

# VETERANS

# RESOURCE



Consolidated listing of programs, benefits and services  
for Veterans and their families in the  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON VETERANS SERVICES

On Veterans Day 2013, the **Governors Advisory Council on Veterans Services** was established by executive order and became Pennsylvania's first interagency cooperative approach to veterans services. This initiative reviews, evaluates and assesses state Veterans programs in collaboration with senior staff from state agencies and commissions. It increases information sharing, ensures program fidelity, coordinates complementary programs and facilitates meaningful enhancements in service accessibility to Veterans benefits and services within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services**  
Bldg 0-47, Edward Martin Hall  
Fort Indiantown Gap  
Annville, PA 17003-5002  
Phone: 1-800-547-2328  
Email: [RA-VA-Info@pa.gov](mailto:RA-VA-Info@pa.gov)

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## COUNTY DIRECTORS FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS

Your very first point of contact for Veterans programs, benefits and services is the County Director for Veterans Affairs. Their mission is to provide Veterans and their dependents direct assistance to identify, determine eligibility and assist in the preparation of applications for County, State and Federal Veterans benefits and programs. The County Director is also responsible for the payment of Burial Allowances and ensuring Grave Markers and Headstones are properly requested and placed for each deceased County Veteran.

### LISTING BY COUNTY

County	Work Phone	County	Work Phone
Adams	717-337-9835	Lackawanna	570-963-6778
Allegheny	412-621-4357	Lancaster	717-299-7920
Armstrong	724-548-3441	Lawrence	724-656-2180
Beaver	724-770-4452	Lebanon	717-228-4422
Bedford	814-623-4848	Lehigh	610-782-3295
Berks	610-378-5601	Luzerne	570-706-3960
Blair	814-693-3160	Lycoming	570-327-2365
Bradford	570-265-1704	McKean	814-887-3241
Bucks	215-345-3307	Mercer	724-662-7511 or 7512
Butler	724-284-5352	Mifflin	717-248-6421
Cambria	814-472-1590	Monroe	570-517-3187
Cameron	814-486-2315 x355	Montgomery	610-278-3285
Carbon	570-325-3986	Montour	570-271-3061
Centre	814-355-6812	Northampton	610-559-3199
Chester	610-344-6375	Northumberland	570-988-4213
Clarion	814-226-4000 x2601	Perry	717-582-2131
Clearfield	814-765-4611	Philadelphia	215-686-3256
Clinton	570-893-4339	Pike	570-296-3563
Columbia	570-387-6501 opt #2	Potter	814-274-8290 x210
Crawford	814-333-7314	Schuylkill	570-628-1400
Cumberland	717-240-6178	Snyder	570-837-4277
Dauphin	717-780-6356 or 6357	Somerset	814-445-1551
Delaware	610-891-4646	Sullivan	570-946-7677
Elk	814-776-5370	Susquehanna	570-278-4600 x260
Erie	814-451-6270	Tioga	570-723-8141
Fayette	724-430-1241	Union	570-524-8676
Forest	814-755-3404	Venango	814-432-9780
Franklin	717-263-4326	Warren	814-728-3478
Fulton	717-485-6873	Washington	724-228-6865
Greene	724-852-5275	Wayne	570-253-5970 x3114
Huntingdon	814-643-1360	Westmoreland	724-830-3530
Indiana	724-465-3815	Wyoming	570-996-2258
Jefferson	814-849-3618	York	717-771-9218
Juniata	717-436-7728		



## DEPARTMENT OF AGING

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

The mission of the Department of Aging is to enhance the quality of life of all older Pennsylvanians by empowering diverse communities, the family and the individual.

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- Veterans Directed Home and Community – Based Service Program
- Your Local Resources: Area Agency on Aging
- OPTIONS Program
- Questions about Medicare and Medicaid: APPRISE
- Assistance with your Drug Prescriptions Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE)
- Senior Community Centers
- Prevention and Protection against Elder Abuse
- Pennsylvania Caregiver Support Program
- Transportation
- Pennsylvania LINK to Aging and Disability Resources

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of Aging  
555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1919  
Telephone: (717) 783-1550  
[www.aging.state.pa.us](http://www.aging.state.pa.us)

## PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES SUMMARY

### Veterans Home and Community-Based Service Program

Services covering a wide range of needs are available allowing individual to remain in their communities and homes. The services include home health care; personal care, providing assistance with bathing, dressing, eating and grooming, toileting, etc.; health care support services such as housekeeping, shopping assistance, laundry and mending, respite care (caregiver relief); transportation and other routine household chores as necessary to maintain a consumers health, safety and ability to remain in the home; home – delivered meals prepared at central location and delivered to a person's home.

### Your Local Resources – Area Agency on Aging

Pennsylvania's 52 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) cover all 67 counties and serve as the front door for the Pennsylvania Department of Aging services at the local level. The AAAs complete assessments to determine which programs/services best meet the needs of individuals seeking assistance in the community. *To find the Area Agency on Aging in your area please visit [www.aging.state.pa.us](http://www.aging.state.pa.us) or call 717-783-1550*

### OPTIONS Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging's OPTIONS Program provides services to Pennsylvanians who are 60 years of age and older to remain in their homes and communities. For more information contact your local Area Agency on Aging Services available under the OPTIONS Program are:

- Adult Day Care
- Counseling
- Care management
- Home health
- Personal care
- Personal emergency response systems
- Home delivered meals
- Transportation services

## Questions about Medicare and Medicaid: APPRISE

Questions about Medicare and Medicaid? The APPRISE Program provides free face-to-face or telephone assistance with understanding Medicare and Medicaid eligibility and benefits, Medicare supplemental insurance, HMOs, and long – term care insurance. Trained volunteers and staff assist in filling appeals and grievances for denied services and provide information about quality of care in Medicare HMOs. Contact your local Area Agency on Aging or the APPRISE toll – free number 1-800-783-7067, weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m EST.

## Assistance with your Drug Prescriptions

Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE) PACE, PACENET and PACE plus Medicare are Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, offering low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents, age 65 and older. For information, call 1-800-225-7223.

## Senior Community Centers

Most communities have senior community centers where older adults can get together for social activities, recreation, education, creative arts, physical health programs, and nutritious meals. To find the senior community center in your area, visit the Department of Aging Website or contact your local Area Agency on Aging.

## Prevention and Protection against Elder Abuse

If you suspect abuse of an older person age 60 or older, you should report it to your local Area Agency on Aging or call the Department of Aging's Elder Abuse hotline at 1-800-490-8505. You can call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Elder Abuse includes self-neglect, caregiver neglect, financial exploitation, physical and sexual abuse and abandonment. Your call will be connected to local Protective Services staff in one of the 52 Area Agencies on Aging that serve all 67 Pennsylvania Counties.

## Pennsylvania Caregiver Support Program

Through Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), eligible caregivers may receive financial support in caring for an older person. In addition to one—time grants for renovations, ongoing support to caregivers providing hands-on care is available. Contact your local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for more information.

## Transportation

The Shared-Ride Program provides reduced fare transportation to eligible older persons utilizing shared-ride transportation services. For more information, please contact your local shared-ride transportation provider or your Area Agency on Aging. To find the Area Agency on Aging in your area please visit [www.aging.state.pa.us](http://www.aging.state.pa.us) or call 717-783-1550.

## Pennsylvania LINK to Aging and Disability Resources

The PA Link to Aging and Disability Resources connects you to all available resources related to housing, transportation, employment, mental health, and other critical services that make it possible for you to continue to live independently. You may reach your local I LINK through your Area Agency on Aging (AAA) or your local Center for Independent Living (CIL) or you may call toll free 1-800-753-8827.





## DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND SECURITIES

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

Pennsylvania's Department of Banking and Securities fosters a strong economy for the commonwealth by ensuring the safety and soundness of state-chartered financial institutions, the compliance with laws that impact financial service entities and the protection of consumers and investors in financial matters. The Department of Banking and Securities works with a wide array of financial services institutions and professionals including banks, credit unions, trust companies, securities agents, broker-dealers, investment advisers, and mortgage lenders and brokers.

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- Investing for Veterans and Military Families
- Pennsylvania Military Finance Alliance
- Financial Field Manual for Military Families

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of Banking and Securities  
17 North Second Street, Suite 1300  
Harrisburg PA 17101.

Consumer and Investor Hotline: 1-800-PA-BANK-SECURITIES (800-722-2657) in Pennsylvania.

Out of state: 717-787-1854

Harrisburg Receptionist (Banking): 717-787-2665

Harrisburg Receptionist (Securities): 717-787-1854

Pittsburgh Office (Securities): 412-565-5083

[www.banking.state.pa.us](http://www.banking.state.pa.us)

## **PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES SUMMARY**

### **Investing for Veterans and Military Families**

The Department of Banking and Securities promotes informed investment decision making by empowering service members, veterans and family members to better understand personal investing and financial management concepts. The Investor Education staff instructs military personnel and family members how to “investigate before they invest” in an effort to avoid unlicensed sales people, unregistered or inappropriate investment products, and situations involving high-pressure sales tactics. Key warning signs of financial fraud are also a major area of focus. Since some military members and Veterans, like a number of Americans in general, may not have a comfortable level of familiarity with basic securities concepts, providing unbiased information about managing household investments and finances is a key necessity in providing quality investor education and investor protection information.

Military personnel returning from active duty face many challenges and responsibilities when re-acclimating to civilian life and are frequent targets for investment fraud. The Investor Education staff provides free, non-commercial information to service members and their families as they work to achieve their financial goals.

### **Pennsylvania Military Finance Alliance**

The Department of Banking and Securities is a member of the Pennsylvania Military Finance Alliance, the premiere outreach network in Pennsylvania that enables service members and families to lead a resilient lifestyle through financial stability. Through a collaborative effort, the PA Military Finance Alliance strives to educate service members, Veterans and their families on ways to enhance financial readiness as well as provide resources that enable them to do so. Members include the PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the USO, Army One Source, the Better Business Bureau and the PA Office of the Attorney General.

Financial Field Manual

“Financial Field Manual: The Personal Finance Guide for Military Families” has been distributed on military bases, directly to military families and through various military related entities. The 20-page booklet features financial success stories from service members and their families and provides comprehensive guidance on a wide range of relevant personal finance topics, Key financial areas include: Investing for the future, Protecting investments and family, and protecting investments when leaving the military. The guide focuses on key issues that can help military families make informed investing decisions, protect their money and take charge of their financial lives.



**PA** MILITARY  
FINANCE ALLIANCE

**“Making \$ense of Finance”**  
**FREE** noncommercial conference to help with the unique challenges facing military and veterans in financial and investment decisions



**FINANCIAL**  
FIELD MANUAL

U.S. ARMY



## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

The primary mission of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is to maintain, improve and preserve state parks; to manage state forest lands to assure their long-term health, sustainability and economic use; to provide information on Pennsylvanian's ecological and geologic resources; and to administer grant and technical assistance programs that will benefit rivers conservation, trails and greenways, local recreation, regional heritage conservation and environmental education programs across Pennsylvania.

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- Veterans recreation events and adaptive equipment
- Active duty discounts at the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park
- Accommodations and facilities for Disabled Veterans and their families

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
400 Market Street,  
6th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
717-783-1337

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)



## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) operates as one team, embraces diversity, and commits to enhancing public safety. We are proud of our reputation as leaders in the corrections field. Our mission is to reduce criminal behavior by providing individualized treatment and education to offenders, resulting in successful community reintegration through accountability and positive change.

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- DOC Veteran Coordinator and Facility Coordinators
- Verifying Incarcerated Veterans
- Veterans Service Units
- Veteran Specific Community Corrections Centers

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of Corrections  
1920 Technology Parkway  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
(717) 728-2573

[www.cor.state.pa.us](http://www.cor.state.pa.us)

## **PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES SUMMARY**

### **DOC Veteran Coordinator and Facility Coordinators**

The Department of Corrections has a tremendous team of professional and dedicated staff in the field with awesome initiatives and concepts. The Department has appointed a full time Veterans Coordinator. This position is responsible to ensure all incarcerated veterans have an understanding of their benefits from their military service. The Veterans Coordinator also conducts outreach to every institution. All twenty six of our institutions have a Facility Veterans' Coordinator, which is an appointed position and considered an additional duty. Our facility coordinators are made up of a multitude of job classifications throughout our formation. We are also informing both staff and inmates about the opportunities that incarcerated veterans can benefit from while being housed on a Veteran Service Unit.

### **Verifying Incarcerated Veterans**

The Department of Corrections works with the Veterans Administration, who built a web-based system that, will allow us to quickly and accurately identify Veterans amongst inmate populations. This system is called Veteran Reentry Search Service (VRSS). We have been updating our information with the VA quarterly.

### **Veterans Service Units**

The Department of Corrections is excited about the beginning stages of the Veteran Service Units (VSU) within our agency. Our VSU's are located at SCI Pittsburgh and the other at SCI Dallas. These institutions have dedicated an entire housing unit for our incarcerated veterans. The Veterans Service Units will prepare veterans for successful release back into society by providing treatment to address Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, anxiety disorders, depression, substance abuse issues, and homelessness. The following needs will also be addressed: general life skills, vocational, financial, family-related, medical, educational, veteran's services, peer support/mentoring, and connecting to community resources. Treatment programming for Moderate to High Risk inmates will also be offered.

VSU staff will assist veterans in obtaining vital documents needed for re-entry such as: Birth Certificates, Social Security Cards and DD-214s. Veterans will be aided with the enrollment for VA Benefits, as well as connecting with Veteran Service Organizations such as: The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). VSU Social Workers will support veterans by collaborating with VA Health Care for Re-entry Veterans (HCRV) staff to facilitate the ability of veterans to effectively connect with VA resources.

The majority of VSU staff will be Veterans and will, for the most part, be drawn from the existing institutional complement. Staff will consist of a Unit Manager, a Case Manager, a Drug and Alcohol Treatment Specialist (DATS), a Psychological Services Specialist/Associate (PSS/PSA), Parole Agent, Certified Peer Support Specialist, and a Social Worker. Corrections Officers, preferably ones who have served in the Armed Forces, will make up the majority of the security staff on the unit.

This is also extremely important for the Veterans who leave our facilities and need to be under the supervision of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. This is where we initiate the continuity of care from one agency to the other.

### Veteran Specific Community Corrections Centers

The Department of Corrections has also contracted Community Corrections Centers specifically for our veteran population as they transition from being incarcerated back into the community. We have contracted facilities within each of our respected regions to accommodate veterans reentering back into society across the Commonwealth.





## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

The mission of the department is to academically prepare children and adults to succeed as productive citizens. The department seeks to ensure that the technical support, resources and opportunities are in place for all students, whether children or adults, to receive a high quality education

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Veteran/Military Education is the State Approving Agency (SAA) for veteran's benefits. The State Approving Agency approves the programs in Pennsylvania so that veterans, service members, Reservists/Guard members and dependents may use GI Bill benefits. Below is a sample listing of the facilities that are approved. For specific listing of approvals, contact the SAA or go to the US Department of Veterans Affairs website at [http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school\\_locator.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/school_locator.asp).

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- Pennsylvania Transfer and Articulation Center (PA TRAC)
- 630 Educational Institutions Approved for Veterans Programs
- 615 Apprenticeships / On the Job Training Programs
- Outreach Activities

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email: [RA-VetEd@pa.gov](mailto:RA-VetEd@pa.gov) Website: <http://www.education.state.pa.us/veterans>

**HARRISBURG SAA OFFICE**  
VETERANS/MILITARY ED  
333 MARKET ST. 12TH FLR  
HARRISBURG, PA 17126  
PHONE - 717-787-2414  
FAX – 717-772-3622

**PITTSBURGH SAA OFFICE**  
VETERANS/MILITARY ED  
301 FIFTH AVE – SUITE 204  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222  
PHONE – 412-565-5364  
FAX – 412-565-5312

**PHILADELPHIA SAA OFFICE**  
VETERANS / MILITARY ED  
801 MARKET ST – SUITE 6013  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107  
PHONE – 215-560-2509  
FAX – 215-965-2965

## PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES SUMMARY

### Pennsylvania Transfer and Articulation Center (PA TRAC)

Veterans and service members can save time and money in pursuit of a degree by receiving college credit for coursework, training or occupational specialty earned in the military. Use these resources to get credit where credit is due!

- **Transfer Credit from Colleges and Universities**

Visit the **Pennsylvania Transfer and Articulation Center (PA TRAC)** at [PAcollegetransfer.com](http://PAcollegetransfer.com) to find out how courses you have taken – or plan to take – transfer to college and universities that participate in the statewide transfer system.



The **For Veterans** page on PA TRAC includes step-by-step instructions for using GI Bill benefits and enrolling in a postsecondary program.

- **Credit for Military Learning**

The American Council on Education (ACE) collaborates with the U.S. Department of Defense to review military training and experiences and recommend appropriate college credit. ACE credit recommendations appear in the **ACE Military Guide** and on **military transcripts** such as the Joint Services Transcript (JST).

- **Credit by Examination**

Colleges often award college credit to students who earn acceptable scores on standardized subject exams like the **College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)**, the **Excelsior College Examination Program** and the **DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST)**.

- **Credit for Workplace Learning**

You may be able to receive credit for professional development and training courses offered by business and industry. Check with the **College Credit Recommendation Service (CREDIT)** to see what counts and if your college considers these credit recommendations from the American Council on Education (ACE).

## 630 Educational Institutions Approved for Veterans Programs

- Colleges/Universities
- Community Colleges
- Theological Institutions
- Business and Trade Schools
- Career and Technology Centers
- Hospital Programs (Residencies, Nursing, Paramedic, Radiology)
- Cosmetology / Barber
- Real Estate
- Correspondence (largest correspondence school in the United States is located in Pennsylvania)
- Flight Schools
- High Schools (limited program for dependent children who are 18 years of age)
- Other Educational Institutions (Police Academies, Game Commission, Fish and Boat Commission, etc.

## 615 Apprenticeships / On the Job Training Programs

- **State**
  - Corrections Officer (largest Apprenticeship program in the state)
  - State Troopers
  - Veterans Employment Representatives at CareerLinks
  - Probation and Parole Officers
- **County:**
  - County Corrections Officers
  - Deputy Wardens
  - County Probation Officers
- **Municipal:**
  - Police Officer
  - Fire Fighter
  - Waste Water Treatment Technician

- **Private Sector including:**
  - Manufacturing (Machinist, Tool & Die Maker)
  - Construction (Electrician, Plumber/Pipefitter, Carpenter, Ironworkers, etc.)
  - Automotive (Mechanic, Technician, Body Repairer, etc.)
  - Many others (Office Manager, Welder, Horseshoer, Security Guards, etc.)

## Outreach Activities

Outreach and direct support from offices in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Harrisburg:

- Informational brochures for Veterans
- Governor's Welcome Home Program (mass mailings to returning Veterans)
- Job fairs
- Annual Meeting for Educational Institution Officials
- New student/employee orientations on GI Bill
- Support the PA Advisory Council for Military/Veterans Education





## DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES BUREAU OF SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

The Bureau of Small Business Opportunities (BSBO) is a Bureau within the Department of General Services with the responsibility to assist small businesses and small diverse businesses, including minority business enterprises, women business enterprises, veteran business enterprises, and service-disabled veteran business enterprises, in competing for Commonwealth contracting opportunities.

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- Small Business Procurement Initiative (SBPI)
- Small Diverse Business (SDB) Program
- Online Self-Certification and SDB Third Party Verification
- Veteran & Service Disabled Veteran Prime and Subcontracting Opportunities
- Veteran and Service Disabled Veteran Business Outreach and Training

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Bureau of Small Business Opportunities (BSBO)  
North Office Building  
401 North Street, 6th Floor, Room 611  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0500  
(717) 783-3119

[RA-SmallBusiness@pa.gov](mailto:RA-SmallBusiness@pa.gov)

## PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND BENEFITS SUMMARY

### Small Business Procurement Initiative

The Small Business Procurement Initiative (SBPI) reserves certain procurements for competition among only self-certified small businesses, those that employ 100 or fewer employees and meet maximum revenue requirements, and enables them to participate in state contracting opportunities for supplies, services, information technology, and construction and design services as prime contractors. This program is race and gender neutral.

In addition, the program sets out to eliminate many of the barriers small businesses face by reducing paperwork bureaucracy, loosening bonding requirements and expediting payments. Under this program, small businesses have the opportunity to compete with similarly-sized companies.

In order to participate, businesses must self-certify as a small business by completing a streamlined, online application. The process can typically be completed in 20 minutes. The small business certification immediately enables businesses to compete on reserved small business bidding opportunities as **prime** contractors.

### Small Diverse Business (SDB) Program

The Small Diverse Business (SDB) Program incentivizes the use of small diverse businesses as prime contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers and professional service providers on certain contracts for goods, services, information technology and construction and ensures open and equitable contracting practices are used by prime contractors in soliciting and contracting with small diverse businesses. In October 2012, the program expanded to include veteran and service-disabled veteran owned businesses, affording small veteran-owned business the same opportunities and business assistance as their small minority-owned and women-owned counterparts.

The SDB program also streamlined the process to be recognized as minority, woman, veteran, or service disabled veteran business enterprises through an online verification of these businesses' approved third-party certifications in lieu of a burdensome, paper certification process.

To participate in the SDB Program, veteran-owned small businesses are strongly encouraged to self-certify as a small business and to become verified as a veteran-owned or service-disabled veteran-owned small business by presenting certification of their veteran status through the department's verification process. At present, the department accepts VetBiz certifications issued by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

### Online Self-Certification and SDB Third Party Verification

Small Business self-certification is a simple, online application process through which businesses self-certify and provide proof that they meet each of the following requirements:

- The business must be a for-profit, United States business;
- The business must be independently owned;
- The business must not be dominant in its field of operation;
- The business may not employ more than 100 full-time equivalent employees;
- The business, by type, may not exceed the following three-year average gross sales:
  - Information Technology Goods and Services - \$25 million
  - Procurement Services & Goods - \$20 million
  - Construction Services & Goods - \$20 million
  - Building Design Services - \$7 million

Those that wish to be further recognized as Small Diverse Businesses use the same online application to submit proof of third-party certification for **verification**. The verification review takes approximately 14 days.

Online registration for self-certification is fast and easy! For more information, self-certification visit [www.dgs.pa.gov](http://www.dgs.pa.gov).

### Veteran & Service Disabled Veteran Prime and Subcontracting Opportunities

Act 185 of 2012 establishes an initiative for assisting veteran-owned businesses in pursuit of state bidding opportunities and sets a statewide annual goal of not less than three percent participation in state contracts. Act 185 follows on the heels of Executive Order 2011-10 issued in 2011, which directed state agencies to increase opportunities for veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

As a result, BSBO's former Disadvantaged Business Program was expanded and renamed the Small Diverse Business Program. Today, veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses are now afforded the same opportunities and business assistance available to minority and women owned businesses to do business with the state as prime contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and professional service providers.

### Veteran and Service Disabled Veteran Business Outreach and Training

BSBO provides training programs to update small and small diverse businesses on contracting opportunities, as well as program policies/procedures and is available to assist small and small diverse businesses with the SBPI online application, and the self-certification and the verification processes. The Procurement and Construction Liaisons provide workshops and events in collaboration with other business entities, the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, and the PA Veteran Chamber of Commerce.





## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- Smoking Cessation Program
- Free Certified Copies of birth and death certificates for Veterans
- Arthritis Foundation Program at Philadelphia Medical Center

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of Health  
Health and Welfare Building  
7th & Forster Streets  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
1-877-PA-HEALTH

[www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us)

### PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES SUMMARY

#### Smoking Cessation Program

The Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control is a division within the Pennsylvania Department of Health responsible for leading and coordinating strategic efforts aimed at preventing tobacco use among youth, promoting smoking cessation among youth and adults, protecting nonsmokers from secondhand smoke exposure and eliminating tobacco-related health disparities.

The Division of Tobacco Prevention and Control in partnership with National Jewish Health, offers smoking cessation services to all Pennsylvanians 24 hours per day, 7 days per week via the free telephone quitline.

### **1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669)**

By contacting the PA Free Quitline, you can receive:

- Up to 5 coaching sessions by phone
- Unlimited calls to the PA Free Quitline as needed
- Educational materials on quitting tobacco use

Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) (up to 8 weeks of patches) for qualified callers.



### Free Certified Copies of Birth and Death Certificates for Veterans

Certified copies of birth certificates and death certificates are issued to Veterans and their dependents without cost. Contact the

Division of Vital Records  
P.O. Box 1528,  
101 South Mercer Street  
New Castle, PA 16103.  
Telephone Number: (412) 656-3100

There are three ways to obtain a certified copy of a birth or death certificate:

- Order on line through VitalChek, the authorized service provider for the Pennsylvania Department of Health at [www.vitalchek.com](http://www.vitalchek.com)
- Order by Mail – send the appropriate application form via U.S. Postal Services to the Division of Vital Records. Application forms can be found at [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us)

- Order in person at one of these 6 public locations:
  - Erie
  - Philadelphia
  - Harrisburg
  - Pittsburgh
  - New Castle
  - Scranton

### Arthritis Foundation Program at Philadelphia VA Medical Center

The Department of Health in collaboration with the Arthritis Foundation has established a Walk with Ease program available for the Philadelphia VA Medical Center Veterans. Walk With Ease is a walking program that can reduce pain and improve overall health.

In the course of serving their country, Veterans have trained hard and ran long miles. Their knees and other joints may have paid the price for their hard work and dedication. The good news is – there's a program out there that may be able to help improve flexibility, strength, and stamina and result in reduced pain. If you can be on your feet for 10 minutes without a significant increase in pain, you can have success with Walk With Ease.

The Walk With Ease program is designed to help you:

- Motivate yourself to get in great shape
- Walk safely and comfortably
- Improve your flexibility, strength and stamina
- Reduce pain and feel great

In studies by the Thurston Arthritis Research Center and the Institute on Aging of the University of North Carolina, Walk With Ease was shown to reduce pain, increase balance and strength, and improve overall health.





## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for Pennsylvania's individuals and families. We promote opportunities for independence through services and supports while demonstrating accountability for taxpayer resources.

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- PA Military and Family Behavioral Health Coalition
- Behavioral Health Veteran Forum
- Certified Peer Specialist Training
- Suicide Prevention Plan
- Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery for Veteran's Program
- Compeer of Central Susquehanna Valley
- Fairweather Lodge Model

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Department of Human Services  
P.O. Box 2675  
Harrisburg PA 17105-2675

1-800-692-7462

[www.dhs.state.pa.us](http://www.dhs.state.pa.us)

## **PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES SUMMARY**

### **Military and Family Behavioral Health Coalition**

The Pennsylvania Military and Family Behavioral Health Coalition represents an opportunity for Pennsylvania to strengthen behavioral health care systems and services for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families through the technical assistance and the promotion of ongoing interagency collaboration. Office of Mental Health Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) will be supporting collaboration and planning projects that will bridge the disciplines necessary to define the needs and efforts required to better support service members, veterans and family members of Pennsylvania as they adjust and recover. There are currently 4 key areas of focus: Suicide Prevention, Data Mapping, training for providers, outreach. Through a collaborative effort, the team develops and implements initiatives addressing these areas to ensure that Pennsylvania is a leader in ensuring that services are accessible and available for military families.

### **Behavioral Health (BH) Veteran Forum**

#### **COMMUNITY AND CONNECTIONS**

The Department of Public Welfare sponsors this forum is to address the behavioral health needs of our military service men and women and their families. The event is held to help us build the framework for addressing the issues of veterans and their families. Participation includes Cabinet level positions via a Secretary's panel and sets the stage for us to engage with stakeholders and thoughtfully plan for the behavioral health needs of the veteran population. The forum is an opportunity to promote the importance of Behavioral Health through engaging with professionals that work with veterans and their families experiencing Behavioral Health issues. Most participants are professionals that provide a level of BH service. The goal is to provide an understanding of the Behavioral Health needs of, and to learn from others, about types of programs that are innovative, best practices and replicable. The forum also addressed the impact of military life and the behavioral health needs. The forum hosts a Secretary/Deputy Secretary panel including LDI, DoC, DPW, DDAP and the DMVA to address cross collaboration and engage in a policy level discussion to address the cross system needs for military service members, past and present and their families.

## Certified Peer Specialist Veteran Enhanced Training

This training is designed to enhance the role of a Certified Peer Specialist and provides a selection of information, tools and resources necessary to meet the needs of veterans and military service members who are consumers of mental health, substance abuse or trauma-related services. Fulfilling the promise of honoring those who are America's veterans, we will focus on the unique supports that help veterans and military service members achieve resiliency and recovery in order to successfully re-integrate into civilian life. Once trained, Peers provide services that support recovery for Veterans with mental health concerns.

By the end of this training, participants will gain knowledge and skill:

- Using lived experiences as an example of recovery and resiliency;
- Advocating for the needs of the veteran;
- Assisting the veteran in navigating through service systems;
- Teaching the veteran to advocate for himself/herself;
- Supporting the veteran as they identify and achieve personal recovery goals

In addition, the Certified Peer Specialist Veteran Enhanced curriculum was made available to the Department of Corrections (DOC) to train inmates that are certified as Peers. The goal is to train Peers in correctional facilities on veteran issues so that they are able to work with incarcerated veterans.

## Military Suicide Prevention Plan

- Goals:
  - Implement communication and education efforts to change the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of the public in order to prevent suicide.
  - Promote the effective assessments, prevention techniques and treatment of all health care service systems.
  - Increase timeliness and usefulness of data reporting systems relevant to suicide and improve the ability to collect, analyze and use the information to guide practice and action steps.

## Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery for Veterans Program

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) is collaborating with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) on a Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant to divert military Veterans with trauma-related mental health and/or substance abuse disorders from the criminal justice system and incarceration in local jails. In its fourth year of a five-year award, nearly \$2 million in grant funding (\$394,000 per year) is enabling the Jail Diversion and Trauma Recover (JDTR) program to be piloted in Allegheny County and Philadelphia.

- Allegheny County continues the process of providing trauma-informed care training to its behavioral health and other social service providers. About 1,200 individuals have been trained in basic trauma informed care, and an additional 300 clinicians have been trained to conduct Seeking Safety training to trauma-specific groups. All Veterans coming through the Allegheny County Jail and Allegheny County's Veterans Court are being screened for trauma. Those who qualify are being offered trauma-specific services and/or are diverted from incarceration through the Allegheny County JDTR pilot.
- Philadelphia's pilot implementation began in January 2011 with a jail diversion coordinator working in Veteran's Court, primarily with Veterans who are not eligible for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) services, and linking them to community behavioral health services. To date, this program has received over 100 referrals from Veterans Court, 41 have graduated, and 49 are still active and receiving treatment services. In addition, the pilot has modified the Philadelphia Police's Crisis Intervention Team training to include trauma-informed care and other information sensitive to the needs of Veterans, and of the 727 police officers eligible, 631 (87%) have received this training.



## Compeer Program

Compeer matches caring, trained volunteers in supportive one to one friendships with people who are recovering from mental illness. Compeer serves the veteran population where isolation is prevalent and community integration necessary. Serving the veteran population through CompeerCORPS Vet2Vet services is an extension of the nature of the Compeer program. Veterans who have mental health diagnoses often encounter barriers similar to civilians who are diagnosed with mental illness, including isolation, emotional concerns, and economic instability and need support to reintegrate into family and community life. The Compeer program is centered on the three elements of support: relatedness, autonomy and competence. Compeer programs in PA will work to create intentionally supportive relationships to serve military veterans who are in recovery from mental illness. The PA Compeer Affiliates will engage in strategic planning that provides support for the introduction of this new program to 13 counties through communication and financial technical support.

## Fairweather Lodge

Through Stairways Behavioral Health, this Fairweather Lodge model created a statewide demonstration program to develop Fairweather Lodge programs for veterans. The Fairweather Lodge Program Model is considered an evidence based best practice and offers both affordable housing and employment for veterans. This statewide demonstration will build upon the knowledge, resources, information and networks already established with the PA Fairweather Lodge Statewide Coalition and the national Coalition for Community Living. This demonstration will create a sustainable program model that will outlive the term of this grant program.





## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### Mission:

The Department of Labor and Industry (L&I), administers benefits to unemployed individuals, oversees the administration of workers' compensation benefits to individuals with job related injuries, and provides vocational rehabilitation to individuals with disabilities. The Department prepares job seekers for the global workforce through employment and job training services for adult, youth, older workers, and dislocated workers. In addition, L&I enforces various laws and safety standards in the workplace and administers the Commonwealth's programs for community service by young Pennsylvanians.

L&I also promotes economic development and an improved business climate through a variety of initiatives and programs to help Pennsylvania's workforce remain world-class and globally competitive.

#### List of Programs, Benefits and Services:

- DAV Outreach Program Specialists - 40 Statewide
- Local Veterans' Employment Representatives - 31 Statewide
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Statewide Veterans' Coordinator in OVR central office
  - 1 Coordinator in each of 15 District Offices
  - Additional Veterans' Counselor in 8 locations
- Military designation and Military to Civilian Occupation Translator in JobGateway at [www.jobgateway.pa.gov](http://www.jobgateway.pa.gov)

## Contact Information:

PA Department of Labor & Industry  
Room 1700  
651 Boas Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17121  
General Information - 717-787-5279

[www.dli.state.pa.us](http://www.dli.state.pa.us)

## **PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES SUMMARY**

### DAV Outreach Program Specialists (DVOP)

DVOPs are stationed in the CareerLinks and provide intensive services to meet the needs of disabled veterans and other eligible vets (with emphasis on those who are educationally or economically disadvantaged, homeless, and/or have barriers to employment.) They engage in outreach to employers, veterans' organizations, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and community-based organizations to appropriately link veterans and employment/training opportunities. There are 40 of these representatives spread in CareerLinks across the state. DVOPs also coordinate supportive services for veterans with significant barriers to employment (e.g. housing, food, disability services.) There are mechanisms in place to refer veterans to local community programs, as well as to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Departments of Health, Public Welfare, Transportation, Education, and Military and Veterans' Affairs.

### Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER)

LVERs are stationed in the CareerLinks and advocate on behalf of veterans with employers. They directly assist with helping veterans find and retain employment, conduct seminars for employers and conduct job search workshops for veterans. LVERs are members of the Business Service Teams in the CareerLinks, acting as liaisons with employers to ensure they are aware of and interested in hiring qualified veterans. There are 31 of these positions spread across PA in the CareerLinks.

## Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

### **SPECIALIZED COUNSELORS SERVING VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES**

In 2009, L&I entered into a Letter of Understanding with the Department of Veterans Affairs. As a result, OVR's Veterans' Counselors and Coordinators have established relationships with their regional Veterans Affairs representatives, as well as with their Local Veterans Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists to maintain connectivity between various programs. The Letter of Understanding also establishes a process for communication between the entities, and standards for referral and delivery of service to ensure collaboration.

### **VETERANS COORDINATOR IN EACH OF THE 15 OVR DISTRICT OFFICES**

OVR's central office has a statewide Veterans' Coordinator, and each of the 15 district offices has a Veterans' Coordinator. Eight of the district office locations have an additional designated Veterans' Counselor. OVR provides staff with a variety of trainings, and the central office staff holds quarterly webinars with counselors and coordinators in the field to share information and resources, and identify any ongoing issues.

## JobGateway

### **SPECIAL VETERAN DESIGNATION AND MILITARY-TO-CIVILIAN OCCUPATION TRANSLATOR**

Through Pennsylvania's job-matching system, job seekers have access to thousands of available jobs, can build or upload a resume, connect with employers, and more. A Military to Civilian Translator helps veterans transition into the work force by translating their existing military skills into civilian terms, letting employers know the unique talent and skills our military veterans possess. Veterans who register in the system are identified with an American flag next to their name, making them easily identifiable to employers seeking to hire them. [www.JobGateway.pa.gov](http://www.JobGateway.pa.gov)





## DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

The Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs advocates to increase awareness and access to benefits for Pennsylvania Veterans and their dependents, to provide the best advice and assistance in obtaining those benefits and to provide the highest quality care to the residents of our state Veterans' Homes.

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- Blind Veterans Pension
- Paralyzed Veterans Pension
- Disabled Veterans Transportation
- Educational Gratuity
- Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Benefit Act
- Outreach and Reintegration
- Pennsylvania Mobile Veteran's Outreach Van
- Military Family Relief Assistance Program
- Disabled Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemption Program
- Veterans Trust Fund
- Veterans Temporary Assistance
- Veterans Treatment Courts
- State Veterans Homes
- Veterans Service Officer Accreditation Program
- DD214 / 215 Program
- State Veteran's Commission
- Burial Detail Honor Guard
- Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial
- Pennsylvania Memorial Trust Fund

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
Building S-O-47, Fort Indiantown Gap  
Annville, PA 17003-5002  
Phone: (717) 861-8910  
Fax: (717) 861-8589  
Toll Free: (800) 547-2838

**Philadelphia Field Office**

Veterans Administration Center  
PO Box 42938, Philadelphia, PA 19101-2938  
Phone: (215) 381-3040  
Fax: (215) 381-3492  
Toll Free: (866) 754-8637

**Pittsburgh Field Office**

Moorehead Federal Building  
1000 Liberty Avenue  
Suite 1612  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4003  
Phone: (412) 395-6225  
Fax: (412) 395-6224  
Toll Free: (866) 754-8636

**Office of the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs**

Bldg S-0-47, FTIG  
Annville, PA 17003  
Phone: 1-800-547-2838  
Fax: (717) 861-8589  
Email: RA-VA-Info@pa.gov

[www.dmva.state.pa.us](http://www.dmva.state.pa.us)

## **PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES SUMMARY**

### **Blind Veterans Pension**

The program provides for a pension of \$150.00 per month.

- Eligibility Criteria:
  - Served in the military honorably
  - Veteran must be a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania upon entering the military
  - Suffered a service-related injury or incurred a disease which resulted in a loss of vision:
    - Visual acuity with the best correcting lens is 3/60 or 10/200 or equivalent, or less normal vision in the better eye
    - Includes circumstances where the widest diameter of the visual field of the better eye has contracted to an angular distance of not greater than 20°

### **Paralyzed Veterans' Pension**

This program provides a pension of \$150.00 per month.

- Eligibility Criteria:
  - Served in the military honorably
  - Veteran must be a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania upon entering the military
  - Suffered a service connected injury or disease resulting in the loss or loss of use of two or more extremities

## Disabled Veterans Transportation

This program provides a grant to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Department of Pennsylvania that is used to purchase vans for transporting Veterans to health care appointments at VA Medical Centers.

The vans provide free transportation to Veterans who are visually impaired, elderly, or immobilized by disease or injury, who face difficulty traveling to and from medical appointments. The vans are operated by a staff of volunteer drivers.

For more information regarding this program contact the DAV Hospital Service Coordinator by visiting their website at [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

## Educational Gratuities

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides Educational gratuities (up to \$500.00 per semester/term) up to eight semesters.

- Eligibility Criteria:
  - Students must be between the ages of 16 and 23, living within the Commonwealth five years prior to application and must attend an approved school within the Commonwealth
  - Student must demonstrate a financial need
  - Parent was honorably discharged
  - Child of eligible 100% permanently disabled or deceased veteran who served during a period of war or armed conflict, peacetime hostile fire or terrorist attack



## Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Act

The program provides for compensation to be paid to eligible service members (current and former) as well as certain surviving relatives of deceased veterans who served in Desert Shield/Storm.

- Eligibility Criteria:
  - Served in the United States Armed Forces, a reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or the Pennsylvania National Guard
  - Served on active duty in the Persian Gulf Theater of Operations during the period from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991 and received the Southwest Asia Service Medal
  - Was a legal resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the time of active service (August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991)

### **Deadline:**

The deadline for submitting applications for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Program is August 31, 2015.

[www.persiangulfbonus.state.pa.us](http://www.persiangulfbonus.state.pa.us)

Toll Free Phone: 1-866-458-9182

## Outreach and Reintegration

The Division of Reintegration and Outreach provides services to Pennsylvania's Veteran population who might not otherwise have access to those services.

A key component of our outreach effort is that we will provide mobile access to services; in other words we will meet individuals in need of outreach services at the location where the individuals in need are located.

In addition to delivering services; outreach has an educational role wherein we will take proactive action to raise the awareness of existing services.

We will expend considerable effort to identify, contact and expedite the reintegration of our returning Veterans as they return to their homes and families within the Commonwealth.

## Pennsylvania Mobile Veterans' Outreach Vans

In keeping with DMVA's goal to make benefits more accessible to Veterans and their eligible family members, our mobile Outreach Vans can be set up at convenient locations such as shopping centers, veteran service organizations, sporting events, county fairs and other events in communities throughout the Commonwealth.

There are two Outreach Vans, each van is a mobile "office" staffed with a fully accredited Veterans service officer to provide information and assistance to Pennsylvania Veterans and family members who may be eligible for benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Such benefits might include service connected disability compensation, improved pensions, death pensions, VA health care benefits, burial benefits, education benefits, vocational rehabilitation and much more.

In order to request a van for your event, please complete the Van Request Form and submit it six months but not less than 45 days prior to your event using the email, fax number or address listed below. Every effort will be made to fulfill your organization's request; however, due to demand we cannot guarantee every request. If alternate dates are available please indicate this on the form. Requests with less than a 30-day turnaround will be handled on a space available basis only. We will notify you as soon as possible if we can grant your request. To park and set up a Mobile Veterans Outreach Van an area of 40 feet by 15 feet is required. To avoid the need of running the generator a 30-AMP electrical service is required (RV connection) if possible. The unit is also wheelchair accessible and air conditioned.

### Contact Us:

Mobile Veterans Outreach Van, DVMA Office for Veterans Affairs  
Bldg. 0-47 Fort Indiantown Gap  
Annville, PA 17003  
Phone: 717-861-8195  
FAX: 717-861-8121



## Military Family Relief Assistance Program

The Military Family Relief Assistance Program provides emergency financial assistance to eligible Pennsylvania service members and eligible family members.

- Eligibility Criteria: Applies to Pennsylvania residents who:
  - Serve 30 or more consecutive days of active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or its reserve components.
  - Serve 30 or more consecutive days of active duty or state active duty in the Pennsylvania Army or Air National Guard.
  - Are a member in good standing of any reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the PA National Guard, for a period of three years after release from a tour of active duty, authorized under Title 10 or Title 32, United States Code (other than active duty for training), of 30 or more consecutive days duration, when the need for assistance is directly related to the member's performance of active duty.
  - Are a member in good standing of the PA National Guard for a period of one year after release from a tour of state active duty of 30 or more consecutive days duration, when the need for assistance is directly related to the member's performance of state active duty.
  - Are a former member of the Armed Forces of the United States or its reserve components, including the PA National Guard for a period of 4 years after discharge if the discharge was for medical reasons arising out of the member's military service, and meets the other requirements as shown in the Guidelines, Para 4 v. 1 through 6.
  - Are eligible relatives of qualified service members in certain circumstances



**Call (717) 861-6500 or Toll-Free 1-866-292-7201**

## Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption

Any honorably discharged veteran who is a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall be exempt from the payment of all real estate taxes levied upon any building, including up to five acres of land upon which it stands, provided that all eligibility criteria is met.

- Eligibility Criteria:
  - Veteran must be a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Honorable Discharge
  - Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Must be blind or paraplegic or has sustained the loss of two or more limbs, or has a service-connected disability declared by the United States Veterans' Administration to be a total or 100% disability
  - Dwelling is owned solely by the Veteran or as an estate in the entirety
  
  - Veteran must occupy the real estate as his / her principal dwelling.
  - Veteran must demonstrate a financial need
  - Upon the death of a qualified Veteran, tax exemption may pass on to the unmarried surviving spouse if financial need can be shown



## Veterans Trust Fund:

The Pennsylvania Veterans' Trust Fund was established to supplement government funding of Veterans' programs. It is a special, non-lapsing state fund that can pursue long-term initiatives for our Veterans.

Mission: To assist and support Pennsylvania Veterans and their families by making grants to statewide charitable organizations that assist veterans, veteran' service organizations and county directors of veterans affairs and by assisting veterans in need of shelter and necessities of living to the extent that other funds or resources are not available.

- Funding Sources:
  - Sale of Honoring Our Veterans License Plates
  - Grants or gifts from public entities
  - Voluntary \$3.00 check-off donations from purchase of drivers' licenses and vehicle registrations
  - Money appropriated to the fund

Checks can be made to:

### **Veterans Trust Fund**

Mail to:  
Office of Veterans Affairs  
Building S-0-47, Fort Indiantown Gap  
Annville, PA 17003

## Veterans Temporary Assistance

Title 51, Section 1721, subsection c, paragraph 4, allows for monies from the Veterans Trust Fund to be used to assist "Veterans in need of shelter or other necessities of living to the extent that other funds or resources are not available." The Veterans Temporary Assistance Program is funded through the Veterans Trust Fund, and provides temporary financial assistance to eligible veterans and unmarried surviving spouses of eligible veterans facing adverse financial circumstances. Assistance is provided to replace or supplement lost or reduced income because of a temporary change in circumstances or to offset temporarily increased costs or expenses that

affect the ability to pay for the necessities of living.

## Veterans Treatment Courts

Veterans Treatment Courts are a specialized criminal court docket established to address the unique needs of veteran defendants with substance dependency and/or mental health issues.

The mission of the Veterans' Treatment Court is to successfully habilitate veterans by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the tools they need in order to lead a productive and law-abiding lifestyle.

The majority case-load is comprised of non-violent felony or misdemeanor offenses. Veterans Treatment Courts are designed to recognize the uniqueness of the military culture while addressing distinct Veteran issues, such as Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Military Sexual Trauma.

Veterans Treatment Courts substitute traditional criminal court processing with a treatment / problem solving model. Eligible non-violent Veterans are identified through screening and assessments.

Veterans voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan that a team of court staff, veteran health care professionals, veteran peer mentors, health care professionals and mental health professionals develop with the Veteran.

Many Veterans are known to have a warrior's mentality and often do not address their treatment needs for physical and psychological health care. Often those who are referred to these programs are homeless, helpless, in despair, suffering from alcohol or drug addiction, and others have serious mental health illnesses. Their lives have been spiraling out of control.

Without the collaborative efforts involved in Veterans Treatment Courts, many of these Veterans would continue to have their illnesses left untreated and would suffer the consequences of extended incarceration. This program affords the opportunity for Veterans to regain stability in their lives by treating the underlying issues and illness. The program has allowed Veterans to complete treatment and discover a new road in their journey, to reconnect with loved ones and avoid incarceration.

The following counties currently have Veterans Treatment Courts:

Allegheny  
Beaver  
Berks  
Butler

Dauphin  
Delaware  
Fayette  
Lackawanna

Montgomery  
Northumberland  
Philadelphia  
Washington

Cambria  
ChesterLancaster  
Mercer

York

## State Veterans' Homes

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs manages six Veterans Homes across the Commonwealth. It is the mission of the Bureau of Veterans' Homes to provide quality healthcare to the veterans of Pennsylvania and their spouses. A holistic approach guides specially trained staff in care, preventive and rehabilitative services while encouraging residents' self-choice, well-being and dignity.

The Veterans' Homes provide Domiciliary/Personal Care Units, Nursing Care Units and Dementia Units. The commonwealth's commitment to its Veteran's results in a level of service not found at similar private facilities. Staffing standards are designed to meet both commonwealth and federal regulations, plus address acuity of care needs. In turn, the Veterans' Homes operate in compliance with both commonwealth and federal laws and regulatory requirements. Veterans residing in the Veterans' Homes contribute to its per diem operating costs. Residents' costs are based on the ability of the residents to pay and their current income. The receipt of Medicare, Medicaid and third-party revenue supplements the cost of operating the Veterans' Homes and lessens the amount of state funding.

The type of care provided to the residents is dependent on their physical and mental capabilities. Domiciliary residents require a supervised, protective environment. Personal Care provides services to those residents in need of assistance in eating, bathing, shaving and other activities of daily living, but do not require constant nursing care. The Skilled Nursing and Dementia Facility residents require constant 24-hour health services. The Veterans' Homes primary goal is to provide individualized, quality and cost-effective health care to all residents.

Admission to the facilities is on a first come, first served, basis, and is open to honorably discharged Pennsylvania veterans and their spouses. Though there is a base per diem charged to residents, the rate charged to each resident is based on their ability to pay. Though they may not have been "federalized," we do admit traditional reserve component members in gratitude for their service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- Eligibility Criteria:
  - Honorable Discharge
  - Served in the U.S. Armed Forces or Pennsylvania Armed Forces
  - Resident of Pennsylvania at time of entry or current resident of Pennsylvania



Pennsylvania offers its eligible Veterans or Surviving Spouses extended care facilities throughout the state:

Holidaysburg Veterans' Home - Holidaysburg, PA  
Phone: 814-696-5201 - [www.hvh.state.pa.us](http://www.hvh.state.pa.us)

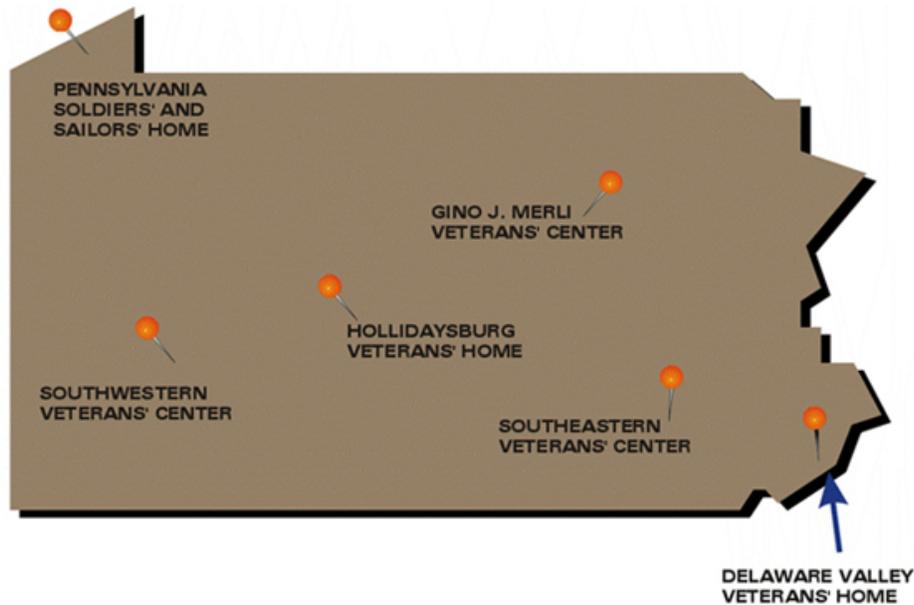
Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors Home - Erie, PA  
Phone: 814-871-4531 - [www.pssh.state.pa.us](http://www.pssh.state.pa.us)

Southeastern Veterans' Center - Spring City, PA  
Phone: 610-948-2400 - [www.sevc.state.pa.us](http://www.sevc.state.pa.us)

Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center - Scranton, PA  
Phone: 570-961-4300 - [www.gmvc.state.pa.us](http://www.gmvc.state.pa.us)

Southwestern Veterans' Center - Pittsburgh, PA  
Phone: 412-665-6706 - [www.swvc.state.pa.us](http://www.swvc.state.pa.us)

Delaware Valley Veterans Home - Philadelphia, PA  
Phone: 215-856-2700 - [www.dvvh.state.pa.us](http://www.dvvh.state.pa.us)



To apply download the application at

[http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/Docs\\_BVA/Forms/homesapp.pdf](http://www.milvet.state.pa.us/DMVA/Docs_BVA/Forms/homesapp.pdf)

## Veterans Service Officer Accreditation

The Office of Veterans Affairs conducts annual Veterans Service Officer accreditation in accordance with 38 U.S.C. Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes Chapter 17 Sub Chapter D are the provisions for Act 5 of 2013 requiring all County Directors of Veterans Affairs to be accredited as a Veterans Service Officer within one year of their hire. This class is taught by a training officer from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and fulfills the requirements of the law.

The Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA) also conducts training for continuing education requirements for those Service Officers to maintain accreditation. Subject matter includes overviews of programs and benefits offered by the VA as well as procedures for building and submitting claims for veterans.

Accredited Veterans Service Organizations are offered space in these classes as it is available once the OVA has fulfilled its requirements to maintain training to the County Directors of Veterans Affairs. The cost of training for accredited organizations is equal to the cost incurred by the Commonwealth for their attendance.

## DD 214/15 Program

The Office of Veterans Affairs receives copies of active duty discharge documents (DD214, 214C and 215) for persons requesting that a copy be submitted to Pennsylvania Office of Veterans Affairs. These are maintained in a database and provide an option for Veterans or their representatives who are seeking replacement copies of these forms. Reservist and National Guard discharge documents are maintained by the individual branch's headquarters. The Office of Veterans Affairs database is currently made up primarily of discharges dating from 1995 to the present. Comprehensive active duty discharge documents, medical, and personnel records dating back to 1917 may be requested from the National Archives with the assistance of a Veterans Service Officer or directly through their website [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) or by calling the St. Louis facility at (314) 801-0800.

## State Veterans' Commission

The Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission is established in accordance with Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes. The Commission is comprised of representatives of all major Veterans organizations throughout the commonwealth, as well as a representative of the Association of County Directors for Veterans Affairs. The Commission meets regularly to consider, among other things, pending legislation at the Federal and State levels that is of interest to veterans.

The State Veterans Commission is composed of:

- The Adjutant General, ex officio, or designee

The State Commander, Commandant, or head of / designee of each of the following named veterans organizations:

- The American Legion
- AMVETS
- Blinded Veterans Association
- Catholic War Veterans of the United States of America
- Disabled American Veterans
- Jewish War Veterans of the United States
- Marine Corps League
- Military Officers Association of America
- Military Order of the Purple Heart
- State Association of County Directors of Veterans' Affairs
- Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
- Veterans of World War I of the United States of America
- Italian-American War Veterans of the United States
- The Vietnam Veterans of America
- American Ex-Prisoners of War
- Keystone Paralyzed Veterans Association

Four members at large appointed by the Governor each of whom shall be a veteran and a member in good or regular standing of a Pennsylvania branch, post, lodge or club of a recognized national veterans organization active in the commonwealth. At least one member shall be a female veteran, and at least one member shall be a veteran of the Vietnam Era.

The State Adjutants of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Executive Director of AMVETS serve as nonvoting members.

For questions on meetings and commission information, email us at:

[RA-SVC@pa.gov](mailto:RA-SVC@pa.gov) or call (717) 861-8902.

All meetings are in compliance with The Americans with Disabilities Act. Anyone wishing to attend these meetings in need of special accommodation due to a disability, please call (717) 861-8902.

## Burial Detail Honor Guard

The Burial Detail Honor Guard allows a grateful nation to pay final tribute to veterans who, in times of war and peace, stood strong in defense of the United States of America.

Federal law provides that, “An honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative of the parent service of the deceased veteran.”

The Burial Detail Honor Guard may also perform the folding and presenting of the U.S. Flag to the next of kin, the honor of firing the rifle salute volley, and the playing of Taps.

This service is provided to veterans with an Honorable Discharge at no cost to their families or funeral homes. Families should make requests for honors through the funeral director.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs provides a maximum of \$150.00 per day for Honor Guards performing services at:

- Indiantown Gap National Cemetery
- National Cemetery of the Alleghenies
- Washington Crossing National Cemetery

## The Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial

Located at the Indiantown Gap National Cemetery in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial is the first in the Commonwealth to honor veterans of all eras from the Revolutionary War forward. This Memorial stands - a central location for ceremony and contemplation, education and commemoration - in lasting tribute to those who served our state and nation in times of war and peace. The Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, opened on September 20, 1982. It is the sixth largest national cemetery with 677 acres and a projected capacity of 55,000 gravesites.

## Veterans Memorial Trust Fund

The Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial Trust Fund provides for the maintenance and operation of the Pennsylvania Veterans Memorial located in the Indiantown Gap National cemetery. Title 51 of the PA Consolidated Statutes authorizes the PA State Veterans' Commission to solicit and raise monies from public and private sources for operation and maintenance of the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial and other incidental costs approved by the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs.

Citizens may make contributions to the trust fund by either making cash or check donations directly to the Trust fund through the Office of Veterans Affairs or by purchasing granite cruciform sections in honor of a veteran. Cruciforms may be purchased through the Office of Veterans Affairs

Contributions or donations to the Memorial Trust Fund qualify as charitable deductions under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. §170) as a contribution to a state for an exclusively public purpose.

If you would like to make a contribution to help maintain the Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial, please send a check or money order (payable to "Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund") to:

Bureau for Veterans Affairs  
Bldg. S-O-47  
Fort Indiantown Gap  
Annville, PA 17003-5002

For more information, call (717) 861-8910  
or visit [www.dmva.state.pa.us](http://www.dmva.state.pa.us)



## BOARD OF PROBATION AND PAROLE

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (Board) is committed to protecting the safety of the public, addressing the needs of crime victims, improving county adult probation and parole services and assisting in the fair administration of justice by ensuring the custody, control, and treatment of offenders under the jurisdiction of the board.

### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- Veterans Services Referrals
- Veteran Service Units within State Correctional Institutions
- Staff education on veterans issues
- Veterans Outreach Services

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

PA Board of Probation and Parole  
1101 S. Front St  
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2517  
Phone: 717.787.5699

[www.parole.state.pa.us](http://www.parole.state.pa.us)

## **PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES SUMMARY**

### Veterans Services Referrals

The PBPP desires to maximize veterans' ability to succeed in the community by maximizing their use of available resources. PBPP agents are trained to recognize eligible veteran offenders for referral to appropriate VA services that include:

- Help obtaining a copy of the DD 214
- Substance abuse treatment
- Vocational and independent living skills programs
- Community Transitional Residence Programs
- A supportive and structured community placement to help Veterans live and work successfully outside of an institution
- Ongoing support and case management, including reentry group and individual counseling sessions
- Coordination of treatment with local, state and federal probation and parole agencies to ensure seamless services and support to veterans
- Hospice Care
- Mental Health Treatment
- Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)/Intensive Therapy (IT)
- Grant per diem housing
- HUD-VASH (VA Supported Housing)

To be eligible, an offender must:

- Be eligible for VA Care
- An honorable or general under honorable condition discharge from the military after 24\* consecutive months of active duty (\* Exceptions may apply)
- Special benefits for returning Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) combat veterans
- Willingness to participate in all aspects of treatment and programming by adhering to all policies, rules and regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Approved for release on parole. The VA cannot provide custodial care.

The VA will assess any veteran offender and will make the appropriate referral in order to address the specific needs of the offender.

## Veterans Service Units within State Correctional Institutions

Veterans struggling with addiction, mental illness or co-occurring disorders and are involved in the criminal justice system have unique needs. In recognition of these needs, the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections has established Veteran Service Units (VSU) within Pennsylvania state correctional institutions. A 48-bed capacity VSU is established at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) in Pittsburgh and a VSU launched at SCI Dallas with a 156-bed capacity. Reentry parole agents work closely with the Department of Corrections institutional staff that includes unit managers, correction counselors (reentry specialists), social workers, security staff, education staff, activities staff, psychology staff and chaplains to help offenders successfully transition from prison to the community.

## Staff Education on Veterans issues

PBPP staff has been trained regarding the needs of veterans and services available. They have also been trained in evidence-based practices to change offender behavior. Services provided to inmates include: cognitive behavioral programming, assistance with family reunification services, assistance with obtaining identification and access to benefits, promotion of medication compliance, reentry planning that involves housing, employment, financial, mental and physical health, education, and support networks such as family or mentoring. Most beneficial is the coordination of the continuity of care and connection to the community that is essential for post-release success.

## Veterans Outreach Services

The Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole is working to connect veteran offenders with the resources they need. An extensive listing of services and resources is located at the following link:

[http://www.pparole.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/community\\_reentry/5357/for\\_veterans/1752175](http://www.pparole.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/community_reentry/5357/for_veterans/1752175)

Additionally, veteran offenders under the board's supervision who are ineligible for VA healthcare assistance can be referred to a network of community based service providers for needs that include: sex offender treatment, day reporting, housing assistance, mentoring, workforce development, family reunification, AOD treatment, cognitive behavioral programming, and mental health treatment.



## DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

The department's mission is to fairly, efficiently and accurately administer the tax laws and other revenue programs of the commonwealth to fund necessary government services.

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- Collaboration with Department of Military and Veterans Affairs – Military Family Relief Assistance Program

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

PA Department of Revenue  
Strawberry Square  
4th & Walnut Streets  
Harrisburg, PA 17128

[www.revenue.state.pa.us](http://www.revenue.state.pa.us)

### PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES SUMMARY

#### Program Collaboration – Military Family Relief Assistance Program

In collaboration with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, taxpayers can donate all or a portion of their state income tax refunds to the Military Family Relief Assistance Program (MFRAP).



## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

Under the leadership of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the mission of the Department of State is to promote the integrity of the electoral process, to provide the initial infrastructure for economic development through corporate organizations and transactions, and to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. The Department will encourage the highest standards of ethics and competence in the areas of election, campaign finance, notarization, professional and occupational licensure, charitable solicitation, and professional boxing and wrestling. Through the implementation of the latest technology, the Department will provide exceptional public service and will remain a leader in all regulatory and enforcement policies and practices aimed at protecting every resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- Specialized ballot delivery option for hospitalized or bedridden Veterans

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

[www.dos.state.pa.us](http://www.dos.state.pa.us)

Programs, Services and Benefits Summary

### Specialized Ballot Delivery Options for Hospitalized or Bedridden Veterans

The Department of State offers special ballot delivery options for hospitalized or bedridden Veterans. For more information call the toll free election hotline at 1-800-VOTESPA



## STATE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

The mission of the State Civil Service Commission (Commission) is to promote efficiency and economy in government by recruiting, hiring and promoting individuals for public sector job opportunities based upon their qualifications, abilities and merits to perform them. The Commission administers the Commonwealth's merit and employment system for state and local government agencies, most PA housing authorities and other covered entities. Commission responsibilities include recruiting qualified job candidates; evaluating candidates' qualifications/credentials (education, experience and training) to perform the jobs; developing and administering examination assessments; certifying eligible candidates to hiring authorities; and conducting merit service appeal hearings resulting from disputed employment actions.

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- Veterans recruitment
- Veterans job fairs
- Veterans resume evaluations and other job-related services
- Veterans hiring preference and extra points on Civil Service exam

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

State Civil Service Commission  
Strawberry Square Complex  
P.O. Box 569  
320 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-0569  
Phone (717) 783-3058

[www.scsc.state.pa.us](http://www.scsc.state.pa.us)

## **PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND BENEFITS SUMMARY**

### **Veterans Recruitment**

The Commission is committed to recruiting Veterans for Commonwealth and local government job opportunities and is dedicated to fostering professional relationships with other entities that provide employment assistance to the nation's Veteran community. The work experience acquired by Veterans combined with their personal attributes make Veterans' exceptional candidates for merit service job opportunities. Outreach program initiatives are designed to ensure that Veterans have access to relevant employment information, knowledge of the Commonwealth's Veterans' preference benefit, and a clear understanding of the merit service application and hiring processes. Through these concerted efforts, the Commission strives to maximize Veterans' employment options and provide individual guidance to Veterans in obtaining gainful Commonwealth or local government employment.

### **Veterans Job Fairs**

Commission Recruitment Specialists participate in a variety of veteran-focused recruitment events in various locations across the Commonwealth in addition to promoting employment opportunities to veterans at general college/community job fairs. The Commission's commitment to directly reaching veteran job seekers has resulted in developing, planning, designing and implementing targeted veteran recruitment outreach events.

### **Veterans Resume Evaluations and other Job-Related Services**

Commission Recruitment Specialists routinely conduct resume evaluations for veteran job seekers to assist in the identification of potential merit service job opportunities as well as conducts one-on-one employment counseling sessions. Guidance is also provided to veterans who are seeking assistance in identifying resources to help translate valuable military experience to the civilian workforce. The Commission Veterans' Employment Coordinator conducts targeted outreach and works collaboratively with other veteran-related organizations such as PA CARES, the Federal Department of Veterans' Affairs, the PA Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, local transition assistance programs, the Veterans; Resource Center, Veterans Employment Representatives at CareerLink Offices, Governor's Advisory Council on

Veteran Services and veteran student organizations at Pennsylvania college/university campuses. Merit service employment information is regularly posted on websites targeting veterans, such as [www.vetsuccess.org](http://www.vetsuccess.org).

### Veterans Hiring Preference and Extra Points on Civil Service Exam

In recognition of their military service, candidates who pass merit service examinations receive the additional benefit of veterans' preference. A copy of the military service discharge DD Form 214 or other acceptable military document must be presented to the Commission to establish a claim for veterans preference. This benefit is also available to widows and widowers of veterans as well as to spouses of disabled veterans. After verification of acceptable documentation, candidates who pass merit service appointment examinations receive ten (10) additional points added to their examination score. Veterans, who are among the top three (3) available candidates on a merit service employment certification, have mandatory employment preference in appointment over non-veterans when an agency uses the certification to fill a vacancy. Agencies must also consider any veteran on a merit service employment certification regardless of their examination score or rank on that certification.





**pennsylvania**  
STATE POLICE

## PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### MISSION:

To seek justice, preserve peace, and improve the quality of life for all.

#### LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:

- Targeted Veteran Recruitment
- Credit hour waivers from educational requirements for applicants to become state troopers

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Pennsylvania State Police Department Headquarters (non-emergency)  
(Business Hours 7:00 am – 4:30 pm)  
1800 Elmerton Ave.  
Harrisburg, Pa 17110  
Telephone: (717) 783-5599  
[www.psp.state.pa.us](http://www.psp.state.pa.us)

### PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES SUMMARY

#### Targeted Veteran Recruitment

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) has made hiring of Veterans a priority through the Targeted Veteran Recruitment Program. The PSP issues Veterans Preference points upon successful completion of the qualifying examination process. In addition to Veterans Preference, the GI Bill can be used during both the initial 27 week PSP Academy basic training, and also during the 12 month probationary period. Veterans have the opportunity to apply for the GI Bill upon reporting to the Academy.

## Credit Hour Waivers from Education Requirements

Applicants must possess an Associates Degree or 60 semester hours in and accredited institution of higher education at time of application except:

- 60 semester credit hours are waived for those applicants with at least four years of active military duty with an honorable discharge.
- 30 semester credit hours are waived for those applicants with at least two years of active military duty with an honorable discharge.





## PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### AGENCY OVERVIEW

#### **MISSION:**

To provide a sustainable transportation system and quality services that are embraced by our communities and add value to our customers

#### **LIST OF PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES:**

“Honoring Our Veterans” Special Fund License Plate  
Veterans Designation on PA Driver’s License / ID Card  
Military Commercial Driver’s License Skills Test Waiver  
U.S. Military Veteran License Plates  
Military and Veterans Organization Specialty License Plates

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
1101 South Front Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17104-2516  
1-800-932-4600

#### **Driver Licensing and Vehicle Registration Questions**

Call 1-800-932-4600 (from within PA)  
or 717-412-5300 (from out of state).

You can also send an email through our Driver and Vehicle Services Customer Call Center, [www.dmv.state.pa.us](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us)

**PROGRAMS, BENEFITS AND SERVICES SUMMARY**

**“Honoring Our Veterans” Special Fund License Plate**

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation now issues “Honoring Our Veterans” License plates. This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and a waving American flag:

- Available to Veterans and Non-Veterans for purchase
- \$15.00 from every sale of this license plate goes to the Pennsylvania Veteran’s Trust Fund.
- A way to exhibit patriotism and support for Pennsylvania’s Veterans on cars and light trucks



[www.dmv.state.pa.us](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us)

## Veterans Designation on Pennsylvania Drivers Licenses

Governor Corbett signed Act 176, 2012 into law allowing for the issuance of a Pennsylvania Driver's License or Identification Card that clearly indicates that the bearer is a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces. This is being accomplished by adding a Veterans Designation directly to the bearer's Driver's License or Identification Card.

- **Eligibility Criteria:**

- Must have received a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty/DD214 or equivalent for service in the United States Armed Forces, including a Reserve Component or the National Guard, discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable.



There is no fee for the Veterans Designation; however qualified applicants must pay any initial issuance; renewal or duplicate Driver's License or ID fees.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will audit submissions to verify Veteran status. There are serious consequences for claiming Veterans status under false pretenses, to include the loss of Driver's License or ID.

[www.dot.state.pa.us](http://www.dot.state.pa.us)

## Military Commercial Driver's License Skills Test Waiver

Act 133 of 2008 allows the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to waive the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Skills Test for Pennsylvania residents who are active or reserve duty military or recent honorably discharged veterans. Provided those service members have at least two years' experience operating a commercial motor vehicle as part of their military job requirements. The waiver applies to CDL applicants who wish to operate vehicles similar to those they operated in the military.

Military members and recently separated veterans must first apply for a CDL by completing a DL-31CD Form, "Application to Add/Extend/Remove Commercial Driver's License", and return it to PennDOT along with the DL-11CD Self Certification Form and applicable fee.

The applicant will be sent a Knowledge Test Authorization Letter which they will take to their nearest Driver License Center to take the applicable knowledge tests. After successfully completing all applicable CDL knowledge testing, the applicant must present a completed DL-398 Form, "Military Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Skills Test Waiver Application".

## U.S. Military Veteran License Plates

### **PURPOSE:**

This fact sheet outlines each U.S. Military Veteran Registration Plate available and the required documentation needed to qualify for each plate. Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," must be certified by the County Recorder's Office located in the County Courthouse. A completed Form MV-150, "Application for U.S. Military Veteran Registration Plate," completed Form MV-150PH, "Application for Pearl Harbor Survivor Registration Plate" or, completed Form MV-150W, "Application for World War II Era U.S. Military Veteran Registration Plate" is required to be submitted with appropriate documentation.

## REGISTRATION PLATE DESCRIPTIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION:

### MEDAL OF HONOR

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This plate has 13 white stars and white lettering on a light blue background. Recipients of the Medal of Honor are entitled to receive this plate. Requests for this plate must be submitted through the Pennsylvania Military and Veteran Affairs, Bureau of Veteran Affairs Office, Bldg S-0-47, Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA 17003.



### PURPLE HEART – FORM MV-150

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This license plate features the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow with a detailed color image of the Purple Heart Medal. The word "Pennsylvania" appears across the top and the words "Combat Wounded Veteran" appears on the bottom of the plate. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers" or one of the following, clearly indicating that a Purple Heart was awarded:

- A copy of the general order
- A copy of the Certificate of Award
- A certification of the award from the Veterans' Administration



## EX-PRISONER OF WAR – FORM MV-150

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow. The configuration starts with the letters POW and is followed by 3 additional characters and is printed in blue lettering. The Prisoner of War Medal is in the center of the plate between the letters POW and the 3 additional characters. The words "Prisoner of War" are printed at the bottom of the plate. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of the Certification of Imprisonment from the appropriate branch of the Armed Forces or from the Veterans Administration, or a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates dates of imprisonment. Registration Fee - \$10 processing fee in lieu of applicable full registration fee.



## PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR – FORM MV-150PH

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This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of one of the following, which indicates the applicant was present at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941:

- A copy of the verification made by the U.S. service unit from the appropriate branch of the Armed Forces in which the applicant served
- For non-military applicants, documentation from the U.S. Civil Service Commission such as an ID card or other written verification

NOTE: Members of a Pearl Harbor Survivors Organization may have the organization verify their qualification in Section D on Form MV-150PH in lieu of a copy of documents above.



### WORLD WAR II – FORM MV-150W

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This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates service any time during the period of Dec. 7, 1941, through Dec. 31, 1946.



### WORLD WAR II MERCHANT MARINE – FORM MV-150W

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the service-approved emblem. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates service as a Merchant Marine anytime during the period of Dec. 7, 1941, through Dec. 31, 1946.



## KOREAN WAR VETERAN – FORM MV-150

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This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," or one of the following, which indicates the applicant served in Korea any time during the period of June 27, 1950, through Jan. 31, 1955:

- A copy of the Korean Service Medal Award
- Statement of Service in Korea during the period of time listed above from the Records Center at Department of Army, National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63132



## VIETNAM WAR VETERAN – FORM MV-150

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This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates one of the following medals was awarded for service in Vietnam and contiguous waters or airspace thereover:

- A copy of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, if applicant served in Vietnam between July 1, 1958 and July 3, 1965
- A copy of the Vietnam Service Medal, if applicant served in Vietnam between July 3, 1965 and March 28, 1973



### **PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERAN – FORM MV-150**

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This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," or the following, which indicates service between Aug. 2, 1990 and Nov. 30, 1995, in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations.

- A copy of the Southwest Asia Service Medal awarded
- When the applicant is currently on active duty, a statement of service from the applicant's commanding officer verifying duty in the Southwest Asia Theater



### **EXPEDITIONARY FORCES – FORM MV-150**

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This plate has red and blue lettering on a white background. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates that either a Naval or Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, a Kosovo Campaign Medal or a Global War on Terrorism Expedition Medal was awarded.



## VETERAN PLATE FOR MOTORCYCLES – FORM MV-150

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers" or a legible certified photocopy of the front and back of their DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or a legible certified photocopy of the front and back of their DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces of the U.S. or a reserve component of the Armed Forces.

**NOTE:** National Guard Reservists will need to submit Form NG22B, "Report of Separation and Record of Service" or a legible certified photocopy of the front and back of their DD2(RES), "Armed Forces of the United States Geneva Conventions Identification Card (Reserve)" or a legible certified photocopy of the front and back of their DD2S(RESRET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Reserve Retired)."

## OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM – FORM MV-150

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and the Iraqi Campaign Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates an Operation Iraqi Freedom Service or an Iraqi Campaign Medal was awarded.



### OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM – FORM MV-150

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates an Operation Enduring Freedom Service or an Afghanistan Campaign Medal was awarded.



### VETERAN – FORM MV-150

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and a waving American flag. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," or a legible certified photocopy of the front and back of their DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or a legible certified photocopy of the front and back of their DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces. NOTE: National Guard Reservists will need to submit Form NG22B, "Report of Separation and Record of Service" or a legible certified photocopy of the front and back of their DD2(RES), "Armed Forces of the United States Geneva Conventions Identification Card (Reserve)" or a legible certified photocopy of the front and back of their DD2S(RESRET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Reserve Retired)."



### KOREAN DEFENSE SERVICE – FORM MV-150

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow and the Korean Defense Service Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD215, "Correction to DD214," indicating Korean Defense Service Medal was applied for and issued.



### U.S. COAST GUARD VETERAN, U.S. MARINE CORPS VETERAN, U.S. AIR FORCE VETERAN, U.S. NAVY VETERAN, U.S. ARMY VETERAN – FORM MV-150

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These plates portray the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the service-approved emblem. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," which indicates honorable discharge from the Armed Forces or a legible certified photocopy of the front and back of their DD2(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)" or a legible certified photocopy of the front and back of their DD2S(RET), "United States Uniformed Services Identification Card (Retired)."



### BRONZE STAR – FORM MV-150

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the Bronze Star Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Bronze Star was awarded.



### SILVER STAR – FORM MV-150

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the Silver Star Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Silver Star was awarded.



### BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR – FORM MV-150

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the Bronze Star for Valor Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Bronze Star for Valor was awarded.



### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS – FORM MV-150**

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the Distinguished Service Cross Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Distinguished Service Cross was awarded.



### **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS – FORM MV-150**

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the Distinguished Flying Cross Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded.



### **NAVY CROSS – FORM MV-150**

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the Navy Cross Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Navy Cross was awarded.



### AIR FORCE CROSS – FORM MV-150

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the Air Force Cross Medal. Applicants must submit a legible certified photocopy of Form DD214, "Separation Papers or Discharge Papers," indicating the Air Force Cross was awarded.



### AIRBORNE UNIT – FORM MV-150

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This plate portrays the standard registration plate colors of blue, white and yellow, and the images of the Jump Wings and Glider Wings. Applicants must submit documentation that indicates the applicant satisfactorily completed the prescribed proficiency tests while assigned or attached to an Airborne Unit and any other military personnel determined by PennDOT to be appropriately classified as a member of a U.S. Military Airborne Parachutist or Glider Unit. NOTE: U.S. Military Airborne Units include Parachutist or Glider Units, Glider Troopers, Paratroopers, Air Assault Troopers, Rangers, U.S. Army Special Forces, USMC Recon, U.S. Navy Seals, U.S. Air Force Special Operations, Troop Carrier Command, including Glider Pilots and the 160th SOAR.



## Military and Veterans Organization Specialty License Plates

Specialty plates are manufactured in our standard plate colors - blue, white, and yellow. The layout will consist of the organization's emblem displayed on the left of the plate followed by a two-letter designation to the left or right of five numbers. The organization's name appears across the bottom of the plate and "Pennsylvania" is printed across the top of the plate.

Special Organization plates are currently available for passenger cars, motor homes and trucks with a registered gross weight of 10,000 pounds or less. Specialty Plates are not available for motorcycles and trailers.

Several Veterans Organizations have specialty license plates, i.e., American Legion, AMVETS, Marine Corps League, VFW. There are currently 326 Special Organization plates available: Visit the website [www.dmv.state.pa.us](http://www.dmv.state.pa.us) to see if your Veterans Organization has a specialty license plate.

# RESOURCES

# VETERANS



Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services

Bldg 0-47 Fort Indiantown Gap  
Annville, PA 17003

Phone: 1-800-547-2838

Fax: 717-861-8589

Email: [RA-VA-Info@pa.gov](mailto:RA-VA-Info@pa.gov)

