register with the cemetery of your choice and your pre-registration request will be automatically processed. Once your pre-registration request has been received and/or eligibility has been established a notice of confirmation regarding pre-re gistration will be sent to you by mail. Utilizing the MyWisVets portal will also allow you to learn about and apply for many other benefits that you are available.

Alternatively, you may also print and complete the paper copy of the Pre-Registration Application (WDVA 2111) and submit to the address/fax/email on the form. Ensure that you include the appropriate documentation of your military service — DD214, Wisconsin residency and if married, a copy of your marriage license or certificate. Utilizing the MyWisVets portal will allow you to upload and submit these documents electronically and is the fastest method for processing your request. If you have any specific questions regarding this process please contact Veterans Benefits Resource Center at 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387).

Military Funeral Honors Program

On May 9, 2000, the governor signed into law a bill that directed WDVA to administer a Military Funeral Honors Program using local units of member organizations of the Council on Veterans Programs and members of the Wisconsin National Guard. As part of this bill, the WDVA was authorized to establish honor guard teams. Currently located at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Union Grove the team is also responsible for the coordination of Military Funeral Honors for the entire state of Wisconsin. The Mission of the program is to provide and coordinate the final tribute to eligible Wisconsin veterans acknowledging their faithful and honorable service to the State of Wisconsin and the Nation. The WDVA MFHP is designed to complement and augment existing federal and local programs that provide this solemn and dignified ceremony to honor a deceased veteran at the time of burial. The MFHP is committed to serving veterans and their families. The MFHP ensures all agencies are coordinated in their efforts and those honors are conducted with dignity and respect and meet an acceptable military standard. Wisconsin MFHP Facts

- Over 413,000 veterans live in Wisconsin as of September 2014; 40% live in southeast Wisconsin.
- 12,000 Wisconsin veteran's deaths are projected each year between 2008 and 2012, nearly twice as many as 15 years ago.
- Wisconsin is one of nine states that have created a Military Funeral Honors Program with full-time employees to conduct and assist with providing honors.
- The WDVA MFHP coordinates honors with seven military casualty assistance centers throughout
 the country, 16 different military organizations with over 500 units, seven different Veterans
 Service Organizations (VSOs) with over 1,300 posts and two funeral associations with 600
 funeral homes.

To request honors family members of the deceased veteran should first notify their funeral director of their desire to have military funeral honors rendered. (There is no cost to the veteran's family to have military funeral honors provided by WDVA or the military.) The family should provide the funeral director with the following information, if available:

- 1. Name of deceased, date of birth and Social Security number.
- 2. A form DD-214 or any other proof of veteran status or eligibility for burial honors.
- 3. Branch of service and type of service (active, reserve, National Guard, retired).

The funeral director or a family member, if not using a funeral director, should then complete and submit a form <u>WDVA 2800</u>, <u>Military Funeral Honors Request</u>, to the Honors Coordinators via the fax number (262) 878-5677, Toll Free Fax: (866) 454-0356 or email <u>honors@dva.wisconsin.gov</u>. The veteran's discharge documents should be submitted along with the form WDVA 2800. If you have any questions before or after submitting an Honors Request please contact the Military Funeral Honors

Coordinators Toll Free at (877) 944-6667. Veterans groups that perform Honors are eligible under the state program to receive a stipend of up to \$50 for expenses incurred while performing honors. To be eligible to receive the stipend per https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/memorialsBurials/MFHPstipendProgram.aspx.

Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemeteries

Upon meeting eligibility standards, veterans are provided a burial at no cost at one of the state Veterans Memorial Cemeteries. Spouses and dependent children will incur a burial fee. Refer to http://dva.state.wi.us/Documents/memorialsBurialsDocuments/WDVA_B0145-Wis-Veterans-Memorial-Cemeteries-forWeb.pdf for a cemetery brochure that covers burial eligibility requirements, burial options, fees, pre-registration, donations, military funeral honors, and floral policies



Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery
N2665 Highway QQ, King, Waupaca County, Wisconsin 54946
Tel: (715) 256-3513 | Email: cwvmc@dva.wisconsin.gov
https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/memorialsBurials/CWVMC.aspx



Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery N4063 Veterans Way, Spooner, Washburn County, Wisconsin 54801 Tel: (715) 635-5360 | Email: nwvmc@dva.wisconsin.gov https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/memorialsBurials/NWVMC.aspx

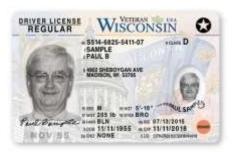


Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery
21731 Spring St., Union Grove, Racine County, Wisconsin 53182
Tel: (262) 878-5660 | Email: swvmc@dva.wisconsin.gov
https://dva.wi.gov/Pages/memorialsBurials/SWVMC.aspx

Driver and Vehicle Licensing

The State of Wisconsin through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation provides benefits to veterans related to Drivers Licensing, Motor Vehicle Registration, and License Plates. Visit the Wisconsin Department of Transportation website https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/online-srvcs/external/bds-landing.aspx for more information.

Driver's License Veteran Identifier Eligibility



To be eligible for the Veteran Identifier on your Wisconsin driver's license or ID Card you must meet certain requirements related to your term and characterization of military service.

- Character of Service: The Character of Service Field on your DD214/DD215 must show, Honorable, General under honorable conditions, or Honorable under General. (Other than Honorable conditions will not allow you to certify through this process.)
- Length of Service: You must have at least one period of service that encompassed at least two continuous years of "active duty" or 90 days of "active duty" during a Statutorily-Designated Wartime Period, where the character of service meets the requirements above.* For this purpose, "active duty" means active duty (other than active duty for training) military service in the armed forces of the United States or in forces incorporated as part of the armed forces of the United States. (Full-time National Guard duty does not qualify as "active duty" under federal law. Active federal military service performed by the National Guard members under Title 10 of the U.S. Code may qualify as "active duty."

If you are unsure of your eligibility status, prior to visiting the DMV, verify your current eligibility status by calling toll free, 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387), and choosing option 1. If the toll-free system indicates you are not currently eligible you have two options. To apply online through <u>myWisVets</u>.

- Use one of the following internet browsers: Chrome, Firefox, or Safari.
- Start by watching this 6-minute video which describes the myWisVets process and explains the options submitting documents.
- Once you create your account, check your email for the registration verification e-mail. Once you receive the e-mail, click on the link provided to activate your login.
- Submit a copy of your DD214/DD215, which provides proof of your character and length of service.
- Once your eligibility for the Veteran Identifier is determined, you will receive an approval e-mail notification. Please do not attempt to obtain the Veteran Identifier from the DMV without first receiving the approval e-mail from WDVA. The DMV cannot issue the Veteran Identifier if you have not been first verified as eligible by WDVA.
- Once you receive the determination e-mail, follow the link to the eligibility matrix, where you will also learn your eligibility status of other programs, benefits, and services via myWisVets.

Or to apply using form <u>WDVA 2241</u> complete the form and mail the form and a copy of your DD214/DD215 to the address listed at the top of form. You will receive verification from WDVA when your eligibility has been determined.

Active Duty Military Personnel

When the U.S. is involved in a military conflict, anyone who is a member of the military and stationed outside of Wisconsin is considered to be on "active duty" for the purposes of eligibility for modified procedures for the following driver licensing and registration measures: Driver license renewal; duplicate driver license; insurance information; suspended or revoked license reinstatement; medical report; vehicle registration renewal; dealer and salesperson licenses; motor carrier fees and reports; and special license plates.

Veterans & Military License Plates

Special license plates are available to veterans, retired military service members, medal recipients, and members of the active or reserve military. Some 51 different service and/or medal designations are currently available. If you currently have the old Military plates with a white background, you may continue to use them if the registration is valid and the plates are in good condition. If you wish to exchange them for the current red, white and blue design, complete and mail the Replacement License Plate Information and Application MV2118 with a replacement plate fee of \$10.

Disabled Veteran Parking License Plates



Disabled veteran parking license plates are available to any Wisconsin motorist who is a veteran with a permanent disability incurred while in active U.S. military service that limits or impairs the ability to walk. By legal definition, this includes any person who:

- Cannot walk 200 feet or more without stopping to rest
- Cannot walk without the use of, or assistance from, another person or brace, cane, crutch, prosthetic device, wheelchair or other assistance device
- Is restricted by lung disease to the extent that forced expiratory volume for one second when measured by spirometry is less than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest
- Uses portable oxygen
- Has a cardiac condition to the extent that functional limitations are classified in severity as class III or IV, according to standards accepted by the American Heart Association
- Is severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition

How to apply: A person eligible for Disabled veteran parking license plates must be an owner or lessee of the vehicle, or the beneficiary of a trust that owns or leases the vehicle. Disabled veteran parking license plates are not available at DMV customer service centers. Applications must be mailed to the address below.

- Complete the U.S. Veteran Disabled Parking License Plates Application MV2172 Applicant section and the complete vehicle description.
- Have your health care specialist from a VA medical facility complete the VA certification section.
- If you wish to receive one permanent DIS ID permit, check the box under the DIS ID permit information section.
- When using the DIS ID permit, you must keep a copy of the completed application on your person or in the vehicle and provide it to any traffic officer for inspection upon request. Please make and keep a copy of the application, signed by your health care specialist, before sending the application to WisDOT.
- Check whether you want personalized or non-personalized Disabled veteran parking license plates under the Personalized plate section.
- If the vehicle you want to register with Disabled veteran parking plates is already titled/registered in your name, send:
 - o A completed U.S. Disabled Veteran Parking License Plates Information and Application
 - o \$15 personalized plate fee, if requested
 - The annual registration fee if your current plates expire within the next three months or you have no plates
- If the vehicle is not titled/registered in your name, send:
 - A completed Wisconsin Title & License Plates Application MV1, or MV11 for dealer sales, including all other fees due
 - o A completed U.S. Disabled Veteran Parking License Plates Information and Application
 - o The Certificate of Title assigned to you by the seller
 - \$15 personalized plate fee, if requested

- The annual registration fee if you do not have plates or your current plates expire within the next three months
- If a fee is required, make the check or money order made payable to Registration Fee Trust. Mail with payment to: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Special Plates Unit DIS, P.O. Box 7306, Madison WI 53707-7306



Ex-Prisoner of War license plates are available to any Wisconsin motorist who is certified as a former prisoner of war by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and authorized by Wisconsin State Statute 341.14(6). The applicant for Ex-Prisoner of War plates must be an owner or lessee of the vehicle, or the beneficiary of a trust that owns or leases the vehicle. Vehicles that qualify:

- Automobiles
- Motor homes (annual registration only)
- Trucks 4,500, 6,000 or 8,000 pounds gross weight including dual purpose farm and dual purpose motor home.
- 12,000 pounds gross weight farm truck

Things you should know:

- There are no issuance or registration fees for one vehicle owned or leased by a person who qualifies for the plates.
- Additional vehicles registered with Ex-Prisoner of War plates require payment of a \$15 issuance fee plus the annual registration fee. If the registration fees for the vehicle are different, the vehicle with the lowest registration fee type is free.
- Ex-Prisoner of War plates expire annually and must be renewed even if no fee is required.
- The plates may be transferred to a surviving spouse or domestic partner.
- No special parking privileges are provided with Ex-Prisoner of War plates.
- Personalized plates are not available for Ex-Prisoner of War license plates

How to apply: Ex-Prisoner of War plates are not available at local DMV customer service centers. To apply, send the following items:

- If the vehicle you want to register with Ex-Prisoner of War plates is already titled/registered in your name, send:
 - o A copy of your Certificate of Registration
 - o A letter of verification from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). To obtain a letter, call the VA Regional Office at (800) 827-1000.

- If registering a second or subsequent vehicle with Ex-Prisoner of War plates, send \$15 issuance fee and the annual registration fee if your current plates expire within three months or you have no plates
- If the vehicle is not titled/registered in your name, send:
 - A completed Wisconsin Title and License Plates Application MV1, or MV11 for dealer sales, including all other fees due
 - A letter of verification from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). To obtain a letter, call the VA Regional Office at (800) 827-1000.
- If registering a second or subsequent vehicle with Ex-Prisoner of War plates, send \$15 issuance fee and the annual registration fee if your current plates expire within three months or you have no plates
- If a payment is required, make the check or money order made payable to: Registration Fee Trust. Mail with payment to: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Special Plates Unit, P.O. Box 7911, Madison WI 53707-7911

Military License Plates







Military license plates are available to any Wisconsin motorist who is an active or retired military veteran or military academy student or alumni. The applicant for Military plates must be the vehicle owner, lessee or the beneficiary of a trust that owns or leases the vehicle. Vehicles that qualify

- Automobiles
- Motor homes (annual registration only)
- Trucks 4,500, 6,000 or 8,000 pound gross weight including dual purpose farm and dual purpose motor home
- 12,000 pounds gross weight farm truck

Things you should know:

- A \$15 issuance fee is required when non-personalized Military plates are issued. WisDOT will transfer funds to the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Trust Fund. This fee may be tax deductible for certain tax filers; consult your tax advisor.
- A \$15 fee is required each year in addition to the regular registration fee if you choose to receive personalized Military license plates.
- No special parking privileges are provided with Military plates.
- Over 50 different service and/or medal designations are available. See the Military License Plates
 Information and Application form <u>MV2653</u> for a complete list. View pictures of decals at
 https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/vehicles/title-plates/military-decals.aspx.
- Plates are transferable to surviving spouse.

• For Medal of Honor plates there are no issuance or registration fees and the plates do not expire, plates are transferable to another qualifying vehicle, plates cannot be personalized, and plates may be transferred to the surviving spouse or the plate holder and still remain at no fee.

How to apply: Military license plates are not available at local DMV customer service centers. To apply, send the following items:

- If the vehicle you want to register with military plates is already titled/registered in your name, send:
 - A completed Military License Plates Information and Application MV2653 including verification of eligibility and the complete vehicle description
 - o \$15 issuance fee or \$15 personalized plate fee
 - The annual registration fee if your current plates expire within the next three months or you have no plates
- If the vehicle is not titled/registered in your name, send:
 - A completed Wisconsin Title & License Plates Application MV1, or MV11 for dealer sales, including all other fees due
 - A completed Military License Plates Information and Application MV2653 including proof of eligibility
 - o The Certificate of Title assigned to you by the seller
 - o \$15 issuance fee or \$15 personalized plate fee
 - The annual registration fee if you do not have plates or your current plates expire within the next three months
- Make the check or money order made payable to: Registration Fee Trust. Mail with payment to: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Special Plates Unit, P.O. Box 7911, Madison WI 53707-7911



Lao veteran license plates are available to any Wisconsin motorist who is a certified member of Lao Veterans of America, Inc. The applicant for Lao veteran plates must be an owner or lessee of the vehicle. Vehicles that qualify:

- Automobiles
- Motor homes (annual registration only)
- Trucks 4,500, 6,000 or 8,000 pounds gross weight including dual purpose farm and dual purpose motor home
- 12,000 pounds gross weight farm truck

Things you should know:

- A \$15 issuance fee is required when non-personalized Lao veteran plates are issued or reissued.
- A \$15 fee is required each year in addition to the regular annual registration fee if you choose to receive personalized Lao veteran plates.

How to apply: Lao veteran license plates are not available at local DMV customer service centers. To apply, contact the Lao Veterans of America Inc. for license plate decals and an application form for a Hmong/Lao Veteran License Plate in WI and Service Certificate. For more information, contact Lao Veterans of America, Inc., 1430 2nd St N Ste 1, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-2914 Telephone: (715) 551-3984. When you receive your application, certificate and decals from the Lao Veterans of America, Inc., send the following items:

- If the vehicle you want to register with Lao veteran license plates is already titled/registered in your name, send:
 - A completed Lao Veteran License Plate Information and Application MV2919 including the complete vehicle description
 - o Signed Hmong/Lao Veteran License Plate in WI from Lao Veterans of America, Inc.
 - o Photocopy of Service Certificate (not ID card) from Lao Veterans of America, Inc.
 - o \$15 issuance fee or \$15 personalized plate fee
 - The annual registration fee if your current plates expire within the next three months or you have no plates
- If the vehicle is not titled/registered in your name, send:
 - A completed Wisconsin Title & License Plates Application MV1, or MV11 for dealer sales, including all other fees due
 - o A completed Lao Veteran License Plate Information and Application MV2919
 - o Signed Hmong/Lao Veteran License Plate in WI from Lao Veterans of America, Inc.
 - o Photocopy of Service Certificate (not ID card) from Lao Veterans of America, Inc.
 - The Certificate of Title assigned to you by the seller
 - o \$15 issuance fee or \$15 personalized plate fee
 - The annual registration fee if you do not have plates or your current plates expire within the next three months
- Make the check or money order made payable to: Registration Fee Trust. Mail with payment to: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Special Plates Unit, P.O. Box 7911, Madison WI 53707-7911

Personalized Military License Plates

- Personalizing your military license plates is optional.
- A \$15 personalized plate fee is required each year in addition to the regular annual registration fee.
- Visit Personalized Plate Lookup at https://trust.dot.state.wi.us/ppup/searchPlate.do to find out if your choice for a personalized license plate is available.
- No refund or adjustment will be made for a change of choice or spacing after the plates are ordered, or if the application is unclear or incorrectly completed.
- WisDOT may refuse to issue, or may recall after issuance, a request that may be offensive to good taste or decency, misleading or conflicts with any other license plate.
- After you receive the Certificate of Registration, allow 4-6 weeks for the manufacturing and mailing process before the plates arrive.



Gold Star license plates are available to any Wisconsin motorist who has had an immediate family member (see list below) die while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. armed forces, if the immediate family member meets any of the criteria specified in 10 USC 1126(a)(1) to (3) for a gold star lapel button. The qualified individual must be the vehicle owner or lessee, including the trust of a qualifying trust beneficiary. Immediate family member includes spouse, grandparent, parent, sibling, child, stepchild, stepparent, grandchild, or spouse of a grandparent, parent, sibling, child, stepparent or grandchild Vehicles that qualify:

- Automobiles
- Motor homes (annual registration only)
- Trucks
- 4,500, 6,000 or 8,000 pounds gross weight including dual purpose farm and dual purpose motor home
- 12,000 pounds gross weight farm truck

Things you should know:

- Gold Star license plates can feature regular numbers or a personalized message.
- No issuance fee is required when non-personalized Gold Star plates are issued.
- A \$15 fee is required each year in addition to the regular annual registration fee if you choose to receive personalized Gold Star license plates.

How to apply: Gold Star license plates are not available at local DMV customer service centers. To apply, send the following items:

- If the vehicle you want to register with Gold Star plates is already titled/registered in your name, send:
 - o A completed Gold Star License Plate Information and Application MV2951, including the Affirmation for Gold Star license plates and the complete vehicle description
 - The annual registration fee if your current plates expire within the next three months or you have no plates
 - o \$15 personalized plate fee, if applicable
- If the vehicle is not titled/registered in your name, send:
 - A completed Wisconsin Title and License Plates Application MV1, or MV11 for dealer sales, including all other fees due. A completed Gold Star License Plate Information and Application MV2951 including the Affirmation for Gold Star license plates
 - o The Certificate of Title assigned to you by the seller
 - The annual registration fee if you do not have plates or your current plates expire within the next three months
 - o \$15 personalized plate fee, if applicable

 Make the check or money order made payable to: Registration Fee Trust. Mail with payment to: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Special Plates Unit, P.O. Box 7911, Madison WI 53707-7911

Driver Licensing, & Vehicle Registration

When the U.S. is involved in a military conflict, anyone who is a member of the military and stationed outside of Wisconsin is considered to be on "active duty" for the purposes of eligibility for modified procedures for the following driver licensing and registration measures: Driver license renewal; duplicate driver license; insurance information; suspended or revoked license reinstatement; medical report; vehicle registration renewal; dealer and salesperson licenses; motor carrier fees and reports; and special license plates.

Other Veteran Benefits & Services

Transportation to VA Medical Appointments

Wisconsin veterans may use one of two programs that assist veterans who need help getting to VA medical appointments. The Wisconsin Department of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) operates several vans around the state that normally stop at predetermined locations and then transport to the various medical centers. For a list of the current scheduled stops, please see the Wisconsin DAV website. Veterans can schedule a stop by contacting the DAV Transportation Coordinator listed with the schedule. These rides are free of charge and available to all veterans based on financial need—you do not have to be disabled or belong to the DAV to get a ride on this network. Veterans should contact the DAV for additional information. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs provides an annual grant to the DAV to assist with this program.

For veterans who live in locations not served by the DAV, most counties provide some type of assistance. Some counties provide this service free of charge and others require a small fee or donation. Veterans can request to have this fee waived in most cases if they are experiencing financial hardship. County transportation systems are run by the County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) or another County agency. Veterans should contact their CVSO for information. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs provides a grant to assist counties that transport veterans to VA medical appointments. To be eligible for this grant, form WDVA 2110 must be completed and returned to WDVA by the November 1st deadline.

Veterans in need of assistance with transportation to a VA medical appointment should contact the appropriate agency as soon as notification of a scheduled VA appointment has been received. Requests for same day or next day travel may not be able to be accommodated.

Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP)

WDVA's Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program is committed to providing the most comprehensive level of services and assistance to our veterans and community partners during this time. Due to COVID-19 they have adjusted thir procedures in regard to how they treat, connect, interact and reach out to their partners and veterans in need. In keeping with State and Federal guidelines and the fluid nature of the

pandemic, they are referencing the Wisconsin Department of Health's website to determine the safest plan of action to assist veterans and work with community partners. They are able to schedule in-person meetings when it is safe for both their staff and veterans. When face-to-face meetings are not possible they are utilizing Microsoft Teams to best connect with partners and veterans. All coordinators are available via phone and email during normal business hours to answer any other questions and to offer support to our veterans and community partners.

VORP staff work with community providers and professionals to provide assistance and connection to:

- Mental Health Services
- Substance Use Treatment
- Financial Assistance
- Housing and Utilities
- Claims and Benefits Assistance
- Employment and Education
- Transportation
- And many more services

VORP funding may be available to assist with treatment and emergency services for veterans enrolled in the program. The VORP team includes 11 Regional Veterans Outreach and Recovery Regional Coordinators (ORRCs) located within their region, 2 supervisors based in Madison, and a clinical coordinator. Learn more about each coordinator by clicking the links below:



- Region 1: Tabatha Dahn
- Region 2: Chandler Miller
- Region 3: Karla Peterson
- Region 4: Paul Huber
- Region 5 and 6: Todd Marks
- Region 7: Calvin Stammer
- Region 8: Mark Provencher, Jr.
- Region 9: Adayta Axelson
- Region 10: Willie Gregory
- Region 11: Holly Anderson

Incarcerated Veterans

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) provides services to veterans who are currently incarcerated within the State of Wisconsin, or who are under community supervision by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. There are approximately 1500 veterans incarcerated in the State of Wisconsin Correctional System at any given time. All inmates entering the correctional system are processed into the correctional system through three sites that serve as central reception centers in order to facilitate assessment and evaluation (A&E): Dodge Correctional (males), Taycheeda Correctional (females), Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF) (males and females).

From these three institutions inmates are transferred to one of 18 other adult correctional facilities or may stay at one of the reception centers. In addition, there are 16 correctional centers, three of which house female inmates. These correctional centers are used to begin the transition process of an inmate back to society. WDVA is responsible for conducting monthly visits in order to provide intake briefings to incarcerated veterans. These briefings are conducted at the Dodge facility for males and the Taycheeda facility for females. WDVA's program to aid incarcerated veterans provides services in the following categories:

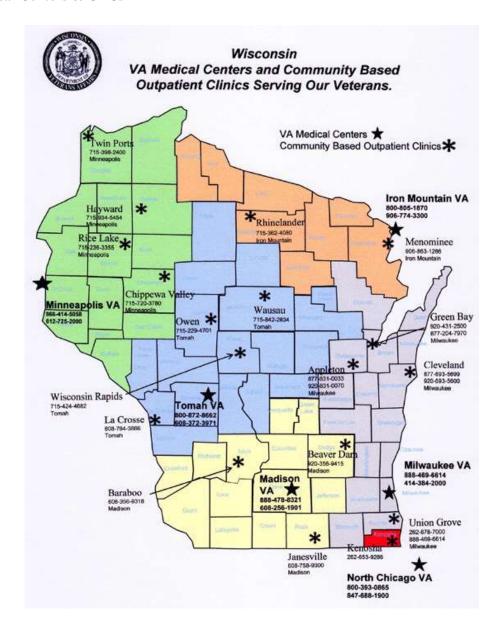
- <u>Information</u>. Upon request from an incarcerated veteran or family members, WDVA will provide information pertaining to eligibility, qualifications and entitlements pertaining to both federal and state veteran's benefits.
- <u>Access</u>. Upon request, WDVA may provide applications, or other appropriate forms or documentation, such as a certified report of separation with the veteran's written authorization, to any veteran's relative in order to file a claim on behalf of the veteran for state or federal benefits.
- <u>Assistance</u>. WDVA or your local County Veteran Service Office can provide assistance in appealing a less than honorable discharge in order to upgrade the discharge before a military corrections board, or to apply for a service connected disability or compensation with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- <u>Advocacy</u>. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Claim's Bureau may assist any
 incarcerated veteran in advocacy on any claim, or in appealing an unfavorable decision on a
 claim.
- <u>Tools & Resources</u>. WDVA, in conjunction with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, and the Wisconsin Department of

Corrections developed "A Guidebook for Incarcerated Veterans in Wisconsin." This guidebook is given to incarcerated veterans once they enter the correctional system, approximately six months before he/she is released, or upon request. This guidebook provides detailed information regarding benefits and contacts for assistance that will be very helpful to a veteran or his/her family upon leaving the correctional system.

At https://dva.wi.gov/Documents/Incarcerated%20Veterans%20Guidebook%202019_Final.pdf. Additional information can be found at:

- Wisconsin Department of Corrections
- Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development
- <u>United States Department of Veterans Affairs Incarcerated Veteran Program</u>

VA Medical Centers & OPCs



Veterans Service Organizations

These Veterans Service Organizations listed below can assist veterans who desire to submit applications for claims and benefits from the Federal VA.

- American Ex-Prisoners of War, 805 Glenview Drive, Madison, WI 53716 Phone (608) 222-2622
- The American Legion Service Office, VA Regional Office, Rm. 164, 5400 W. National Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53214 Phone (414) 902-5722; Fax (414) 902-9401 https://wilegion.org/department-service-officers
- Blinded Veterans Association of WI c/o Zablocki VA Medical Center, 5400 W. National Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53214 Phone (414) 382-5220
- Disabled American Veterans, VA Regional Office, Rm. 162, 5400 W. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53214 Phone (414) 902-5736; Fax (414) 902-9440
- Ho-Chunk Nation VSO, PO Box 667, Black River Falls, WI 54615 Phone (800) 294-9343
- National Association for Black Veterans, PO Box 11432, Milwaukee, WI 53211 Phone (414) 342-5000; Fax (414) 342-1073
- Oneida Nation Veterans Service Officer, 2615 S. Packerland Dr., Suite C, PO Box 365, Oneida, WI 54155 Phone (920) 490-3921; Fax (920) 490-3929
- Paralyzed Veterans of America, VA Regional Office, Rm. 168, 5400 W. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53214 Phone (414) 902-5655; Fax (414) 902-9432
- Veterans of Foreign Wars, VA Regional Office, Rm. 166, 5400 W. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53214 Phone (414) 902-5748; Fax (414) 902-9412
- Waves National Fox Cities Unit 153 c/o Nellie De Baker, N7197 County Road H, Luxemburg, WI 54217

Veterans Museum

The Wisconsin Veteran Museum located at 30 W. Mifflin St., Madison, WI 53703 Tel: 608-267-1799 is normally open Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm and Sunday (April-September) 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. It is closed these holidays: Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day. In the interest of the health and welfare the Museum will be closed until further notice due to the pandemic. However, the following virtual tours can be viewed and listened to:

- https://youtu.be/aKEVzND705k History of the Museum
- https://youtu.be/aKSxnzFwMBk USS Wisconsin
- https://youtu.be/U29X0nbe5LE UH-1 Huey
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0e1aaS9uWcg&feature=youtu.be Watercolors of Corporal John Gaddis
- https://youtu.be/7NB72fNd5Zs Art of Harold F. Schmitz
- https://wisvetsmuseum.com/oral-histories Oral Histories



Visit Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs website http://dva.state.wi.us for contact information and benefits assistance.

 $[Source: $\underline{http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/wisconsin-state-veterans-benefits.html} \ JAN 2021 ++]$