For Michigan Veterans Who Served in the Military
To better assist you, the veterans information listed in this booklet has been organized into 3 levels of available Veterans programs – **FEDERAL**, **STATE**, and **LOCAL**. State benefits are shaded gray in each specific category for clarity.

Much of the information contained in this booklet comes from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs web site at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). For more state and local information, visit [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov).

This booklet also provides valuable federal, state and local veteran contact information.
# Table of Contents

## Dear Veteran

*Thank You for Your Service* ............................................. 3

## Education and Training

*Education and Training – Federal Programs* .......................... 4

*Education and Training – State of Michigan Programs* .......... 7

*Educational Benefits for Children of Disabled or Deceased Veterans* .......... 7

## Employment

*Employment – Federal Programs* .................................. 8

*Employment – State of Michigan Programs* ...................... 9

*Apprenticeship Programs for Discharged Veterans* .............. 12

## Health Care

*Health Care and Hospital Benefits – Federal Programs* ......... 13

*Health Care and Hospital Benefits – State of Michigan* .... 19

*Homeless Veterans* .............................................. 19

*Women Veterans Health Care* .................................... 21

*Michigan VA Medical Facilities and Outpatient Clinics* .... 22

## Monetary Benefits ................................................. 23

## Home Loans and Tax Credits

*Home Loan Guaranties – Federal Programs* ......................... 25

*State of Michigan Benefits* .................................... 27

## Life Insurance ..................................................... 28

## Dependent and Survivor Benefits

*Burial Benefits* .......................................................... 30

*Survivor Benefits for Spouse and Children – Federal Benefits* .......... 31

## Financial Emergencies and Veterans Resources

*Programs – State of Michigan* ........................................ 33

*MICHIGAN Veterans Trust Fund Representatives* ................. 36

*MICHIGAN Department of Human Services* ......................... 37

*MICHIGAN Association of County Veterans Counselors* ......... 38

*Veterans Service Organizations* .................................. 39

*Federal Agencies* ..................................................... 39

*State Agencies* ....................................................... 40

*Additional Resources* .................................................. 41

## Of Interest to Veterans

*Veteran Holidays* ..................................................... 43

*Flag Etiquette* .......................................................... 43

*Flag Disposal* ........................................................... 45

*MICHIGAN Congressional Delegation – 113th Congress* .......... 46

*MICHIGAN Governor and Lieutenant Governor* ............... 46

*MICHIGAN State Senate* ............................................ 46

*MICHIGAN House of Representatives* ............................ 46
Dear Veteran

Thank You for Your Service . . .

It is indeed a pleasure to serve veterans who gave so much of themselves to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. Your sacrifices have given us the security of peace in our homeland and abroad, as well as preserved and protected our constitutional right of self-government, for which we are very grateful.

This booklet has been compiled through federal, state, and local agencies especially for You, Our Veterans and Your Families, to:

- Provide information about benefits and services
- Provide links to direct sources – computer-based and professional – for answers to specific questions
- Assist in communicating more effectively with your elected representatives
- Educate state, nonprofit, and community providers about benefits and services available through other agencies or service providers

Eligibility for most Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, the Environmental Services Administration, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Current and former members of the Selected Reserve may be eligible for benefits.

Any Michigan Veteran, or dependent of a Veteran, can request the assistance of a Veterans Service Officer or a County Counselor. See page 38 for the County Veterans Counselors in Michigan and page 39 for the listing of our Veterans Service Organizations.

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency can be reached at 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838) or visit the website at www.MichiganVeterans.com. The Federal Regional VA Michigan Office Hotline is 1-800-827-1000.

This booklet is intended as an introduction to the many programs and services available. Please contact the sources cited to assist you and your family to obtain benefits you have earned.

To Veterans and Your Families, thank you for your service.

Information on eligibility for military service benefits is available from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Michigan Department of Military Affairs or your County Veterans Service Office.
Education and Training – U.S. Federal Programs

Post-9/11 GI Bill

Eligibility: The Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) is an education benefit program for service members and veterans who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

To be eligible, the service member or veteran must serve at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 10, 2001, and remain on active duty or be honorably discharged.

Veterans may also be eligible if they were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001.

Generally, service members or veterans may receive up to 36 months of entitlement under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Eligibility for benefits lasts for 15 years from the point of eligibility.

Service members or veterans who are eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill* – Selected Reserve or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program – and who qualify for the Post-9/11 GI bill, must select one or the other program. Generally, benefits cannot be collected under both programs.

Based on the length of active duty service, eligible participants may be entitled to receive between 40-100% of the following:

(1) Cost of in-state tuition and fees at public institutions and up to $20,235.02 toward tuition and fees at private institutions, per year (paid directly to the school);

(2) Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) equal to 50-100% of the basic allowance for housing payable to a military E-5 with dependents, in the same zip code as the primary school (paid directly to the service member, veteran, or eligible dependents);

(3) The Monthly Housing Allowance for students enrolled exclusively in online programs whose Rate of Pursuit (ROP) is more than half-time, can receive an MHA up to $754.50 per month;

(4) Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to $1,000 per year (paid directly to the service member, veteran, or eligible dependent); and

(5) A one-time payment of $500 paid to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas.

Transfer of Entitlement

The Department of Defense (DoD) may offer members of the Armed Forces on or after August 1, 2009, the opportunity to transfer Chapter 33 benefits to a spouse or dependent children. DoD and the military services must approve all requests for this benefit. Members of the Armed Forces approved for the Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) may only transfer any unused portion of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits while on active duty, subject to their period of eligibility.

The Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program

The Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program was enacted to potentially assist eligible individuals with payment of their tuition and fees in instances where costs exceed the in-state tuition charges at a public institution or the national maximum payable at private and foreign institutions. To be eligible, the student must be: a veteran receiving benefits at the 100% benefit rate payable, a transfer-of-entitlement-eligible dependent child, or a transfer-of-entitlement-eligible spouse of a veteran.

The school of attendance must have accepted Veteran Affairs’ (VA) invitation to participate in the program, state how much student tuition will be waived (up to 50%) and how many participants will be accepted into the program during the
current academic year. VA will match the school’s percentage (up to 50%) to reduce or eliminate out-of-pocket costs for eligible participants.

**Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship**

This scholarship entitles children of those who die in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001, to use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

**Eligible children:**
- are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level;
- have 15 years to use the benefit beginning on their 18th birthday;
- may use the benefit until their 33rd birthday;
- are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program.

**Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA)**

Children and spouses of veterans who died on active duty, or who became one hundred percent permanently disabled due to a service-related injury may qualify for educational benefits under the Survivors and Dependents Assistance (DEA) program. Beginning October 1, 2014, this benefit may pay up to $1,018 per month to eligible children and spouses in approved full-time degree and non-degree educational programs. Benefits are also available for apprenticeship, on-the-job, farm cooperative, and special restorative training programs at lower rates.

**Legacy Educational Benefits**

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) provides a program of educational benefits to honorably discharged veterans. The participant generally must have a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate before beginning training. Completing a minimum of 12 credit hours toward a college degree meets this requirement. Credits granted by colleges for life experiences may be used to meet this requirement.

Basic eligibility applies to veterans who entered active duty for the first time after June 30, 1985. Active duty includes certain full-time Reserve and National Guard duty performed after June 30, 1985. To participate in the MGIB, service members have their military pay reduced by $100 a month for the first 12 months of active duty. This money is not refundable.

Individuals who had remaining entitlement under the Vietnam Era GI Bill when that program ended on December 31, 1989, must have served on active duty for any number of days during the period October 19, 1984, to June 30, 1985; or served on active duty for at least three continuous years beginning on July 1, 1985; or served at least two years active duty beginning after June 30, 1985, followed by a minimum of four years in the Selected Reserve. Those who were not on active duty on October 19, 1984, if they served three continuous years on active duty at any time beginning on or after July 1, 1985, or two continuous years of active duty at any time followed by four continuous years in the Selected Reserve, may also be eligible for MGIB benefits.

Veterans who qualify for Active Duty (MGIB-AD – Chapter 30) benefits under MGIB can receive up to $1,717 per month for full-time pursuit of an educational program, effective October 1, 2014. This stipend may be increased if the vet participated in the $600 “buy up” program. MGIB payments are made directly to the vet, irrespective of the tuition and fees charged by the school. MGIB benefits do not include stipends for housing (MHA) or for books and supplies. Benefits are also available for flight, apprenticeship, cooperative or on-the-job training.

Individuals who were participants under the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) may be eligible if they served on active duty on October 9, 1996, participated in VEAP and contributed money to a VEAP account, and elected MGIB by October 9, 1997, and paid $1,200. Veterans who participated in VEAP on or before October 9, 1996, may also be eligible even if they did not deposit money in a VEAP account if they served on active duty from October 9, 1996 through April 1, 2000, elected MGIB by October 31, 2001, and contributed $2,700 to MGIB. Certain National Guard service members may also qualify if they served on full-time active duty in the National Guard between June 30, 1985 and November 29, 1989, elected to have
National Guard service count toward establishing eligibility for MGIB during the nine-month window ending on July 9, 1997, and paid $1,200.

Contact your county veterans service office or call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at 1-888-442-4551 for further information, particularly on eligibility. Additional information for school officials, veterans, and dependents can be found on the VA’s Education Services web site at www.gibill.va.gov.

**Vocational Rehabilitation**

Veterans who have received a service-connected disability rating from VA may qualify for education and training benefits under the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program (Chapter 31). The focus of this program is on employment preparation, placement and retention, but it can also include financial support for education and training expenses as part of a veteran’s rehabilitation plan. An application and details about the program are available on the VR&E web site: www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre.

**VetSuccess on Campus**

This program is designed to provide on-campus benefits assistance and readjustment counseling to veterans completing their college educations and entering the labor market in viable careers. A full-time, experienced Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor and a part-time Vet Center Outreach Coordinator are assigned at each campus to provide VA benefits outreach, support, and assistance to ensure their health, educational, and benefit needs are met.

Current Michigan locations include Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kellogg Community College, Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, and Washtenaw Community College.

**VA Work-Study Program**

The VA Work-Study Program allows veterans to earn additional income while attending school (usually in the form of a part-time job with a veteran-related organization). Talk to your local veterans affairs representative at any university or community college. Veterans with specific questions may call the GI Bill Hotline: 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551) between 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Veterans may also visit www.gibill.va.gov for guidance on benefits and on selecting a school and career.

**Federal Pell Grant Program**

The federal government is a source for education grants. Applicants must be undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor’s degree. Each applicant must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen and needs to have a high school diploma or a GED or demonstrate the ability to benefit from the program.

**Pell Grant Eligibility**

The U.S. Department of Education uses a standard formula established by Congress to evaluate the information a student supplies when applying for a Pell Grant. This formula produces an EFC (expected family contribution) number, which will determine if the student is eligible for the grant. The formula relies heavily on families’ federal tax returns.

**Award Amount**

The amount of the Pell Grant depends on the student’s EFC and several other factors, including program funding. For more information, visit www.studentaid.ed.gov.

**How and When to Apply**

Students apply not only for Pell Grants but for all federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs (except scholarships) by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA form is available from high school guidance offices, or the application can be completed online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Be aware of the application deadlines for submission and corrections.
Education and Training –
State of Michigan Programs

Department of Civil Rights, Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights responds to and advocates on behalf of Michigan’s 1.3 million people with disabilities. This is done through information and technical assistance, disability rights training, working with the Michigan Business Leaders Network on employment for people with disabilities, coordinating the Michigan Youth Leadership Forum, and conducting disability awareness and sensitivity training. The Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing deals with issues involving Michigan citizens who are deaf or hard of hearing. Their mission is to provide statewide leadership to empower and integrate people with disabilities into all aspects of society.

For more information, contact:

Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing
201 N. Washington Square
Suite 150
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: 517-335-6004
Toll-Free: 1-877-499-6232
Video Phone: 517-507-5223
Fax: 517-335-7773
E-Mail: DODHH@michigan.gov

Educational Benefits for
Children of Disabled or Deceased Veterans

Tuition Grant Program

The Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG) was established under Public Act 248 of 2005 to provide an undergraduate tuition program for children of certain deceased or disabled members of the armed forces of the United States.

The program is designed to provide undergraduate tuition assistance to certain children older than 16 and less than 26 years of age who have been Michigan residents for the 12 months prior to application. To be eligible, a student must be the natural or adopted child of a Michigan veteran. Stepchildren of the veteran are not eligible. The veteran must have been a legal resident of Michigan immediately before entering military service and must not have later resided outside of Michigan for more than two years; or the veteran must have established legal residency in Michigan after entering military service.

Students may receive scholarship assistance for up to four academic years for a total of up to $11,200. Awards are for an academic year with the amount determined by the student’s enrollment status. Full-time students can receive up to a maximum of $2,800 per academic year. Information on eligibility and application forms are available at: www.michigan.gov/sgg, select “programs.” Toll-Free: 1-888-447-2687.
Employment – U.S. Federal Programs

Transition Assistance Program (TAP)

The Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and Transition GPS (Goals, Plans, Success) are available to service members (and their spouses) who are scheduled for separation from active duty. The program provides employment and training information to service members within 18 months of their separation or retirement from the military. Briefings focus on education, benefits, VA health care and disability compensation. A companion workshop for disabled veterans is also available. One-on-one appointments with VA representatives are available. Additional information can be found at www.dol.gov/vets/programs/tap.

Visit www.taonline.com for mini courses on conducting successful job search campaigns, writing resumes, using the Internet to find a job, and links to job search and recruiting web sites. Locations and phone numbers for Transition Assistance Offices can be found at www.taonline.com/TAPOffice. Use www.acinet.org/acinet/moc to translate military occupations to civilian counterparts.

Verification of Military Experience and Training

The Transition GPS (Goals, Plans, Success) web site is designed to provide separating service members access to their Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) documents and completed Transition GPS Sessions. VMET documents help service members verify previous experience and training to potential employers, negotiate credits at schools, and obtain certificates or licenses. VMET documents are available only through Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps Transition Support offices and are intended for separating or retiring service members who have at least six months of active duty service. Service members should obtain VMET documents from their Transition Support office within 12 months of separation or 24 months of retirement.

For assistance, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/tgps/

Veterans Preference for Federal Jobs

Certain veterans, principally those who are disabled or who served on active duty during specified times, are entitled to preference for federal civil service jobs when hiring is from competitive lists of eligible candidates.

Preference is also provided for certain widows and widowers of deceased veterans who died in service; spouses of service-connected disabled veterans; and mothers of veterans who died under honorable conditions on active duty or have permanent and total service-connected disabilities. Individuals interested in federal information should visit the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) web site at www.fedshirevets.gov. Federal job opportunities can be found at www.usajobs.gov.

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program provides educational and vocational counseling to service members, veterans, and certain dependents at no charge. These counseling services are designed to help an individual choose a vocational direction, determine the course needed to achieve the chosen goal, and evaluate the career possibilities open to them.

Assistance may include interest and aptitude testing, occupational exploration, setting occupational goals, locating the right type of training program, and exploring educational or training facilities which can be utilized to achieve an occupational goal.
Eligibility

Educational and vocational counseling services are available during the period the individual is on active duty with the armed forces and within 180 days of the estimated date of his or her discharge or release from active duty. The projected discharge must be under conditions other than dishonorable.

Veterans are eligible if not more than one year has elapsed since the date they were last discharged or released from active duty. For more information, visit www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre.

Re-Employment Rights

A person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the armed forces may be entitled to return to the job after discharge or release from active duty.

To be re-employed, four requirements must be met:

- The person must give advance notice of military service to the employer;
- The cumulative absence from the civilian job shall not exceed five years (with some exceptions);
- The person must submit a timely application for re-employment; and
- The person must not have been released with a dishonorable or other punitive discharge.

The law calls for the returning veteran to be placed in the job as if the veteran had remained continuously employed. This means that the person may be entitled to benefits that are based on seniority, such as pensions, pay increases, and promotions. The law also prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, or other advantages of employment on the basis of military service.

Applications for re-employment should be given, verbally or in writing, to a person authorized to represent the company for hiring purposes. A record should be kept of the application. If there are problems gaining re-employment, the employee should contact the Department of

Labor Veterans’ Employment and Training Service (VETS) in the employer’s state. This applies to private sector, as well as state, local, and federal government employees, including the Postal Service. For assistance, visit www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/main.htm.

Employment – State of Michigan Programs

Pure Michigan Talent Connect

Michigan has recreated its labor exchange system under Pure Michigan Talent Connect. Talent Connect includes an online Talent Marketplace where job seekers can connect to job opportunities, education, and training and employers can connect to qualified talent. Talent Connect includes specific assistance for veterans to make a successful transition from military to civilian employment.

Written and video tutorials are available to help job seekers navigate Talent Connect. In addition, accounts previously registered under the Michigan Talent Bank have been transferred to Talent Connect.

Pure Michigan Talent Connect: www.mitalent.org
Customer Service Center: 1-888-522-0103

Michigan Shifting Heroes Program

Shifting Heroes is an added component of the Shifting Gears program, designed to integrate returning veterans into the Shifting Gears experience, and help them re-image and re-frame the skills they acquired in the service for jobs in the private sector. Shifting Heroes will provide additional career development support to veterans, and will include one-to-one mentoring by a Michigan veteran, as well as provide opportunities to make direct connections with employers who are specifically interested in hiring veterans and are committed to creating a supportive professional environment for their veteran employees. When veterans sign up for Shifting Gears, they will be paired with an employed veteran volunteer who will help our Michigan heroes successfully transition to the next phase of their careers.
Additional information on Shifting Gears can be found at www.mitalent.org/veteran or by contacting the State of Michigan Veterans Hotline at 1-800-455-5228 or e-mail veteransservices@michigan.gov.

**Occupational Licensing**

Several state statutes have been recently revised to allow the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) to consider experience received in the military to be counted toward qualifications required for certain occupational licenses such as electrician and plumber. In addition, a number of license application fees have been waived for veterans with an honorable discharge.

The Licensing Division can be found on the web at www.michigan.gov/lara or reached by e-mail at bcslic@Michigan.gov.

Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Corporations, Securities and Commercial Licensing  
Licensing Division  
P.O. Box 30018  
Lansing, MI 48909

**Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Dislocated Worker Program**

An individual must be 18 years of age or older to receive core services in the Dislocated Worker Program.

Intensive services under the Dislocated Worker Program are available to dislocated workers who are unemployed or employed, have received at least one core service, and are unable to obtain employment or retain employment that leads to self-sufficiency.

Training services may be made available to employed and unemployed dislocated workers who have met the eligibility criteria under intensive services, have received at least one intensive service, and have been determined to be unable to obtain or retain employment through such services. State of Michigan Veteran Employment Specialists are located in many Michigan Works! Service Centers. These employment services professionals are available to assist qualified veterans and eligible spouses in need of additional help in securing appropriate employment.

For more information, contact your local Michigan Works! Agency  
1-800-285-WORK  
www.michiganworks.org

**Unemployment Compensation**

Veterans who do not begin civilian employment immediately after leaving military service may receive weekly unemployment compensation for a limited time. Veterans attending school full-time may also be eligible for unemployment. Contact Michigan Works! for more information.

**How to File Your Claim**

**By Internet:** To file your new unemployment claim or to reopen an established claim through the Internet, visit www.michigan.gov/uia from 7:00 a.m. Monday to 7:00 p.m. Saturday (Eastern Time).

**By Phone:** To file your new claim or to reopen a claim through a toll-free telephone number, call 1-866-500-0017 using a touch-tone telephone. TTY callers may use 1-866-366-0004.

Use the call-in schedule (next page) when filing by telephone. The schedule is based on the last two digits of your Social Security number. For example, if your Social Security number ends in 50, you would phone in your application on Tuesday afternoon.

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<td>CALL-IN</td>
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You can also sign up for unemployment benefits by visiting any of the Michigan Works! offices and using one of the computer stations. Michigan Works! Employees or Veterans Employment Representatives are available to give you additional help if you need it.
In many cases, once you have signed up for unemployment benefits, you will also need to register for work with the Michigan Works! Agency. You may enter or update your resume on the Internet at www.mitalent.org.

**Information Needed to File a Claim:** To file a claim, you will need your Social Security number, your driver’s license number or state identification number or your MARVIN PIN (if you have one), a copy of your DD-214, and the names and addresses of employers you have worked for in the past 18 months, your quarterly gross earnings, the first and last dates of employment with each employer and your date of birth. If you are not a U.S. citizen or national, you will need your Alien Registration Number and the expiration date of your work authorization.

If you have general questions about unemployment benefits, or if you have a question about your Claims by Mail application, call the Telephone File Claim at 1-866-500-0017 weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Re-Employment Rights for Veterans**

In 2002, the Michigan Legislature strengthened the Michigan law regarding re-employment of employees after military service (MCL 32.273). The act prioritized the employment positions in which a person would be re-employed following active service. The act specifies that the person is entitled to the seniority and the seniority-based rights and benefits he or she would have otherwise been entitled to, as well as other rights provided to employees on a leave of absence. Under certain circumstances, a person may not be entitled to re-employment under the law. State re-employment rights, when enhanced or in addition to federal rights, are not superseded or diminished by federal law.

For more information, please call the Veterans Hotline 1-800-455-5228.

**Veterans Preference for State Jobs**

The Michigan Civil Service Commission has information on state jobs. The Civil Service Commission provides for a veterans hiring preference for Michigan state classified service through rules adopted by the commission. (Rule 3-8 provides for a preference for an eligible veteran or spouse of a veteran.)

A qualifying veteran, including retirees, and/or spouse must register with the Department of Civil Service using form CS-1791, and include the required documentation.

For more information, call 517-335-0316 or visit www.michigan.gov/documents/mdcs/Veterans_Preference_382044_7.pdf.

**Michigan Rehabilitation Services**

Veterans with disabilities should also look into the State of Michigan Rehabilitation Services program administered by the Michigan Department of Human Services. Services may be available to supplement VA allowances for vocational rehabilitation in cases of special need or for vocational rehabilitation, guidance, and counseling. Employment services may also be available to veterans whose disabilities are not service-related.

For more information:
Toll-Free: 1-800-605-6722
TTY: 1-888-605-6722
www.michigan.gov/mrs

**Service-Disabled Veteran Business Owners**

Service-disabled veteran business owners may be eligible for a 10% pricing preference when bidding for certain state government purchase contracts under MCL 18.1261 and for certain state construction contracts under MCL 18.1241.

For more information, contact 517-284-7023 or 517-284-7014.
Apprenticeship Programs for Discharged Veterans

U.S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration

This web site lists sponsored apprenticeship programs. Apprenticeship programs are sponsored and operated on a voluntary basis by individual employers, employer associations, or partnerships between employers and labor unions. The data is updated on a monthly basis. It is presented by state and county, with occupations in alphabetical order, followed by the employers who have a registered program for that occupation.


Helmets to Hardhats

Helmets to Hardhats is a national, nonprofit program that helps transitioning military, guardsmen, and reservists find quality career opportunities in the construction industry. Most career opportunities offered by the program are connected to federally-approved apprenticeship training programs. Such training is provided by the trade organizations themselves at no cost to the veteran. No prior experience is needed. All participating trade organizations conduct three- to five-year earn-while-you-learn apprenticeship training programs. Because these apprenticeship programs are regulated and approved at both federal and state levels, veterans can utilize their Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits to supplement their income while they are learning valuable skills and on-the-job training.


Troops to Teachers

The Michigan Troops to Teachers program provides advisory services to eligible veterans to transition to a new career as classroom teachers in K-12 public schools. The Troops to Teachers Program is available to:

- Military retirees,
- Members on active duty who are within one year of their retirement date,
- Members of the National Guard and Selective Reserves with ten or more years of creditable service,
- Members transitioning from active duty with at least six years of active duty and who commit for three years of service in the National Guard or Selective Reserves,
- Members separated due to physical disability after January 8, 2002. Must register within 4 years of separation.

Counseling assistance related to teacher certification requirements and limited job placement assistance is provided. Financial support is also offered to certain eligible participants.

The Troops to Teachers Programs are not certification programs nor employment agencies. Each state has authority over certification requirements and, usually, each district has authority over the selection and employment process. Therefore, each participant must complete the certification requirements for the state in which they desire to teach, and then apply for a teaching position as would any other teacher. Each state office provides information regarding certification requirements, teacher preparation programs leading to certification, and assistance in identifying teaching positions.

For more information, contact the Troops to Teachers program at:

Phone: 517-373-9732
Toll-Free: 1-866-801-0007
www.michigan.gov/TroopstoTeachers
Health Care

Health Care and Hospital Benefits – U.S. Federal Programs

For most veterans, entry into the VA health care system begins by applying for enrollment.

To apply, complete VA Form 1010EZ, Application for Health Benefits, which may be obtained from any VA health care facility or regional benefits office, and online at www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/, or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387). Once enrolled, veterans can receive health care at VA health care facilities anywhere in the country.

If you have questions about your health care eligibility, call your nearest health care facility or the Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222-8387 to obtain the latest information.

Financial Assessment

Most veterans not receiving VA disability compensation or pension payments must complete a financial assessment at the time of health care enrollment. Veterans provide their total gross household income (includes spouse and dependents, if any) and net worth information for the previous calendar year. This income information will be used to determine the veteran’s enrollment status and co-pay responsibility for VA health care and/or prescription medication.

As of March 24, 2014, most veterans are no longer required to complete the annual financial assessment known as a Means Test. Instead, VA will receive income information from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA), and will contact the veterans only if the information received indicates a change in their VA health benefits may be appropriate.

Recently Discharged Combat Veterans

Veterans, including activated reservists and members of the National Guard, are eligible for the enhanced Combat Veteran benefits if they served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

With “Combat Veteran” benefits, the VA provides cost-free health care services and nursing home care for conditions possibly related to military service and enrollment in Priority Group 6 or higher for 5 years from the date of discharge or release from active duty, unless eligible for enrollment in a higher priority group.

Combat Veterans who enroll with VA under this enhanced Combat Veteran authority will continue to be enrolled even after their enhanced eligibility period ends, although they may be shifted to a lower Priority Group, depending on their income level. Co-payments may be required depending on their financial assessment and other eligibility factors.

Services Requiring Co-Payments

Co-payments are required for certain services. These include:

- Inpatient care for veterans may require co-pays depending on income and service-connected disability status.
- Extended-care co-pays are based on level of care.
- Medication usually requires an $8 or $9 co-pay for each 30-day supply or less of medication provided by VA for a condition that is not service-connected. A maximum annual co-pay of $960 is currently charged for medications.
- Outpatient care: While many veterans qualify for free health care services based on a VA compensable service-connected condition or other qualifying factor, most veterans are asked to complete an annual financial
assessment to determine if they qualify for free services. Veterans whose income exceeds the established VA Income Thresholds as well as those who choose not to complete the financial assessment must agree to pay required co-pays to become eligible for VA healthcare services.

Primary Care Services: $15
Specialty Care Services: $50

Certain outpatient services do not require a co-pay.

**Overseas Benefits**

VA will reimburse for medical services for the treatment of service-connected disabilities and related conditions for veterans living or traveling outside the United States. Before using the program, veterans living in the Philippines should register with the VA office in Pasay City, phone 011-632-318-8387 or e-mail at manlopc.inqry@vba.va.gov. All other veterans living or planning to travel outside the U.S. should register with the

**Denver Foreign Medical Program Office**

P.O. Box 469061, Denver, CO 80246-9061, USA
Phone: 303-331-7590

**Online Health Services**

VA offers veterans, service members, their dependents and caregivers their own personal health record through My HealtheVet, found at www.myhealth.va.gov.

My HealtheVet’s free, online Personal Health Record is available 24/7, with Internet access. Those with an upgraded account (obtained by completing the one-time In-Person Authentication process) can:

- Participate in secure messaging with VA health care team members;
- View key portions of DoD military service information;
- Get VA wellness reminders;
- View VA appointments;
- View VA lab results;
- View VA allergies and adverse reactions;
- View their VA Comprehensive Care Document.

With My HealtheVet, veterans can access trusted health information to better manage personal health care and learn about other VA benefits and services.

**Caregiver Programs and Services**

VA has long advocated for caregivers as vital partners in providing care worthy of the sacrifices by America’s veterans and service members with each VA medical center containing a designated caregiver support point of contact to coordinate caregiver activities and serve as a resource expert for veterans, their families and VA providers. Several programs are available for all veteran caregivers including:

**Caregiver Support Line**

1-855-260-3274

Home Telehealth

Caregiver Support Coordinator

- In-Home and Community-Based Care;
- Respite Care;
- Caregiver Education and Training Programs;
- Family Support Services;
- Travel.

The VA also provides durable medical equipment and prosthetic and sensory aides to improve function, financial assistance with home modifications to improve access and mobility, and transportation assistance for some veterans to and from medical appointments.

On May 5, 2010, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 was signed into law to provide unprecedented benefits to eligible caregivers who support the veterans who have given so much for this Nation. Support provided to this group includes a monthly stipend, travel and lodging while accompanying veterans undergoing care, mental health services and counseling, and caregiver training.

For more information, visit www.caregiver.va.gov/indes.asp.
Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program

Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (MH RRTP) (including Domiciliary RRTPs) provides residential rehabilitative and clinical care to eligible veterans who have a wide range of problems, illnesses, or rehabilitative care needs which can be medical, psychiatric, substance use, homelessness, vocational, educational, or social.

The MH RRTP provides a 24-hour therapeutic setting utilizing a peer and professional support environment. The programs provide a strong emphasis on psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery services that instill personal responsibility to achieve optimal levels of independence upon discharge to independent or supportive community living. MH RRTP also provides rehabilitative care for veterans who are homeless. Call your nearest benefits office or health care facility to obtain the latest information.

Medication

Co-pays are required for many medications. Nonservice-connected veterans with a nonservice-connected condition in Priority Groups 7 and 8 are charged $9 for each 30-day or less supply of medication provided on an outpatient basis. Veterans enrolled in Priority Groups 2 through 5 are charged $8 for each 30-day or less supply of medication. The maximum annual co-pay charged for nonservice-connected medications is $960.

Other veterans are exempt from medication co-pays including veterans with a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more; veterans receiving medication for service-connected conditions; veterans whose annual income does not exceed the maximum annual rate of the VA pension; veterans who are determined to be Catastrophically Disabled; veterans receiving medication for conditions related to sexual trauma related to service on active duty; certain veterans receiving medication for treatment of cancer of the head or neck; veterans receiving medication for a VA-approved research project; and former POWs.

Outpatient Dental Treatment

Outpatient dental benefits are provided by VA according to law. Dental care is categorized in classes and, in some cases, treatment may be limited. The following veterans may receive care:

- have a service-connected compensable dental disability or condition;
- are a former prisoner of war;
- have service-connected disabilities rated 100% disabling or are unemployable due to service-connected conditions;
- are participating in a VA vocational rehabilitation program;
- those who apply for dental care within 180 days of discharge or release (under conditions other than dishonorable) from a period of active duty of 90 days or more during the Persian Gulf War era;
- have a service-connected noncompensable dental condition or disability resulting from combat wounds or service trauma;
- have a dental condition clinically determined by VA to be currently aggravating a service-connected medical condition;
- are receiving outpatient care or are scheduled for inpatient care and require dental care for a condition complicating a medical condition currently under treatment; and
- certain veterans enrolled in the VA Homeless Program for 60 consecutive days or more.

For more information, call the VA Health Center toll-free at 1-877-222-8387.

Nursing Home Care

VA provides nursing home services to veterans through three national programs: VA-owned and -operated Community Living Centers (CLC), State Veterans’ Homes owned and operated by the states, and the community nursing home program. Each program has admission and eligibility criteria specific to the program. Nursing
home care is available for enrolled veterans who need nursing home care for a service-connected disability, or veterans with a 70 percent or greater service-connected disability, and veterans with a rating of total disability based on individual unemployability. VA-provided nursing home care for all other veterans is based on available resources.

**Readjustment Counseling**

Veterans may need help after they return home from war. Friends and family who have not shared similar experiences may be unable to understand how they can help. There are resources that veterans have available to help cope with the impact of war once back home. Families who have lost loved ones in the military may also experience grief beyond their ability to cope with alone. Help is available for these family members as well.

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides readjustment counseling services through community-based Vet Centers. This counseling is designed to help combat veterans readjust to civilian life. Programs are available addressing military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, or help with any other military-related issue that affects functioning within the family, work, school, or other areas of everyday life, among other programs.

Veterans are eligible for readjustment counseling if they served on active duty in a combat theater or area of hostility during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, or the campaigns in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Global War on Terror. Veterans who served in the active military during the Vietnam-era, but not in the Republic of Vietnam, must have requested services at a Vet Center before January 1, 2004. Vet Centers do not require enrollment in the VHA Health Care System.

Contact the nearest Vet Center or visit [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov) for assistance, or call 1-800-905-4675 (Eastern) or 1-866-496-8838 (Pacific).

**Other Counseling Services**

**Vet Center Combat Call Center**

(1-877-WAR-VETS) is an around-the-clock confidential call center where combat veterans and their families can call to talk about their military experience or any other issue they are facing in their readjustment to civilian life. The staff is comprised of combat veterans from several eras as well as family members of combat veterans.

**Bereavement Counseling** is available to all immediate family members including spouses, children, parents, and siblings of service members who died while on active duty. Information is available by calling (202) 461-6530.

**Other Health Services**

VA health care includes a number of other services including VA prosthetic appliances, equipment and services, such as home respiratory therapy, artificial limbs, orthopedic braces and therapeutic shoes, wheelchairs, powered mobility, crutches, canes, walkers, special aids, appliances, optical and electronic devices for visual impairment and other durable medical equipment and supplies. Special services for veterans’ children with Spina Bifida, vocational rehabilitation services for veterans, and work restoration programs are also available.

Veterans eligible for VA medical care may apply for substance abuse treatment. Contact the nearest VA medical facility to apply (see page 22). Additional information is available at [www.va.gov/health/](http://www.va.gov/health/).

**Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**

According to the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, the condition known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, is an anxiety disorder that can occur following the experience or witnessing of life-threatening events such as military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or violent personal assaults like rape. Most survivors of trauma return to normal given a little time. However, some people will have stress reactions
that do not go away on their own, or may even get worse over time. These individuals may develop PTSD. People who suffer from PTSD often relive the experience through nightmares and flashbacks, have difficulty sleeping, and feel detached or estranged, and these symptoms can be severe enough and last long enough to significantly impair the person’s daily life.

PTSD is marked by clear biological changes as well as psychological symptoms. PTSD is complicated by the fact that it frequently occurs in conjunction with related disorders such as depression, substance abuse, problems of memory and cognition, and other problems of physical and mental health. The disorder is also associated with impairment of the person’s ability to function in social or family life, including occupational instability, marital problems and divorces, family discord, and difficulties in parenting.

Eleven to 30 percent of the men and women who have spent time in war zones experience PTSD. An additional 20 to 25 percent have had partial PTSD at some point in their lives. More than half of all male Vietnam veterans and almost half of all female Vietnam veterans have experienced “clinically serious stress reaction symptoms.” PTSD has also been detected among veterans of the Gulf War, with some estimates running as high as 10 percent.

The National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder web site is www.ptsd.va.gov.

If you are a veteran or a spouse of a veteran who wants to learn more about Post-Traumatic Stress, you may call your nearest VA medical facility (see page 22) or contact one of the Michigan Vet Centers listed below:

**Dearborn Vet Center**
19855 Outer Drive, Suite 105 W
Dearborn, MI 48124
**313-277-1428**

**Detroit Vet Center**
4161 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48201
**313-576-1514**

**Escanaba Vet Center**
3500 Ludington Street, Suite 110
Escanaba, MI 49829
**906-233-0244**

**Grand Rapids Vet Center**
2050 Breton Road, SE, Suite 100
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
**616-285-5795**

**Macomb County Vet Center**
42621 Garfield Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038
**586-412-0107**

**Pontiac Vet Center**
44200 Woodward Avenue
Pontiac, MI 48341
**248-874-1015**

**Saginaw Vet Center**
5360 Hampton Place
Saginaw, MI 48604
**989-321-4650**

**Traverse City Vet Center**
3766 N. US-31 South
Traverse City, MI 49684
**231-935-0051**

**Traumatic Brain Injury**

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is an injury caused by direct or indirect involvement with an improvised explosive device (IED), attacks by mortars, grenades, bullets, car accidents, or falls.

It is sometimes called the invisible wound because the injury can be sustained without visible external wounds. The extent of damage from TBI might not be realized until after the soldier, Marine, airman, or sailor is back home. Further, the symptoms may not be recognized as TBI and may even be confused with PTSD.

The Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) works to improve the lives of those affected by brain injury through education, advocacy, research, and local support groups. In 2007, BIAMI created a Veteran’s Program to specifically help veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with TBI.

Contact **1-800-444-6443** or [www.biami.org](http://www.biami.org).

The Michigan TBI web site is [www.michigan.gov/tbi](http://www.michigan.gov/tbi).
Gulf War, Depleted Uranium, Agent Orange, and Ionizing Radiation Registry Programs

VA has developed databases called registries to help analyze health conditions of veterans who may have been exposed to certain environmental hazards during military service. Health evaluations alert veterans to possible long-term health problems that may be related to exposure to specific environmental hazards during their military service. VA has established several health registries to track and monitor the health of specific groups of veterans, including the Agent Orange Registry; Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry; Gulf War Registry (includes Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn); Ionizing Radiation Registry; Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program; and Toxic Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center. Veterans wishing to participate should contact the nearest VA health care facility for an examination. More information is available at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/registry-evaluation.asp.

Agent Orange, Radiation, Depleted Uranium, and Gulf War Exposures

A veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, is presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in support of military operations. Fourteen illnesses are presumed by VA to be service-connected for such veterans.

Veterans who participated in “radiation risk activities” as defined in VA regulations while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, certain conditions are presumed to be service-connected including all forms of leukemia (except for chronic lymphocytic leukemia); several cancers; bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma; multiple myeloma; lymphomas (other than Hodgkin’s disease), and primary liver cancer (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated).

To determine service connection for other conditions or exposures not eligible for presumptive service connection, VA considers factors such as the amount of radiation exposure, duration of exposure, elapsed time between exposure and onset of the disease, gender and family history, age at time of exposure, the extent to which a non-service-related exposure could contribute to disease, and the relative sensitivity of exposed tissue.

Gulf War veterans with chronic disabilities may receive disability compensation for chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses and/or medically unexplained chronic multisymptom illnesses defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms. A disability is considered chronic if it has existed for at least six months.

The undiagnosed illnesses must have appeared either during active service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War period of August 2, 1990, to July 31, 1991, or to a degree of at least 10 percent at any time since then through December 31, 2016. This theater of operations includes Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Program

The Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Program provides funding for eligible veterans to make home improvements necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. Home improvement benefits up to $6,800 for service-connected reasons and up to $2,000 for nonservice-connected reasons may be provided. For application information, contact the prosthetic representative at the nearest VA medical center or outpatient clinic (see page 22).
Health Care and Hospital Benefits – State of Michigan

**Michigan Veterans Homes**

A unit of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans provides physician care; skilled nursing care services; social work care; nutritional care; physical, occupational, speech, and rehabilitation therapy programs; and programs for Alzheimer’s and special needs care for qualified disabled veterans.

A second veterans home, the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans, is located in Marquette. This Upper Peninsula home provides physician coverage for a variety of services as well as additional services on a fee-for-service basis. The home has a domiciliary unit, skilled nursing care, basic nursing care, and a special needs unit for qualified disabled veterans. For information on eligibility, enrollment procedures and life at the homes, contact the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency at 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838) or visit the website at www.MichiganVeterans.com.

**Veterans Treatment Court**

In late 2012, legislation was enacted to create a Veterans Treatment Court program that will address the need to better support Michigan veterans and assist them with their transition to civilian life. Veterans treatment court uses a hybrid integration of drug court and mental health court principles. The courts promote sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with the traditional partners found in drug courts and mental health courts, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, state Departments of Veterans Affairs, volunteer mentors, and organizations that support veterans and veterans’ families. To be eligible to participate in veterans treatment court, a veteran cannot be charged with a violent offense. He or she must complete a confidential preadmissions screening and evaluation assessment. As of February 2014, 19 district and 5 circuit courts had established veterans treatment courts as allowed by law.

**Homeless Veterans**

VA provides comprehensive medical, psychological and rehabilitation treatment for eligible homeless veterans. Health care services, including mental health services, are available for homeless vets at many VA medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics, and vet centers.

Stand Down events are another way VA reaches homeless veterans to provide food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, counseling, and referrals. Stand Downs are typically one- to three-day events and are held in numerous cities throughout the year.

The VA Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program provides a gateway to VA and community supportive services for eligible veterans. Michigan’s HCHV contact can be reached at 1-313-576-1000, ext. 64602.

The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV) assists homeless veterans, at-risk veterans, their families and other interested parties with access to appropriate VA and community-based resources. The call center provides trained VA staff members 24 hours a day, seven days a week that assess a caller’s needs and connect them to appropriate resources. The call center can be reached at 1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838).

The Housing and Urban Development - Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) Program provides permanent housing and ongoing case management for eligible homeless veterans who would not be able to live independently without the support of case management. These services may be accessed at VA medical centers and community-based outreach clinics.

Through the Supportive Services for Low-Income Veterans Program, VA aims to improve very low-income veteran families’
housing stability by providing supportive services to very low-income veteran families in or transitioning to permanent housing. VA funds community-based organizations to provide eligible veteran families with outreach, case management and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits. For assistance call 1-877-4-AID-VET.

Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) provides veterans with realistic and meaningful vocational opportunities, encouraging successful reintegration into the community at the veterans’ highest functional level. An individual rehabilitation plan is developed for each veteran allowing veterans to work for pay, learn new job skills, and relearn successful work habits. The Transitional Residence (TR) Program provides a therapeutic residential setting for veterans involved in CWT. TR provides a bridge between hospitalization or intensive outpatient treatment and successful reintegration. Veterans interested in learning more about CWT can call 1-800-929-7690 ext. 5335 or 757-722-9961 ext. 1123 for information on the TR program.

The Healthcare for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV) Program offers outreach, referrals and short-term case management assistance for incarcerated veterans who may be at risk for homelessness upon their release. A guidebook for incarcerated vets in Michigan is available at www.va.gov/HOMELESS/docs/reentry/09_mi.pdf. Michigan’s reentry specialist can be reached at 734-645-2505, or visit www.va.gov/homeless to find contact information on VA homeless veteran coordinators in each state.

**Michigan Programs for Homeless Veterans**

If you are in immediate need of shelter, please call the Homeless Shelter Hotline at 1-800-A-SHELTER (1-800-274-3583). They will arrange for a temporary emergency shelter or motel stay.

**Veterans Housing Program – Volunteers of America**

Volunteers of America Michigan is the largest contract provider of veterans services in the Lansing region. Volunteers of America Michigan operates a 50-bed overnight emergency shelter for men and a 14-bed overnight emergency shelter for women and children in the Lansing area.

The shelters provide a safe place to stay and access to important services. All residents of this overnight shelter can also receive services from New Hope Day Center. The center collaborates with eight other agencies to provide a variety of services including employment assistance, substance abuse education, and health care.

In addition, Volunteers of America Michigan operates three programs for homeless veterans: the Veterans Dormitory Program is a 16-bed program available to male and female veterans. Residents can stay for up to 6 months free of charge if weekly progress is made on their Treatment Plan. The Veterans Housing Program provides longer-term transitional housing for veterans including those with substance-related disorders and/or mental illness (located in Lansing and Niles). The Veterans Reintegration Program assists homeless veterans to gain and maintain gainful employment. Current locations include Lansing, Detroit, and Flint.

For additional information, please contact: 877-509-8387 www.voami.org/Services

**Lansing Shelter System**
Program Coordinator
430 N. Larch Street
Lansing, MI 48912
Phone: 517-484-4414
Toll-Free: 1-877-509-8387

**Michigan Volunteers of America, Michigan Housing Department**
21415 Civic Center Drive, Suite 306
Southfield, MI 48076
Phone: 248-945-0101

**Additional Resources**

**Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness**
15851 S. Old US-27, Building 30, Suite 315
Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: 517-485-6536
Fax: 517-485-6682
E-mail: mcah@mihomeless.org
www.mihomeless.org
Women Veterans Health Care

At each VA Medical Center nationwide, a Women Veterans Program Manager is designated to advise and advocate for women veterans. She can help coordinate all services needed, from primary care to specialized care for chronic conditions or reproductive health.

Woman veterans who are interested in receiving care at VA should contact the nearest VA Medical Center and ask for the Women Veterans Program Manager.

VA provides management of acute and chronic illnesses, preventive care, contraceptive services, menopause management, and cancer screenings, including pap smear and mammograms, and gynecology. Maternity care is covered in the Medical Benefits package. Women veterans receive maternity care from an OB/GYN, and care for their newborn children is covered for seven days after birth. Infertility evaluation and limited treatments are also available.

For more information:
Women Veterans Call Center
Toll-Free: 1-855-829-6636 or www.womenshealth.va.gov
Various U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities operate in Michigan. They are listed below by the city in which they are located.

**Michigan VA Medical Facilities and Outpatient Clinics**

**Alpena**  
180 N. State Avenue 49707  
989-356-8720

**Ann Arbor**  
2215 Fuller Road 48105  
1-800-361-8387

**Bad Axe**  
1142 S. Van Dyke Road, Suite 100 48413  
989-269-7445

**Battle Creek**  
5500 Armstrong Road 49037  
1-888-214-1247

**Benton Harbor**  
115 Main Street 49022  
269-934-9123

**Cadillac**  
1909 N. Mitchell Street 49601  
231-775-4401

**Clare**  
11775 N. Isabella Road 48617  
989-386-8113

**Detroit**  
4646 John R Street 48201  
1-800-511-8056

**Flint**  
G-2360 S. Linden Road 48532  
810-720-2913

**Gaylord**  
806 South Otsego 49732  
989-732-7525

**Grand Rapids**  
3019 Coit Street, N.E. 49505  
616-365-9575

**Grayling**  
1680 Hartwick Pines Road 49738  
989-344-2002

**Hancock**  
787 Market Street  
Quincy Center, Suite 9 49930-1495  
906-482-7762

**Iron Mountain**  
325 East H Street 49801  
1-800-215-8262

**Ironwood**  
629 W. Cloverland Drive  
Suite 1 49938  
906-932-0032

**Lansing**  
2025 S. Washington 48910  
517-267-3925

**Mackinaw City**  
14540 Mackinaw Highway 49701  
231-436-5176

**Manistique**  
813 E. Lakeshore Drive 49854  
906-341-3420

**Marquette**  
1414 W. Fair Avenue  
Suite 285 49855  
906-226-4618

**Menominee**  
1110 10th Avenue  
Suite 101 49858  
906-863-1286

**Michigan Center (Jackson)**  
4328 Page Avenue 49254  
517-764-3609

**Muskegon**  
5000 Hakes Drive 49441  
231-798-4445

**Oscoda**  
5671 Skeel Avenue  
Suite 4 48750  
989-747-0026

**Pontiac**  
44200 Woodward Avenue  
Suite 208 48341  
248-332-4540

**Saginaw**  
1500 Weiss Street 48602  
1-888-383-6446

**Sault Ste. Marie**  
509 Osborn Boulevard  
Suite 306 49783  
906-253-9383

**Traverse City**  
3271 Racquet Club Drive 49684  
231-932-9720

**Yale**  
7470 Brockway Drive 48097  
810-387-3211

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The State of Michigan operates two veterans homes at the following locations:

**Grand Rapids Home for Veterans**  
3000 Monroe Avenue, N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
616-364-5389 • 1-844-711-7986

**D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans**  
425 Fisher  
Marquette, MI 49855  
906-226-3576 • 1-800-433-6760
eBenefits

Through eBenefits veterans can apply for benefits, view their disability compensation claim status, access official military personnel documents (e.g., DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), obtain a VA-guaranteed home loan Certificate of Eligibility, and register for and update direct deposit information for certain benefits. New features are added regularly.

The National Resource Directory is part of the eBenefits site. This directory provides access to thousands of services and resources at the national, state, and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration for the wounded warrior. The NRD includes extensive information for veterans seeking resources on VA benefits such as disability benefits, pensions for veterans and their families, VA health care insurance and the GI Bill. eBenefits is accessed at https://www.ebenefits.va.gov.

Veterans must register for an eBenefits account at one of two levels: Basic or Premium. A Premium account allows the user to access personal data in VA and DoD systems, as well as apply for benefits online, check the status of claims, update address records, and more. The Basic account allows access to information entered into eBenefits by the veteran only. Basic accounts cannot access VA or DoD systems.

To register for an eBenefits account, veterans must be listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and obtain a DoD Self Service (DS) Logon (user name and password). Note: For those without a DEERS record, VA will first need to verify military service and add the information to DEERS. This is most likely for veterans who served prior to 1982. Individuals should contact a VA regional office for assistance in being added to DEERS.

Identity verification: Many veterans will be able to verify their identity online by answering a few security questions. A few may need to visit a VA regional office or TRICARE Service Center to have their identities verified.

Military retirees may verify their identity online using their Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Logon. Veterans in receipt of VA benefits via direct deposit may have their identity verified by calling 1-800-827-1000 and selecting option 7. eBenefits users with Premium access with appropriate My HealtheVet access can login to their My HealtheVet account using the single sign-on feature.

VA Disability Compensation

VA disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service. The service of the veteran must have been terminated through separation or discharge under conditions that were other than dishonorable. Disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of dependents, and is paid monthly.

Veterans with disability ratings between 30 percent and 100 percent are eligible for additional allowances for a spouse and for each minor child, 18-23 years of age attending school, child if disabled before 18 years of age, and dependent parent. The amount depends on the disability rating.

VA offers two methods for receiving disability benefit payments. Most veterans receive their disability benefit payments by direct deposit to a

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<th>2014 VA Disability Compensation</th>
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<td>Disability Percentage</td>
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Figures may be adjusted annually for inflation.
bank, savings and loan or credit union account. Veterans also have the option of receiving their benefits via a prepaid debit card, even if they do not have a bank account. There is no credit check, no minimum balance required, and basic services are free.

To sign up for the Debit Card Program, call 1-800-333-1795.

**Pensions**

Veterans with low incomes who are permanently and totally disabled, or are age 65 and older, may be eligible for monetary support if they have 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war. (Veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, or officers who entered active duty on or after October 16, 1981, may have to meet a longer minimum period of active duty.) The veteran’s discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable and their disability must be for reasons other than their own willful misconduct. Payments are made to bring the veteran’s total income, including other retirement or Social Security income, to a level set by Congress. Unreimbursed medical expenses may reduce countable income for VA purposes.

For more information, visit www.benefits.va.gov/pension.

**Social Security Benefits**

Monthly retirement, disability and survivor benefits under Social Security are payable to veterans and dependents if the veteran has earned enough work credits under the program. In addition, a veteran may qualify at age 65 for Medicare’s hospital insurance and medical insurance. Medicare protection is available to people who have received Social Security disability benefits for 24 months, and to insured people and their dependents who need dialysis or kidney transplants, or who have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (more commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease).

Those 65 or older and those who are blind or otherwise disabled may be eligible for monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments if they have little or no income or resources. States may supplement the federal payments to eligible persons and may disregard additional income.

Upon the veteran’s death, a one-time payment of $255 also may be made to the veteran’s spouse or child.

For more information, call 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

**Additional Monetary Benefits for Eligible Military Retirees**

**Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)**

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) provides tax-free monthly payments to eligible retired veterans with combat-related injuries. Disabilities related to in-service exposure to hazards (e.g., Agent Orange, Gulf War illnesses, radiation exposure) for which VA awards compensation are considered combat-related for CRSC purposes.

For information, visit www.defense.gov, or contact directly:

- **Army** 1-888-276-9472
  www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC
  or e-mail at askhrc.army@us.army.mil
- **Navy/Marine Corps** 1-877-366-2772
  www.public.navy.mil/asnmra/corb/CRSCB/
  or e-mail at CRSC@navy.mil
- **Air Force** 1-800-525-0102
  www.retirees.af.mil/
  or e-mail at AFPC.DPPDC.AFCRSC@us.af.mil
- **Coast Guard** 1-703-872-6626
  www.uscg.mil/adm1/crsc.asp
  or e-mail at Vinkle.J.Valentin@uscg.mil

**Disability Compensation for Presumptive Conditions** – VA presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by their military service. If one of these conditions is diagnosed in a veteran in one of these groups, VA presumes that the circumstances of his/her service caused the condition, and disability compensation can be awarded. Certain time limits for diagnosis apply depending on the disease.

All veterans who develop Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease, at any time after separation from service may be eligible for compensation for that disability.

For more information or a list of diseases, visit benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf.
Home Loan Guaranties – U.S. Federal Programs

Veterans Affairs loan guaranties may be made to eligible service members, veterans, reservists, National Guard, and unmarried surviving spouses for the purchase of homes, condominiums, and manufactured homes and for refinancing loans. VA home loans are usually handled by private lenders, with the VA “standing behind” the loan to guarantee a portion of it. Applicants must have a good credit rating, have an income sufficient to support mortgage payments, and agree to live in the property.

A VA loan guaranty can be used to:
• Buy or build a home;
• Buy a residential condominium;
• Repair, alter, or improve a veteran’s home;
• Refinance an existing home loan;
• Buy a manufactured home and/or a lot;
• Install a solar heating or cooling system or other energy-efficient improvements.

Service Eligibility

Applications involving other than honorable discharges will usually require further development by VA.

Service during:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>WWII</td>
<td>09/16/40 to 07/25/47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post WWII</td>
<td>07/26/47 to 06/26/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>06/27/50 to 01/31/55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Korean</td>
<td>02/01/55 to 08/04/64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>08/05/64 to 05/07/75; or beginning 02/28/61 for veterans who served in Republic of Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Vietnam</td>
<td>05/8/75 to 08/1/90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian Gulf Era</td>
<td>08/02/90 to the present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If service was between September 8, 1980 (October 16, 1981, for officers) and August 1, 1990, veterans must generally complete 24 months of continuous active duty service or the full period (at least 181 days) for which they were called or ordered to active duty, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable (“24-month rule”).

Veterans who served fewer than 181 days may be eligible if discharged for a service-connected disability.

Veterans of the Gulf War era must generally complete 24 months of continuous active duty or the full period (at least 90 days) for which they were called to active duty, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Exceptions are allowed if the veteran completed at least 90 days of active duty but was discharged earlier than 24 months for:
• hardship;
• the convenience of the government;
• reduction-in-force;
• certain medical conditions; or
• service-connected disability.

Reservists and National Guard members are eligible if they were activated after August 1, 1990, served 6 years and have 90 days of active service, and received an honorable discharge.

Until the Gulf War era is ended, persons on active duty are eligible after serving 90 continuous days.

A funding fee must be paid to VA unless the veteran is exempt from such a fee because he or she receives VA disability compensation. The fee may be paid in cash or included in the loan. Closing costs such as VA appraisal, credit report, loan processing fee, title search, title insurance, recording fees, transfer taxes, survey charges, or hazard insurance may not be included in the loan.

VA Assistance to Veterans in Default:

VA urges all veterans who are encountering problems making their mortgage payments to
speak with their servicers as soon as possible to explore options to avoid foreclosure. Contrary to popular opinion, servicers do not want to foreclose because foreclosure costs a lot of money. Depending on a veteran’s specific situation, servicers may offer any of the following options to avoid foreclosure:

- Repayment Plan
- Special Forbearance
- Loan Modification
- Short Sale
- Deed-in-Lieu of Foreclosure
- Additional time to arrange a private sale.

If the loan servicer is unable to help, the VA has loan technicians in eight Regional Loan Centers and two special servicing centers who take an active role exploring all options to avoid foreclosure. Veterans with VA-guaranteed home loans can call 1-877-827-3702 to reach the nearest VA office where loan specialists are prepared to discuss potential ways to help save the loan. Veterans with non-VA-guaranteed loans may also call this number. However, VA does not have the legal authority to intervene on a non-VA-guaranteed borrower’s behalf.

Finally, VA warns homeowners behind in their payments to be very careful about accepting offers from strangers to help with back payments. Please contact your mortgage lender or the Loan Guaranty Division before you sign any paper for assistance.

**Specially Adapted Homes**

VA has two grants available for veterans with certain service-connected disabilities to assist in either building a new specially adapted home, adapting a home they already own, or in purchasing an existing home to modify and remodel to meet their disability requirements. Eligible veterans may receive up to three grants, the sum total not to exceed the maximum allowable grant of $67,555. For more information on the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant or the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant e-mail sahinfo.vbaco@va.gov or call 1-877-827-3702.
State of Michigan Benefits

Tax Benefits

The Home Heating Credit is designed to assist low-income families and seniors in paying their home heating costs. Homesteads can be a rented apartment or a mobile home on a lot in a mobile home park. Qualified disabled veterans or their spouses generally are eligible for an increased credit. The final date to file for a Home Heating Credit is September 30 of each year.

The Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit is available if the homestead is located in Michigan, the owner was a Michigan resident at least six months in the prior year, and the owner pays property taxes or rents a Michigan homestead. Taxpayers are not eligible for this tax credit if their household income is more than $50,000 or the value of their home is greater than $135,000. Some veterans are eligible for an increased credit (see MI-1040CR-2). Homestead Property Tax Credit forms must be filed by the time state tax forms are due each April. The tax form, MI-1040CR-2 or MI-1040CR, can be found online at www.michigan.gov/treasury/. For property tax matters, call 517-636-4486 or 517-373-3200.

The Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption allows certain honorably discharged veterans with a 100 percent service-connected disability (or their surviving unremarried spouses) who received monetary assistance from the federal government for specially adapted homes (an SAH grant) to apply for an exemption for their homestead from property taxation. A qualified veteran must submit an affidavit and a certificate from the VA confirming the monetary assistance for specially adapted housing. Contact your township supervisor or other assessing officer for further information and deadlines.

Principal Residence Exemption

Principal residences are exempt up to 18 mills in local property tax levy used for K-12 education funding. Each individual or married couple may claim only one residence in the state as their principal residence, thus they may claim only one exemption.

Annual property assessment increases are capped at 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. A property’s assessed value is reset to state equalized value upon transfer to most new owners.

Contact the Michigan Department of Treasury for further information on the homestead property tax credit.
Veterans’ Group Life Insurance (VGLI)

Active duty members and reservists of uniformed services are automatically insured for $400,000 under the Service members’ Group Life Insurance (SGLI). Also available is traumatic injury group life insurance and family coverage.

At the time of separation from service, SGLI can be converted to either Veterans’ Group Life Insurance (VGLI) or a commercial plan through participating companies. You must apply to convert SGLI to VGLI within one year and 120 days from discharge. If you submit your application within 240 days after discharge (for those discharged on or after November 1, 2012) or within 120 days after discharge (for those discharged before November 1, 2012), you do not need to submit evidence of good health. Those who apply after the no-health period are required to answer questions about their health.

Beginning on October 1, 2011, current VGLI policyholders will have an opportunity to increase their VGLI coverage by $25,000, once every 5 years, up to the maximum $400,000 until age 60.

Service members who are totally disabled at the time of separation are eligible for free SGLI Disability Extension of up to two years. They must apply to the Office of Service members’ Group Life Insurance (OSGLI).

Those covered under the SGLI Disability Extension are automatically converted to VGLI, subject to premium payments, at the end of their extension period. VGLI is convertible at any time to a permanent plan policy with any participating commercial insurance company.

VGLI policyholders who are terminally ill (prognosis of nine months or less to live) have a one-time option of requesting up to 50 percent of their coverage in a lump sum accelerated payment.

Spousal and dependent coverage cannot at present be carried over into the Veterans’ Group Life Insurance program; however, spouses have the option of converting their coverage to a private life insurance policy with a participating company within 120 days of the service member leaving active duty or if the service member drops the primary SGLI coverage.

Service-Disabled Veterans’ Insurance (S-DVI)

S-DVI provides life insurance coverage to veterans whom VA has granted service connection for a new disability within the last two years. Totally disabled veterans are eligible for free coverage and have the opportunity to purchase additional insurance. Veterans must be in good health, other than the service-connected disability. In addition, eligible veterans had to have left service after April 24, 1951.

Veterans who are totally disabled may apply for a waiver of premiums and additional supplemental insurance coverage of up to $30,000. However, premiums cannot be waived on the additional supplemental insurance. To be eligible for this type of supplemental insurance, veterans must be under age 65, be eligible for a waiver of premiums due to total disability, and apply for additional insurance within one year from the date of notification of waiver approval on the S-DVI policy.
Veterans’ Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)

The maximum amount of mortgage life insurance available to severely disabled veterans granted a specially adapted housing grant is $200,000. Protection is automatic when the veteran submits required information and assuming he/she does not decline coverage. Coverage terminates when the mortgage is paid off.

If a mortgage is disposed of, VMLI may be obtained on the mortgage of another home.

Payment is to the current mortgage lender.

Assistance With Government Life Insurance Programs

Call the VA Insurance Center toll-free 1-800-669-8477 or visit www.insurance.va.gov. Specialists are available between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Eastern Time, to discuss premium payments, insurance dividends, changes of address, policy loans, naming beneficiaries and reporting the death of the insured.

If the insurance policy number is unknown, send the veteran’s VA file number, date of birth, Social Security number, military serial number or military service branch and dates of service to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Regional Office and Insurance Center
P.O. Box 42954
Philadelphia, PA 19101
Burial Benefits

**Headstones and Markers**

Veterans and retired Reservists and National Guard service members are eligible for an inscribed headstone or marker for their unmarked grave at any cemetery. VA will deliver a headstone or marker at no cost, anywhere in the world. For eligible veterans or service members who died on or after November 1, 1990 and are buried in a private cemetery, VA may furnish a government headstone or marker (for marked or unmarked graves) or furnish a medallion to affix to an already existing privately-purchased headstone or marker.

Spouses and dependent children are eligible for a government headstone or marker only if they are buried in a national or state veterans cemetery.

Before ordering, check with the cemetery to ensure that the government-furnished headstone or marker will be accepted. All installation fees at private cemeteries are the responsibility of the applicant.

To apply, mail a completed VA Form 40-1330, along with a copy of the veteran’s military service discharge document and death certificate to:

**Memorial Programs Service (41B)**
Department of Veterans Affairs
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903
or fax documents to 1-800-455-7143.

[Do not send original discharge documents, as they will not be returned.]

For more information and instructions, visit www.cem.va.gov.

**Presidential Memorial Certificates**

Certificates signed by the President are issued upon request to recognize the military service of honorably discharged deceased veterans. Next of kin, relatives, and friends may request Presidential Memorial Certificates in person at any VA regional office or by mailing a completed VA Form 40-0247 to:

**Presidential Memorial Certificates (41B3)**
National Cemetery Administration
5109 Russell Road
Quantico, VA 22134-3903
or fax documents to 1-800-455-7143.

There is no time limit for requesting these certificates, but requests should include a copy, not the original, of the deceased veteran’s discharge document and clearly indicate to what address the certificate should be sent. Additional information can be found at www.cem.va.gov.

**Burial Flags**

Generally, VA will furnish a U.S. burial flag to memorialize veterans who received an other than dishonorable discharge. This includes certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951. Also eligible for a burial flag are veterans who were entitled to retired pay for service in the Reserves or National Guard, or would have been entitled if over age 60; and members or former members of the Selected Reserve who served their initial obligation, or were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or died while a member of the Selected Reserve.

Additional information and VA Form 27-2008 can be found at www.cem.va.gov/pmc.asp.

**Military Funeral Honors**

Upon request, the Department of Defense (DoD) will provide military funeral honors consisting of folding and presentation of the United States flag and the playing of “Taps.”

Family members should inform their funeral directors if they want military funeral honors. DoD maintains a toll-free number (1-877-MIL-HONR) for use by funeral directors only to request honors. For more information, visit www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh.
Reimbursement of Burial Expenses

VA will pay a burial allowance up to $2,000 if the veteran’s death is service-connected. In such cases, the person who bore the veteran’s burial expenses may claim reimbursement from VA. In some instances, VA also will pay the cost of transporting the remains of a veteran whose death was service-connected to the national cemetery nearest the home of the deceased that has available gravesites. There is no time limit for filing reimbursement claims in service-connected death cases.

VA will pay a $300 burial and funeral expense allowance for veterans who, at the time of death, were entitled to receive a pension or compensation or would have been entitled to compensation if they weren’t receiving military retirement pay. There is a 2-year time limit.

VA will pay a plot allowance of up to $734 when a veteran is buried in a cemetery not under U.S. government jurisdiction if the veteran was discharged from active duty because of disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty; the veteran was receiving compensation or pension or would have been if the veteran was not receiving military retired pay; or the veteran died in a VA facility.

For information on monetary benefits, call 1-800-827-1000. Additional information about burial and memorial benefits may be obtained at any VA National Cemetery, regional office, or at www.cem.va.gov. To check on the status of an application for a headstone or marker, call 1-800-697-6947.

Burial in VA National Cemeteries

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available for eligible veterans, their spouses and dependents at no cost to the family and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For veterans, benefits may also include a burial flag (with case for active duty), and military funeral honors. Family members and other loved ones of deceased veterans may request Presidential Memorial Certificates.

The funeral director or the next of kin makes interment arrangements by contacting the National Cemetery Scheduling Office or, in some cases, the national cemetery in which burial is desired. VA does not normally conduct burials on weekends. Gravesites cannot be reserved; however, VA will honor reservations made before 1973 by the Department of the Army.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs currently has two national cemeteries in Michigan:

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

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

State Veterans’ Burial Expenses

Under Michigan law, eligible veterans (or the wife or widow of a qualified veteran) who meet residency and asset limits may qualify for $300 for burial expenses paid by the County Board of Commissioners or the Board of County Auditors. The Soldiers Relief Commission of each county has the responsibility for investigating each claim.

Survivor Benefits for Spouse and Children – U.S. Federal Benefits

Survivors Pension

VA provides pension benefits to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service.

Spouses must not have remarried and children must be under age 18, or under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school, or have become permanently incapable of self-support because of disability before age 18.

The veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have
had 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war, or a service-connected disability justifying discharge. Longer periods of service may be required for veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980, or if an officer October 16, 1981. If the veteran died in service, but not in the line of duty, survivors pension may be payable if the veteran had completed at least two years of honorable service.

Children who become incapable of self-support because of a disability before age 18 may be eligible for a survivors pension as long as the condition exists, unless the child marries or the child’s income exceeds the applicable limit.

Survivors pension provides a monthly payment to bring an eligible person’s income to a level established by law. The payment is reduced by the annual income from other sources such as Social Security. The payment may be increased if the recipient has unreimbursed medical expenses that can be deducted from countable income.

For more information, call 1-800-827-1000 or visit www.benefits.va.gov/pension/spousepen.asp.

**Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)**

For a survivor to be eligible for **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)**, the veteran’s death must have resulted from one of the following causes:

- An injury or disease deemed to be related to military service, or
- A nonservice-related injury or disease, but the veteran was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA compensation for a service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling

- For at least 10 years immediately before death, or
- Since the veteran’s release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, or
- For at least one year before death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.

Payments will be offset by any amount received from judicial proceedings brought on by the veteran’s death. The discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable.

Surviving spouses must meet certain eligibility requirements also. To apply, complete VA Form 21-534 or visit the Detroit Benefits office located at 477 Michigan Ave., Detroit, or call 1-800-827-1000.

**Aid and Attendance and Housebound Benefits**

Veterans and surviving spouses who are eligible for a VA pension, DIC, or survivors pension may also be eligible for Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits. To apply for these benefits, send evidence to the VA regional office validating the need for aid and attendance or housebound care. The request should include information as to whether there is disease or injury producing physical or mental impairment, loss of coordination, or conditions affecting the ability to dress and undress, to feed oneself, to attend to sanitary needs, and to keep oneself ordinarily clean and presentable.
Programs – State of Michigan

**Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program**

Financial assistance may be available to certain Michigan veterans serving at least 180 days of active duty in a wartime period who were discharged under honorable conditions. The program assists with an unforeseen situation that causes a temporary or short-term financial emergency or hardship that a grant will resolve. Examples of such needs include delay in unemployment benefits or other income or unexpected hospitalizations that cause reductions in income to meet household needs. The grants may assist with housing, utilities, car payments or insurance or medical assistive devices.

Coordination is made with other agencies that may also assist with these types of needs.

Contact the Veterans Trust Fund at 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838) or your County Veterans Affairs Office (see page 36). Information is also available online at www.MichiganVeterans.com.

**Michigan Veterans Homeowners Assistance Program**

This program, launched in 2013, provides financial assistance to Michigan veterans and their families who have struggled due to the mortgage foreclosure crisis. Veterans have special protections from foreclosure under the law, but need additional assistance to keep their homes in the event of foreclosure. The Veterans Homeowners Assistance Program (MiVHAP) will provide financial grant assistance to honorably discharged veterans living or having lived in Michigan for hardship that has occurred since 2006 that is related to the foreclosure crisis. This program is broadly designed to help veterans save their homes and get back on track to secure home ownership. Grants are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Veterans interested in applying for MiVHAP grants can obtain more information by calling 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838) or by visiting MiVHAP on the web at www.MichiganVeterans.com. Select Veterans Affairs Agency and then Michigan Veterans Homeowners Assistance program.

**State of Michigan – Department of Human Services**

The Department of Human Services (see county contacts on page 37) provides cash assistance to families with children and pregnant women to help them pay for living expenses such as rent, heat, utilities, clothing, food, and personal care items. Assistance in finding a job or developing needed job skills, help with transportation, child care, and other needs related to employment and training may also be provided.

**Soldiers Relief Commission**

In some counties, emergency relief grants are available to Michigan veterans who do not meet Michigan Veterans Trust Fund criteria. Funds are limited, so the commission makes an effort to refer veterans who are eligible to other sources of financial assistance. Contact your county VA office.

Contact a County Veterans Counselor at www.macvc.net for assistance. See page 38 for phone numbers of county counselors.

You may also consult your local phonebook for county government. Usually this is handled by the office of Veteran Affairs.

**Additional State Benefits**

**Hunting and Fishing Licenses.** As of March 2013, fees for fishing and hunting licenses will be waived for disabled veterans. Only licenses that do not require a lottery can be obtained free of charge. Proof of eligibility must be presented at time of purchase and carried when hunting or fishing. Disabled hunters are those who have been determined...
by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service or is rated as individually unemployable.

**State ID and Drivers Licenses.**
Honoring discharged veterans may request their drivers license or state ID card to include a special veteran designation. This will allow veterans to take advantage of many discounts and services available to them that require proof of military service.

**Michigan National Guard and Michigan-Based Active Military**

Many veterans continue to serve in the Michigan National Guard. If you are a member of the National Guard, there are resources and information focused on your unique needs.

You may call the National Guard Family Program office at **517-481-9893** for information on available assistance if you are a member of the Michigan National Guard.

The National Guard has established Family Assistance Centers (FAC) and Wing Coordinators (WC) across the state to provide National Guard members or active duty military members stationed in Michigan, and their families, a point of contact when the family’s soldier, sailor, Marine or Airman is deployed.

**Sault Ste. Marie Armory FAC**
1170 E. Portage Road, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Phone: **906-632-7861**
Fax: **906-632-4753**

**Camp Grayling Armory FAC**
Building #3, Grayling, MI 49739
Phone: **989-344-6144**
Fax: **989-344-6421**

**Grand Ledge/Flint Armory FAC**
10600 Eaton Highway, Grand Ledge, MI 48837
Phone: **517-481-8850**
Fax: **517-481-8822**

**Jackson Armory FAC**
4850 Cooper Road, Jackson, MI 49201
Phone: **517-990-1186**
Fax: **517-990-1108**

**Grand Valley Armory FAC**
1200 44th Street SW, Wyoming, MI 49509
Phone: **616-249-2741**
Fax: **616-249-2671**

**Taylor Armory FAC**
12450 Beech Daly Road, Taylor, MI 48180
Phone: **734-946-2553**
Fax: **734-946-2540**

**110th Airlift Wing**
3545 Mustang Avenue, Building 6905
Battle Creek, MI 49015
Phone: **269-969-3493**
Fax: **269-969-3556**

**127th Family Support Center**
29868 George Avenue, Building 168
Selfridge ANGB, MI 48045
Phone: **586-239-5583**
Toll-Free: **800-645-9416**
Fax: **586-239-5786**

**Alpena CRTC WC**
5884 A Street, Alpena, MI 49707
Phone: **989-354-6557**

**Michigan National Guard**
minationalguard.com/familyprograms

**Family Assistance Centers**
Toll-Free: **877-394-1042**

Each FAC or WC will act as a call center for military families for a large scope of issues. Some personal issues may require counseling and referral to an area Chaplain, legal matters may require reference to a military Judge Advocate General, and military pay problems require help from the military pay section at the State Headquarters.

These call centers may also receive a variety of family calls and questions that relate to insurance, financial debt, or a variety of maintenance issues.

For further information and to identify the FAC or WC closest to you, contact:

**JFHQ - Family Program Office**
3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: **517-481-9893**
Toll-Free: **1-877-394-1042**
Fax: **517-481-8150**
Michigan National Guard Family Fund was created to assist Air and Army National Guard families who experience financial difficulties with temporary emergency financial assistance, and to fund programs and training to maintain and improve the quality of life of our Michigan National Guard families. The fund provides a grant up to $500 to soldiers and airmen and their family members who encounter financial hardships.

What constitutes a need? Emergency loss of income through activation for military duty; inability to maintain employment due to injury, sudden illness, or job loss; unexpected medical expenses; pay problems; or the accumulation of legitimate bills (e.g., rent, mortgage, electric, oil, gas, etc.). Also included is the inability to pay for basic needs such as food, shelter, utilities, clothing, medical bills, and transportation due to unforeseen circumstances.

An application must be submitted with the necessary documentation. For an application form, visit minationalguard.com/familyprograms/family-fund.

**Army Strong Community Center**

The ASCC supports all branches of the military, veterans, retirees and their families by working one-on-one through every situation until a resolution has been reached. The ASCC can help veterans with benefits and entitlements, web access, employment and resume assistance, emergency assistance, and community resources. Staff at the center is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Michigan has one ASCC located in Walker:

**Dr. Mary Edwards**
**Walker Army Reserve Center**
3870 Three Mile Road NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534
Phone: **616-735-4050**, extension 132 or 166
After-Hours Assistance (Fort Family Outreach Center): **1-866-345-8248**

**Energy Assistance Programs**

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides federal funds to each state to assist low-income families with energy costs. In Michigan, the LIHEAP block grant is used for the following programs:

- Home Heating Credit
- State Emergency Relief (SER)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

For more information, visit the Department of Human Services at www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance.

**Additional Resources**

- Army Emergency Relief
  www.aerhq.org
- Air Force Aid Society
  www.afas.org
- Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society
  www.nmcrs.org
- Coast Guard Mutual Assistance
  www.cgmahq.org

**Within Local Communities:**

- American Red Cross
  www.redcross.org
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
  (see page 39 for list)
- The American Legion
  (see page 39 for list)

The Michigan Association of Countv Veterans Counselors (MACVC) may be able to assist veterans and their families in obtaining county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled. See page 38 for phone numbers of County Counselors. Visit the MACVC web site at www.macvc.net which contains links to the county counselors and other information.

Each organization has its own set of procedures to follow. Please contact them directly for their requirements.
## Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Representatives

### Contact Information by County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcona</td>
<td>989-354-9671</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alger</td>
<td>906-387-1635</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allegan</td>
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Visit [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs) for more information.
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Clair</td>
<td>810-989-6945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>269-467-5557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuscola</td>
<td>989-673-8148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Buren</td>
<td>269-657-7376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washtenaw</td>
<td>734-973-4540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>313-224-5045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wexford</td>
<td>231-775-6654</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit [www.macvc.net](http://www.macvc.net) for more information.
### Veterans Service Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Legion</strong></td>
<td>1210 McNamara Building, 477 Michigan Avenue</td>
<td>313-964-6640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AMVETS</strong></td>
<td>1227 McNamara Building, 477 Michigan Avenue</td>
<td>313-471-3982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disabled American Veterans</strong></td>
<td>1200 McNamara Building, 477 Michigan Avenue</td>
<td>313-964-6595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marine Corps League</strong></td>
<td>1232 McNamara Building, 477 Michigan Avenue</td>
<td>313-964-6830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Military Order of the Purple Heart</strong></td>
<td>1226 McNamara Building, 477 Michigan Avenue</td>
<td>313-964-6510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Commissioned Officer Association of America</strong></td>
<td>John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, 4646 John R Street, Room A-1011, Detroit, MI 48201</td>
<td>313-576-3382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paralyzed Veterans of America</strong></td>
<td>1233 McNamara Building, 477 Michigan Avenue</td>
<td>313-964-6510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Veterans of Foreign Wars</strong></td>
<td>1210 McNamara Building, 477 Michigan Avenue</td>
<td>313-964-6510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vietnam Veterans of America</strong></td>
<td>1210 McNamara Building, 477 Michigan Avenue</td>
<td>313-961-9568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. Department of Justice</strong></td>
<td>Civil Rights Division, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Disability Rights Section - NYA, Washington, DC 20530</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. Department of Labor - Veterans Employment and Training (USDOL/VET)</strong></td>
<td>Victor Office Center, Suite 120, 201 N. Washington Square, Lansing, MI 48913</td>
<td>517-373-7094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA)</strong></td>
<td>McNamara Building, 12th Floor, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226</td>
<td>1-800-827-1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Local veterans organizations may have a service officer who can help fill out forms or advise on benefits.

### Federal Agencies

<table>
<thead>
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<td>McNamara Building, 12th Floor, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226</td>
<td>1-800-827-1000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State Agencies
Visit www.michigan.gov.

**Michigan Department of Civil Rights**

**Detroit Executive Office**
Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600
3054 W. Grand Boulevard
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: 313-456-3700
Fax: 313-456-3791

**Lansing Office**
Capitol Tower Building
110 West Michigan Avenue, Suite 800
Lansing, MI 48933
Phone: 517-241-6300
Toll-Free: 1-800-482-3604
Fax: 517-335-3882
TTY: 517-335-3881

**Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing**
201 N. Washington Square, Suite 150
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: 517-335-6004 T/V
Toll-Free: 1-877-499-6232 T/V
Fax: 517-335-7773
E-mail: dodhh@michigan.gov

**Michigan Civil Service Commission**
Capitol Commons
400 S. Pine Street
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: 517-373-3030
Toll-Free: 1-800-788-1766

**Michigan Department of Community Health**
Capitol View Building
201 Townsend Street, 7th Floor
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: 517-373-3740
Michigan Relay Center at 711 or 1-800-649-3777 and ask for 517-373-3740.

**Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council**
201 Townsend Street, Suite 120
Lansing, MI 48913
Phone: 517-335-3158
Fax: 517-335-2751
TDD: 517-335-3171

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**Michigan Department of Human Services**
235 S. Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 30037
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: 517-373-2035
TTY: 517-373-8521

**Michigan Rehabilitation Services**
201 N. Washington Square, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 30010
Lansing, MI 48909
Toll-Free: 1-800-605-6722
TTY Toll-Free: 1-888-605-6722
E-mail: CustomerAssistance@michigan.gov

**Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs**
**Bureau of Services for Blind Persons**
201 N. Washington Square
Victor Building, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 30652
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: 517-373-2062
Fax: 517-335-5140
Toll-Free: 1-800-292-4200

**Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**
3411 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: 517-284-5298

**Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency**
Phoenix Building, 5th Floor
222 N. Washington Square
P.O. Box 30104
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)

**Michigan Department of Treasury**
Treasury Building
430 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, MI 48922
Phone: 1-800-373-3200
TTY: 1-800-649-3777 or 711
Additional Resources

Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents

If you would like more detailed information on veteran benefits and services, contact:

United States Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420
Phone: 1-800-827-1000
TDD: 711
www.va.gov

The Federal Benefits Booklet, 2014 edition, is available online at www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp. eReader editions are also available at this site.

The booklet is also available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, open Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (EST). Call toll-free 1-866-512-1800 or in the District of Columbia area 1-202-512-1800. The GPO can be reached by e-mail at contactcenter@gpo.gov.

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Bereavement Counseling . . . . 1-202-461-6530
Education . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 1-888-442-4551
Headstones and Markers . . . 1-800-697-6947
Health Care . . . . . . . . . . . . 1-877-222-8387
Homeless Veterans . . . . . . 1-877-424-3838
Home Loans . . . . . . . . . . . 1-888-768-2132
Life Insurance . . . . . . . . . 1-800-669-8477
Pension Management Center . . 1-877-294-6380
Special Health Issues . . . . 1-800-749-8387
Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD) . . . . . . . . . . . . 711
VA Benefits . . . . . . . . . . . . 1-800-827-1000
Veterans Crisis Line . . . . . . 1-888-273-8255
Women Veterans . . . . . . . . 1-855-829-6636

Forms, Documents:
VA Forms
www.va.gov/vaforms
U.S. Government Forms
www.usa.gov

DD-214 Lost Documents:

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased veterans can use the National Personnel Records Center (PRC) online military personnel records systems to request discharge documents (DD Form 214). The electronic application can be accessed at http://vetrecs.archives.gov.

A veteran who received Michigan’s WW II, Korean, or Vietnam bonus may request by mailing a letter copy of the discharge from military service to:

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
Phoenix Building, 5th Floor
222 N. Washington Square
P.O. Box 30104
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency can also help provide DD-214s, call 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838).
**Helpful Links:**

VA Home Page
www.va.gov

Education Benefits
www.gibill.va.gov

Health Care Eligibility
www.va.gov/healthbenefits

Returning Service Members
www.oefoif.va.gov

Home Loan Guaranty
www.homeloans.va.gov

Records
www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel

VA Benefit Payment Rates
www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates

Mental Health
www.mentalhealth.va.gov

Life Insurance
www.insurance.va.gov

Women Veterans Health Care
www.womenshealth.va.gov

My HealtheVet
www.myhealth.va.gov

VA Fact Sheets
www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp#BM7

Michigan Veterans Benefits Site
www.michigan.gov/veterans

TRICARE
www.tricare.mil

Military OneSource
www.militaryonesource.com

National Resource Directory
www.nrd.gov

Department of Defense
www.defense.gov

Military Funeral Honors
www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh

Arlington National Cemetery
www.arlingtoncemetery.org

Burial and Memorial Benefits
www.cem.va.gov

**Employment Assistance Web Addresses:**

Veteran Employment Services
www.mitalent.org/veteran

Veterans’ Preference
www.fedshirevets.gov

Federal Government Job Openings
www.usajobs.gov

Department of Labor Employment and Training
www.dol.gov/vets

Returning Service Members
www.oefoif.va.gov

**Business Assistance:**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
The Center for Verification and Evaluation (CVE)
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420
Phone: (202) 303-3260 or 1-866-584-2344
E-mail: vip@va.gov

www.vetbiz.gov

Michigan Small Business and Technology Development Center
www.misbtdc.org

Small Business Administration
www.sba.gov

Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
www4.va.gov/OSDBU
Veteran Holidays

Veterans Day

Veterans Day is an opportunity to publicly commemorate the contributions of living veterans. Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar congressional action.

If World War I had indeed been “the war to end all wars,” November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. Realizing that peace was equally preserved by veterans of World War II and Korea, Congress decided to make the day an occasion to honor all those who have served America. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. (Historically, the first Veterans Day parade was held in 1953 in Emporia, Kansas.)

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873.

By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every state on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90-363) to ensure a three-day weekend for Federal holidays), though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19 in Texas; April 26 in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10 in South Carolina; and June 3 (Jefferson Davis’ birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee.

Flag Etiquette

Federal law stipulates many aspects of flag etiquette. The section of law dealing with American Flag etiquette is generally referred to as the Flag Code. Some general guidelines from the Flag Code answer many of the most common questions.

Flag Displayed Outdoors

Over the Middle of the Street

The flag should be suspended vertically with the union or blue field to the north on an east and west street or to the east on a north and south street.

Flown at Half-Staff

The flag should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should again be raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. “Half-staff” means the flag has been lowered to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.
Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstaffs in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.

**Flown on the Same Halyard With Non-National Flags**

The American flag should always be at the peak. When flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No flag or pennant may be placed above or to the right of the flag of the United States.

**Suspended Over a Sidewalk**

The flag may be suspended from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk. The flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

**From a Staff Projecting Horizontally or at an Angle**

The flag may be projected from a window sill, balcony, or front of a building, with the union of the flag placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.

**In a Parade With Other Flags**

The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right (that is, the flag’s own right), or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

**With Non-National Flags**

The flag of the United States should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

**With Other National Flags**

When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

**With Another Flag Against a Wall From Crossed Staffs**

The American flag should be on the right (the flag’s own right which is the viewer’s left) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

**Flag Displayed Indoors**

**From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium on a Podium**

The flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman’s or speaker’s right as he/she faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker (to the right of the audience).

**From a Staff in a Church or Public Auditorium off the Podium**

Custom – not the Flag Code – holds that the flag of the United States should hold the position of superior prominence, as part of the audience, in the position of honor at the audience’s right.

**Used to Cover a Casket**

The American flag should be so placed on a casket that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder of the deceased. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

**Other Than Being Flown From a Staff**

The flag should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag’s own right (that is, to the observer’s left). When displayed in a window, it should be displayed in the same way (that is, with the union to the left of the observer in the street). When festoons, rosettes, or drappings are desired, bunting of blue, white, and red should be used, but never the flag itself.

Read a more comprehensive set of Flag Code etiquette rules for display of the American Flag at the “Americanism” link at the American Legion web site [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).
PL. 110-181 amended section 9, title 4, USC, to allow veterans to render the hand salute to the United States flag. The section reads: “During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in review, all persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute. All other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart or, if applicable, remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Citizens of other countries present should stand at attention. All such conduct toward the flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.”

State Policy for Flying American Flags at Half-Staff

State policy for displaying the United States flag at half-staff as a mark of respect for the memory of military personnel who are killed in the line of duty is found in Executive Order No. 2006-10.

As recognized under Proclamation 2003-4, the flag of the United States shall be displayed at half-staff throughout the State of Michigan on a day designated by the Governor when a member of the Michigan National Guard or a Michigan resident servicing as a member of the United States Armed Forces is killed in the line of duty.

When an order providing for the flag to be displayed at half-staff on a statewide basis is issued, Michigan residents, businesses, schools, local governments, and other organizations also are urged to display the flag at half-staff.

Flag Disposal

The United States Flag Code provides:

“The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.”

Many veterans service organizations conduct ceremonies for the destruction of unserviceable flags by burning. Such ceremonies may be done on June 14, Flag Day, to mark the dignity and solemnity of the occasion. Some local governments may also conduct these ceremonies.

In practice, for individuals who wish to destroy a flag in poor condition, this should be done discreetly so the act of destruction is not perceived as a protest or desecration.
Michigan Congressional Delegation – 113th Congress

United States Senate

Like every state, Michigan has two Senators in the United States Senate: Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow. Senator Levin is retiring as of January 2015. Our new Senator will be elected at the general election in November 2014. You will find contact information for Senator Stabenow and our new Senator at the Senate web site: www.senate.gov

Select “Senators”. Select “Michigan” from the “Choose a State” drop-down box and you will get the phone number and address for the Senator as well as a link to contact the Senator via the web.

My United States Senators contact information: _______________________________________

United States House of Representatives

Michigan currently has 14 Representatives in the United States House of Representatives. This number is determined by our population and may be adjusted following each decennial census.

You may obtain contact information about our 14 United States Representatives at the House of Representatives web site: www.house.gov/writerep

By entering your zip code, and clicking the “Find Your Rep by Zip” button, you will be provided with your Representative’s name and contact information.

My United States Representative: _______________________________________

Michigan Governor and Lieutenant Governor

Contact information for the Governor may be found at: www.michigan.gov/gov

Contact information for the Lieutenant Governor may be found at: www.michigan.gov/ltgov

Michigan State Senate

The Michigan State Senate is composed of 38 State Senators whose districts are apportioned by population.

You may obtain contact information for your State Senator at the State Senate web site: www.senate.michigan.gov

Click the “Find Your Senator” link to obtain the phone number, address, and e-mail of your State Senator.

My State Senator: ___________________________

Michigan House of Representatives

The Michigan House of Representatives is composed of 110 State Representatives whose districts are apportioned by population.

You may obtain contact information for your State Representative at the State House of Representatives web site: www.house.mi.gov

By using the “Find a Representative” feature or the clickable map, you will obtain the phone number, address, and e-mail of your State Representative.

My State Representative: _______________________

Letters to any of the State Senators or State Representatives may be addressed:
The Honorable (name of senator)
State Senator
State Capitol
P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536

The Honorable (name of representative)
State Representative
State Capitol
P. O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Senate or House Committee

You may wish to contact State Senators or State Representatives on the committee that is designated to review proposed legislation regarding veterans affairs. The name of this committee may change over time. You may find the current name of the committee and the members of the committee as follows.

State Senate committee page: www.senate.michigan.gov/committee.html

State House of Representatives committee page: www.house.michigan.gov/mhrpublic/committee.aspx
Notes
Notes
The information in this publication is available, upon request, in an alternative, accessible format.
For more information regarding the Michigan Legislature, scan this QR code with your smartphone.