



2023

The Office of U.S. Senator Cory A. Booker Presents:

NEW JERSEY VETERANS HANDBOOK



**"WE WHO DARE TO CALL
OURSELVES AMERICANS,
AND TO PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE
TO THE FLAG, CANNOT DO SO
UNLESS WE GIVE HONOR TO
THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE
MADE THE ULTIMATE OF
SACRIFICES FOR OUR
FREEDOMS AND FOR OUR
LIBERTY."**

-SENATOR CORY A. BOOKER



DEAR VETERAN,



I am honored to represent you in the United States Senate and I will never stop working to ensure you receive the recognition and benefits you deserve. Caring for our nation's veterans and their families is one of our nation's most sacred responsibilities, one that must be upheld not just on Veterans Day, but every day of the year.

Since I was elected to the Senate, I have met with many New Jersey veterans like you. I know that navigating the process of transitioning from military to civilian life is often challenging and overly bureaucratic. In addition, receiving specialized healthcare is often too difficult, and accessing information on employment, housing or education benefits can be overly complicated.

I developed this guidebook to help consolidate the information New Jersey veterans and their families need to enable you to care for your families, fulfill your greatest aspirations, and live your healthiest lives. My office is always open to you and I encourage you to use this guidebook as one of the many resources available to assist you.

In President Harry S. Truman's first address to Congress in 1945, he stated -

Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices. Because of these sacrifices, the dawn of justice and freedom throughout the world slowly casts its gleam across the horizon.

As your United States Senator, I am committed to fighting for the programs and benefits upon which our service members depend. While we can never repay the immeasurable debt that we owe our veterans, we must always endeavor to honor your service and sacrifice.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Booker'.

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

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CONTACT MY OFFICE:

Newark Office:

One Gateway Center
23rd Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Phone: (973) 639-8700
Fax: (202) 224-5702
casework@booker.senate.gov

Camden Office:

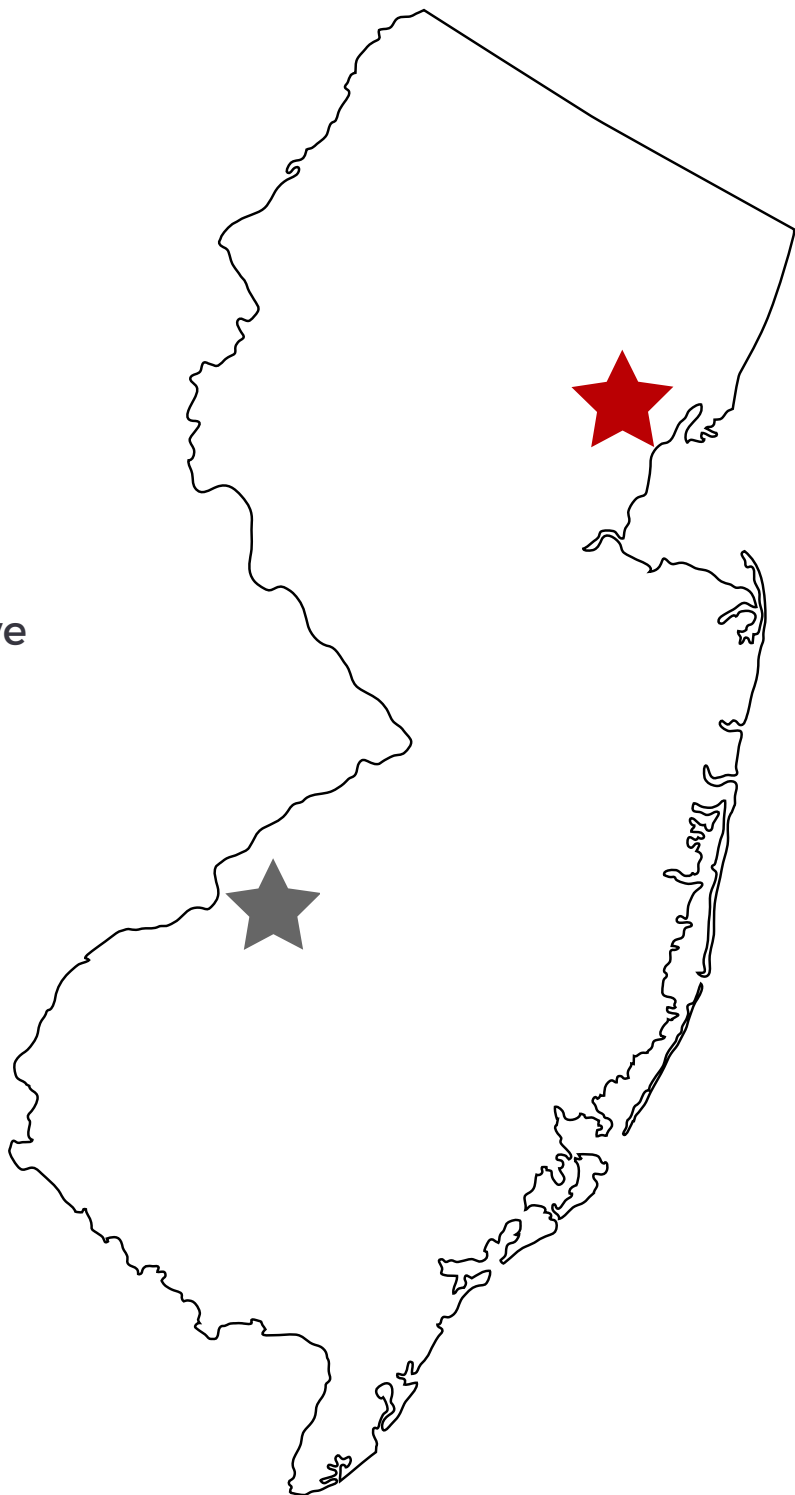
One Port Center, 2 Riverside Drive
Suite 505
Camden, NJ 08101

Phone: (856) 338-8922
Fax: (202) 224-5701
casework@booker.senate.gov

Washington DC Office:

717 Hart Senate Office
Washington, DC 20510

Phone: (202) 224-3224
Fax: (202) 224-8378



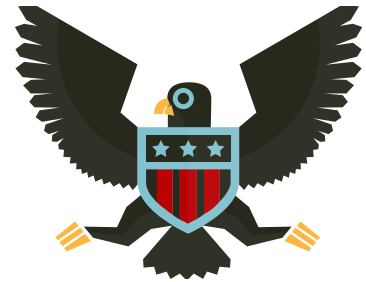
CONTACT ME FOR HELP WITH:



Military Medals and
Records



VA Healthcare



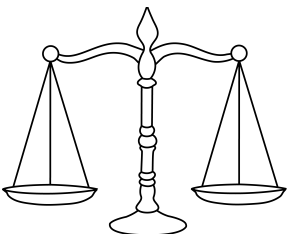
VA Benefits



The Department of Defense
and National Guard



Medicare, Medicaid and
Social Security



The Bureau of Prisons



Immigration and State
Department



Student Loans



Mortgage Issues, DOL,
IRS and CFPB



Capitol Tours and
Flag Requests



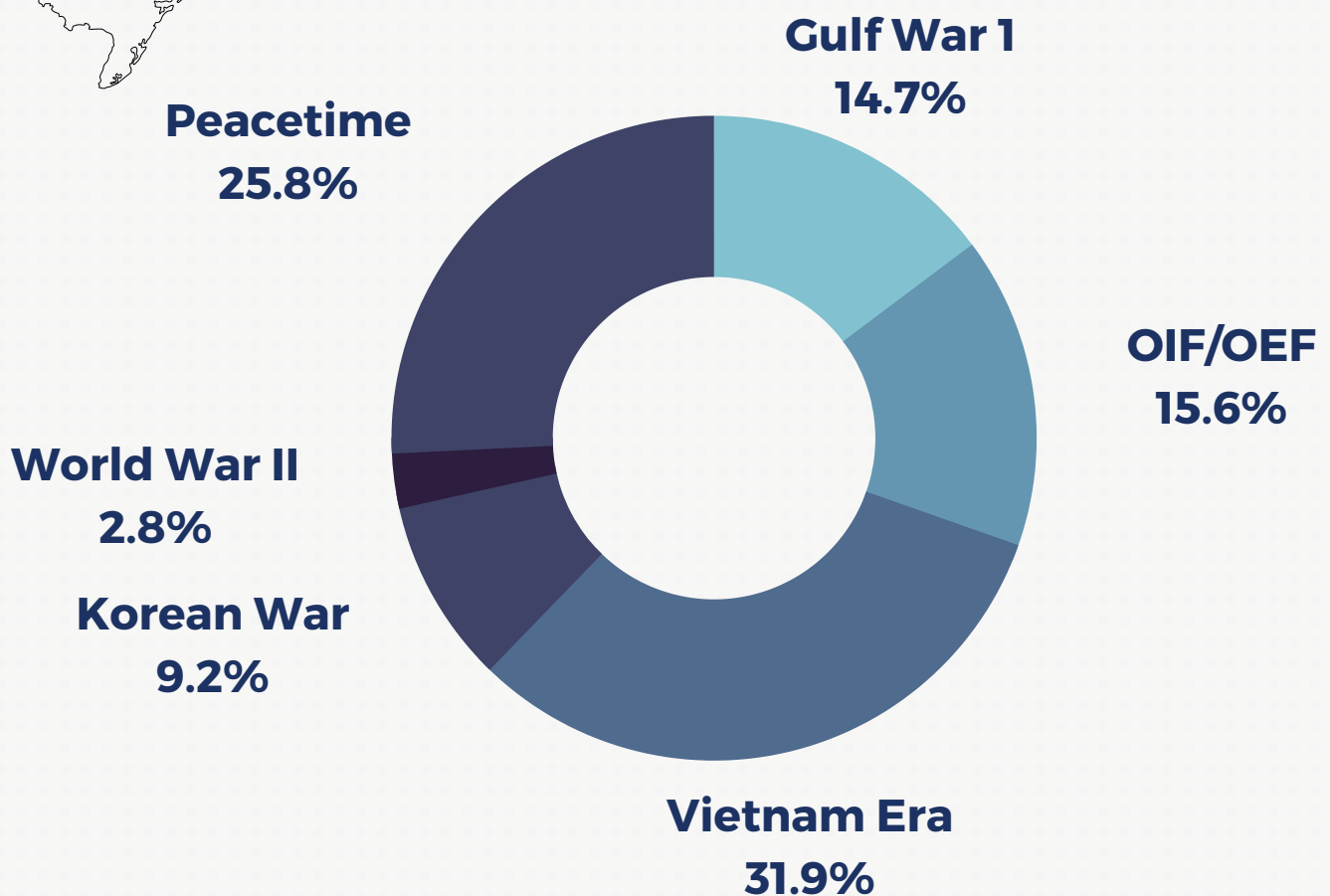
Service Academy
Nominations

NJ VETERANS AT A GLANCE:



338,012

Veterans in NJ



92.1% Male



7.9% Female

SUPPORT SERVICES



IMMEDIATE SUPPORT

National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline 988

When you call, you will be connected to trained personnel at a crisis center near you.

Veterans Crisis Line 1 (800) 273-8255 (Press 1) and/or text 838255

The Veterans Crisis Line is a free phone, online chat, and text-messaging service available to all service members and veterans.

NJ VET 2 VET 1 (866) 838-7654

This is a hotline coordinated by Rutgers University Behavioral Health. It is a 24/7 peer counseling service.

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans 1 (800) 424-3838

The hotline helps homeless veterans find the services and support they need.

NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

AMVETS

(609) 526-4356

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

(609) 396-2885

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

(212) 982-9699

Jewish War Veterans

(202) 265-6280

Military Order of the Purple Heart

(703) 642-5360

Paralyzed Veterans of America

1 (800) 424-8200

Service Women's Action Network

(202) 798-5570

The American Legion

(973) 297-3377

Veterans of Foreign Wars

(609) 393-1929

Vietnam Veterans of America

1 (800) 822-1316

NJ SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Benefit Hotline: 1 (888) 865-8387

Counseling Hotline: 1 (866) 838-7654

New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation

(732) 335-0033

Vets 4 Warriors

1 (855) 838-8255

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Paterson

(855) 767-8387

Community Hope

(973) 463-9600

North Hudson Community Action Corporation

(201) 366-8443

Soldier On

1 (866) 406-8449

GI Go Fund

1 (866) 389-4446

Operation Sisterhood

(973) 538-5260 x 119

The New Jersey Veterans Network

(973) 332-1556

USO Center Newark Liberty International Airport

(201) 583-5985

New Jersey Elks National Veterans Service Commission

(908) 672-2079

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

THE 117TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS (2021-2022)

SSVF for Reserve Component Veterans and Families Act

Senator Booker's SSVF for Reserve Component Act expands the VA's supportive services for very low-income veteran families (SSVF) to include former members of the National Guard and Reserve Components.

S.Res.668 - "Women Veterans Appreciation Day"

Senator Booker's resolution designates June 12, 2022, as Women Veterans Appreciation Day to recognize the service and sacrifices of women veterans who have served valiantly on behalf of the United States.

S. 3255 - Vet CENTERS for Mental Health Act of 2021

Senator Booker's Vet CENTERS for Mental Health Act of 2021 identifies ten states that are considered to be underserved based on the results of the 2020 Census and the VA's own veteran population data, and adds at least one additional Vet Center to each of those states, including New Jersey,

S.3541 - Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Act

Senator Booker was a cosponsor of this bill expanding VA hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care for combat veterans who served after September 11, 2001, and were exposed to toxic substances, radiation, or other conditions. This bill was included in the PACT Act.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

THE 117TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS (2021-2021)

S. 1938 - Gold Star Mothers Family National Monument Extension Act

Senator Booker's Gold Star Families National Monument Extension Act extends funding for the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation to establish a commemorative work in honor of Gold Star families.

S. 1937 - DOULA for VA Act of 2021

Following conversations with women veterans on Veterans Day, Senator Booker introduced the DOULA for VA Act which requires the VA to establish a five-year pilot program to furnish doula services to pregnant veterans who are enrolled in the VA health care system.

S. 2102 - SERVICE Act of 2021

Senator Booker's bill allows a military spouse who is participating in the My Career Advancement Account program to remain eligible despite a promotion in grade of the Armed Forces member to whom the person is married.

S.1936 - GI Bill and VR&E NEED Acts of 2021

Senator Booker's GI Bill and VR&E National Emergency Extended Deadline Acts of 2021 provide critically necessary protections for veterans' GI Bill and Vocational Rehabilitation and Education (VR&E) benefits as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as future national emergencies.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

THE 117TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS (2021-2022)

S.2647 - Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Medal Act

Senator Booker is a cosponsor of the Harlem Hellfighters Congressional Gold Medal Act, which provides for the award of a Congressional Gold Medal to the 369th Infantry Regiment, commonly known as the Harlem Hellfighters, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service during World War I.

S.1970 - Clean Water For Military Families Act

Senator Booker is a cosponsor of the Clean Water For Military Families Act, which requires the DOD to conduct testing for and remediation of perfluoroalkyl substances and polyfluoroalkyl substances at active duty and formally used defense sites, and State-owned facilities of the National Guard.

S.1611 - I am Vanessa Guillén Act of 2021

Senator Booker is a cosponsor of the I am Vanessa Guillén Act of 2021, which shifts prosecutorial decisions for sexual harassment and sexual assault outside the chain of command and requires sexual harassment allegations to be investigated outside the immediate chain of command.

S.1520 - Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act of 2021

Senator Booker is a cosponsor of the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act of 2021, which reforms the disposition of charges for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and increases the prevention of sexual assaults and other crimes in the military.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

THE 117TH UNITED STATES CONGRESS (2021-2022)

S.1488 - Military Hunger Prevention Act

Senator Booker is a cosponsor of the Military Hunger Prevention Act, which would create a basic needs allowance to help low-income military families put food on the table.

S.1404 - Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act

Senator Booker is a cosponsor of the Ghost Army Congressional Gold Medal Act, which awards a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23rd Headquarters, Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company, in recognition of their unique and highly distinguished service as a “Ghost Army” that conducted deception operations in Europe during World War II.

S.3541 - Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act

Senator Booker is a cosponsor of this bill prohibiting the VA from requiring payment from a veteran for any contraceptive item that is required to be covered by health insurance plans without a cost-sharing requirement.

S.951 - PAWS Act of 2021

Senator Booker is a cosponsor of the PAWS Act of 2021, which requires the VA to implement a grant program for the purpose of pairing service dogs with eligible veterans

PACT ACT RESOURCES



PACT ACT OVERVIEW

PACT ACT:

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act. The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps the VA improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

For more information, visit <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

MEDICAL SERVICES



MEDICAL SERVICES

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL 9-1-1

The VA Health Care System

EAST ORANGE CAMPUS

(973) 676-1000
385 Tremont Avenue
East Orange, NJ 07018

LYONS CAMPUS

(908) 647-1080
151 Knollcroft Road
Lyons, NJ 07939

CORPORAL MICHAEL J. CRESCENZ VA MEDICAL CENTER

(215) 838-5800
3900 Woodland Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19104

WILMINGTON VA MEDICAL CENTER

(302) 994-2511
1601 Kirkwood Highway
Wilmington, DE 19805



THE VA MISSION ACT

Since taking effect in June 2019, the MISSION Act replaced the VA Choice Act as the primary set of regulations that govern how veterans receive VA care. The MISSION Act gives Veterans greater access to health care in VA facilities and the community, expands benefits for caregivers, and improves the VA's ability to recruit and retain quality medical providers.

Under the new Veterans Community Care Program, Veterans can work with their VA health care provider or other VA staff to see if they are eligible to receive community care based on new criteria. Eligibility for community care does not require a Veteran to receive that care in the community; Veterans can still choose to have VA provide their care. Veterans may elect to receive care in the community if they meet any of the following six eligibility criteria:

- VA has determined that a VA medical service line is not providing care in a manner that complies with VA's standards for quality based on specific conditions.
- The Veteran and the referring clinician agree it is in the best medical interest of the Veteran to receive community care based on defined factors.
- 28 days for specialty care from the date of request, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with his or her VA health care provider.
- 20 days from the date of request for primary care, mental health care and noninstitutional extended care services, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with his or her VA health care provider.
- Appointment wait time at a specific VA medical facility, or drive time to a specific VA medical facility.
- A Veteran lives in a U.S. state or territory without a full-service VA medical facility.
- A Veteran needs a service not available at any VA medical facility.

**For general MISSION Act health care inquiries contact:
(844) 698-2311**

OUTPATIENT CLINICS

VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)

North and Central New Jersey CBOC Locations

Bergen County CBOC 385 Prospect Ave. Hackensack, NJ 07601 (201) 342-4536	Union County CBOC 654 East Jersey Street Elizabeth, NJ 07206 (908) 994-1020	Ocean County CBOC 970 NJ-70 Brick, NJ 08724 (732) 206-8900
Mercer County CBOC 3635 Quakerbridge Rd Hamilton, NJ 08619 (609) 570-6600	Hudson County CBOC 115 Christopher Columbus Dr. Jersey City, NJ 07302 (201) 435-3055	Morris County CBOC 340 West Hanover Ave. Morristown, NJ 07960 (973) 536-9791
Passaic County CBOC 11 Getty Ave. Bldg. #275 St. Joseph's Hospital Paterson, NJ 07503 (973) 247-1666	Middlesex County CBOC 14 Willis Way, Bldg. 5 Piscataway, NJ 08854 (732) 981-8193	Sussex County CBOC 222 High Street Newton, NJ 07860 (973) 756-1504
	Monmouth County CBOC 55 Gilbert Street N. Tinton Falls, NJ 07701 (732) 842-4751	

OUTPATIENT CLINICS

VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs)

South Jersey CBOC Locations

Atlantic County CBOC 1909 New Rd. Northfield, NJ 08225 (800) 461-8262 x 2800	Burlington County CBOC 3000 Lincoln Dr. Marlton, NJ 08053 (844) 441-5499
Camden County CBOC 300 Broadway, Suite 103 Camden, NJ 08104 (877) 232-5240	Cape May County CBOC 3801 Route 9 South Rio Grande, NJ 08242 (800) 461-8262 x 2850
Cumberland County CBOC 79 W Landis Ave. Vineland, NJ 08360 (800) 461-8262 x 6500	Gloucester County CBOC 211 County House Rd. Sewell, NJ 08080 (877) 823-5230

NJ VETERANS MEMORIAL HOMES

Nursing homes for veterans, spouses, and Gold Star Parents
operated by the NJ Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.

NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Vineland

Main Number: (856) 405-4200

Social Services: (856) 405-4217

Volunteer Coordinator: (856) 405-4213

524 North West Blvd.

Vineland, NJ 08360

NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park

Main Number: (732) 452-4100

Social Services: (732) 452-4272

Volunteer Coordinator: (732) 452-4133

132 Evergreen Rd.

Edison, NJ 08818

NJ Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus

Main Number: (201) 634-8200

Social Services: (201) 634-8435

Volunteer Coordinator: (201) 634-8504

1 Veterans Dr.

Paramus, NJ 07652

VET CENTERS

Operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Vet Centers provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to Combat Veterans and their families. Vet Centers guide Veterans and their families through many of the major adjustments in lifestyle that often occur after a Veteran returns from combat. All services are free of cost and are strictly confidential.

Vet Center	Address	Phone Number
Bloomfield Vet Center	2 Broad St. Suite 703 Bloomfield, NJ 07003	(973) 748-0980
Lakewood Vet Center	1255 Route 70, Unit 22N Lakewood, NJ 08701	(908) 607-6364
Secaucus Vet Center	110A Meadowlands Pkwy. Suite 102 Secaucus, NJ 07094	(201) 223-7787 (877) 927-8387
South Jersey Vet Center	2900 Fire Road Suite 101 Egg Harbor, NJ 08234	(609) 487-8387
Trenton Vet Center	934 Parkway Ave. Suite 201 Ewing, NJ 08406	(609) 882-5744

ENROLLMENT & BILLING

The VA New Jersey Health Care System

VA Health Resource Center:

1-877-222-8387

Monday to Friday
8:00AM - 10:00PM (EST)

Contact the VA Health Resource Center for information on eligibility for VA Health Care, enrolling in the VA Medical System, as well as questions on copayments and billing.

Claims with HealthNet Federal Services

Provider Call Center Line: (844) 728-1914

For Veterans with pending claims with HealthNet, please contact my Camden or Newark Senate office for assistance.

WOMEN VETERANS

The VA New Jersey Health Care System

The Women Veterans Health Care Program is an integral part of the VA New Jersey Health Care System (VANJHCS) and the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN2). While the VANJHCS offers services and programs that meet the needs of all Veterans, they pay special attention to women veterans. Their focus is on health promotion, disease prevention and management, and the emotional wellbeing of women Veterans.

Preventative Health Screenings:

Breast and Pelvic Exams, Cancer Screenings, Heart Disease Screenings, Osteoporosis screening and treatment, Smoking Cessation, Weight Management, and Contraceptive management.

Treatment:

Gynecological Procedures, Urinary Incontinence, Military Sexual Trauma, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Menopause, Maternity/prenatal care, Infertility Work-up and treatment, Substance and sexual abuse counseling, Anxiety and Depression treatment, Chronic medical conditions, Pain Management, Integrative Medicine, Acupuncture/Yoga, Home Telehealth.

Supportive Services:

Social Work, Physical Therapy, Nutritional Counseling, Vocational Rehabilitation, Mental Health, Family Planning, and Maternity Care Coordination.

For more information, please contact:

Janine Decker, Women Veterans Program Manager

Janine.Decker@va.gov

LGBTQ+ VA MEDICAL PROVIDERS

The VA New Jersey Health Care System (VANJHCS) is committed to providing top quality care to all Veterans including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Veterans. We recognize that diverse populations have distinctive needs, and are training our staff in culturally and clinically-competent care for LGBT Veterans. We are focused on providing the most respectful health care environment possible.

Staff:

- Jess Barrows LCSW, LCADC, LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator, 908-647-0180 x 21-6476
- Dr. Daniel Blumenfeld M.D., LGBTQ Subcommittee Chairperson, 973-676-1000, ext. 1328
- Janine Decker, Women Veterans Program Manager (973) 676-1000 x 2716

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.va.gov/new-jersey-health-care/health-services/lgbtq-veteran-care/>

BURN PIT REGISTRY

The VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry: The VA established the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (AHOBPR) in 2014 to help put data to work for Veterans through research about potential health effects of airborne hazard exposures. By joining the registry, you can provide information to help the VA better understand whether long-term health conditions may be related to these exposures.

Eligibility:

You are eligible to participate if you served in Operations Desert Storm/Desert Shield (ODS), New Dawn (OND), or Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF), including deployment to countries in the Southwest Asia theater of operations any time after 8/2/1990 or Afghanistan or Djibouti after 9/11/2001.

What Does the Registry Involve?

The registry includes an online questionnaire and an optional health evaluation.

How do I get Started?

- Use your Premium DS Logon Level 2*account to log in, check your eligibility, and complete the online questionnaire.
- Save or print your questionnaire responses for your records. You can also come back to access your responses at any time.
- Contact your local VA environmental health coordinator to schedule your optional medical evaluation at your convenience.

Link: <https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/#page/home>

VA BENEFITS



VETERANS BENEFIT ADMINISTRATION

The Veterans Benefits Administration is an agency of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It is responsible for administering the Department's programs that provide financial and other forms of assistance to veterans, their dependents, and survivors. Major benefits include Veterans' compensation, Veterans' pension, survivors' benefits, rehabilitation and employment assistance, education assistance, home loan guaranties, and life insurance coverage.



Newark VA Regional Office
20 Washington Place
Newark, NJ 07102
(800) 827-1000

Philadelphia VA Regional Office
5000 Wissahickon Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19144
(215) 842-2000

Wilmington VA Regional Office
1601 Kirkwood Highway
Wilmington, DC 19805
(215) 842-2000

BLUE WATER NAVY VETERANS

Did you serve on a Blue Water Navy vessel offshore of the Republic of Vietnam, or on another U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ship operating in the coastal waterways of Vietnam, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975?

If yes, you may have had contact with Agent Orange, a herbicide used to clear trees and plants during the war. Find out if you can receive a VA disability compensation and other benefits for illnesses related to exposure to Agent Orange.



Can I get disability benefits from the VA?

You may be eligible to receive disability benefits if the below descriptions are true for you:

- You have an illness we believe is caused by Agent Orange.
- Your military record must show that between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, you: were aboard a U.S. military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam, or served on a vessel not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia (as detailed in Public Law 116-23, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019).

In order to receive these benefits, you'll need to file a claim for disability compensation and submit your evidence. We recommend doing so through a certified Veteran Service Officer (VSO).

VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

Applying for benefits and/or appealing a decision can be a complex and time-consuming endeavor. Do not be afraid to reach out for help. State-run Veteran Service Offices and National Veteran Service Organizations have trained personnel who can help you on this journey.

New Jersey DMAVA Veteran Service Offices		
Atlantic/Cape May County	1008 Absecon Blvd Atlantic City, NJ 08401	Alicia Kagan (609) 441-3060
Bergen/Passaic County	125 State St Suite #109 Hackensack, NJ 07601	Joseph Restivo (201) 996-8050
Burlington County	555 High St, Suite #6A Mt Holly, NJ 0860	William McDonell (609) 518-2273
Camden/Gloucester County	658 N Evergreen Avenue Woodbury, NJ 08096	Joseph Frost (856) 853-4184
Essex/Union County	20 Washington Pl., Rm #431 Newark, NJ 07102	Robert Maulano (973) 297-3336
Hudson County	678 Montgomery St, 2nd Floor Jersey City, NJ	Esther Chucaralao (201) 536-3401
Mercer County	151 Eggerts Crossing Rd. Rm #136 Lawrenceville, NJ 08648	Matthew Still (609) 671-6697
Middlesex/Somerset County	1060 Hamilton St Somerset, NJ 08873	Joseph Battito (732) 937-6347
Monmouth County	630 Bangs Ave, Suite #320 Asbury Park, NJ 07712	Peter Midgley (732) 775-7009
Morris County	479 W Clinton St. Dover, NJ 07801	William Robinson (973) 366-0245
Newark Liaison Office	20 Washington Pl. Rm #439 Newark, NJ 07102	Richard Mannes (973) 297-3230
Ocean County	970 Route 70 Brick, NJ 08724	Danielle Cardoso (732) 840-3033
Salem/Cumberland County	524 Northwest Blvd Vineland, NJ 08360	Paul McIntyre (856) 405-4388
Sussex County	12 Munsonhurst Rd Franklin, NJ 07416	William Robinson (973) 827-4020
Warren/Hunterdon County	200 Sanatorium Road, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826	Sibley Smith (908) 537-0831

INTAKE SITES

Operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Benefits Delivery at Discharge program allows Service members to submit a claim for disability compensation between 90 to 180 days prior to separation, retirement, or release from active duty or demobilization. The VA requires a minimum of 90 days to complete the medical exam process prior to your separation from service.

New Jersey Intake Sites

Intake Site at Earle Naval Weapons	NWS Earle Fleet and Family Support Center 201 Hwy 34, Bldg. C59 Colt's Neck, NJ 07722
Intake Site at Fort Dix	HQ, US Army Garrison, HRM, Bldg. 5418 Fort Dix, NJ 08640
Intake Site at Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station	Fleet & Family Support Center Lakehurst, NJ 08733
Intake Site at McGuire Air Force Base	Family Support Center McGuire AFB, NJ 08641

Benefits Delivery at Discharge Program	Requirements
Do I have a known separation date?	Yes
When may I apply?	Between 90-180 days prior to separation
When must I submit my service treatment records to VA?	At the time claim is submitted
When must I be available for the VA medical exam?	Up to 45 days from the submission of your claim
When must I complete all phases of the VA/DoD medical separation exam process?	Prior to your release from the military

CAREGIVER SUPPORT



CAREGIVER SUPPORT LINE

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Department of Veterans Affairs Caregiver Support Line

1 (855) 260-3274

When veterans return home from their military service, many return with scars and wounds, both seen and unseen. We thank them for their service and call them heroes, but we sometimes forget the ones who will continue to be by their side, the military caregivers. These caregivers are often their mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, friends and colleagues. They give their blood, sweat, and tears, and devote substantial amounts of time and money to care for their loved ones. These sacrifices should not go unnoticed. The Department of Veteran Affairs Caregiver support line offers immediate assistance and information about their various caregiver programs. The line is staffed by licensed professionals who can provide you with information about caregiver programs, assist you in accessing those programs, help you locate the nearest Caregiver Support Coordinator, and more.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT COORDINATORS

These individuals are licensed professionals who will provide the caregiver with information about the services and the support which are available to them.

Coordinator Name	Contact Information
Jennifer Adams-Barsch, MSW, LCSW Caregiver Support Coordinator	(973) 676-1000 ext. 3085
Peterson Pierre-Paul, MSW, LCSW Caregiver Support Deputy Coordinator	(973) 676-1000 ext. 2602

For more information please go to:
<http://go.usa.gov/xkJYx>

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS

The VA New Jersey Caring for the Caregiver Support Group
meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month
from 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Lyons VA Transitional Unit
115 Knollcroft Road
Building 4, Room 5
Lyons, New Jersey 07939

VA Hamilton Community Based Clinic
3635 Quaker Bridge Road
Suite 30
Hamilton, New Jersey 08619

If you cannot attend in person, you can dial in via phone.
Dial 1-800-767-1750 and enter code 69205#

CAREGIVER SERVICES

Some of the services you and your loved ones may be eligible for include:

Adult Day Health Care Centers:

Adult Day Health Care provides the veteran with the services they need while giving them the opportunity to participate in activities and socialize.

Home Based Primary Care:

Under this program, the veteran is provided with routine health care services in their home when it is difficult to transport the veteran due to their medical issues.

Skilled Home Care:

This program engages medical professionals to provide services to homebound veterans. This program is similar to the previously mentioned Home-Based Primary Care; however, the VA purchases care for a Veteran from a licensed non-VA medical professional.

Home TeleHealth:

Because it can be difficult to take the veteran to the VA for assistance, the home telehealth program allows for the veteran and caregiver to have access to a care coordinator.

CAREGIVER SERVICES

Homemaker & Home Health Aide Program:

This program is for Veterans who need skilled services, case management and help with activities of daily living. A Homemaker or Home Health Aide can be used as a part of an alternative to nursing home care, and as a way to get Respite Care at home for Veterans and their family caregiver.

Respite Care:

Caregivers are eligible for 30 days of respite care a year.

Home Hospice Care:

An interdisciplinary team from a local community hospice agency will be available 24/7 to provide services to you and the veteran in your home during this difficult time.

Building Better Caregivers:

This is a free six-week interactive online workshop provided to family caregivers. This workshop teaches these caregivers skills that include stress management, eating healthy, and dealing with difficult situations and emotions. Furthermore, this workshop provides a platform for caregivers to exchange ideas with other caregivers.

CAREGIVERS OF POST 9/11 VETERANS

The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 allows for caregivers of seriously wounded Post 9/11 veterans to receive additional services.

Eligibility for Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010

- Veterans eligible for this program are those who sustained a serious injury – including traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma or other mental disorder – incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, on or after September 11, 2001.
- Veterans eligible for this program must also be in need of personal care services because of an inability to perform one or more activities of daily living and/or need supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological impairment or injury.
- To be eligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, Veterans must first be enrolled for VA health services, if not enrolled previously.

Service Available under Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act

- Monthly stipend
- Travel expenses - *including lodging and per diem*
- Access to health care insurance - *if the caregiver does not already have health care*
- Mental health services and counseling
- Comprehensive VA Caregiver training provided by Easter Seals
- Respite care - *not less than 30 days per year*

ELIZABETH DOLE FOUNDATION HIDDEN HEROES

HiddenHeroes.org is the premier online destination for military caregivers. This first-of-its-kind website includes testimonials from military caregivers who share their personal stories; a vetted directory of valuable resources; the opportunity to join a private Facebook community for military caregivers; and calls-to-action for communities and individuals to get involved.

Resources:

Hidden Heroes offers a vetted directory of resources that help military caregivers find organizations that will help them with their various issues. This list covers everything from finances to child care, and everything in between.

<https://www.hiddenheroes.org/resources>

Community Sign Up:

Hidden Heroes offers a secure Facebook group and a caregiver Q&A. This community allows caregivers to connect with their peers so they can share their experiences and seek advice.

<https://hiddenheroes.org/wp-login.php?action=register>

Training:

Hidden Heroes offers access to online training courses designed to help caregivers. These courses are free as well as nationally recognized.

<http://psycharmor.org/caregivers/>

EASTER SEALS

Easter Seals Military & Veterans Services responds rapidly, efficiently, and effectively to the unmet needs of Service Members, Veterans, and their Families to ensure that they can thrive in their communities.

Military Caregiving Webinars:

Easter Seals offers free bi-monthly webinars which provides information on depression, childcare, intimacy, hearing loss, caregiver self-care, and home safety.

<http://www.easterseals.com/explore-resources/for-caregivers/military-caregiving-webinar.html>

Military Caregiver Training:

Easter Seals offers an in person and online training and self-study workbooks for post 9/11 military caregivers. This training is through a contract with the VA and in collaboration with Atlas Research, Family Caregiver Alliance, National Alliance for Caregiving, and the National Alliance for Hispanic Health.

Center-based or In-home Adult Day Services:

Provides services for caregivers of older veterans who have physical and/or cognitive concerns.

EASTER SEALS

Respite Care:

Easter Seals offers an assortment of respite care options, to include care for those with special needs. Additionally, they have teamed up with the University of Maryland's Legacy Corps, which provides service members and veterans in-home respite care for themselves and their families at locations around the United States.

Community OneSource Call Center:

(866) 423-4981

militarycaregiver@easterseals.com

Easter Seals has a toll free number along with an email address where caregivers can learn about local resources and programs. Furthermore, the staff personnel who manage these points of contact can connect caregivers with both the private and public programs/organizations that best fit their needs.

Easter Seals Contact Information:

1-800-221-6827

223 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2400

Chicago, IL 60606

<http://www.easterseals.com/>

EMPLOYMENT



VETERANS PREFERENCE POINTS

Veterans and disabled veterans receive preference points when applying for some federal jobs. To be eligible, veterans and in certain cases a spouse or parent, must meet the requirements as listed in 5 U.S. Code § 2108.

5 Point Veteran:

- Served on active duty in the armed forces during a war, in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized, or during the period beginning April 28, 1952, and ending July 1, 1955.
- Served on active duty as defined by section 101(21) of title 38 at any time in the armed forces for a period of more than 180 consecutive days any part of which occurred after January 31, 1955, and before October 15, 1976, not including service under section 12103(d) of title 10 pursuant to an enlistment in the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard or as a Reserve for service in the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, or Coast Guard Reserve.
- Served on active duty as defined by section 101(21) of title 38 in the armed forces during the period beginning on August 2, 1990, and ending on January 2, 1992; or served on active duty as defined by section 101(21) of title 38 at any time in the armed forces for a period of more than 180 consecutive days any part of which occurred during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on the date prescribed by Presidential proclamation or by law as the last date of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and, except as provided under section 2108a, who has been discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions.⁵

10 Point Veteran:

- A veteran who served any time and who (1) has a present service- connected disability or (2) is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension from the military or the Department of Veterans Affairs. Individuals who received a Purple Heart qualify as disabled veterans.
- An unmarried spouse of certain deceased veterans, a spouse of a veteran unable to work because of a service- connected disability
- A mother of a veteran who died in service or who is permanently and totally disabled.⁶

⁵ 5 U.S. Code § 2108.

⁶ Ibid.

VETERANS PREFERENCE

When applying for state civil service jobs, veterans receive an absolute veterans preference. This preference means that qualified veterans who receive a passing score on their exam will be moved to the top of the open competitive employment lists. Disabled veterans are given preference which supersedes both veterans and non-veterans on these lists.

To receive preference hiring a veteran must have served on active duty during the following dates for at least 90 days:

- World War II September 16, 1940 to December, 31 1946
- Korean War June 23, 1950 to January 1955
- Vietnam War December 31, 1960 to May 7, 1975

To receive preference hiring a veteran must have served on active duty during the following dates (14 days of which must be in a combat theater):

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| • Lebanon | July 1, 1958 to November 1, 1958 |
| • Lebanon Peacekeeping | September 26, 1982 to December 1, 1987 |
| • Grenada | October 23, 1983 to November 21, 1983 |
| • Panama | December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990 |
| • Desert Shield/Storm | August 2, 1990 to February 28, 1991 |
| • Somalia | December 5, 1992 to March 31, 1994 |
| • Bosnia & Herzegovina | November 20, 1995 to December 20, 1998 |
| • Haiti | September 19, 1994 to March 31, 1995 |
| • OEF | September 11, 2001 to current |
| • OIF/New Dawn | March 19, 2003 to current |

VETERANS PREFERENCE

Disabled Veteran:

To qualify, disabled veterans' must not only meet the above requirements but also be in receipt of a letter from the VA showing a 10% or more disability rating.

Parents:

The parent of a veteran who died in service is also entitled to receive disabled veteran preference. However, if the deceased veteran also had a spouse, only one can claim the disabled veteran preference.

Spouses:

In certain circumstances, a spouse may be entitled to the same preference of a veteran and disabled veteran:

Preference	Spouse Requirement
Veteran Preference	A spouse of a veteran who died outside of service is entitled to the same preferences of the veteran, until they remarry.
Disabled Vet Preference	The surviving spouse of a disabled veteran is entitled to the same preferences of the disabled veteran until they remarry.
Disabled Vet Preference	A spouse is entitled to the same preference of the disabled veteran, as long as they are not in a civil service position. The veteran entitled to the points must also waive all preference for the duration of their spouse's employment.
Disabled Vet Preference	The spouse of a veteran who died in service is entitled to the disabled veteran preference, up until they remarry

HIRING AUTHORITIES

Multiple hiring authorities exist that may help veterans in finding employment and employers in hiring veterans.

Eligibility:

Veterans' Recruitment Appointment (VRA):
The VRA is an authority which allows agencies to appoint veterans w/o competition.

- Are a disabled veteran
- Have an Armed Forces Service Medal
- Have a Honorable or General discharge
- Separated from the service in the last 3 years
- Have a campaign badge for service during a war, campaign or expedition

Veterans Employment Opportunity Act (VEOA):
This appointment authority can only be used to fill permanent, competitive positions. This allows veterans to apply for openings only available to "status" candidates.

- Discharged under honorable conditions (Honorable or General discharge) and are a veteran who completed 3 or more years of active service.

HIRING AUTHORITIES

30 Percent or More Disabled Veteran:

This authority allows veterans who have a 30% or more service-connected disability rating to be non-competitively appointed.

- Retired from active military service with a 30% or more disability rating or the veteran has a 30% or more compensable service-connected disability rating from the VA.

Disabled Veterans Enrolled in a VA Training Program:

Veterans in the Vocational Rehab program may train or have work experience at an agency per terms of an agreement between the agency and the VA. The purpose of the training is to prepare the veteran for an eventual appointment within the agency.

- Disabled veterans eligible for training under the VA vocational rehabilitation program.

Schedule A Appointing Authority:

Schedule A authority is for those with disabilities. While not explicitly for veterans use, it may be used to appoint eligible veterans who have a severe physical, psychological, or intellectual disability.

- Show proof of disability (can be VA documentation).

HIRING RESOURCES

The Gold Card Initiative:

The Gold Card Initiative provides unemployed Post 9/11 veterans with both intensive and follow-up services to assist them in the job market. This initiative is the result of a joint effort by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS).

<https://www.dol.gov/vets/goldcard.html>

Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOCs):

VBOCs provide entrepreneurial training, comprehensive business assessment, and mentoring to active duty personnel, veterans, Guard and Reservists, and service-disabled veterans, as well as military spouses interested in starting a small business.

Arsenal Business and Technology Partnership

Services New Jersey and New York

44 Dalliba Ave.

Watervliet, NY 12189

(518) 326-5522

<http://www.arsenalpartnership.com>

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Specialists at the DOL American Job Centers (also known as One-Stop Career Centers) can assist veterans in finding employment opportunities. At these job centers veterans receive priority.

North Jersey One Stop Centers

Bergen County One-Stop Career Center (201) 329-9600 Ext. 5640 60 State St Hackensack, NJ 07601	Essex County One-Stop Career Center (973) 395-3255 50 South Clinton St, 2 nd Floor East Orange, NJ 07018
Essex County One-Stop Career Center-Newark (973) 648-4489 990 Broad St Newark, NJ 07102	Hudson County One-Stop Career Center (201) 795-8800 438 Summit Ave, 1 st Floor Jersey City, NJ 07306
Hudson County One-Stop Career Center- Union (201) 369-5205 Ext. 3745 530 48 th St, 7 th Floor Union City, NJ 07087	Hunterdon One-Stop Career Center (908) 782-2371 6 Gauntt Place, Bldg # 2 Lower Level Flemington, NJ 08822
Morris County One-Stop Career Center- Morristown (862) 397-5600 30 Schuyler Pl, 2 nd Floor Morristown, NJ 07960	Morris County One-Stop Career Center- Randolph (862) 397-5600 13 Emery Avenue Randolph, NJ 07860
Passaic County One-Stop Career Center (973) 916-2648 25 Howe Ave Passaic, NJ 07055	Passaic County One-Stop Career Center- Patterson (973) 742-9226 200 Memorial Dr. 1 st Floor Paterson, NJ 07505
Sussex County One-Stop Career Center (973) 383-2775 7 Hampton House Rd Newton, NJ 07860	Union County One-Stop Career Center- Elizabeth (908) 965-3923 921 Elizabeth Ave Elizabeth NJ, 07201
Union County One-Stop Career Center- Plainfield (908) 412-7980 200 West 2 nd St Plainfield, NJ 07060	Warren County One-Stop Career Center (908) 859-0400 75 South Main St Phillipsburg, NJ 08865

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Central and South Jersey One Stop Centers

Atlantic County One-Stop Career Center (609) 813-3900 2 South Main St, Suite 1 Pleasantville, NJ 08232	Burlington County American Job Center (609) 518-3900 795 Woodlane Rd, 2 nd Floor P.O. Box 6100 Westampton, NJ 08060
Camden County One-Stop Career Center (856) 614-3150 2600 Mt. Ephraim Ave, Suite 102 Camden, NJ 08104	Cape May County One-Stop Career Center (609) 729-0997 3810 New Jersey Ave Wildwood, NJ 08260
Cumberland County One-Stop Career Center (856) 696-6600 3322 College Drive P.O. Box 1500 Vineland, NJ 08360	Gloucester County One-Stop Career Center (856) 251-6810 215 Crown Point Rd, Suite 200 Thorofare, NJ 08086
Mercer County One-Stop Career Center (609) 292-0620 26 Yard Ave, Station Plaza 4 1 st Floor P.O. Box 954 Trenton, NJ 08625	Middlesex County One-Stop Career Center- New Brunswick (732) 937-6200 550 Jersey Ave New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Middlesex County One-Stop Career Center- Perth Amboy (732) 293-5016 161 New Brunswick Ave, Suite 300 Perth Amboy, NJ 08861	Monmouth County One-Stop Career Center- Eatontown (732) 683-8850 Ext 6011 145 Wyckoff Rd, Suite 201 Eatontown, NJ 07724
Ocean County One-Stop Career Center-Hooper Avenue (732) 341-4959 1027 Hooper Ave, Bldg. 6 Toms River, NJ 08753	Monmouth County One-Stop Career Center- Neptune (732) 775-1566 60 Taylor Ave North Neptune, NJ 07753
Ocean County One-Stop Career Center- Rt. 9 (732) 240-5995 1959 Route 9 Toms River, NJ 08755	Salem County One-Stop Career Center (856) 935-7007 174 East Broadway Salem, NJ 08079
Somerset County One-Stop Career Center (908) 704-300075 Veterans Memorial Dr. East Somerville, NJ 08876	

OTHER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

GI Go Fund: (866) 389-4446

A Newark, New Jersey based veteran's organization that hosts job fairs for veterans, provides direct employment assistance and counseling to veterans looking for work, and hosts a job posting and training board exclusively for veterans.

Troops to Teacher: (800) 231-6242

Troops to Teachers is a DOD program which assists eligible military personnel transition to a new career as a public school teacher. Go to <http://www.proudtoserveagain.com> for more information.

Troops to Energy Jobs:

This is a program designed to assist veterans in transition into careers in the energy industry. Go to <http://www.troopstoenergyjobs.com> for more information.

Helmets to Hardhats:

Helmets to Hardhats is a program which connects Guard, Reserve, retired, and transitioning military personnel to opportunities in the construction industry. Opportunities included both training and career positions. Go to <http://www.helmetstohardhats.org/> for more information.

HOMELESS VETERANS



HOMELESS VETERANS

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (877) 424-3838

Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness—and their family members, friends and supporters—can make the call to or chat online with the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans, where trained counselors are ready to talk confidentially 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

New Jersey Supportive Services for Veterans & Families (SSVF) Contacts:

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Camden
(856) 342-4156

Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Paterson
(855) 767-8387

Community Hope
(973) 463-9600

Soldier On
(866) 406-8449

Veterans Multi-Service Center
(856) 293-7321

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

No veteran should be without a place to call home.
The VA is committed to ending homelessness among Veterans.

Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program:

VA HCHV programs serve as the hub for a myriad of housing and other services that provide the VA with a way to reach and assist homeless Veterans by offering them entry to VA care.

New Jersey HCHV Program
VA Lyons Campus
151 Knollcroft Road
Lyons, NJ 07018

Scott Sussman (908) 647-0180 ext. 4425
Donna Branca (973) 676-1000 ext.1738

The Homeless Veterans Dental Program:

This program facilitates improvements for homeless veterans to access oral health services. To be eligible, the veteran must be enrolled in VA health care and have been receiving care for 60 days as verified by the facility Veterans Homeless Coordinator, in settings which include among others, a domiciliary and a community based residential treatment program which serves homeless veterans that fall under the HCHV program.

Please contact:
Scott Sussman (908) 647-0180 ext. 4217

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Community Resource and Referral Centers (CRRC):

CRRCs are a multiagency collaborative effort. They connect homeless veterans with health and mental health care resources, job development programs, housing options, and other VA and non-VA benefits.

Philadelphia CRCC
213 N 4th St., 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 823-5800

Chapel Street Clinic/CRCC
40 Flatbush Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 439-4300

Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV):

DCHV is part of the VA's Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs (MH RRTPs). DCHV offers a residential level of care for homeless veterans.

National Call Center
1-877-424-3838

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Homeless Veterans Community Employment Services (HVCES):

This program was established by the VA because finding stable employment is vital to prevent and end homelessness in the veteran community.

HVCES NJ Director
Dr. Carma Heitzmann
Carma.Heitzmann@va.gov

East Orange HVCES
Kimberly Johnson
Kimberly.Johnson30@va.gov

Lyons Campus HVCES
Lamont Jones
Lamont.Jones2@va.gov

Homeless Shelter Program (HSP):

The HSP falls under the VA's loan guarantee service. It sells properties at a discounted rate to organizations, nonprofits, and local governments for the purpose of sheltering veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/index.asp> for more information.

NJ ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Veterans:

The Veterans Haven program is a New Jersey state operated program. Eligible veterans, who have been medically evaluated by the VA must agree to be part of a long-term program. The program focuses on social, psychological, and vocational rehabilitation of the veterans.

Veteran's Haven North

200 Sanatorium Rd., Suite 101
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
(908) 537-1999
(877) 648-0091

Veteran's Haven South

301 Spring Garden Rd.
Winslow, NJ 08095
(609) 561-0269
(888) 849-7188

Home of the Brave

271 Atlantic Avenue
Camden, NJ 08104
(302) 424-1681

VETERAN EDUCATION



FEDERAL EDUCATION BENEFITS

Administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty (MGIB-AD):

Service members who pay \$100 per month for 12 months or a lump sum payment of \$1200 are entitled to receive a monthly education benefit once they have completed a minimum service obligation. Additionally, individuals may contribute \$600 to the Buy-Up program in order to increase their monthly benefit. New inductees are still eligible and may elect to receive MGIB-AD benefits rather than Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. However, beneficiary numbers for this GI Bill have been exceeded by those in the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Post 9/11 GI Bill:

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is an education program for those service members who served on active duty after 10 September 2001. Those eligible will receive up to 36 months of coverage over a period of no more than 15 years from the last period of active duty. The Post 9/11 GI Bill will cover all in-state tuition for public schools along with a basic allowance for housing (BAH) equal to no more than that of an E-5 with dependents. The BAH is based upon the zip code the school falls in. The monthly housing allowance for attendance at foreign institutions is up to the national average of the E-5 with dependents BAH, reduced according to the length of time served on active duty and the individual's enrollment rate. For those veterans pursuing education strictly online, the BAH is up to \$805.50 for the 2016 academic year (August 1, 2016 - July 31, 2017).

FEDERAL EDUCATION BENEFITS

Administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Yellow Ribbon Program:

Since the Post 9/11 GI Bill may not cover the entire out of state and private schools tuition, the Yellow Ribbon Program was created to fill that gap for eligible veterans and transferees at the 100% benefit level. Institutions who participate voluntarily enter into an agreement with the VA, in which the VA will match each dollar of unmet charges that the participating school agrees to contribute.

Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship:

This scholarship provides Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to the surviving children and spouses of servicemen and women who died in the line of duty while on active duty after 10 September 2001. The scholarship provides those eligible with 100 percent of the benefits for up to 36 months.

Veteran Educational Assistance Program (VEAP):

VEAP is a voluntary program that is available if the service member elected to contribute to this educational benefit from his/her military pay during the initial tour on or after January 1, 1977, and before July 1, 1985. The government will match the contributions on a 2-for-1 basis and may include an additional DOD contribution. VEAP can be used for degree, certificate, correspondence, apprenticeship/on-the-job training programs, and vocational flight training programs.

FEDERAL EDUCATION BENEFITS

Administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP):

REAP will provide educational assistance to service members in Reserve components if they are called or ordered to active duty in response to war or national emergency declared by the President or Congress. In general, no educational benefits can be paid after November 25, 2015, although individuals who received REAP benefits for the enrollment period immediately preceding November 25, 2015, may receive benefits through November 25, 2019, or until exhausting their entitlement.

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA):

DEA allows for spouses and children of service members to receive the education or training that they would have had or maintain the standard of living that they would have had, if the service member did not become disabled or delayed or died as a result of military service.

Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR):

MGIB-SR is a program available to individuals serving in the Selected Reserve, including the National Guard, who enlist for a six year service obligation. Educational benefits are also available to selected reservists who enlist, re-enlist, or extend an enlistment after June 30, 1985 and reserve officers who agree to serve an additional six years above any existing obligation. Most of those who are eligible to MGIB-SR receive a monthly allowance similar to the MGIB-AD. Furthermore, additional payments are available and the monthly allowance may be increased under certain circumstances.

FEDERAL EDUCATION BENEFITS

Administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Upward Bound Program:

Created by Congress and administered by the Department of Education, the Veterans Upward Bound Program seeks to assist veterans in developing the necessary academic and nonacademic skills needed for acceptance, reentry, and success in post-secondary education.

SkillBridge Initiative:

The SkillBridge initiative is a Department of Defense program that allows service members who meet certain qualifications to participate in civilian job and employment training, which may include both apprenticeships and internships. This training can occur up to six months prior to their separation. Furthermore, “the training must offer a high probability of employment and be provided to the service member at little or no cost.”

VA Training and Education Office

(888) 442-4551

001-918-781-5678 (Overseas)

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/index.asp>

FEDERAL EDUCATION BENEFITS

Administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Solar Ready Vets:

This is a Department of Energy program which connects veterans to the solar energy industry. It seeks to prepare veterans for careers as solar photovoltaic system installers, sales representatives, system inspectors, and other solar-related occupations. The program selects approximately 20 service members for each class and last between four to six weeks. Near the end of the course the service members will take the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) Entry Level Exam, which will provide them with the most widely recognized entry-level PV installation credential. Additionally, upon graduation, service members interview with both national and regional solar companies. This program is enabled by SkillBridge initiative, which is a the Department of Defense program that permits transitioning military personnel to seek civilian job training, apprenticeships, and internships six months prior to their separation. The bases which participate in the program selection were based upon a number of criteria including the number of transitioning service members and the surrounding solar industry. Of the 10 participating installations, New Jersey is home to one: Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

NJ EDUCATION BENEFITS

NJ Veterans Benefits Bureau: (609) 530-6949

Prisoner of War and Missing In Action Tuition Benefits:

This educational benefit offers free undergraduate college tuition to any child who was born before, during, or after the period his or her parent was officially declared a Prisoner of War (POW) or was declared missing in action (MIA) after Jan. 1, 1960. This educational benefit is also extended to adopted children who meet the above criteria. The POW/MIA must have been a New Jersey resident at the time he or she entered the service or whose official residence is in New Jersey.

War Orphans Tuition Assistance:

\$500 per year for four years of college or equivalent training may be claimed by children of service members who died while in the military or due to service-connected disabilities, or who are listed as MIA. The veteran must have been a resident of New Jersey, and the child must be a resident as well.

Tillman Military Scholars Program:

Created by the Pat Tillman Foundation, the Tillman Scholars Program supports active duty members, veterans, and military spouses. It covers educational expenses, to include tuition and fees, books and living expenses. Go to <http://www.pattillmanfoundation.org> or email scholarships@pattillmanfoundation.org for more information.

NJ EDUCATION BENEFITS

Operation Recognition:

This is a state program which awards a state of New Jersey endorsed high school diploma to any veteran who left high school to serve in the armed forces during World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. All branches are eligible for Operation Recognition including the Coast Guard and the Merchant Marines.

Required paperwork include:

DD-214 or Discharge Papers.

The name and address of the high school the veteran attended.

Name, address and phone number of applicant.

Request should be sent to:

Operation Recognition

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Eggert Crossing Road

P.O. Box 340

Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Sansone Woodbridge Military Assistance Program:

This program works to provide previously incarcerated veterans, at-risk veterans, and their immediate family members help in obtaining employment as well as access their earned benefits by connecting them with the appropriate agencies. The program also aids in the reintegration process by providing training opportunities, including vocational training in various career fields of the auto industry and employment skills mentoring.

Contact: Richard Liebler, Sansone Veterans Administrator
(732) 587-1100 ext. 1628

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Additional programs that provide scholarships, grants, or other education assistance include the Army Emergency Relief, the Air Force Aid Society, The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, The Coast Guard Foundation, and the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance.

Army Emergency Relief:

<https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/scholarships/>

Air Force Aid Society:

<http://www.afas.org/>

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society:

<http://www.nmcrs.org/pages/education-loans-and-scholarships>

Coast Guard Foundation:

<http://www.coastguardfoundation.org/how/scholarships>

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance:

<http://www.cgmahq.org/>

INCARCERATION AND RE-ENTRY



INCARCERATED VETERANS

Compensation and Pension Benefits for Incarcerated Veterans:

Federal law requires that the compensation and pension benefits for veterans who are incarcerated for more than 60 days are to be reduced. If a veteran disability rating is 20 percent service-connected or more then the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) reduces the payment to the 10 percent rate. Additionally, if the veteran is at the 10 percent service-connected rating then the VBA reduces the payment by one half. The VBA will discontinue pension benefits for veterans who are convicted of a felony or misdemeanor.

It is imperative that veterans notify the VA upon incarceration as to avoid overpayment and indebtedness to the U.S. Government. Once the veteran is released, the VBA can restore the veteran's compensation and pension benefits.

Health Care for Re-entry Veterans (HCRV) Program:

The Program provides outreach and re-entry planning to eligible veterans who are within six months of release. The program educates veterans about available services and benefits, as well as provides transition planning and case management. Contact a counselor in the DOC Office of Transitional Services to set up an appointment with a VA HCRV Specialist, or if possible contact the HCRV Specialist directly.

Ericka Jackson
New Jersey HCRV Specialist
(914) 737-4400 ext. 3739
Ericka.Jackson2@va.gov

INCARCERATED VETERANS

Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Program:

The VJO program seeks to connect eligible justice-involved veterans with VHA services. Additionally, VJO specialists conduct outreach and assessments for these veterans. VJO specialists also provide case management for these veterans in courts and jails as well as liaise with justice system partners. Please note, the VA cannot provide legal services.

Mark Correale
VJO Coordinator: Lyons Campus
(908) 647-0180 ext. 5126
Mark.Correale@va.gov

John Walter
VJO Coordinator: Salem County
(302) 379-2085
John.Walter@va.gov

Jennifer Jake Sanders
VJO Coordinator: South Jersey
(302) 518-3729
jennifer.sanders2@va.gov

INCARCERATED VETERANS

New Jersey Judiciary Veteran's Assistance Project (VAP):

VAP is a collaborative effort between the Judiciary, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA), and the New Jersey Division of Mental Health Services (DMHS). It is a voluntary referral program for veterans when they come into contact with the court system and are in need of veteran services. Services include: mental health counseling, addiction services, legal services, and housing.

Court Matters:

Assistant Criminal Division Manager
Superior Court of New Jersey
(609) 909-8249

Benefits and Services:

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
(609)-530-4600

Mental Health Services:

Jewish Family Service
(609) 822-1108

NEW JERSEY RESOURCES



MOTOR VEHICLE COMMISSION

New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission: (888) 486-3339

License Plates:

Military and veteran personnel may purchase military reserve plates for passenger vehicles. For more information, go to:

<https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/drivertopics/vetdesignation.html>

License Plates	Price
Congressional Medal of Honor	No Charge
Navy Cross	\$15
Silver Star	No Charge
Prisoners of War	No Charge
Combat Infantryman Badge	\$15
Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine, Navy, and Reserve units	\$25
The National Guard	\$15
Gold Star Family	No Charge
Disabled American Veterans	\$15
Veterans of Foreign Wars	\$30

Drivers License:

Starting on July 1, 2016 a veteran may request a permanent veteran designation on their driver's license. For more information, go to

<https://www.dmv.org/nj-new-jersey/special-license-plates.php>

No Fee Automobile Registration:

Veterans are entitled to a no fee automobile registration if they are 100 percent disabled, eligible for automobile financial assistance from the VA and have sustained the loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet, loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands, or permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a prescribed degree. Additionally, Medal of Honor recipients are also eligible for a no-fee registration.

NEW JERSEY RESOURCES

NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife & NJ Department of the Treasury

Free Beach Tags:

Veterans with a proper military ID are entitled, at the discretion of each New Jersey town, to obtain a free beach tag. Please contact your municipality to inquire about its policies on free beach tags.

Hunting and Fishing Licenses:

Veterans who are New Jersey residents and were discharged with a service-connected disability are entitled to free hunting and fishing licenses, permits, and stamps.

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
(609) 984-6213

Property Tax Exemption:

The State of New Jersey allows for an exemption from property tax for certain veterans on their principle residence. This exception is authorized for certain veterans who are totally and permanently disabled war veterans along with their surviving spouse. The surviving spouse of service men and women who died during wartime active duty service may also be exempt.

http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/pdf/other_forms/lpt/vss.pdf

Veteran Tax Deduction:

A deduction of up to \$250 from taxes which are due on the real or personal property is available annually to certain war veterans or their surviving spouse.

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CONTACT INFO:

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2023 New Jersey Veterans Handbook

Prepared by the Office of U.S. Senator Cory A. Booker

Cory  Booker

