

JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION

General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

VETERANS' BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS IN PENNSYLVANIA

December 2016



*Serving the General Assembly of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Since 1937*

REPORT

Veterans' Benefits and Programs in Pennsylvania

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The Joint State Government Commission was created in 1937 as the primary and central non-partisan, bicameral research and policy development agency for the General Assembly of Pennsylvania.¹

A fourteen-member Executive Committee comprised of the leadership of both the House of Representatives and the Senate oversees the Commission. The seven Executive Committee members from the House of Representatives are the Speaker, the Majority and Minority Leaders, the Majority and Minority Whips, and the Majority and Minority Caucus Chairs. The seven Executive Committee members from the Senate are the President Pro Tempore, the Majority and Minority Leaders, the Majority and Minority Whips, and the Majority and Minority Caucus Chairs. By statute, the Executive Committee selects a chairman of the Commission from among the members of the General Assembly. Historically, the Executive Committee has also selected a Vice-Chair or Treasurer, or both, for the Commission.

The studies conducted by the Commission are authorized by statute or by a simple or joint resolution. In general, the Commission has the power to conduct investigations, study issues, and gather information as directed by the General Assembly. The Commission provides in-depth research on a variety of topics, crafts recommendations to improve public policy and statutory law, and works closely with legislators and their staff.

A Commission study may involve the appointment of a legislative task force, composed of a specified number of legislators from the House of Representatives or the Senate, or both, as set forth in the enabling statute or resolution. In addition to following the progress of a particular study, the principal role of a task force is to determine whether to authorize the publication of any report resulting from the study and the introduction of any proposed legislation contained in the report. However, task force authorization does not necessarily reflect endorsement of all the findings and recommendations contained in a report.

Some studies involve an appointed advisory committee of professionals or interested parties from across the Commonwealth with expertise in a particular topic; others are managed exclusively by Commission staff with the informal involvement of representatives of those entities that can provide insight and information regarding the particular topic. When a study involves an advisory committee, the Commission seeks consensus among the members.² Although an advisory committee member may represent a particular department, agency, association, or group, such representation does not necessarily reflect the endorsement of the department, agency, association, or group of all the findings and recommendations contained in a study report.

¹ Act of July 1, 1937 (P.L.2460, No.459); 46 P.S. §§ 65 – 69.

² Consensus does not necessarily reflect unanimity among the advisory committee members on each individual policy or legislative recommendation. At a minimum, it reflects the views of a substantial majority of the advisory committee, gained after lengthy review and discussion.

Over the years, nearly one thousand individuals from across the Commonwealth have served as members of the Commission's numerous advisory committees or have assisted the Commission with its studies. Members of advisory committees bring a wide range of knowledge and experience to deliberations involving a particular study. Individuals from countless backgrounds have contributed to the work of the Commission, such as attorneys, judges, professors and other educators, state and local officials, physicians and other health care professionals, business and community leaders, service providers, administrators and other professionals, law enforcement personnel, and concerned citizens. In addition, members of advisory committees donate their time to serve the public good; they are not compensated for their service as members. Consequently, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania receives the financial benefit of such volunteerism, along with their shared expertise in developing statutory language and public policy recommendations to improve the law in Pennsylvania.

The Commission periodically reports its findings and recommendations, along with any proposed legislation, to the General Assembly. Certain studies have specific timelines for the publication of a report, as in the case of a discrete or timely topic; other studies, given their complex or considerable nature, are ongoing and involve the publication of periodic reports. Completion of a study, or a particular aspect of an ongoing study, generally results in the publication of a report setting forth background material, policy recommendations, and proposed legislation. However, the release of a report by the Commission does not necessarily reflect the endorsement by the members of the Executive Committee, or the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Commission, of all the findings, recommendations, or conclusions contained in the report. A report containing proposed legislation may also contain official comments, which may be used in determining the intent of the General Assembly.³

Since its inception, the Commission has published more than 350 reports on a sweeping range of topics, including administrative law and procedure; agriculture; athletics and sports; banks and banking; commerce and trade; the commercial code; crimes and offenses; decedents, estates, and fiduciaries; detectives and private police; domestic relations; education; elections; eminent domain; environmental resources; escheats; fish; forests, waters, and state parks; game; health and safety; historical sites and museums; insolvency and assignments; insurance; the judiciary and judicial procedure; labor; law and justice; the legislature; liquor; mechanics' liens; mental health; military affairs; mines and mining; municipalities; prisons and parole; procurement; state-licensed professions and occupations; public utilities; public welfare; real and personal property; state government; taxation and fiscal affairs; transportation; vehicles; and workers' compensation.

Following the completion of a report, subsequent action on the part of the Commission may be required, and, as necessary, the Commission will draft legislation and statutory amendments, update research, track legislation through the legislative process, attend hearings, and answer questions from legislators, legislative staff, interest groups, and constituents.

³ 1 Pa.C.S. § 1939 ("The comments or report of the commission . . . which drafted a statute may be consulted in the construction or application of the original provisions of the statute if such comments or report were published or otherwise generally available prior to the consideration of the statute by the General Assembly").



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December 29, 2016

To the Members of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania:

The Joint State Government Commission is pleased to announce the release of the report written in response to Senate Resolution 255 of 2015: Veterans' Services and Programs in Pennsylvania.

SR255 directed the Commission to review the current services and programs available to Pennsylvania residents who are active members and veterans of the armed services. SR255 noted the Senate's commitment to ensure these men and women are provided the benefits they are accorded. Commission staff met with state and local veterans' organizations, created a compendium of available benefits, and proposed recommendations to assist the General Assembly in addressing veterans' needs.

The full report and a one-page summary are available on our website at <http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us>.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn J. Pasewicz
Executive Director

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INTRODUCTION

Senate Resolution 255 directed the Joint State Government Commission to review services, benefits, and programs currently offered to veterans, National Guard and Reserve service members and their families by Commonwealth agencies, veterans' service organizations, secondary schools, institutions of higher education, and the Federal Government. In addition, the Joint State Government Commission was tasked to review and compare other states' services, benefits, and programs for active service members, veterans and their families and to make recommendations to the General Assembly on more effective administration of current programs and on additional programs to consider.

Process

To get a better understanding of the status quo and perceived needs, the Joint State Government Commission conducted meetings with the county directors of veterans' affairs and with the representatives of veterans' service organizations in the Commonwealth.

As county is often the first point of access for veterans, on April 20, 2016, the Joint State Government Commission, with the assistance of Ms. Brinda Penyak, Deputy Director of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, organized a meeting with county directors of veterans' affairs. These officials provide county veterans and their dependents direct assistance in identifying benefits and services they may be eligible for and in the preparation of applications for county, state and federal veterans' benefits and programs. County directors of veterans' affairs are also responsible for the payment of burial allowances and for ensuring that grave markers and headstones are properly requested and placed for each deceased county veteran.

The meeting was conducted by teleconference. County directors of veterans' affairs from several counties in different parts of the Commonwealth who participated in the meeting explained that their main duty – “duty to assist” – is prescribed by the County Code. They receive formal training from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); they must fulfil the requirements for continuing education, and they recertify with VA every five years. This assures that they are up to date with ongoing changes in the panel of benefits and programs offered to veterans and their families.

The advantage of the county directors of veterans' affairs position is that while they work in close cooperation with VA, they are also part of the county structure, so they are familiar with local resources, and they can refer veterans to other agencies as well as offer helpful advice regarding other opportunities available in their community. They are versatile in their approach.

On June 23, 2016, the Joint State Government Commission invited representatives of veterans' service organizations to a teleconference in order to hear from them about any problems their constituents face in accessing services, programs, and benefits currently provided by the state and federal governments. The participants were also encouraged to share their suggestions about potentially beneficial changes in the existing system of delivery of these services.

The meeting was attended by representatives of various organizations, including the American Legion, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, Korean War Veterans Association, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Italian American War Veterans of the United States. At a later point, the Joint State Government Commission staff had a separate teleconference with a representative of the Marine Corps League of Pennsylvania, who was unable to attend the general meeting.

The veterans' service organizations' representatives noted that even though a wide variety of benefits are offered, not all veterans pursue benefits either because they misunderstand them or because they do not have competent people to guide them in their search. The conference attendees emphasized the importance of outreach. Assistance in applying for benefits is usually available, but outreach should be more extensive. It was pointed out that a new marketing and awareness angle should be introduced, that more information should be offered to the general public, not only to veterans themselves, but also to their families as it is often families that suffer and families are often less familiar with available programs and services. The meeting participants recommended proactive approach and better cooperation among various agencies.

Better collaboration between agencies and integrity of services emerged as a central issue. The Office of Veterans Affairs of the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is not the only entity responsible for providing services and programs for veterans in the Commonwealth, as some people assume. Other departments also have subdivisions that handle veterans' benefits. Integration of efforts between all these agencies would improve provision of services to eligible veterans.

It is important that veterans trust individuals working with them. Building up this trust is an important initial step. Convenience of service is another serious issue. For example, veterans residing in rural areas will not be utilizing some of the programs that could be potentially available to them if they have to travel in order to access services.

During the meeting, the representatives of veterans' service organizations highlighted the critical role of transitional periods in a veteran's life. Whether someone is transitioning from active military service to participation in the civil economy or a veteran is retiring and his health or other needs change, it is at this point, during the period of transition, that outreach and help in accessing benefits and programs is exceedingly important. Contacting such veterans presents a challenge for state departments as these individuals are difficult to track and their circumstances may be different in each case.

Employment is crucial to veterans' well-being and requires a targeted effort on the part of the Commonwealth. Continuity of effort and integrity may be a key to success.

The meeting attendees raised several other questions, including veterans' courts,⁴ proper training for those working with veterans, mental health issues and suicide prevention.⁵ They recommended that the Commonwealth examine other states' experience in organizing veterans' services and cited Texas, Virginia and New York as examples of states that were able to create effective models.

In addition to the meetings with county directors of veterans' affairs and representatives of veterans' service organizations, the Joint State Government Commission staff conducted individual consultations with representatives of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, of the Department of Education, and of nonprofit organizations offering supplementary assistance to the Commonwealth veterans.

Veteran Populations and VA Expenditures in Pennsylvania

The vast majority of services and benefits offered to veterans, active military personnel, and reservists are mandated and funded by the federal government.

Compared to other states, Pennsylvania has one of the largest veteran populations in the country.

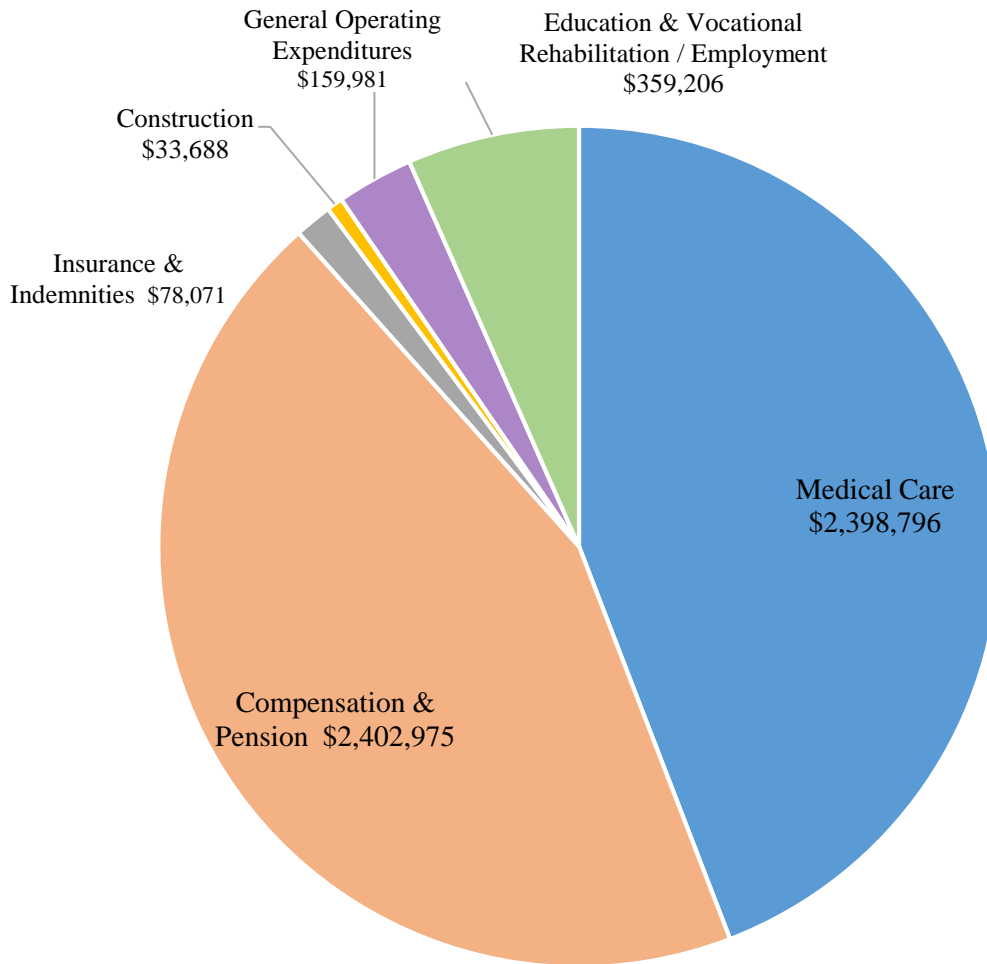
The Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Affairs is responsible for providing resources and assistance to veterans and their families, and for providing quality care for aging and disabled veterans in the Commonwealth.

⁴ Several bills regarding the establishment of veterans and service member courts (Amend 42 Pa.C.S.) and the development of new judiciary and judicial procedures (Amend 42 Pa.C.S.) were introduced during the 2015-2016 Regular Session and are currently under consideration by the General Assembly (SB517, HB887, HB2406). HB2246 postulates the establishment of Veterans Alternative Punishment Program (Amend 61 Pa.C.S.).

⁵ SB1019 and HB1014, introduced during the 2015-2016 Regular Session, focus on the establishment of the Office of Veterans' Mental Health Awareness, determining its powers and duties and delineating services and programs for veterans suffering from cognitive mental disabilities and emotional trauma (Amend 51 Pa.C.S.). HB1960 outlines establishing the Veteran Suicide Prevention Grant Program, conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and establishing the Veteran Suicide Prevention Fund.

Figure 1

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Expenditures in Pennsylvania
Total \$5.4 Billion
Fiscal Year 2015
(in 000s)



Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. State Summary: Pennsylvania, available at http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/State_Summaries_Pennsylvania.pdf (accessed November 23, 2016).

Table 1

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 State Summary: Pennsylvania
 September 2015

	<u>U.S.</u>	<u>Pennsylvania</u>
<u>Veteran Population</u>		
Male	19,646,000	846,000
Female	2,035,000	71,000
Total	21,681,000	917,000
Age 65 and Over	9,934,000	473,000
<u>Health Care</u>		
Enrollees in VA Health Care System	8,965,923	351,960
Unique Patients Treated	5,958,849	234,347
<u>Benefits</u>		
Veterans Receiving Disability Compensation	4,168,774	116,648
Veterans Receiving Pension	295,078	12,917
Dependency & Indemnity Compensation Beneficiaries	387,375	12,388
Death Pension Beneficiaries	206,376	11,465
<u>Facilities</u>		
Inpatient Care Sites	178	9
Outpatient Care Sites	1,211	47
Vet Centers	300	12
VBA Regional Offices	56	2
National and State Cemeteries	229	5

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. State Summary: Pennsylvania, available at http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/State_Summaries_Pennsylvania.pdf (accessed November 23, 2016).

For the fiscal year 2014, VA listed the number of veterans in Pennsylvania as 939,069, 697,433 of them wartime veterans.⁶ For the fiscal year 2016, the total number of veterans in

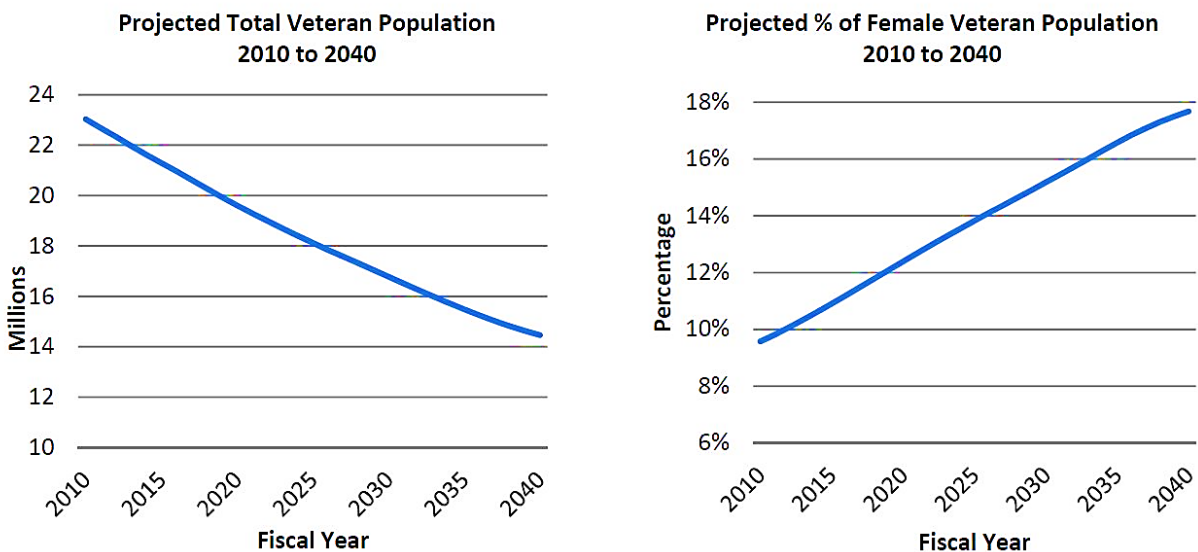
⁶ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. *Veteran Population*, available at http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp (accessed November 22, 2016).

Pennsylvania is 894,681, with 644,634 of those being wartime veterans.⁷ The Gulf War veterans counted 248,082; the Vietnam Era veterans – 296,222, and the Korean Conflict veterans – 78,068.⁸ The number of surviving World War II veterans has (understandably but sadly) been dropping: from 57,784 in 2014 to 39,456 in 2016.⁹

There are over ten times more male than female veterans, with the number of female veterans staying basically the same in the past three years – slightly over 71,000.¹⁰

The data cited above demonstrate a gradual decline in the number of veterans in Pennsylvania: from 939,069 in 2014 to 894,681 in 2016.¹¹ This is consistent with the VA’s general veteran population projections. In its estimate of the changes in the veteran population from 2010 to 2040, the Office of the Actuary of the Department of Veterans Affairs expects the total number of veterans to diminish significantly, with the percentage of female veterans continuously increasing:¹²

Veteran Population Projections: FY2010 to FY2040



Although any projections can provide only a limited level of certainty, it is important for policymakers to be aware of the existing and expected trends while they are planning for services.

⁷ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. *Veteran Population*, available at http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp (accessed November 30, 2016).

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. *Veteran Population*, available at http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp (accessed November 22, 2016).

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. *Veteran Population*, available at http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp (accessed November 30, 2016).

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Office of the Actuary. *Veteran Population Projections: FY2010 to FY2040*, available at http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/QuickFacts/Population_quickfacts.PDF (accessed November 22, 2016).

Understanding the specific veterans' needs and sometimes varying challenges of providing services to particular groups of veteran population is paramount in finding the optimal ways of offering the necessary services when and where they are needed.

A sizeable cohort of the Vietnam War veterans, which is the largest subset of war veterans (approximately, 300,000 during the three-year period¹³), are aging and will require more extensive medical care.

Female veterans, whose population is growing consistently and is expected to keep growing in the future, may have different health, social, and economic needs than their male counterparts. Today, women play an unprecedented role in our armed forces. They serve in roles previously closed to them. Women returning from combat deployment oftentimes face unique challenges, including their physical, mental, and social health; their injuries can impede their readjustment to civilian life in their occupations, their education, and their relationships. It has been observed that female veterans in greater proportion than their male counterparts face homelessness, inadequate health care facilities and services at the Veterans' Administration facilities, military sexual trauma and isolation. In 2015, the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania adopted the resolution urging the Congress of the United States "to expeditiously address the health, social and economic needs of female veterans and honor female veterans with the respect and benefits they deserve."¹⁴

Disabled and blind veterans face formidable challenges and require various kinds of assistance, dependent on their particular needs: from guidance on how to access the benefits they are entitled to, to assistance in getting to medical appointments; from everyday care to housing adjustments, and from financial to emotional support.¹⁵

Rural veterans may have somewhat different needs and face different challenges in getting access to services due to differences between urban and rural communities in demographic composition, social ties and social capital, infrastructure and institutional support. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs identified rural veterans as a population of interest because they constitute a higher percentage of the general population there (about 24 percent of the veteran population resides in rural areas compared to 18.6 percent of the civilian population) and because they represent a comparatively high percentage of the total number of enrollees in the VA health care system (34 percent of the total veteran population in the VA health care system).¹⁶ According to the results of the survey prepared by the VA National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, rural communities had a higher percentage of veterans in the age range of 55 to 74, with

¹³ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. *Veteran Population*, available at http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp (accessed November 22, 2016).

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. *Veteran Population*, available at http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp (accessed November 30, 2016).

¹⁴ Pa. H.R. Res. 264 (Sess. of 2015).

¹⁵ Several bills introduced during the 2015-2016 Regular Session stipulate additional benefits for disabled and blind veterans in the Commonwealth (HB687, SB1167, SB336, SB464, HB2061, HB1502, SB708, SB744, HB495, SB1109).

¹⁶ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. *Characteristics of Rural Veterans: 2014*. Data from the American Community Survey. August 2016, available at http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/Rural_Veterans_ACS2014_FINAL.pdf (accessed August 11, 2016).

over 70 percent of veterans living in rural communities being over the age of 55.¹⁷ The survey also revealed differences in period of service for rural and urban veterans; the most notable among those was the finding that a significantly higher percentage of veterans living in rural communities were from the Vietnam Era compared with urban veterans.¹⁸ A lower percentage of veterans in rural areas were employed and unemployed compared with urban veterans. Rural veterans had a higher percentage of those who were not in the labor force – a fact that the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics interprets as a reflection of the older adult population in rural areas.¹⁹ A higher percentage of veterans residing in rural areas had a service-connected disability rating greater than 70 percent compared with urban veterans.²⁰ Awareness of these differences and of the challenges created by the geographic isolation of rural areas may assist in making arrangements that would allow to meet the rural veterans’ needs more effectively.

Employment Status

According to the report by the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, based largely on the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, in 2014, Pennsylvania had 364,219 veterans between the ages of 18 and 64, which was 4.6 percent of the comparable population in the Commonwealth. Of these, 271,953 were in the labor force, for a participation rate of 74.7 percent; Pennsylvania’s comparable labor force participation rate for those aged 18 to 64 was 72.6 percent.²¹ In 2014, the unemployment rate for veterans was 5.7 percent, compared to the non-veterans’ unemployment rate of 7.0 percent.²² In 2015, the unemployment rate for veterans was 7.3 percent, and Pennsylvania’s comparable unemployment rate was 8.1 percent.²³ The Commonwealth numbers were close to national averages, with labor participation rate for veterans slightly higher and unemployment rate slightly lower in 2014 in Pennsylvania than in the United States in general.²⁴

It is worth noting that labor participation rate was higher and unemployment rate was lower among veterans than in the non-veteran population in Pennsylvania. Assistance with job training and job placement, however, remains an important and ongoing task. The Pennsylvania legislature continuously explores opportunities to assist veterans with job placement and entrepreneurship.²⁵ The Act 135 of October 25, 2016 amends Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide for voluntary veterans’ preference in private employment. It allows private employers to adopt and apply a veterans’ preference employment policy. The Act also amends Title 51 to exempt a veteran-owned and reservist-owned small business from paying

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Center for Workforce Information & Analysis. *Veterans in Pennsylvania*. June 2016, available at http://www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/Documents/Veterans_Packet.pdf (accessed August 11, 2016).

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

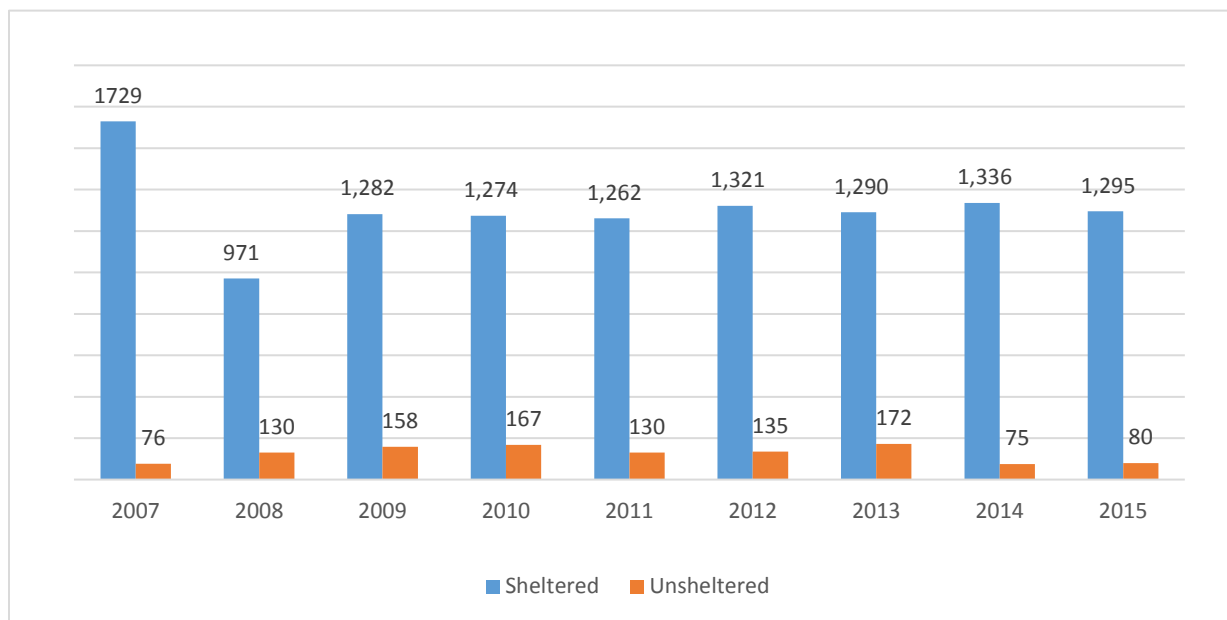
²⁵ Several bills introduced during the 2015-2016 Regular Session seek to promote employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for veterans (HB1678, HB2265, SB1013, SB930).

a business fee, defined as the fee required to be paid for opening or starting a business in the Commonwealth.²⁶

Veteran Homelessness

The latest Point-in-Time (PIT) estimate of homelessness revealed that on a single night in January 2016, in Pennsylvania, 1,136 veterans were experiencing homelessness.²⁷ In 2015, the PIT count in the Commonwealth identified 1,375 veterans experiencing homelessness.²⁸ The number of homeless veterans, thus, keeps decreasing. Since 2007, Pennsylvania has been able to shrink its number of homeless veterans by over a quarter. Between 2013 and 2015, the decrease has been driven by a substantial reduction in unsheltered veterans.

PIT Count of Homeless Veterans in Pennsylvania by Shelter Status²⁹



²⁶ Act 135 of October 25, 2016, amending Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.

²⁷ Henry, Meghan et al. *The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress: Part I: Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, November 2016. P. 54, available at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2016-AHAR-Part-1.pdf> (accessed November 22, 2016).

²⁸ Henry, Meghan et al. *The 2015 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress: Part I – PIT Estimates of Homelessness in the U.S.* Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, November 2015. P. 52, available at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2015-AHAR-Part-1.pdf> (accessed December 27, 2015).

²⁹ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. *2007 – 2015 PIT Data by State*. 2015, available at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/> (accessed February 22, 2016).

In the 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR), Western Pennsylvania Continuum of Care (COC) found its honorable place among COCs with the lowest rates of unsheltered homeless veterans (119, or 0.8 percent) in the nation.³⁰

The current strategy on veteran homelessness involves a multi-faceted approach. It is focused on transitional and permanent housing options but “also provides additional services, such as mental health care, addiction services, and chronic disease management, with the aim of arming newly housed veterans with the tools and support to avoid falling back into homelessness.”³¹

Homeless veterans have more programs and benefits available to them than the general population; however, many veterans also have greater physical and mental health needs than the general homeless population. In addition to mainstream housing programs, there are many programs created specifically to aid veterans who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Universal screenings offered at VA health care services can help veterans be quickly linked to the services and supports they need.³² VA Medical Centers are actively working in partnerships with local community-based organizations and public housing authorities to identify and engage veterans who are experiencing chronic homelessness and helping them connect to the assistance available through VA homeless programs. Under the current federal administration, many of these programs were expanded or received additional funding.

An extensive HUD evaluation of the outcomes of veterans served by the Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Program (VHPD) manifested increase in housing stability, employment and income for participating individuals.³³ The authors of the report concluded that the findings “reflect the significant need for homelessness prevention programs that target veterans specifically, demonstrate that these programs should tailor services to veterans’ specific needs, and further suggest that these veteran-specific adjustments contributed to the success of VHPD.”³⁴

³⁰ Henry, Meghan et al. *The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress: Part I: Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, November 2016. P. 60, available at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2016-AHAR-Part-1.pdf> (accessed November 22, 2016).

³¹ Quigley, Aldan. “US Veteran Homelessness Slashed in Half: What’s Behind the Decline?” *Christian Monitor*. August 1, 2016, available at <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Military/2016/0801/US-veteran-homelessness-slashed-in-half-what’s-behind-the-decline> (accessed August 3, 2016).

³² U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* Washington, D.C.: June 2015. P. 26, available at https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_OpeningDoors_Amendment2015_FINAL.pdf (accessed March 21, 2016).

³³ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research. *Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Evaluation: Final Report*. Washington, DC. November 2015. P. V, available at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/veterans-homelessness-prevention-report.pdf> (accessed December 2, 2016).

³⁴ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research. *Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Evaluation: Final Report*. Washington, DC. November 2015. P. 75, available at <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/veterans-homelessness-prevention-report.pdf> (accessed December 2, 2016).

Pennsylvania cities have found success combining the efforts of county VA offices with federal supportive housing vouchers. Increased outreach to homeless veterans and working with community to combine resources are frequently cited as central components to ending veteran homelessness. Some communities have used volunteers to distribute program information to shelters and locations frequented by homeless veterans. Then a master list of all homeless veterans in the community is created, along with an inventory of available housing stock. Communities also work with landlords to house the veterans and provide vouchers to move veterans into more secure housing. By moving from person to person, the community tries to place each veteran in housing and check up with them periodically.

Pennsylvania's thorough commitment to ending veteran homelessness has been bringing obvious results. The Commonwealth has made noticeable progress to permanently end veteran homelessness. In September 2015, Governor Tom Wolf announced Pennsylvania's participation in a 100-day challenge to serve 550 homeless veterans from the end of September 2015 until the end of January 2016. Pennsylvania exceeded its goal and permanently housed over 900 homeless veterans from the end of September until the end of January.³⁵ Numerous Pennsylvania cities have taken up the Mayors' Challenge to end veteran homelessness in their communities. Participating cities include Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Lancaster, Reading, Erie, Allentown, York, West Chester, and Downingtown.³⁶

A growing number of Pennsylvania cities and counties have already declared an end to veteran homelessness. So far, Berks County, City of Reading, Lancaster City, Lancaster County, Montgomery County, and Philadelphia have all reached functional zero, while Pittsburgh has made significant progress.³⁷ While there still will be veterans in these areas that will experience housing crises in the future, reaching functional zero means there is the capacity and infrastructure in place to house more people than are currently in the system. It is hoped that the successful process used by these communities to end veteran homelessness can be replicated in others.

Locating Programs and Services

Pennsylvania Department of Veterans and Military Affairs has compiled a comprehensive brochure, "Benefits & Services for Veterans and Their Beneficiaries in Pennsylvania" and makes it available on its website: <http://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Documents/Benefits-Booklet.pdf> (accessed December 6, 2016). The publication describes a variety of benefits, clearly explains eligibility requirements, and outlines guidelines for the application process.

³⁵ Pennsylvania Governor's Office. *Governor Wolf Provides Update on Pennsylvania Efforts to End Veterans Homelessness*. March 3, 2016, available at <https://www.governor.pa.gov/governor-wolf-provides-update-on-pennsylvania-efforts-to-end-veterans-homelessness/> (accessed March 21, 2016).

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. *Mayors' Challenge*. http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/veteran_information/mayors_challenge (accessed February 22, 2016).

Governor Wolf has recently updated the listing of services and programs available to Pennsylvania veterans: <http://www.pa.gov/#services>. The new pilot version of the official website of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania allows veterans to browse federal, state, and county benefits available to qualified veterans and their families; apply to live at state veteran extended care facilities; get their Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD 214) and records; apply for the Military Family Relief Assistance and several other programs, and contact a county director.³⁸ Most importantly, the site also contains the PA Veterans Registry, “an online application that allows veterans, family members and people who work with veterans to connect with DMVA to request information related to the valuable state benefits, programs and services offered. All registrants’ information will be shared with County Directors for Veterans Affairs and other Commonwealth of Pennsylvania agencies in order to facilitate local connections. By connecting with DMVA, registrants can also opt-in to receive timely communications such as newsletters, press releases and program updates.”³⁹

PA Veterans Registry is also accessible via the Office of Veterans Affairs site, along with other useful links, a comprehensive list of programs and services and helpful information on reintegration and outreach.⁴⁰

The Governor’s Advisory Council on Veterans Services issued *Resource Directory*, comprehensively listing the programs provided by the executive branch of the Commonwealth: <http://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Documents/Resource-Directory.pdf> (accessed August 25, 2016).

The Legislative Reference Bureau prepared a document *Pennsylvania Laws Relating to Veterans*. This is available from any member of the Pennsylvania Senate or House of Representatives.

The list of County Directors of Veterans’ Affairs, with their contact information, for all Pennsylvania counties, is presented in Appendix B.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ website, <https://www.va.gov/>, remains a valuable resource for veterans exploring their benefits nationwide.

³⁸ PA.GOV: The Official Website for the State of Pennsylvania. *Services: Veterans*, available at <http://www.pa.gov> (accessed December 6, 2016).

³⁹ PA.GOV: The Official Website for the State of Pennsylvania. *Services: Veterans*, available at <http://www.pa.gov> (accessed December 6, 2016).

⁴⁰ Veterans Affairs, available at <http://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Pages/default.aspx#.VzU1OBUrKfc> (accessed December 6, 2016).

FEDERAL BENEFITS

The summary in this chapter of federal benefits for veterans, dependents, and survivors is based on material supplied by the Veterans Benefit Administration of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Further details may be found at its website: <http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/>. This chapter gives a list of the federal benefits and programs; it is not intended to substitute for the VA website or for the applicable law and regulations, which may crucially effect eligibility, benefit amounts, and other important features. Among other things, enrollment procedures are not included.

FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS, DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS

Health

VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system with more than 1,700 sites of care, including hospitals, community clinics, community living centers, domiciliaries, Vet Centers, and various other facilities. For additional information on VA health care, visit www.va.gov/health.

Basic Eligibility

A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for VA health care benefits. Reservists and National Guard members may also qualify for VA health care benefits if they were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a Federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty.

Minimum Duty Requirements: Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981, must generally have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible.

During enrollment, each veteran is assigned to a priority group. VA uses priority groups to balance demand for VA health care enrollment with resources. Changes in available resources may reduce the number of priority groups VA can enroll. If this occurs, VA will publicize the changes and notify affected enrollees.

Recently Discharged Combat Veterans

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

Special Access to Care

Service-disabled veterans who are rated by VA as 50 percent or more disabled from service-connected conditions, unemployable due to service-connected conditions, or receiving care for a service-connected disability receive priority in scheduling of hospital or outpatient medical appointments.

Women Veterans

Women veterans are eligible for the same VA benefits as male veterans. Comprehensive health services are available to women veterans including primary care, specialty care, mental health care, residential treatment and reproductive health care services. VA provides management of acute and chronic illnesses, preventive care, contraceptive and gynecology services, menopause management, and cancer screenings, including pap smears and mammograms. Maternity care is covered in the Medical Benefits package.

VA covers the costs of care for newborn children of women veterans for seven days after birth. Infertility evaluation and limited treatments are also available. Women Veterans Program Managers are available at all VA facilities to assist women veterans in their health care and benefits. For more information, visit www.womenshealth.va.gov/.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Veterans

LGBT veterans are eligible for the same VA benefits as any other veteran and will be treated in a welcoming environment. Comprehensive health services are available to LGBT veterans including primary care, specialty care, mental health care, residential treatment and reproductive health care services. VA provides management of acute and chronic illnesses, preventive care, contraceptive and gynecology services, menopause management, and cancer screenings.

Transgender veterans will be treated based upon their self-identified gender, including room assignments in residential and inpatient settings. Eligible transgender veterans can receive cross-sex hormone therapy, gender dysphoria counseling, preoperative evaluations, as well as post-operative and long-term care following sex reassignment surgeries.

Same-Sex Couples: VA launched a new website to inform veterans and beneficiaries of the recent changes in the law and procedures involving same-sex marriages. Veterans can learn more about VA's guidance regarding same-sex marriages at www.va.gov/opa/marriage/ or by reaching out to VA call centers at 1-800-827-1000.

Military Sexual Trauma

Military sexual trauma (MST) refers to sexual assault or repeated, threatening sexual harassment that occurred while a veteran was serving on active duty (or active duty for training if the service was in the National Guard or Reserves). VA health care professionals provide counseling and treatment to help veterans overcome health issues related to MST. Veterans who are not otherwise eligible for VA health care may still receive these services. For additional information visit www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp.

Presumptive Eligibility for Psychosis and Other Mental Illness

Certain veterans who experienced psychosis within a specified time frame are to have their psychosis presumed to be service-connected for purposes of VA medical benefits. In addition, VA will presume that Persian Gulf War veterans are service-connected for purposes of VA medical benefits if such veterans develop mental illness other than psychosis within two years after discharge or release from service and before the end of the 2-year period beginning on the last day of the Persian Gulf War. Under this authority veterans who are not otherwise eligible for VA health care and meet the description stated can receive treatment only for psychosis or mental illness and other conditions directly related to psychosis or mental illness at no cost.

Eligibility for benefits is established for treatment of an active mental illness (other than psychosis) within two years after discharge or release from the active duty military, naval, or air service; and before the end of the two-year period beginning on the last day of the Persian Gulf War (end date not yet determined).

Spinal Cord Injury or Disorder

There are 24 VA-operated Spinal Cord Injury Centers (SCI) that provide comprehensive services for veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D). There are five SCI centers that provide long-term care for veterans with SCI/D. In VA facilities that do not have SCI centers, there is a designated team to address primary care needs for veterans with SCI/D and to make referrals to SCI Centers. For more information about SCI/D care and the eligibility requirements for the above benefits and services, contact your local VA SCI/D Center and/or visit www.sci.va.gov.

OEF/OIF/OND Care Management

Each VA medical center has an Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) Care Management team in place to coordinate patient care activities and ensure that servicemembers and veterans are receiving patient-centered, integrated care and benefits. More information for connecting with OEF/OIF/OND Care Management teams can be found at www.oefoif.va.gov.

Affordable Care Act

The Affordable Care Act was created to expand access to affordable health care coverage, lower costs, and improve quality and care coordination. Under the law, people must have health coverage that meets a minimum standard (called minimum essential coverage), unless they qualify for an exemption, or else pay a fee when filing their taxes if they have affordable options but remain uninsured. For additional information about the VA and the health care law, visit www.va.gov/aca or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Disability Compensation

Disability Compensation for Service-Connected Disabilities

Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are determined by VA to be disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. To be eligible for compensation, the veteran must have been separated or discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Monthly disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of eligible dependents. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation (SMC). Disability compensation benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax.

The payment of military retirement pay, disability severance pay and separation incentive payments, known as Special Separation Benefit (SSB) and Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI), may affect the amount of VA compensation paid to disabled veterans. For additional details on types of disability claims and how to apply, go to www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/ or apply online at www.ebenefits.va.gov/.

Veterans with disability ratings of at least 30 percent are eligible for additional allowances for some classes of dependents. The additional amount depends on the disability rating and the number of dependents.

Additional Benefits for Eligible Military Retirees Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) is a U.S. Department of Defense program that allows some individuals to receive both military retired pay and VA disability compensation. For veterans who retired due to disability with 20 or more qualifying years, CRDP is subject to an offset for the difference between retired pay based on disability and retired pay based on longevity.

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) is a U.S. Department of Defense program that provides a tax-free monthly payment to eligible retired veterans with combat-related disabilities. CRSC, in effect, restores retired pay lost due to VA disability compensation offset. For veterans who retired due to disability, CRSC is subject to an offset for the difference between retired pay based on disability and retired pay based on years of service.

Disabilities related to in-service exposure to hazards (e.g., Agent Orange, Gulf War illnesses, radiation exposure) for which VA awards compensation are considered combat-related for CRSC purposes. However, veterans still must apply to their branch of service for a combat-related determination. For more information, visit www.defense.gov, or call the toll-free phone number for the veteran's branch of service:

- **Army: 1-866-281-3254**, www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/CRSC, or e-mail at usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-crsc-claims@mail.mil
- **Air Force: 1-800-525-0102**, www.afpc.af.mil/library/combat.asp or email at AFPC.DPPDC.AFCRSC@RANDOLPH.AF.MIL
- **Navy or Marine Corps: 1-877-366-2772**, www.public.navy.mil/asnmra/corb/CRSCB/Pages/CRSCB%20main%20page.aspx or email at crsc@navy.mil
- **Coast Guard: 1-703-872-6626**, www.uscg.mil/adm1/crsc.asp

Disability Compensation for Presumptive Conditions

Certain chronic diseases (for example, multiple sclerosis, diabetes mellitus, and arthritis) and tropical diseases may be service connected if the disease becomes at least 10 percent disabling within the applicable time limit following service. For a comprehensive list of these chronic diseases, see 38 CFR 3.309; for applicable time limits, see 38 CFR 3.307.

Veterans who develop Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, at any time after separation from service may be eligible for compensation for that disability. To be eligible, the veteran must have served a minimum of 90 consecutive days of active service.

Prisoners of War. For former prisoners of war (POWs) who were imprisoned for any length of time, VA presumes certain disabilities to be service connected if they become at least 10 percent disabling any time after military service. For former POWs who were imprisoned for at least 30 days, a list of other conditions are also presumed to be service connected.

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

Exposure to Radiation. For veterans who participated in radiation risk activities as defined in VA regulations while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, certain conditions are presumed to be service connected.

Other Conditions or Exposures

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

Gulf War Veterans with Chronic Disabilities

Some veterans may receive disability compensation for chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses and/or medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms. A disability is considered chronic if it has existed for at least six months. The undiagnosed illness must have appeared either during active service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War period of August 2, 1990, to July 31, 1991, or to a degree of at least 10 percent at any time since then through December 31, 2016.

Housing Grants for Disabled Veterans

Certain servicemembers and veterans with service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a housing grant from VA to help build a new specially adapted house, to adapt a home they already own, or buy a house and modify it to meet their disability-related requirements.

Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant: VA may approve a grant of not more than 50 percent of the cost of building, buying, or adapting existing homes or paying to reduce indebtedness on a currently owned home that is being adapted. Veterans and servicemembers must be determined eligible to receive compensation for permanent and total service-connected disability due to designated disability criteria.

Special Home Adaptation (SHA) Grant. VA may approve a benefit amount for the cost of necessary adaptations to an eligible servicemember's or veteran's residence or to help him or her acquire a residence already adapted with special features for the disability, to purchase and adapt a home, or for adaptations to a family member's home in which they will reside.

Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA). Eligible veterans and servicemembers who are temporarily residing in a home owned by a family member may also receive a TRA grant to help the veteran or servicemember adapt the family member's home to meet his or her special needs. For more information on SAH, visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/sah.asp.

Supplemental Financing. Veterans and servicemembers with available loan guaranty entitlement may also obtain a guaranteed loan or a direct loan from VA to supplement the grant to acquire a specially adapted home. Additional information about the Specially Adapted Housing Program is available at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/sah.asp>.

Automobile Allowance

As of October 1, 2013, veterans and servicemembers may be eligible for a one-time payment toward the purchase of an automobile or other conveyance if they have service-connected loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands or feet, or permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a certain degree. They may also be eligible for adaptive equipment, and for repair, replacement, or reinstallation required because of disability or for the safe operation of a vehicle purchased with VA assistance. To apply, contact a VA regional office at 1-800-827-1000 or the nearest VA health care facility.

Clothing Allowance

Any veteran who has service-connected disabilities that require a prosthetic or orthopedic appliances may receive a clothing allowance. This allowance is also available to any veteran whose service-connected skin condition requires prescribed medication that irreparably damages outer garments. To apply, contact the prosthetic representative at the nearest VA medical center.

Allowance for Aid and Attendance or Housebound Veterans

A veteran who is determined by VA to be in need of the regular aid and attendance of another person, or a veteran who is permanently housebound, may be entitled to additional disability compensation or pension payments. A veteran evaluated at 30 percent or more disabled is entitled to receive an additional payment for a spouse who is in need of the aid and attendance of another person.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E), sometimes referred to as the Chapter 31 program, provides services to eligible servicemembers and veterans with service-connected disabilities to help them prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment or achieve independence in daily living. Additional information on VR&E benefits is available at www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab.

Eligibility for Veterans

A veteran must have a VA service-connected disability rating of at least 20 percent with an employment handicap, or 10 percent with a serious employment handicap, and be discharged or released from military service under other than dishonorable conditions.

Eligibility for Servicemembers

Servicemembers are eligible to apply if they expect to receive an honorable discharge upon separation from active duty, obtain a rating of 20 percent or more from VA, obtain a proposed Disability Evaluation System (DES) rating of 20 percent or more from VA, or obtain a referral to a Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES).

Entitlement

A Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) works with the veteran to determine if an employment handicap exists. An employment handicap exists if a veteran's service-connected disability impairs his or her ability to prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable career employment. After an entitlement decision is made, the veteran and VRC work together to develop a rehabilitation plan. The rehabilitation plan outlines the rehabilitation services to be provided.

Services

Based on their individualized needs, veterans work with a VRC to select one of five tracks to employment. The Five Tracks to Employment provide greater emphasis on exploring employment options early in the rehabilitation planning process, greater informed choice for the Veteran regarding occupational and employment options, faster access to employment for veterans who have identifiable and transferable skills for direct placement into suitable employment, and an option for veterans who are not able to work, but need assistance to lead a more independent life. If a program of training is selected, VA pays the cost of the approved training and services (except those coordinated through other providers) that are included in an individual's rehabilitation plan, including subsistence allowance.

Length of a Rehabilitation Program

The basic period of eligibility in which VR&E benefits may be used is 12 years from the later of a veteran's date of separation from active military service, or the date VA first notified a veteran that he or she has a compensable service-connected disability. Depending on the length of program needed, veterans may be provided up to 48 months of full-time services or the part-time equivalent. Rehabilitation plans that only provide services to improve independence in daily living are limited to 30 months. These limitations may be extended in certain circumstances.

Subsistence Allowance

In some cases, a veteran may require additional education or training to become employable. A subsistence allowance is paid each month during training and is based on the rate of attendance (full-time or part-time), the number of dependents, and the type of training.

Veterans who are eligible for both VR&E services and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits may elect a special subsistence allowance that is based on the monthly basic allowance for housing paid to active duty military. Active-duty servicemembers are not eligible for subsistence allowance until after release from active duty.

Employment Services

VR&E staff assists veterans and servicemembers with achieving their employment goals by providing job development and placement services, which include on-the-job training, job-seeking skills, resume development, interviewing skills and direct placement. VR&E has partnerships with federal, state and private agencies to provide direct placement of veterans or servicemembers. VR&E can assist with placement using the following resources:

On the Job Training (OJT) Program. Employers hire veterans at an apprentice wage, and VR&E supplements the salary up the journeyman wage (up to maximum). VR&E will also pay for any necessary tools. Employers are eligible for a federal tax credit for hiring an individual who participated in a vocational rehabilitation program.

Non-Paid Work Experience (NPWE). The NPWE program provides eligible veterans the opportunity to obtain training and practical job experience concurrently. This program is ideal for veterans or servicemembers who have a clearly established career goal, and who learn easily in a hands-on environment. This program is also well suited for veterans who are having difficulties obtaining employment due to lack of work experience. The NPWE program may be established in federal, state, or local (i.e. city, town, school district) government agencies only. The employer may hire the veteran at any point during the NPWE.

Special Employer Incentive (SEI). The SEI program is for eligible Veterans who face challenges in obtaining employment. Veterans approved to participate in the SEI program are hired by participating employers, and employment is expected to continue following successful completion of the program. If approved, the employer will receive reimbursement for up to 50 percent of the veteran's salary during the SEI program, which can last up to six months.

Veterans Employment Center. This is the federal government's single authoritative online source for connecting transitioning servicemembers, veterans, and military families with meaningful career opportunities with both public and private-sector employers. Job seekers can use the site to translate their military skills into civilian skills that employers can understand, post a public resume that is searchable by employers, and conduct a job search for both public and private-sector positions. Employers can use the site to post job opportunities, search verified resumes, make public commitments to hire veterans, and obtain additional hiring and employment resources.

VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC)

The VSOC program is designed to assist veterans as they make the transition to college life. Through the VSOC program, VR&E is strengthening partnerships with institutions of higher learning and creating opportunities to help veterans achieve success by providing outreach and transition services to the general veteran population during their transition from military to college life. VSOC is provided at a large number of educational institutions.

The VSOC program provides a VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor assigned to each VSOC school to provide vocational testing and career, academic, and readjustment counseling services, and a VA Vet Center Outreach Coordinator, collocated on many campuses, to provide peer-to-peer counseling and referral services.

VSOC counselors ensure that veterans receive the support and assistance needed to pursue their educational and employment goals. Because the VSOC counselors are easily accessible on campuses, they help resolve any problems that could potentially interfere with a veteran's educational program, to include assisting with disability requirements. If needed, they can also provide referrals for health services through VA Medical Centers, Community-Based Outpatient Clinics, or Vet Centers.

Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

VR&E is providing earlier access to VR&E benefits to wounded, ill or injured servicemembers pending a medical separation from military service. VRCs are assigned to military installations hosting an IDES site and provide VR&E services to assist servicemembers in the transition from active-duty to entering the labor market in viable careers. servicemembers receive services ranging from a comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation to determine abilities, skills and interests for employment purposes; entry into training programs; and case management and support to become job ready and employed.

Pensions

VA Pensions Eligibility for Veterans Pension

Low-income wartime veterans may qualify for a pension or pension benefits if they meet certain service, income and net worth limits set by law; are age 65 or older; are permanently and totally disabled, or a patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care; or receiving Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income. Generally, a veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a VA recognized wartime period. The veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable, and the disability must be for reasons other than the veteran's own willful misconduct. Payments are made to bring the veteran's total income, including other retirement or Social Security income, to a level set by Congress. Additional information can be found in the Pension Benefits section at www.benefits.va.gov/pension.

Protected Pension

Pension beneficiaries who were receiving a VA pension on December 31, 1978, and do not wish to elect the Improved Pension, will continue to receive the pension rate received on that date. This rate generally continues as long as the beneficiary's income remains within established limits, or net worth does not bar payment, and the beneficiary does not lose any dependents. Beneficiaries must continue to meet basic eligibility factors, such as permanent and total disability for veterans. VA may adjust rates for other reasons, such as a veteran's hospitalization in a VA facility.

Medal of Honor Pension

VA administers a pension benefit to recipients of the Medal of Honor. This entitlement is not based on income level or need.

Veterans Pension

Congress establishes the maximum annual Veterans Pension rates. Payments are reduced by the amount of countable income of the veteran, spouse, and dependent children. When a veteran without a spouse or a child is furnished nursing home or domiciliary care by VA, the pension is generally reduced to an amount not to exceed \$90 per month after three calendar months of care.

Aid and Attendance or Housebound Benefits (Special Monthly Pension)

Veterans and surviving spouses who are eligible for VA pensions are eligible for higher maximum pension rates if they qualify for aid and attendance or housebound benefits. An eligible individual may qualify if he or she requires the regular aid of another person in order to perform

personal functions required in everyday living, or is bedridden, a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, blind, or permanently and substantially confined to his or her immediate premises because of a disability.

Veterans and surviving spouses who are ineligible for basic pension based on excessive annual income may still be eligible for special monthly pension (SMP) if they require the aid and attendance of another in performing their daily functions, or if they are housebound due to a nonservice-connected condition as a higher income limit applies to SMP entitlement. Unreimbursed medical expenses for nursing home or home-health care may be used to reduce countable annual income.

VA also pays a special \$90 monthly rate to pension-eligible veterans or surviving spouses with no dependents who receive Medicaid-covered nursing home care.

Education and Training

This section provides a summary of VA educational and training benefits. Additional information can be found at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/ or by calling 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).

Specific information detailing how the program is implemented in Pennsylvania is presented in a separate chapter of this report.

Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is an education benefit program for servicemembers and veterans who served on active duty after September 10, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. No payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

To be eligible, the servicemember or veteran must serve at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001, and remain on active duty or be honorably discharged. Active duty includes active certain services performed by National Guard members. Veterans may also be eligible if they were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001. Generally, servicemembers or veterans may receive up to 36 months of entitlement under the Bill.

Eligibility for benefits expires 15 years from the last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days. If released for a service-connected disability after at least 30 days of continuous service, eligibility ends 15 years from when the member is released for the service-connected disability. If, on August 1, 2009, the servicemember or veteran is eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill; the Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve; or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program,

and qualifies for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, an irrevocable election must be made to receive benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. In most instances, once the election to receive benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill is made, the individual will no longer be eligible to receive benefits under the relinquished program. Approved training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, vocational/technical training, on-the-job training, flight training, correspondence training, licensing and national testing programs, and tutorial assistance.

Individuals serving an aggregate period of active duty after Sept. 10, 2001, can receive percentages of the full benefit based on length of service.

The Yellow Ribbon GI Bill Education Enhancement Program

This program may assist eligible individuals with payment of their tuition and fees where costs exceed the in-state tuition charges at a public institution or the national maximum payable at private and foreign institutions. To be eligible, the student must be

- a veteran receiving benefits at the 100-percent benefit rate payable;
- a transfer-of-entitlement-eligible dependent child; or
- a transfer-of-entitlement-eligible spouse of a veteran.

Transfer of Entitlement

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) may offer members of the armed forces on or after August 1, 2009, the opportunity to transfer benefits to a spouse or dependent children. Members of the armed forces approved for transfer of entitlement may only transfer any unused portion of their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits while a member of the armed forces, subject to their period of eligibility.

Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

This scholarship entitles children of those who die in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, to use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. Eligible children are entitled to 36 months of benefits at the 100 percent level, have 15 years to use the benefit beginning on their 18th birthday, but are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon Program.

VetSuccess on Campus

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

Montgomery GI Bill

VA educational benefits may be used while the servicemember is on active duty or after the servicemember's separation from active duty with a fully honorable military discharge. Eligibility generally expires 10 years after the servicemember's discharge. All participants must have a high school diploma, equivalency certificate, or have completed 12 hours toward a college degree before applying for benefits.

Previously, servicemembers had to meet the high school requirement before they completed their initial active duty obligation. Those who did not may now meet the requirement and reapply for benefits. If eligible, they must use their benefits within 10 years from the date of last discharge from active duty. Additional eligibility criteria apply.

Payments

Effective October 1, 2013, the rate for full-time training in college, technical or vocational school is \$1,648 a month for those who served three years or more or two years plus four years in the Selected Reserve. For those who served less than three years, the monthly rate is \$1,339.

Benefits are reduced for part-time training. Payments for other types of training follow different rules. VA will pay an additional amount, called a "kicker" or "college fund," if directed by DoD. Visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill for more information. The maximum number of months veterans can receive payments is 36 months at the full-time rate or the part-time equivalent.

The following groups qualify for the maximum:

- veterans who served the required length of active duty,
- veterans with an obligation of three years or more who were separated early for the convenience of the government and served 30 continuous months, and
- veterans with an obligation of less than three years who were separated early for the convenience of the government and served 20 continuous months.

Work-Study Program

Participants who train at the three-quarter or full-time rate may be eligible for a work-study program in which they work for VA and receive hourly wages. Students under the work-study program must be supervised by a VA employee, and all duties performed must relate to VA.

Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)

Active duty personnel could participate in the VEAP if they entered active duty for the first time after December 31, 1976, and before July 1, 1985, and made a contribution prior to April 1, 1987. The maximum contribution is \$2,700. Active duty participants may make a lump-sum contribution to their VEAP account. For more information, visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/. Servicemembers must receive a discharge under conditions other than dishonorable for the qualifying period of service. Servicemembers who enlisted for the first time after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty as an officer or enlistee after October 16, 1981, must have completed 24 continuous months of active duty, unless they meet a qualifying exception. Eligibility generally expires 10 years from release from active duty, but can be extended under special circumstances.

Payments

DoD matches contributions at the rate of \$2 for every \$1 put into the fund and may make additional contributions, or “kickers,” as necessary. For training in college, vocational or technical schools, the payment amount depends on the type and hours of training pursued. The maximum amount is \$300 a month for full-time training.

Training, Work-Study, and Counseling

VEAP participants may receive the same training, work-study benefits and counseling as provided under the Montgomery GI Bill with the exception of preparatory courses.

Home Loan Guaranty

VA home loan guaranties are issued to help eligible servicemembers, veterans, reservists, National Guard members, and certain surviving spouses obtain homes, condominiums, and manufactured homes, and to refinance loans. For additional information or to obtain VA loan guaranty forms, visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/.

Loan Uses

A VA guaranty helps protect lenders from loss if the borrower fails to repay the loan. It can be used to obtain a loan to:

- buy or build a home;
- buy a residential condominium unit;
- repair, alter, or improve a residence owned by the veteran and occupied as a home;
- refinance an existing home loan;

- buy a manufactured home or lot; or
- install a solar heating or cooling system or other energy-efficient improvements.

Eligibility

In addition to the period of eligibility and conditions of service requirements, applicants must have a good credit rating, sufficient income, a valid Certificate of Eligibility (COE), and agree to live in the property in order to be approved by a lender for a VA home loan. Lenders can apply for a COE online through the Veterans Information Portal (vip.vba.va.gov/portal/VBAH/Home). Active duty servicemembers and veterans can also apply online at <http://www.ebenefits.va.gov>. Although it's preferable to apply electronically, it is possible to apply for a COE using VA Form 26-1880, Request for Certificate of Eligibility. Surviving spouses of veterans who died from nonservice-connected causes may also be eligible if certain conditions are met.

Under the Home Loan Guaranty Program, VA does not make loans to veterans and servicemembers; VA guarantees loans made by private-sector lenders. The guaranty amount is what VA could pay a lender should the loan go to foreclosure.

VA does not impose a maximum loan amount that a veteran may borrow to purchase a home; instead, the law directs the maximum amount that VA may guarantee on a home loan. Because most VA loans are pooled in mortgage securities that require a 25 percent guaranty, the effective no-down-payment loan limit on VA loans tends to be four times VA's maximum guaranty amount. Loans for more than the effective no-down-payment loan limit generally require down payments. An eligible borrower can use a VA-guaranteed Interest Rate Reduction Refinancing Loan to refinance an existing VA loan to lower the interest rate and payment.

An eligible borrower who wishes to obtain a VA-guaranteed loan to purchase a manufactured home or lot can borrow up to 95 percent of the home's purchase price. The amount VA will guarantee on a manufactured home loan is 40 percent of the loan amount or the veteran's available entitlement, up to a maximum amount of \$20,000. These provisions apply only to a manufactured home that will not be placed on a permanent foundation.

VA Appraisals

No loan can be guaranteed by VA without first being appraised by a VA-assigned fee appraiser. The veteran borrower typically pays for the appraisal upon completion, according to a fee schedule approved by VA. This VA appraisal estimates the value of the property. It is not an inspection and does not guarantee the house is free of defects. VA guarantees the loan, not the condition of the property.

Closing Costs

For purchase home loans, payment in cash is required on all closing costs, including title search and recording fees, hazard insurance premiums and prepaid taxes. For refinancing loans, all such costs may be included in the loan, as long as the total loan does not exceed the reasonable value of the property. Interest rate reduction loans may include closing costs, including a maximum of two discount points.

VA Funding Fees

A funding fee must be paid to VA unless the veteran is exempt from such a fee. The fee may be paid in cash or included in the loan. Closing costs such as VA appraisal, credit report, loan processing fee, title search, title insurance, recording fees, transfer taxes, survey charges, or hazard insurance may not be included for purchase home loans. All veterans are generally charged a VA funding fee. The VA funding fee and up to \$6,000 of energy-efficient improvements can be included in VA loans, but no other fees, charges, or discount points may be included in the loan amount for regular purchase or construction loans. For refinancing loans, most closing costs may be included in the loan amount.

Required Occupancy

To qualify for a VA home loan, a veteran or the spouse of an active-duty servicemember must certify that he or she intends to occupy the home. A dependent child of an active-duty servicemember also satisfies the occupancy requirement.

Financing, Interest Rates, and Terms

Veterans obtain VA-guaranteed loans through the usual lending institutions, including banks, credit unions, and mortgage brokers. VA-guaranteed loans can have either a fixed interest rate or an adjustable rate. VA does not set the interest rate. Interest rates are negotiable between the lender and borrower on all loan types. Currently, on adjustable rate loans, annual adjustments may be up to two percentage points and six percent over the life of the loan. The term of the loan may be for as long as 30 years and 32 days.

Loan Assumption

VA loans made on or after March 1, 1988, are not assumable without the prior approval of VA or its authorized agent (usually the lender collecting the monthly payments). To approve the assumption, the lender must ensure that the purchaser is a satisfactory credit risk and will assume all of the veteran's liabilities on the loan. If approved, the purchaser will have to pay a funding fee that the lender sends to VA, and the veteran will be released from liability to the federal

government. Veterans whose loans were closed after December 31, 1989, usually have no liability to the government following a foreclosure.

VA Assistance to Veterans in Default

VA urges all veterans who encounter problems making their mortgage payments to speak with their mortgage lender/servicer as soon as possible to explore options to avoid foreclosure.

Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA). Veteran borrowers may be able to request relief pursuant to SCRA. In order to qualify for certain protections available under the act, their obligation must have originated prior to their current period of active military service. SCRA may provide a lower interest rate during military service and for up to one year after service ends, provide forbearance, or prevent foreclosure or eviction up to nine months from the end of the period of military service.

Assistance to Veterans with VA-Guaranteed Home Loans. When a VA-guaranteed home loan becomes delinquent, VA may provide supplemental servicing assistance to help cure the default. In cases where the mortgage holder is unable to help the veteran borrower, VA has loan technicians in eight Regional Loan Centers who take an active role in interceding with the mortgage servicer to explore all options to avoid foreclosure. Veterans with VA-guaranteed home loans can call 1-877-827-3702 to reach a loan specialist.

VA Acquired Property Sales

VA acquires properties as a result of foreclosures of VA-guaranteed and VA-owned loans. A private contractor is currently marketing the acquired properties through listing agents using local Multiple Listing Services. A listing of “VA Properties for Sale” may be found at <http://listings.vrmco.com/>. Contact a real estate agent for information on purchasing a VA-acquired property.

Preventing Veteran Homelessness

Veterans who feel they may be facing homelessness as a result of losing their home can call 1-877-4AID VET (877-424-3838) or go to <http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/index.asp> to receive assistance from VA.

Assistance to Veterans with Non-VA Guaranteed Home Loans

For veterans or servicemembers who have a non-VA-guaranteed or sub-prime loan, VA has a network of Regional Loan Centers that can offer advice and guidance. Borrowers may visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/, or call toll free 1-877-827-3702 to speak with a VA loan

technician. However, unlike when a veteran has a VA-guaranteed home loan, VA does not have the authority to intervene on the borrower's behalf.

Some veterans with non-VA guaranteed home loans may refinance to a VA-guaranteed home loan under the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. Veterans who wish to refinance their subprime or conventional mortgage may now do so for up to 100 percent of value of the property.

The maximum loan guaranty for these types of refinancing loans were raised from \$144,000 to \$417,000. High-cost counties have even higher maximum loan limits. VA county loan limits can be found at www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/.

If VA is not able to help a veteran borrower retain his or her home (whether a VA-guaranteed loan or not), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) offers assistance to homeowners by sponsoring local housing counseling agencies. To find an approved agency in your area, please search online at www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/sfh/hcc/hcs.cfm, or call HUD's interactive voice system at (800) 569-4287.

Loans for Native American Veterans

Eligible Native American veterans can obtain a loan from VA to purchase, construct, or improve a home on federal Trust Land, or to reduce the interest rate on such a VA loan, if a memorandum of understanding exists between the tribal organization and VA. Veterans who are not Native American, but who are married to Native American non-veterans, may be eligible for a direct loan under this program.

Loan Safeguards

The following safeguards have been established to protect veterans:

- VA may suspend from the loan program those who take unfair advantage of veterans or discriminate because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, family status, or national origin.
- The builder of a new home is required to give the purchasing veteran either a one-year warranty or a 10-year insurance-backed protection plan.
- The veteran obtaining a loan may only be charged closing costs allowed by VA.
- The veteran can prepay without penalty the entire loan or any part not less than one installment or \$100.
- VA encourages holders to extend forbearance if a veteran becomes temporarily unable to meet the terms of the loan.

Life Insurance and Death Benefits

For complete details on government life insurance, visit www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/ or call VA's Insurance Center toll-free at 1-800-669-8477. Specialists are available to discuss premium payments, insurance dividends, address changes, policy loans, naming beneficiaries, reporting the death of the insured, and other insurance issues.

For information about Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, Veterans' Group Life Insurance, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection, or Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Family Coverage, visit the website above or call the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance directly at 1-800-419-1473.

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)

The following are automatically insured for \$400,000 under SGLI:

- active duty members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard;
- commissioned members of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Public Health Service (PHS);
- cadets or midshipmen of the U.S. military academies;
- members, cadets and midshipmen of the ROTC while engaged in authorized training and practice cruises;
- members of the Ready Reserves/National Guard who are scheduled to perform at least 12 periods of inactive training per year;
- members who volunteer for a mobilization category in the Individual Ready Reserve.

Full-time servicemembers and eligible Reservists and National Guard members on active duty are covered 24/7, 365 days of the year. Part-time coverage may be provided for Reservists or National Guard members who do not qualify for the full-time coverage described above.

SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI)

TSGLI provides for payment traumatically injured servicemembers who have suffered certain physical losses. The TSGLI benefit ranges between \$25,000 and \$100,000 depending on the loss. TSGLI helps servicemembers by allowing their families to be with them during their recovery or by helping with other expenses incurred during their recovery period.

One dollar is added to the servicemember's SGLI premium to cover TSGLI. Currently, all servicemembers who are covered by SGLI are automatically also covered by TSGLI. TSGLI cannot be declined unless the servicemember also declines basic SGLI. TSGLI claims are adjudicated by the individual military branches of service. Retroactive TSGLI coverage applies to servicemembers who sustained a qualifying loss between October 7, 2001, and November 30,

2005, regardless of where it occurred. TSGLI coverage is payable to these servicemembers regardless of whether they had SGLI coverage in force at the time of their injury.

For more information and branch of service contact information, visit www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/tsgli.asp, or call

- 1-800-237-1336 (Army);
- 1-800-368-3202 (Navy);
- 1-877-216-0825 (Marine Corps);
- 1-800-433-0048 (Active Duty Air Force);
- 1-800-525-0102 (Air Force Reserves);
- 1-240-612-9140 (Air National Guard);
- 1-703-872-6647 (U.S. Coast Guard);
- 1-301-427-3280 (PHS); or
- 1-301-713-3444 (NOAA).

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Family Coverage (FSGLI)

Coverage consists of spousal coverage and dependent child coverage. FSGLI provides up to \$100,000 of life insurance coverage for spouses of servicemembers with full-time SGLI coverage, not to exceed the amount of SGLI the member has in force. Premiums for spouse coverage are based on the age of the spouse and the amount of FSGLI coverage. FSGLI is a servicemembers' benefit; the member pays the premium and is the only person allowed to be the beneficiary of the coverage. FSGLI spousal coverage ends 120 days after certain events. The insured spouse may convert his or her FSGLI coverage to a permanent policy offered by participating private insurers within 120 days of the date of any of the termination events. FSGLI dependent coverage of \$10,000 is also automatically provided for dependent children of servicemembers insured under SGLI, with no premium required.

Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)

SGLI may be converted to VGLI, which provides renewable term coverage to:

- veterans who had full-time SGLI coverage upon separation from active duty or the Reserves;
- members of the Ready Reserves/National Guard with part-time SGLI coverage who incur a disability or aggravate a pre-existing disability during a period of active duty or a period of inactive duty for less than 31 days that renders them uninsurable at standard premium rates;
- members of the Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard.

Servicemembers must apply for VGLI within one year and 120 days from separation. The initial VGLI coverage available is equal to the amount of SGLI coverage at the time of separation from service. VGLI insureds who are under age 60 and have less than \$400,000 in coverage can purchase up to \$25,000 of additional coverage on each five-year anniversary of their coverage, up to the maximum \$400,000.

Servicemembers who are totally disabled or who have certain medical conditions at the time of separation can apply for the SGLI Disability Extension, which provides free coverage for up to two years from the date of separation. Those covered under the SGLI Disability Extension are automatically converted to VGLI at the end of their extension period, subject to the payment of premiums. VGLI is convertible at any time to a permanent plan policy with any participating commercial insurance company.

Accelerated Death Benefits

Like many private life insurance companies, the SGLI, FSGLI and VGLI programs offer an accelerated benefits option to terminally ill insured members. An insured member is considered to be terminally ill if he or she has a written medical prognosis of nine months or less to live. All terminally ill members are eligible to receive up to 50 percent of their SGLI or VGLI coverage, and terminally ill spouses can receive up to 50 percent of their FSGLI, in a lump sum. Payment of an accelerated benefit reduces the amount payable to the beneficiaries at the time of the insured's death.

Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI)

Veterans who separated from service who have service-connected disabilities, but are otherwise in good health, may apply to VA for up to \$10,000 in life insurance coverage under the S-DVI program. Veterans who are totally disabled may apply for a waiver of premiums. If approved for waiver of premiums, the veteran, if eligible, can apply for additional supplemental insurance coverage of up to \$30,000. However, premiums cannot be waived on the additional supplemental insurance.

Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)

VMLI is mortgage protection insurance available to severely disabled veterans who have been approved by VA for a Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant. Maximum coverage is the smaller of the existing mortgage balance or \$200,000, and is payable only to the mortgage company. Protection is issued following SAH approval, provided the veteran submits mortgage information required to establish a premium and does not decline coverage. Coverage automatically terminates when the mortgage is paid off.

Insurance Dividends

World War II and Korean-era veterans with active policies earn tax-free dividends annually on the policy anniversary date. Policyholders do not need to apply for dividends, but may select from among designated dividend options.

Reinstating Lapsed Insurance

Lapsed term policies may be reinstated within five years from the date of lapse. A five-year term policy that is not lapsed at the end of the term is automatically renewed for an additional five years. Lapsed permanent plans may be reinstated within certain time limits and with certain health requirements. Reinstated permanent plan policies require repayment of all back premiums, plus interest.

Converting Term Policies

Term policies are renewed automatically every five years, with premiums increasing at each renewal. Premiums do not increase after age 70. Term policies may be converted to permanent plans, which have fixed premiums for life and earn cash and loan values. VA provides either a cash dividend or paid-up insurance on term policies whose premiums have been capped.

Veterans with National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) term insurance that has renewed at age 71 or older and who stop paying premiums on their policies will be given a “termination dividend.” This dividend can either be received as a cash payment or used to purchase a reduced amount of paid-up insurance, which insures the veteran for life with no premium payments required. The amount of the reduced paid-up insurance remains level.

Borrowing on Policies

Policyholders with permanent plan policies may borrow up to 94 percent of the cash surrender value of their insurance after the insurance is in force for one year or more. Interest is compounded annually. The loan interest rate is variable and may be obtained by calling toll-free 1-800-669-8477.

Burial and Memorial Benefits

Veterans discharged from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable; service members who die while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training; and spouses and dependent children of veterans and active duty servicemembers, may be eligible for VA burial and memorial benefits. (For the purposes of this chapter, the term “Veteran” includes eligible persons who die during active duty service.) The veteran does not have to die before a spouse or dependent child can be eligible for burial or memorial benefits.

Readers with questions on VA burial and memorial benefits may contact the nearest national cemetery, listed by state in VA Facilities section of this book, call 1-800-827-1000, or visit the website at www.cem.va.gov.

Burial in VA National Cemeteries

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available for eligible veterans, spouses and dependents at no cost and includes the gravesite, grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For veterans, benefits may also include a burial flag and military funeral honors.

With certain exceptions, active duty service beginning after September 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and after October 16, 1981, as an officer, must be for a minimum of 24 consecutive months or the full period of active duty (as in the case of reservists or National Guard members called to active duty for a limited duration). Active duty for training, by itself, while serving in the reserves or National Guard, is not sufficient to confer eligibility. Reservists and National Guard members, as well as their spouses and dependent children, are eligible if they were entitled to retired pay at the time of death, or would have been upon reaching requisite age.

Certain otherwise eligible individuals found to have committed federal or state capital crimes or certain sex offenses are barred from VA burial and memorial benefits. Claimants for VA burial benefits have the right to appeal decisions made by VA regarding eligibility for national cemetery burial or other memorial benefits.

Surviving spouses of veterans who died on or after Jan. 1, 2000, do not lose eligibility for burial in a national cemetery if they remarry. Unmarried dependent children of veterans who are under 21 years of age, or under 23 years of age if a full-time student at an approved educational institution, are eligible for burial. Unmarried adult children who become physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before age 21, or age 23 if a full-time student may also be eligible.

Certain parents of servicemembers who die as a result of hostile activity or from combat training-related injuries may be eligible for burial in a national cemetery with their child. The biological or adopted parents of a servicemember who died in combat or while performing training in preparation for a combat mission, who leaves no surviving spouse or dependent child, may be buried with the deceased servicemember if there is available space. Eligibility is limited to servicemembers who died on or after Oct. 7, 2001, and biological or adoptive parents who died on or after Oct. 13, 2010.

The next of kin or authorized representative (e.g., funeral director) makes interment arrangements at time of need by contacting the National Cemetery Scheduling Office (see information available at www.cem.va.gov/bbene/need.asp) or, in some cases, the national cemetery in which burial is desired.

VA's National Cemetery Scheduling Office or local national cemetery directors verify eligibility for burial. A copy of the veteran's discharge document that specifies the period of active duty and character of service is usually sufficient to determine eligibility. A copy of the deceased's death certificate and proof of relationship to the veteran (for eligible family members) may be required.

VA operates 131 national cemeteries, of which 72 are currently open for both new casket and cremation interments and 18 may accept new interment of cremated remains only. Burial options are limited to those available at a specific cemetery. Contact the national cemetery directly, or visit www.cem.va.gov to determine if a particular cemetery is open for new burials, and what other options are available.

Headstones, Markers and Medallions

Veterans, active duty service members, and retired Reservists and National Guard service members are eligible for an inscribed headstone or marker for their unmarked grave at any cemetery — national, state veterans, tribal, or private. VA will deliver a headstone or marker at no cost, anywhere in the world.

For eligible veterans or service members buried in a private cemetery whose deaths occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, VA may furnish a government headstone or marker (even if the grave is already marked with a private one), or VA may furnish a medallion to affix to an already existing privately-purchased headstone or marker.

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

Headstones or markers for VA national cemeteries are ordered by the cemetery director using information provided by the next of kin or authorized representative. If the burial is to occur at a private cemetery, the next of kin or authorized representative should check with the cemetery before ordering to ensure that the Government-furnished headstone or marker will be accepted.

"In Memory Of" Markers. VA provides memorial headstones and markers with "In Memory Of" as the first line of inscription for those whose remains have not been recovered or identified, were buried at sea, donated to science or cremated and scattered. All installation fees at private cemeteries are the responsibility of the applicant. Memorial headstones or markers for spouses and dependents can be provided only for placement in a national or state veterans' cemetery.

Inscriptions. Headstones and markers must be inscribed with the name of the deceased, branch of service, and year of birth and death. They also may be inscribed with other optional information, including an emblem of belief and, space permitting, additional text.

Medallions. For veterans or servicemembers who died on or after November 1, 1990, VA is authorized to provide a medallion instead of a headstone or marker if the grave is in a private cemetery and already marked with a privately-purchased headstone or marker.

Other Memorialization

Presidential Memorial Certificates are issued to recognize the military service of honorably discharged deceased veterans and persons who died in the active military, naval, or air service. Eligibility requirements can be found at www.cem.va.gov.

Burial Flags. Generally, VA will furnish a U.S. burial flag to memorialize veterans who received other than dishonorable discharge. In most cases, a funeral director will help the family obtain the flag.

Reimbursement of Burial Expenses

VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$2,000 if the veteran's death is service-connected. In such cases, the person who bore the veteran's burial expenses may claim reimbursement from VA. In some cases, VA will pay the cost of transporting the remains of a veteran whose death was service-connected to the nearest national cemetery with available gravesites.

Burial Allowance. VA will pay a burial and funeral allowance for veterans who die from service-connected injuries; veterans who, at the time of death from nonservice-connected injuries were entitled to receive pension or compensation or would have been entitled if they were not receiving military retirement pay; or veterans whose death occurs in a VA facility, a VA-contracted nursing home or a state veterans nursing home. If the veteran's death was not service connected, claims must be filed within two years after burial or cremation.

Plot Allowance. VA will pay a plot allowance when a veteran is buried in a cemetery not under U.S. government jurisdiction if

- the veteran was discharged from active duty because of disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty;
- the veteran was receiving compensation or pension or would have been if the veteran was not receiving military retired pay;
- or the veteran died in a VA facility.

Veterans Cemeteries Administered by Other Agencies

Department of the Army. Administers Arlington National Cemetery and other Army installation cemeteries. Eligibility is generally more restrictive than at VA national cemeteries.

Department of the Interior. Administers two active national cemeteries: Andersonville National Cemetery in Georgia and Andrew Johnson National Cemetery in Tennessee. Eligibility is similar to VA national cemeteries.

State and Tribal Veterans Cemeteries. There are currently 90 VA grant-funded veterans cemeteries operating in 45 states and U.S. Territories that offer burial options for veterans and their families. Two of these cemeteries are operated by federally recognized tribal organizations. VA grant-funded cemeteries have similar eligibility requirements and certain states or tribal organizations may require state residency or tribal membership. Some services, particularly for family members, may require a fee.

Military Funeral Honors

Upon request, DoD will provide military funeral honors consisting of folding and the presentation of the United States flag and the playing of “Taps.” A funeral honors detail consists of two or more uniformed members of the armed forces, with at least one member from the deceased’s branch of service.

Family members should inform their funeral director if they want military funeral honors. DoD maintains a toll-free number (1-877-MIL-HONR) for use by funeral directors only to request honors. VA can help arrange honors for burials at VA national cemeteries. Veterans’ service organizations or volunteer groups may help provide honors. For more information, visit www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil.

RESERVE AND NATIONAL GUARD

Eligibility for VA Benefits

Generally, all Reserve and National Guard members discharged or released under conditions that are not dishonorable are eligible for some VA benefits. The length of a veteran’s service, service commitment, and duty status may determine his or her eligibility for specific benefits.

Eligibility requirements for several VA benefits include a certain length of active service. Active service in the National Guard or Reserve includes

- full-time duty in the Armed Forces, such as unit deployment during war, including travel to and from such duty, except active duty for training, or
- full-time National Guard duty, which is duty performed for which you are entitled to receive pay from the federal government, such as responding to a national emergency or performing duties as an Active Guard Reserve (AGR) member.

A state or territory's governor may activate National Guard members for State Active Duty, such as in response to a natural or man-made disaster. State Active Duty is based on state law and does not qualify as "active service" for VA benefits. Unlike full-time National Guard duty, National Guard members on State Active Duty are paid with state funds as opposed to federal funds.

VA Health Care

Under the "Combat Veteran" authority, combat veterans who were discharged or released from active service on or after January 28, 2003, are eligible for enrollment in Priority Group 6, unless eligible for enrollment in a higher priority group. This authority provides a 5-year enrollment period, which begins on the discharge or separation date. These combat veterans are eligible for health care services and community living care for conditions possibly related to their military service, and are not required to disclose their income information unless they would like to be considered for a higher priority status, beneficiary travel benefits, or exemption of co-pays for care unrelated to their military service.

Activated Reservists and members of the National Guard are eligible if they served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Veterans who enroll with VA under this authority will continue to be enrolled even after their enhanced eligibility period ends. At the end of their enhanced eligibility period, veterans enrolled in Priority Group 6 may be shifted to a lower priority group depending on their income level. For additional information, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) veterans may be eligible for a one-time dental evaluation and treatment following separation from service, if they did not have a dental exam prior to separation. Veterans must request a dental appointment within the first 180 days post separation from active duty.

Disability Benefits

VA pays monthly compensation benefits for disabilities incurred or aggravated during active duty, or active duty for training for disabilities as a result of injury or disease, or inactive duty training for disabilities due to injury, heart attack, or stroke. The discharge must be under other than dishonorable conditions.

Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is an education benefit program for servicemembers and veterans who served on active duty after September 10, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009.

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

Eligibility for benefits expires 15 years from the last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days. If released for a service-connected disability after at least 30 days of continuous service, eligibility ends 15 years from when the member is released for the service-connected disability.

Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve

Members of reserve elements of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, and members of the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard, may be entitled to up to 36 months of educational benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) – Selected Reserve. Reserve components determine eligibility for benefits. VA does not make decisions about eligibility and cannot make payments until the Reserve component has determined eligibility and notified VA.

Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)

This program provides educational assistance to members of National Guard and Reserve components who are called or ordered to active duty service in response to a war or national emergency as declared by the President or Congress. Participants may pursue training at a college or university, or take technical training at any approved facility. Visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/ for more information.

Eligibility is determined by DoD or the Department of Homeland Security. Generally, a servicemember who serves on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, for at least 90 consecutive days or accumulates a total of three or more of years of service is eligible.

Payments. Reserve or National Guard members whose eligibility is based upon continuous service receive a payment rate based upon their number of continuous days on active duty. Members who qualify after the accumulation of three or more years of aggregate active duty service receive the full payment allowable.

Period of Eligibility. Currently, members who are called up from the Selected Reserve, complete their REAP-qualifying period of active duty service, and then return to the Selected Reserve for the remainder of their service contract, have 10 years to use their benefits after separation. In addition, members who are called up from the IRR or Inactive National Guard (ING), complete their REAP-qualifying period of active duty service, and then enter the Selected Reserve to complete their service contract, also have 10 years to use their benefits after separation.

Home Loan Guaranty

National Guard members and reservists are eligible for a VA home loan if they have completed at least six years of honorable service, are mobilized for active duty service for a period of at least 90 days, or are discharged because of a service-connected disability. Reservists who do not qualify for VA housing loan benefits may be eligible for loans on favorable terms insured by the federal Housing Administration (FHA), which is a part of HUD. Additional information can be found above under “Home Loan Guaranty.”

Life Insurance

National Guard members and reservists are eligible to receive SGLI, VGLI, and FSGLI. They may also be eligible for SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection if severely injured and suffering a qualifying loss, service-disabled veterans Insurance if they receive a service-connected disability rating from VA, and Veterans’ Mortgage Life Insurance if approved for a Specially Adapted Housing Grant. Further details can be found above under “VA Life Insurance.”

Burial and Memorial Benefits

VA provides a burial flag to memorialize members or former members of the Selected Reserve who served their initial obligation, or were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, or died while a member of the Selected Reserve.

Reservists and National Guard members may be eligible for additional burial benefits if their death was due to an injury or disease that developed during, or was aggravated during, active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty for training. Additional information can be found above under “Burial and Memorial Benefits.”

Re-employment Rights

A person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the armed forces is entitled to return to the job after discharge or release from active duty if they

- gave advance notice of military service to the employer;
- did not exceed five years cumulative absence from the civilian job (with some exceptions);
- submitted a timely application for re-employment;
- did not receive a dishonorable or other punitive discharge.

The law calls for a returning veteran to be placed in the job as if he or she had never left, including benefits based on seniority such as pensions, pay increases and promotions. The law also prohibits discrimination in hiring, promotion, or other advantages of employment on the basis of

military service. Veterans seeking re-employment should apply, verbally or in writing, to the company's hiring official and keep a record of their application.

Transition Assistance Advisor Program

The Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) program is a partnership between the National Guard and VA to assist veterans. The advisor serves as an advocate for Guard members and their families, as well as other geographically dispersed military members and families. In collaboration with state and local coalition partners, the TAA Program provides VA benefit enrollment assistance, referrals, and assists in facilitating access for veterans. To find a local Transition Assistance Advisor call 1-877-577-6691 or go to www.taapmo.com.

Outreach for OEF/OIF/OND Veterans

VA's Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) Outreach Teams focus on improving outreach to members of the National Guard and Reserve by engaging them throughout the deployment cycle with targeted messages and face-to-face encounters with VA staff. These outreach teams are located at VAMCs to help ease the transition from military to civilian life.

To learn more, visit www.oefoif.va.gov. Veterans can also call the toll-free OEF/OIF/OND Help Line at 1-866-606-8216 for answers to questions about VA benefits, health care, and enrollment procedures.

Air Reserve Personnel Center

The Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC) is available to assist with various personnel issues, including requests for forms and personnel records. The ARPC routinely handles these actions on a much quicker basis than other channels. Members should call the ARPC for assistance at 1-800-525-0102 or logon to gum-crm.csd.disa.mil.

SPECIAL GROUPS OF VETERANS

Veterans Needing Fiduciary Services

The fiduciary program provides oversight of VA's most vulnerable beneficiaries who are unable to manage their VA benefits because of injury, disease, the infirmities of advanced age, or being under 18 years of age. VA appoints fiduciaries who manage VA benefits for these beneficiaries and conducts oversight of VA-appointed fiduciaries to ensure that they are meeting the needs of the beneficiaries they serve.

VA closely monitors fiduciaries for compliance with program responsibilities to ensure that VA benefits are being used for the purpose of meeting the needs, security, and comfort of beneficiaries and their dependents. In deciding who should act as fiduciary for a beneficiary, VA will always select the most effective and least restrictive fiduciary arrangement. This means that VA will first consider whether the beneficiary can manage his or her VA benefits with limited supervision. VA will consider the choice of the beneficiary as well as any family, friends and caregivers who are qualified and willing to provide fiduciary services for the beneficiary without a fee. As a last resort, VA will consider appointment of a paid fiduciary.

For more information about VA's fiduciary program, please visit benefits.va.gov/fiduciary/index.asp.

Homeless Veterans

VA's homeless programs constitute the largest integrated network of homeless assistance programs in the country, offering a wide array of services to help veterans recover from homelessness and live as self-sufficiently and independently as possible.

VA Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program provides a gateway to VA and community supportive services for eligible veterans. Through the HCHV Program, veterans are provided with case management and residential treatment in the community. The program also conducts outreach to homeless veterans who are not likely to come to VA facilities on their own.

Homeless Veterans Supported Employment Program (HVSEP) provides vocational assistance, job development and placement, and ongoing employment supports designed to improve employment outcomes among homeless veterans. For more information, please visit www.va.gov/homeless/employment_programs.asp.

The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (NCCHV) assists homeless veterans, at-risk veterans, their families, and other interested parties with linkages to appropriate VA and community-based resources. The call center provides trained VA staff members at all times to assess a caller's needs and connect them to appropriate resources. The call center can be accessed by dialing 1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838). NCCHV Chat services are also available through the National Call Center's website at www.va.gov/homeless.

VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program provides funds to nonprofit community agencies providing transitional housing (up to 24 months) or offering services to homeless veterans, such as case management, education, crisis intervention, counseling, and services targeted towards specialized populations including homeless women veterans. The goal of the program is to help homeless veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and income, and obtain greater self-determination. For more information, please visit www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp.

The Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program provides permanent housing and case management for eligible homeless veterans who need community-based support to keep stable housing. This program allows eligible veterans to live in veteran-selected housing units with a “Housing Choice” voucher. HUD-VASH services include outreach and case management and enhances VA’s ability to serve homeless women veterans, and homeless veterans with families. For more information, please visit www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp.

The Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) Program is designed to rapidly rehouse homeless veteran families and prevent homelessness for those at imminent risk due to a housing crisis. Funds are granted to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives that assist very low-income veteran families by providing supportive services designed to promote housing stability. To meet this goal, grantees provide eligible veteran families with outreach, case management, and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits. To locate a SSVF provider in your community, please visit <http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp> and look for the list of current year SSVF providers or call VA’s National call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-888-4AIDVET (1-888-424-3838).

In VA’s Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR) Program, disadvantaged, at-risk, and homeless veterans live in CWT/TR community-based supervised group homes while working for pay in VA’s CWT Program. While in this program, they learn new job skills and relearn successful work habits.

The Veterans Justice Outreach Program (VJO) offers outreach and case management to veterans involved in law enforcement encounters, overseen by treatment courts, and incarcerated in local jails who may be at risk for homelessness upon their release.

The Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV) Program offers outreach, referrals, and short-term case management assistance for incarcerated veterans who may be at risk for homelessness upon their release. Visit www.va.gov/homeless/ to locate an outreach worker.

For more information on VA homeless programs and services, veterans currently enrolled in VA health care can speak with their VA mental health or health care provider. Other veterans and interested parties can find a complete list of VA health care facilities at www.va.gov/ or call VA’s general information hotline at 1-800-827-1000. If assistance is needed when contacting a VA facility, ask to speak to the Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program or the Mental Health service manager. Information is also available on VA Homeless program website at www.va.gov/homeless/.

VA Benefits for Veterans Living Overseas

VA monetary benefits, including disability compensation, pension, educational benefits, and burial allowances, are generally payable overseas. Some programs are restricted. Home loan guaranties are available only in the United States and selected U.S. territories and possessions. Educational benefits are limited to approved, degree-granting programs in institutions of higher

learning. Beneficiaries living in foreign countries should contact the nearest American embassy or consulate for help. In Canada, contact an office of Veterans Affairs Canada. For information, visit www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Foreign/index.htm.

Incarcerated Veterans

VA benefits are affected if a beneficiary is convicted of a felony and imprisoned for more than 60 days. Disability or death pension paid to an incarcerated beneficiary is discontinued. Disability compensation paid to an incarcerated veteran may be reduced. Any amounts not paid to the veteran while incarcerated may be apportioned to eligible dependents. Failure to notify VA of a veteran's incarceration can result in overpayment of benefits and the loss of all VA financial benefits until the overpayment is recovered. VA benefits will not be provided to any veteran or dependent wanted for an outstanding felony warrant.

The Health Care for Reentry Veterans Program (HCRV) offers outreach to veterans incarcerated in state and federal prisons, and referrals and short-term case management assistance upon release from prison. The Veterans Justice Outreach Program (VJO) offers outreach and case management to veterans involved in law enforcement encounters, overseen by treatment courts, and incarcerated in local jails. Visit www.va.gov/homeless/ to locate an outreach worker.

The Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Program offers outreach and linkage to needed treatment and services to veterans involved in law enforcement encounters, seen in the court system, and/or incarcerated in local jails who may be at risk for homelessness upon their release. Visit www.va.gov/homeless/VJO.asp to locate a Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist.

The Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV) Program offers outreach, linkage to needed treatment and services, and short-term case management assistance for veterans incarcerated in state or federal prison who may be at risk for homelessness upon their release. Visit www.va.gov/homeless/Reentry.asp to locate a Reentry Specialist.

TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

Joint Transition Assistance

The Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, and Labor launched a new and improved website for wounded warriors – the National Resource Directory (NRD). This directory (www.nrd.gov) provides access to thousands of services and resources at the national, state and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration. The NRD is a comprehensive online tool available nationwide for wounded, ill and injured servicemembers, veterans and their families. It includes extensive information for veterans seeking resources on VA benefits such as disability benefits, pensions for veterans and their families, VA health care insurance and the GI Bill.

Transition from Military to VA

VA has personnel stationed at major military hospitals to help seriously injured Servicemembers returning from Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND) as they transition from military to civilian life. OEF/OIF/OND servicemembers who have questions about VA benefits or need assistance in filing a VA claim or accessing services can contact the nearest VA office or call 1-800-827-1000.

eBenefits

The eBenefits portal (www.ebenefits.va.gov) provides servicemembers, veterans, their families, and caregivers with self-service access to benefit applications, benefits information, and access to personal information such as official military personnel file documents. The portal provides two main services: it catalogs links to information on other websites about military and veteran benefits, and it provides a personalized workspace called My Dashboard, which gives quick access to all the online tools currently integrated into eBenefits.

Transition Assistance Program

This consists of comprehensive workshops at military installations designed to assist servicemembers as they transition from military to civilian life. The program includes job search, employment and training information, as well as VA benefits information for servicemembers who are within 18 months of separation or retirement. Interested servicemembers should contact their local TAP Manager to sign up for this program.

VOW to Hire Heroes Act

Improving the Transition Assistance Program (TAP): The VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 made TAP, including attendance at VA Benefit Briefings, mandatory for most servicemembers transitioning to civilian status, upgraded career counseling options, and tailored TAP for the 21st Century job market. The act allows servicemembers to begin the federal employment process prior to separation or retirement from military service. This allows a truly seamless transition from the military to jobs at VA, Department of Homeland Security, and the many other federal agencies seeking to hire veterans.

Expanding Education and Training. The act provides nearly 100,000 unemployed veterans of past eras and wars with up to one year of assistance (equal to the full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty program) to qualify for jobs in high-demand sectors. It also provides disabled veterans up to one year of additional Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits.

Translating Military Skills and Training. The act requires the Department of Labor carefully analyze military skills and training equivalencies that are transferrable to the civilian sector, and make it easier to obtain licenses and certifications.

Veterans Tax Credits. The act provides tax credits for hiring veterans and disabled veterans who are out of work.

InTransition Program. Servicemembers and veterans may receive assistance from the inTransition Program when they are receiving mental health treatment and are making transitions from military service, location or a health care system. This program provides access to transitional support, motivation, and healthy lifestyle assistance and advice from qualified coaches through the toll-free telephone number 1-800-424-7877. For more information about the inTransition Program, visit www.health.mil/inTransition.

Pre-Discharge Program

The Pre-Discharge Program is a joint VA and DoD program that affords servicemembers the opportunity to file claims for disability compensation and other benefits up to 180 days prior to separation or retirement. The two primary components of the Pre-Discharge Program, Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) and Quick Start, may be utilized by separating and retiring servicemembers on active duty, including members of the Coast Guard, and members of the National Guard and Reserves in CONUS and some overseas locations. BDD is offered to accelerate receipt of VA disability benefits after release or discharge from active duty.

Quick Start is offered to servicemembers who have less than 60 days remaining on active duty or are unable to complete the necessary examinations prior to leaving the point of separation. To participate in the Quick Start Program, servicemembers must:

- have at least one day remaining on active duty,
- have a known date of separation or retirement,
- provide VA with a complete copy of service treatment records for the current period of service.

Interested servicemembers should contact the local Transition Assistance Office or Army Career Alumni Program Center. Servicemembers can obtain more information by calling VA toll-free at 1-800-827-1000 or by visiting www.vba.va.gov/predischarge.

Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

The Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) is a joint VA and DoD program designed to improve the process for servicemembers who face potential medical discharges. IDES participants are referred into the program by the respective service departments when an injury or disability calls into question the member's ability to continue serving. IDES utilizes a single set of disability examinations and a single disability rating. Examinations and ratings completed in IDES meet the requirements of both VA and DoD and are used by both Departments in their respective disability determinations.

IDES serves to provide timely, accurate and fair determinations regarding servicemembers' fitness for continued military service and entitlement to military disability benefits, as well as entitlement to VA Compensation. Further, since processing is initiated while the servicemember is still serving on active duty, IDES allows the expeditious payment of VA benefits following the member's separation from service.

Federal Recovery Coordination Program

The Federal Recovery Coordination Program (FRCP), a joint program of DoD and VA, helps coordinate and access federal, state and local programs, benefits and services for seriously wounded, ill, and injured servicemembers, and their families through recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration into the community.

Federal Recovery Coordinators (FRCs) have the delegated authority for oversight and coordination of the clinical and non-clinical care identified in each client's Federal Individual Recovery Plan (FIRP). Working with a variety of case managers, FRCs assist their clients in reaching their FIRP goals. FRCs remain with their clients as long as they are needed regardless of the client's location, duty or health status.

Military services provide pre-separation counseling. Servicemembers may receive pre-separation counseling 24 months prior to retirement or 12 months prior to separation from active duty. These sessions present information on education, training, employment assistance, National Guard and Reserve programs, medical benefits, and financial assistance.

To find business opportunities, a calendar of transition seminars, job fairs, information on veterans associations, transition services, training and education opportunities, as well as other announcements, visit www.turbotap.org.

DoD Transportal

To find locations and phone numbers of all Transition Assistance Offices as well as mini-courses on conducting successful job-search campaigns, writing resumes, using the internet to find a job, and links to job search and recruiting websites, visit the DoD Transportal at www.veteranprograms.com/.

Education and Career Counseling

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program provides education and career counseling services to servicemembers, veterans, and certain dependents at no charge. These services provide an opportunity for transitioning servicemembers and veterans to receive personalized counseling and support to guide their careers, ensure the most effective use of VA benefits, and achieve their goals.

Education and career counseling services are available during the period the individual is on active duty with the armed forces and within 180 days of the estimated date of his or her discharge or release from active duty. The projected discharge must be under conditions other than dishonorable. Servicemembers are eligible even if they are only considering whether or not they will continue as members of the armed forces. Veterans are eligible if not more than one year has elapsed since the date they were last discharged or released from active duty. Servicemembers, veterans, survivors and dependents who are eligible for VA education benefits may receive education and career counseling at any time during their eligibility period. This service is based on having eligibility for a VA program.

Veterans' Workforce Investment Program

Recently separated veterans and those with service-connected disabilities, significant barriers to employment, or who served on active duty during a period in which a campaign or expedition badge was authorized, can contact the nearest state employment office for employment help through this program. The program may be conducted through state or local public agencies, community organizations or private, nonprofit organizations.

State Employment Services

Veterans can find employment information, education and training opportunities, job counseling, job search workshops, and resume preparation assistance at state Workforce Career or One-Stop Centers. These offices also have specialists to help disabled veterans find employment.

Many states, including Pennsylvania, offer a veteran's preference for state civil service jobs.

Veterans' Preference for Federal Jobs

Since the time of the Civil War, veterans of the U.S. armed forces have been given some degree of preference in appointments to federal jobs. Veterans' preference in its present form comes from the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944, codified in Title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.). By law, veterans who are disabled or who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces during certain specified time periods or in military campaigns are entitled to preference over others when hiring from competitive lists of eligible candidates, and also in retention during a reduction in force (RIF).

To receive preference, a veteran must have been discharged or released from active duty in the U.S. armed forces under honorable conditions (honorable or general discharge). Preference is also provided for certain widows and widowers of deceased veterans who died in service, spouses of service-connected disabled veterans, and mothers of veterans who died under honorable conditions on active duty or have permanent and total service-connected disabilities. For each of

these preferences, there are specific criteria that must be met in order to be eligible to receive the veterans' preference.

Recent changes in Title 5 clarify veterans' preference eligibility criteria for National Guard and Reserve members and for veterans who earned the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for service in OEF/OIF/OND. For additional information, visit the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) website at www.fedshirevets.gov.

As of 2011, the VOW (Veterans Opportunity to Work) To Hire Heroes Act. VOW requires federal agencies to treat active duty servicemembers as veterans, disabled veterans, or preference eligibles for purposes of appointment in the competitive service when these servicemembers submit a certification of expected discharge or release from active duty under honorable conditions, along with their applications for federal employment.

Veterans' preference does not require an agency to use any particular appointment process. Agencies can pick candidates from a number of different special hiring authorities or through a variety of different sources. The decision on which hiring authority the agency desires to use rests solely with the agency. When applying for federal jobs, eligible veterans should claim preference on their application or resume. Veterans should apply for a federal job by contacting the personnel office at the agency in which they wish to work. For more information, visit www.usajobs.gov for job openings or help creating a federal resume.

Veterans' Employment Opportunities Act

When an agency accepts applications from outside its own workforce, the Veterans' Employment Opportunities Act of 1998 allows preference eligible candidates or veterans to compete for these vacancies under merit promotion procedures. For more information, visit www.usajobs.gov or www.fedshirevets.gov.

Federal agencies may appoint eligible veterans to jobs without competition. These appointments can be converted to career or career-conditional positions after two years of satisfactory work. Veterans should apply directly to the agency where they wish to work. For information, visit www.fedshirevets.gov.

Small Businesses

VA's Center for Veterans Enterprise helps veterans interested in forming or expanding small businesses, and helps VA contracting offices identify veteran-owned small businesses. For information, write the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (OOVE), 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20420-0001, call toll-free 1-866-584-2344, or visit www.vetbiz.gov.

Like other federal agencies, VA is required to place a portion of its contracts and purchases with small and disadvantaged businesses. VA has a special office to help small and disadvantaged businesses get information on VA acquisition opportunities. For information, call toll-free 1-800-949-8387, visit www.va.gov/osdbu/, or write to the following address: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (OOSB), 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20420-0001.

DEPENDENTS' AND SURVIVORS' HEALTH CARE

Health Care

Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA). Under CHAMPVA, certain dependents and survivors can receive reimbursement for most medical expenses: inpatient, outpatient, mental health, prescription medication, skilled nursing care and durable medical equipment.

To be eligible for CHAMPVA, an individual cannot be eligible for TRICARE (the medical program for civilian dependents provided by DoD) and must be one of the following:

- The spouse or child of a veteran whom VA has rated permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability.
- The surviving spouse or child of a veteran who died from a VA-rated service-connected disability, or who, at the time of death, was rated permanently and totally disabled.
- The surviving spouse or child of a veteran who died on active duty service and in the line of duty, not due to misconduct. However, in most of these cases, these family members are eligible for TRICARE, not CHAMPVA.

A surviving spouse under age 55 loses CHAMPVA eligibility upon remarriage. He or she may re-establish eligibility if the remarriage ends by death, divorce or annulment effective the first day of the month following the termination of the remarriage or December 1, 1999, whichever is later. A surviving spouse who remarries after age 55 does not lose eligibility upon remarriage.

For those who have Medicare entitlement or other health insurance, CHAMPVA is a secondary payer. Beneficiaries with Medicare must be enrolled in Parts A and B to maintain CHAMPVA eligibility. For additional information, contact the Chief Business Office Purchased Care at the VA Health Administration Center, CHAMPVA, P.O. Box 469028, Denver, CO 80246, call 1-800-733-8387, or visit www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp.

Many VA health care facilities provide services to CHAMPVA beneficiaries under the CHAMPVA In-house Treatment Initiative (CITI) program. Contact the nearest VA health care facility to determine if it participates. Beneficiaries who use a CITI facility incur no cost for services; however, services are provided on a space-available basis, after the needs of veterans are met.

The Spina Bifida (SB) Health Care Benefits Program is a health care benefits program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for birth children of certain Vietnam and Korea veterans who have been diagnosed with spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta). The SB Health Care Benefits Program provides reimbursement for covered medical services and supplies. For more information about spina bifida health care benefits, call 1-888-820-1756 or visit <http://www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/spina/spina.asp>.

Children of Women Vietnam Veterans (CWVV) Born with Certain Birth Defects

The CWVV Health Care Program is a federal health benefits program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs for children of women Vietnam veterans born with certain birth defects. The CWVV Program provides reimbursement for medical care related to covered birth defects and conditions associated with the covered birth defect except for Spina Bifida. For more information about benefits for children with birth defects, call 1-888-820-1756 or visit www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/spina/spina.asp.

Bereavement Counseling

VA Vet Centers provide bereavement counseling to all family members including spouses, children, parents, and siblings of servicemembers who die while on active duty. This includes federally activated members of the National Guard and reserve components. Bereavement services may be accessed by calling 202-461-6530.

Bereavement counseling is available through any VA medical center to immediate family members of veterans who die unexpectedly or while participating in a VA hospice or similar program, as long as the immediate family members had been receiving family support services in connection with or in furtherance of the veteran's treatment. (In other cases, bereavement counseling is available to the veteran's legal guardian or the individual with whom the veteran had certified an intention to live, as long as the guardian or individual had been receiving covered family support services.) This bereavement counseling is of limited duration and may only be authorized up to 60 days.

Affordable Care Act

Dependents/survivors enrolled in the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) or the Spina Bifida Health Care Program meet the requirement to have health care coverage under the health care law and do not need to take any additional steps. The health care law does not change CHAMPVA or Spina Bifida benefits, access to care, or out-of-pocket costs.

Veterans' family members who do not have coverage that meets the ACA standard should consider their options through the Health Insurance Marketplace, which is a new way to shop for and purchase private health insurance. Family members may also get lower costs on monthly

premiums or out-of-pocket costs or be eligible for free or low-cost coverage through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

For more information about the Health Insurance Marketplace, visit www.healthcare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596. For additional information about the VA and the ACA, visit www.va.gov/aca or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Dependents' and Survivors' Benefits

Dependents and survivors of servicemembers and veterans may be eligible for benefits and programs described above. Visit <http://benefits.va.gov/benefits/> for further details. Programs described above that may apply include

- benefits for children of Vietnam or Korean veterans born with Spina Bifida,
- Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship,
- Montgomery GI Bill death benefit,
- benefits for children of Vietnam or Korean veterans born with certain birth defects,
- VA home loan guaranty,
- burial and memorial benefits.

Death Gratuity Payment

Military services provide payment, called a death gratuity, in the amount of \$100,000 to the next of kin of servicemembers who die while on active duty (including those who die within 120 days of separation) as a result of service-connected injury or illness. If there is no surviving spouse or child, then parents or siblings designated as next of kin by the servicemember may be provided the payment. The payment is made by the last military command of the deceased. If the beneficiary is not paid automatically, application may be made to the applicable military service.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

For a survivor to be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), one of the following must have directly caused or contributed to the veteran's death:

- a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while on active duty or active duty for training;
- an injury, heart attack, cardiac arrest, or stroke incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while on inactive duty for training;
- a service-connected disability or a condition directly related to a service-connected disability.

DIC also may be paid to certain survivors of veterans who were totally disabled from service-connected conditions at the time of death, even though their service-connected disabilities did not cause their deaths. The survivor qualifies if the veteran was:

- continuously rated totally disabled for a period of 10 years immediately preceding death; or
- continuously rated totally disabled from the date of military discharge and for at least 5 years immediately preceding death; or
- a former POW who was continuously rated totally disabled for a period of at least on a year immediately preceding death.

Payments will be offset by any amount received from judicial proceedings brought on by the veteran's death or payments under the military's Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), only the amount of SBP greater than DIC is payable. The veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable.

Payments for Deaths after January 1, 1993

Surviving spouses of veterans who died on or after January 1, 1993, receive a basic rate, plus additional payments for dependent children, for the aid and attendance of another person if they are patients in a nursing home or require the regular assistance of another person, or if they are permanently housebound.

Payments for Deaths before January 1, 1993

Surviving spouses of veterans who died prior to January 1, 1993, receive an amount based Parents' DIC: VA provides an income-based monthly benefit to surviving parents of a servicemember or veteran whose death was service-related.

Restored Entitlement Program for Survivors

Survivors of veterans who died of service-connected causes incurred or aggravated prior to August 13, 1981, may be eligible for a special benefit payable in addition to any other benefits to which the family may be entitled.

Survivors' Pension

VA provides pension benefits to qualifying surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of deceased veterans with wartime service. To be eligible, spouses must not have remarried and children must be under age 18, or under age 23 if attending a VA-approved school. Surviving spouses and children must have qualifying income.

The veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have had 90 days or more of active military service. If the veteran died in service but not in the line of duty, survivors' pension may be payable if the veteran completed at least two years of honorable service.

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

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

Aid and Attendance and Housebound Benefits

Surviving spouses who are eligible for VA survivors' pension are eligible for a higher maximum pension rate if they qualify for aid and attendance or housebound benefits. An eligible individual may qualify if he or she requires the regular aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required for everyday living, or is bedridden, a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, blind, or permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises because of a disability.

Surviving spouses who are ineligible for basic survivors' pension based on annual income may still be eligible for survivors' pension if they are eligible for aid and attendance or housebound benefits because a higher income limit applies. In addition, unreimbursed medical expenses for nursing-home or home-health care may be used to reduce countable annual income, which may result in a higher pension benefit.

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance

VA provides educational assistance to qualifying dependents as follows:

- the spouse or child of a servicemember or veteran who either died of a service-connected disability, or who has permanent and total service-connected disability, or who died while such a disability existed;
- the spouse or child of a servicemember listed for more than 90 days as currently Missing in Action (MIA), captured in the line of duty by a hostile force, or detained or interned by a foreign government or power;
- the spouse or child of a servicemember who is hospitalized or receives outpatient care or treatment for a disability that is determined to be totally and permanently disabling, incurred or aggravated due to active duty, and for which the service member is likely to be discharged from military service.

Surviving spouses lose eligibility if they remarry before age 57 or are living with another person who has been recognized publicly as their spouse. They can regain eligibility if their remarriage ends by death or divorce or if they cease living with the person. Dependent children do not lose eligibility if the surviving spouse remarries. Visit www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/ for more information.

“No-Fee” Passports

“No-fee” passports are available to immediate family members (spouse, children, parents, brothers and sisters) for the expressed purpose of visiting their loved one’s grave or memorialization site at an American military cemetery on foreign soil. For additional information, write to the following address: American Battle Monuments Commission, Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500, 2300 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201, or telephone 703-696-6897, or visit www.abmc.gov.

Appeals of VA Claims

Veterans and other claimants for VA benefits have the right to appeal decisions made by a VA regional office, medical center or National Cemetery Administration (NCA) office. Typical issues appealed are disability compensation, pension, education benefits, recovery of overpayments, reimbursement for unauthorized medical services, and denial of burial and memorial benefits.

A claimant has one year from the date of the notification of a VA decision to file an appeal. The first step in the appeal process is for a claimant to file a written notice of disagreement with VA regional office, medical center or national cemetery office that made the decision. Following receipt of the written notice, VA will furnish the claimant a “Statement of the Case” describing what facts, laws, and regulations were used in deciding the case. To complete the request for appeal, the claimant must file a “Substantive Appeal” within 60 days of the mailing of the Statement of the Case, or within one year from the date VA mailed its decision, whichever period ends later.

Board of Veterans’ Appeals

The Board of Veterans’ Appeals (“the Board”) makes decisions on appeals on behalf of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Although it is not required, a veterans’ service organization, an agent, or an attorney may represent a claimant. Appellants may present their cases in person to a member of the Board at a hearing in Washington, D.C., at a VA regional office or by videoconference.

Decisions made by the Board can be found at www.index.va.gov/search/va/bva.html. The pamphlet, "Understanding the Appeal Process," is available on the website or may be requested by writing to Mail Process Section (014), Board of Veterans' Appeals, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20420.

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

A final Board of Veterans' Appeals decision that does not grant a claimant the benefits desired may be appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The court is an independent body, not part of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Notice of an appeal must be received by the court with a postmark that is within 120 days after the Board of Veterans' Appeals mailed its decision. The court reviews the record considered by the Board of Veterans' Appeals. It does not hold trials or receive new evidence.

Appellants may represent themselves before the court or have lawyers or approved agents as representatives. Oral argument is held only at the direction of the court. Either party may appeal a decision of the court to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and may seek review in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Published decisions, case status information, rules and procedures, and other special announcements can be found at <http://www.uscourts.cavc.gov/>. The court's decisions can also be found in West's Veterans Appeals Reporter, and on the Westlaw and LEXIS online services. For questions, write to the following address: Clerk of the Court, 625 Indiana Ave. NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20004, or call (202) 501-5970.

Military Medals and Records

Replacing Military Medals

Medals awarded while in active service are issued by the individual military services if requested by veterans or their next of kin. Requests for replacement medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army veterans, the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) verifies awards and forwards requests and verification to appropriate services. Forms, addresses, and other information on requesting medals can be found on the Military Personnel Records section of NPRC's website at www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel. For questions, call Military Personnel Records at (314) 801-0800, or e-mail questions to: center@nara.gov.

Correcting Military Records

The Secretary of a military department, acting through a Board for Correction of Military Records, has authority to change any military record when necessary to correct an error or remove an injustice. A correction board may consider applications for correction of a military record, including a review of a discharge issued by court-martial.

The veteran, survivor, or legal representative must file a request for correction within three years of discovering an alleged error or injustice. The board may excuse failure to file within this time, however, if it finds it would be in the interest of justice. It is an applicant's responsibility to show why the filing of the application was delayed and why it would be in the interest of justice for the board to consider it despite the delay.

Review of Discharge from Military Service

Each of the military services maintains a discharge review board with authority to change, correct or modify discharges or dismissals not issued by a sentence of a general court-martial. The board has no authority to address medical discharges.

Discharges awarded as a result of a continuous period of unauthorized absence in excess of 180 days make persons ineligible for VA benefits regardless of action taken by discharge review boards, unless VA determines there were compelling circumstances for the absence. Boards for the Correction of Military Records also may consider such cases.

Veterans with disabilities incurred or aggravated during active duty may qualify for medical or related benefits regardless of separation and characterization of service. Veterans separated administratively under other than honorable conditions may request that their discharge be reviewed for possible re-characterization, provided they file their appeal within 15 years of the date of separation.

Physical Disability Board of Review

Veterans separated due to disability from September 11, 2001, through December 31, 2009, with a combined rating of 20 percent or less, as determined by the respective branch of service Physical Evaluation Board (PEB), and not found eligible for retirement, may be eligible for a review by the Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR). The veteran or, if the veteran is deceased or incompetent, the spouse or surviving spouse, next of kin or legal representative, may apply for a review.

The PDBR was established to reassess the accuracy and fairness of certain PEB decisions, and where appropriate, recommend the correction of discrepancies and errors. A PDBR review will not lower the disability rating previously assigned by the PEB, and any correction may be made retroactively to the day of the original disability separation. As a result of the request for review by the PDBR, no further relief from the Board of Corrections of Military Records may be

sought, and the recommendation by the PDBR, once accepted by the respective branch of service, is final. A comparison of these two boards, along with other PDBR information, can be viewed at www.health.mil/pdbr.

BENEFITS PROVIDED BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

Internal Revenue Service

Disabled Military Retirees may be eligible to claim a federal tax refund based on an increase in their disability rating percentage from VA, or, if combat disabled, applying for and being granted Combat-Related Special Compensation after an award for Concurrent Retirement and Disability.

If needed, Military Retirees should seek assistance from a competent tax professional before filing amended returns based on a disability determination. Refund claims based on an incorrect interpretation of the tax law could subject the taxpayer to interest and/or penalty charges. Complete information and requirements can be found at www.irs.gov/Individuals/Military/Special-Tax-Considerations-for-Veterans.

USDA Loans for Farms and Homes

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides loans and guaranties to buy, improve or operate farms. Loans and guaranties are generally available for housing in towns with a population up to 20,000. Applications from veterans have preference. For further information, contact Farm Service Agency or Rural Development, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, DC 20250, or apply at local Department of Agriculture offices, usually located in county seats.

HUD Veteran Resource Center (HUDVET)

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sponsors the Veteran Resource Center (HUDVET), which works with national veterans service organizations to serve as a general information center on all HUD-sponsored housing and community development programs and services. To contact HUDVET, call 1-800-998-9999, TDD 800-483- 2209, or visit www.hud.gov/hudvet.

Naturalization Preference

Honorable active duty service in the U.S. armed forces during a designated period of hostility allows an individual to naturalize without being required to establish any periods of residence or physical presence in the United States. A servicemember who was in the United States, certain territories, or aboard an American public vessel at the time of enlistment, re-enlistment, extension of enlistment or induction, may naturalize even if he or she is not a lawful permanent resident.

On July 3, 2002, the President issued Executive Order 13269 establishing a new period of hostility for naturalization purposes beginning September 11, 2001, and continuing until a date designated by a future Executive Order. Qualifying members of the armed forces who have served at any time during a specified period of hostility may immediately apply for naturalization. Additional information is available on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website at www.uscis.gov.

Individuals who served honorably in the U.S. armed forces, but were no longer serving on active duty status as of September 11, 2001, may still be naturalized without having to comply with the residence and physical presence requirements for naturalization if they filed while still serving in the U.S. armed forces or within six months of termination of their active duty service. An individual who files the application for naturalization after the six-month period following termination of active-duty service is not exempt from the residence and physical presence requirements, but can count any period of active-duty service towards the residence and physical presence requirements. Individuals seeking naturalization under this provision must establish that they are lawful permanent residents and that they served honorably in the U.S. armed forces for at least one year.

If a servicemember dies as a result of injury or disease incurred or aggravated by service during a time of combat, the servicemember's survivors can apply for the deceased servicemember to receive posthumous citizenship within two years of the servicemember's death. The issuance of a posthumous certificate of citizenship does not confer U.S. citizenship on surviving relatives. However, a non-U.S. citizen spouse or qualifying family member may file for certain immigration benefits and services based upon their relationship to a servicemember who died during hostilities or a non-citizen servicemember who died during hostilities and was later granted posthumous citizenship.

For additional information, visit www.uscis.gov/military. Members of the U.S. military and their families stationed around the world can also call USCIS for help with immigration services and benefits at 1-877-CIS-4MIL (1-877-247-4645).

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Veterans interested in entrepreneurship and small business ownership should look to the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development (OVBD) for assistance. OVBD conducts comprehensive outreach to veterans, service-disabled veterans, and Reservists of the U.S. military. OVBD also provides assistance to veteran- and reservist-owned small businesses. SBA is the primary federal agency responsible for assisting veterans who own or are considering starting their own small businesses.

Among the services provided by SBA are business-planning assistance, counseling, and training through community based Veterans Business Outreach Centers. For more information, go to www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/ovbd/OVBD_VBOP.html. There are more than 1,000 university-based Small Business Development Centers; nearly 400 SCORE chapters (www.score.org/Veteran.html) with 11,000 volunteer counselors, many of whom are veterans; and 100 Women's Business Centers.

SBA also manages a range of special small business lending programs at thousands of locations, ranging from Micro Loans to the Military-community-targeted Patriot Express Pilot Loan, to venture capital and Surety Bond Guarantees (www.sba.gov/services/financialassistance/index.html). Veterans also participate in all SBA federal procurement programs, including a special 3 percent federal procurement goal specifically for service-connected disabled veterans, and SBA supports veterans and others participating in international trade.

A special Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan (www.sba.gov/reservists) is available for self-employed Reservists whose small businesses may be damaged through the absence of the owner or an essential employee as a result of activation to Active Duty.

A Veterans Business Development Officer is stationed at every SBA District Office to act as a guide to veterans, and SBA offers a full range of self-paced small business planning assistance at www.sba.gov/survey/checklist/index.cgi for veterans, reservists, discharging servicemembers, and their families. Information about the full range of services can be found at www.sba.gov/about-offices-content/1/2985, or by calling 202-205-6773 or 1-800-U-ASK-SBA (1-800-827-5722).

Social Security Administration

Monthly retirement, disability, and survivor benefits under Social Security are payable to veterans and dependents if the veteran has earned enough work credits under the program. Upon the veteran's death, a one-time payment may be made to the veteran's spouse or child. In addition, a veteran may qualify at age 65 for Medicare's hospital insurance and medical insurance. Medicare protection is available to people who have received Social Security disability benefits for 24 months, and to insured people and their dependents who need dialysis or kidney transplants, or who have ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

Since 1957, military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training) have counted toward Social Security, and those earnings are already on Social Security records. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Reserve Component (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security. Servicemembers and veterans are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which they received active duty basic pay after 1956 and before 1978.

Veterans who served in the military from 1978 through 2001 are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings for each \$300 in active duty basic pay, up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. No additional Social Security taxes are withheld from pay for these extra credits. Additional earnings will no longer be credited for military service periods after 2001.

Also, non-contributory Social Security earnings of \$160 a month may be credited to veterans who served after September 15, 1940, and before 1957, including attendance at service academies.

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

Armed Forces Retirement Homes

Veterans are eligible to live in the Armed Forces Retirement Homes located in Gulfport, Mississippi, or Washington, D.C., if their active duty military service is at least 50 percent enlisted, warrant officer or limited duty officer if they qualify under one of the following categories:

- are 60 years of age or older; and were discharged or released under honorable conditions after 20 or more years of active service;
- are determined to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of a service-connected disability incurred in the line of duty;
- served in a war theater during a time of war declared by Congress or were eligible for hostile-fire special pay and were discharged or released under honorable conditions; and are determined to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of injuries, disease or disability;
- served in a women's component of the armed forces before June 12, 1948; and are determined to be eligible for admission due to compelling personal circumstances.

Eligibility determinations are based on rules prescribed by the Home's Chief Operating Officer.

For information, call 1-800-332-3527 or 1-800-422-9988, or visit www.afrh.gov/.

Commissary and Exchange Privileges

Unlimited commissary and exchange store privileges in the United States are available to honorably discharged veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 100 percent or totally disabling, and to the un-remarried surviving spouses and dependents of servicemembers who die on active duty, military retirees, recipients of the Medal of Honor, and veterans whose service-connected disability was rated 100 percent or totally disabling at the time of death. Certification of total disability is done by VA. National Guard Reservists and their dependents may also be eligible. For detailed information, contact the nearest military installation.

Department of Health and Human Services

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides funding to states to help low-income households with their heating and home energy costs under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP can also assist with home insulation. The LIHEAP program in your community determines if your household's income qualifies for the program. To find out where to apply call 1-866-674-6327 or e-mail energy@ncat.org 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Mountain Time). More information can be found at www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/#index.html.

PENNSYLVANIA STATUTORY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The following is a brief description of the programs, services, and benefits provided by the statutes of Pennsylvania and their respective eligibility criteria. A complete directory is *Pennsylvania Laws Relating to Veterans*, published by the Legislative Reference Bureau and available at the district office of any member of the General Assembly.

- ***Education—Residency Status (1982, Dec. 15, P.L.1266, No.287; 24 P.S. § 2509)***: For purposes of tuition, residency status applies to veterans and their spouses and dependent children regardless of actual residency and military personnel who reside in Pennsylvania.
- ***Veterans’ Education Act (1972, Oct. 11, P.L. 909, No. 216; 24 P.S. §§ 5171–5174)***: This act provides scholarships for veterans who served after 1954 from appropriated funds. The program is administered by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. The scholarship amount is capped at \$1200.
- ***Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act (2012, Feb. 2, P.L.42, No.6; 24 P.S. §§ 7301—7308)***: This act ratifies an interstate compact intended to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and redeployment of their parents by making uniform record keeping and other practices among schools in the several states. (All states have ratified this Compact.)
- ***Public School Employees’ Retirement Code (24 Pa.C.S.)***: Military service can in many cases be counted as if it were school service for purposes of retirement benefit in the Public School Employees’ Retirement System.
- ***State Employees’ Retirement Code (71 Pa.C.S.)***: Military service can in many cases be counted as if it were state service for purposes of retirement benefits in the State Employees’ Retirement System.
- ***Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act (25 Pa.C.S. 3501—3519)***: This act provides a uniform procedure for applying for, casting and counting absentee ballots by military service members, military dependents, and U.S. citizens residing overseas. (This act has been enacted by 15 states and the District of Columbia.)

- ***Veterans' Housing Authority Act (1947, July 7, P.L.1414, No.549; 35 P.S. §§ 1590.1—1590.21)***: This act creates a Veterans' Housing Authority in each county and city to provide emergency housing for veterans and to issue bonds to finance the program.
- ***Association Group Life Insurance for Pennsylvania National Guard (51 Pa.C.S. § 3105)***: Upon approval of the Adjutant General, group life insurance policies may be issued to nonprofit membership associations for members of the Pennsylvania National Guard.
- ***Pennsylvania National Guard Educational Act (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 3201–3210)***: Pennsylvania National Guard members may receive an educational grant to defray the part-time or full-time tuition at an approved institution of higher education up to the tuition charged by a State System of Higher Education (SSHE) institution. These grants are made without regard to need. Grants are contingent on completion of a service requirement and the student is liable to pay the grant back if that requirement is not fulfilled.
- ***Medical Officer or Health Officer Incentive Program (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 3211–3217)***: Medical officers or health officers may be eligible for a stipend of up to \$1,000 per month of medical residency. Amounts received may need to be repaid if the recipient fails to complete the service obligation.
- ***Disability Relief, Pensions, and Tuition Waiver (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 3501–3503)***: National Guard members who suffer death or disability in the line of duty may receive compensation from the Commonwealth as determined under the Workers' Compensation Law. In the case of a deceased member, the compensation is paid to his or her surviving spouse or minor child in specified amounts in addition to any amount payable under Workers' Compensation. Spouses and children of members killed in the line of duty are entitled to a waiver of tuition and fees at state-connected institutions of higher education and community colleges.
- ***Decorations, Medals, Badges, and Awards (51 Pa.C.S. § 3701)***: The Governor is authorized to present eleven kinds of military decorations.
- ***Furnishing United States Flag for Deceased Members (51 Pa.C.S. § 3705)***: DMVA is required to furnish a U.S. flag for the casket of an active or retired member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or the Pennsylvania Guard or such a member if discharged due to disability.
- ***Legal Aid (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 4107)***: Members of Pennsylvania military forces on State duty are entitled to legal assistance from the State for any criminal or civil liability resulting from their duty. The Commonwealth is responsible for judgements and costs incurred in following lawful or reasonable orders.

- ***Veterans' Preference (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 7101–7109)***: A veteran of a war or armed conflict who passes a civil service examination receives an additional ten points on the exam. (The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has ruled that the preference does not apply to promotions.⁴¹) An appointing authority is required to give preference to a veteran who appears on the eligible list and is permitted to prefer a veteran who does not appear on that list if he or she passes the examination. For non-civil service positions, the appointing authority must give preference to a veteran who has the requisite qualifications. Contractors and subcontractors for public works projects must give the same preference. Time in service as a veteran counts in determination of seniority. Veterans' preference applies to spouses of deceased or disabled veterans.

- ***Military Leaves of Absence (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 7301–7319)***: Employers are required to grant military leave to persons drafted into the armed services and members of the Pennsylvania National Guard who are ordered into active duty. Persons on military leave are protected from termination and may receive pay from the employer. Military leave provisions may apply to or affect educational institutions, court proceedings involving the service member, termination of leases of real or personal property, automobile insurance coverage, and unemployment compensation.

- ***Retention of Licenses and Certifications (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 7501–7503.1)***: Induction or drafting into the military does not cause a licensed service member to forfeit state professional licensures and certifications, and such members are exempt from continuing education and in-service training requirements while in service. Service members are entitled to have the licenses and certifications renewed.

- ***Blind Veterans Pension (51 Pa.C.S. § 7701)***: Blind veterans are entitled to a pension from the Commonwealth of \$150 per month upon application to DMVA.

- ***Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans Pension (51 Pa.C.S. § 7702)***: Amputee and paralyzed veterans are entitled to a pension from the Commonwealth of \$150 per month upon application to DMVA.

- ***Veterans Litigation Awards (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 7901, 7902)***: Litigation awards to veterans arising from claims against manufacturers of herbicides used in Vietnam are not counted as income for state or local taxes or for determining eligibility for government benefit programs.

⁴¹ *Hoffman v. Township of Whitehall*, 677 A.2d 1200 (Pa. 1996).

- ***Veterans' Emergency Assistance Program (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 8501–8505):*** Eligible persons may receive assistance not exceeding the amount payable to a family of the same size under the Public Welfare Code for no more than three months in any twelve month period. Eligibility is limited to veterans who were killed, totally disabled, or died from a service connected disability, or surviving dependents of such veterans, who have suffered a sudden or unexpected loss of income or other support resulting in inability to provide for the necessities of life. Eligibility is determined by the State Veterans Commission under its regulations.
- ***Educational Gratuity Program (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 8701–8703):*** Eligibility is to children of veterans who died in service during a period of armed conflict, or were killed by hostile fire or a terrorist attack, were totally disabled, or died from a service connected disability. A recipient must be a student at an approved educational institution between the ages of 16 and 23 and must demonstrate financial need. Eligibility is determined by the State Veterans Commission. The program makes grants of up to \$500 per term or semester to defray educational expenses incurred by an educational institution on behalf of an eligible recipient, for no more than four scholastic years.
- ***Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 8901–8906):*** Blind, paraplegic, and totally disabled veterans and their spouses may be eligible for exemption from real property taxes on their residences if the household income is less than \$75,000 (adjusted for inflation since 2009). Eligibility is determined by the State Veterans Commission.
- ***Acknowledgments and Oaths (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 9101–9102):*** Acknowledgments and oaths are administered free of charge for soldiers and family members of soldiers for documents relating to military service. Persons designated by veterans' service organizations are authorized to take acknowledgments and oaths of veterans and family members for documents relating to military service. No charge may be made for such acknowledgments.
- ***Certified Copies of Documents (51 Pa.C.S. § 9201):*** Certified copies of birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates, and divorce decrees must be furnished free of charge to veterans, servicemembers, and their dependents for use in connection with claims for death benefits, compensation allowance, or family or dependency allotments. DMVA must provide a certified copy of a soldier's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty to a county Director of Veterans' Affairs upon request.
- ***Veterans' Organizations (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 9303, 9304):*** Veterans' service organizations are exempt from sales taxes for purchases used for their organizational purposes and from real property taxes on all real property used for those purposes. DMVA is directed to make grants to veterans' service organizations to support their programs. Eligible organizations include the members of the State Veterans Commission. The organizations must file annual reports with the DMVA and the General Assembly and are subject to audit by the Auditor General.

- ***Long-Term Care Patient Access to Pharmaceuticals (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 9501–9508)***: These provisions authorize pharmacies contracting with or pharmacists employed by a long-term care facility, an assisted living residence, or personal care home to dispense drugs acquired from a drug source facility. Those authorized to dispense drugs may repackage, relabel and dispense the drug in a unit dose if the drug is prescribed for the patient, the patient has authorized the activity, the VA provides in a lockbox located in the facility, and other conditions are met.
- ***Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (51 Pa.C.S. §§ 9601-9608)***: The Department of General Services is directed to assist veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses with respect to procurement contracts with the Commonwealth. Such assistance includes staff assistance, solicitations, training, and bonding requirements. Procurement from such businesses that involves federal assistance or contract funds must comply with Federal requirements.
- ***World War II Veterans' Compensation Act (1947, June 11, P.L.565, No.248; 51 P.S. §§ 20041–20056)***: This provided compensation for veterans of \$10 per month of military service in World War II in the United States and \$15 per month of military service in World War II outside the U.S. The amount for death in such service is \$500. The maximum amount payable is \$500. The program is administered by the Adjutant General. Compensation is exempt from attachment, levy, or seizure, and from all state taxes. Provision is made for payment to beneficiaries where the recipient has died or become mentally disabled.
- ***Korean Conflict Veterans' Compensation Act (1957, July 8, P.L.569, No.317; 51 P.S. §§ 20091–20106)***: This act provides compensation for veterans of \$15 per month of military service in the Korean Conflict if the service member received or was eligible for the Korean Service Medal and \$10 per month of for other military service in that Conflict. The amount for death in such service is \$500. The maximum amount payable is \$500. The program is administered by the Adjutant General. Compensation is exempt from attachment, levy, or seizure, and from all state taxes. Provision is made for payment to beneficiaries where the recipient has died or become mentally disabled.
- ***Korean Conflict Veterans' Compensation Bond Act (1959, May 4, P.L. 285, No.39; 51 P.S. §§ 20107–20118)***: This act created the bond issue to fund the Korean Conflict Veterans Compensation Act, as authorized by an amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania.
- ***Vietnam Conflict Veterans' Compensation Act (1968, July 18, P.L.405, No.183; 51 P.S. §§ 20121–20134)***: This act provides a bonus for service members eligible to receive the Vietnam Service Medal of \$25 per month of service in the Vietnam theatre of operations. The amount for death in such service is \$1,000. The maximum amount otherwise payable is \$750. The program is administered by the Adjutant General. Compensation is exempt from attachment, levy, or seizure, and from all state taxes. Provision is made for payment to beneficiaries where the recipient has died or become mentally disabled.

- ***Vietnam Conflict Veterans Compensation Bond Act (1969, May 15, P.L. 40, No. 14; 51 P.S. §§ 20135–20147)***: This act creates the bond issue to fund the Vietnam Conflict Veterans Compensation Act, as authorized by an amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

- ***Vietnam Conflict Prisoners of War Compensation Act (1972, Dec. 29, P.L. 1720, No. 370; 51 P.S. §§ 20151–20163)***: This act provides for compensation for returning Vietnam veterans who were prisoners of war of \$1,000. An Appropriation of \$100,000 is made to defray the cost. The program is administered by the Adjutant General. Compensation is exempt from attachment, levy, or seizure, and from all state taxes. Provision is made for payment to beneficiaries where the recipient has died.

- ***Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Benefit Act (2006, April 24, P.L. 91, No. 29; 51 P.S. §§ 20301–20315)***: This act provides for compensation for service related to the Persian Gulf Conflict (August 2, 1990, to August 31, 1991) in the amount of \$75 per month up to \$525. Compensation for death or for POWs is \$5,000. The program is administered by the Adjutant General. Compensation is exempt from attachment, levy, or seizure, and from all state taxes. Provision is made for payment to beneficiaries designated by statute where the recipient has died or become incompetent. The bond issue to defray the cost is established, as authorized by an amendment to the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

VETERANS' SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

State Veterans Commission

The Pennsylvania State Veterans Commission is established in accordance with Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes.⁴² 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 comprised of

- The Adjutant General, ex officio, or designee
- The State Commander, Commandant, or head or his 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
 - Korean War Veterans Association
 - 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
 - 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 are 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.

⁴² 51 Pa.C.S. § 1702.

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.

PA War Veterans Council (<http://www.pawvc.org/>)

This is a leadership organization that brings together representatives of American Legion, AmVets, Blinded Veterans Association of PA, the Catholic War Veterans of the U.S., Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Keystone Paralyzed Veterans of America, Marine League of Pennsylvania, Military Officers Association of America, Military Order of the Grand Cooties of Pennsylvania, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Navy Club USA, PA State Association of County Directors, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

The mission of this organization is to

- create a mutual understanding and cultivation of comradeship, friendship and cooperation among veterans' organizations;
- discuss legislation and other matters that affect the general welfare of our state's veterans and their families;
- protect the United States of America's free and democratic institutions, its principles and to defend our U.S. Constitution and laws;
- teach patriotism and Americanism to citizens of the Commonwealth as a whole;
- encourage in all people that spirit of understanding which may guard us against future wars.

The organization disseminates information regarding programs, services, and benefits for veterans.

The American Legion (<https://www.legion.org/>)

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans' service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to their fellow servicemembers and veterans.

American Legion Baseball is one of the nation's most successful amateur athletic programs, educating young people about the importance of sportsmanship, citizenship, and fitness.

The Operation Comfort Warriors program supports recovering wounded warriors and their families, providing them with "comfort items" and the kind of support that makes a hospital feel a little bit more like home. The Legion also raises millions of dollars in donations at the local, state and national levels to help veterans and their families during times of need and to provide college scholarship opportunities.

The American Legion is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization with great political influence perpetuated by its grass-roots involvement in the legislation process from local districts to Capitol Hill. The Legion stands behind the issues most important to the nation's veterans' community, backed by resolutions passed by volunteer leadership.

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation, and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives.

Service Officers. Accredited American Legion service officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families. While the majority of a service officer's work involves application for VA disability benefits, these compassionate professionals also provide information, referrals, and resources on education, employment and business, death benefits, and other important topics. There are sixteen service officers located in various locations in Pennsylvania. They can be accessed through <http://www.legion.org/serviceofficers/PA#results>.

Benefits Calculator. The American Legion provides a benefits calculator that can assist veterans in determining eligibility and amounts of benefits they may qualify for. It can be accessed at <http://www.legion.org/benefitscalculator/>.

Legion Riders. A network of motorcycle clubs affiliated with the Legion raises funds for the American Legion Legacy Fund, organizes memorial events for fallen veterans, and supplies support for injured members.

AMVETS (<http://www.amvets.org/>)

The mission of AMVETS is to enhance and safeguard the entitlements for all American Veterans who have served honorably and to improve the quality of life for them, their families, and the communities where they live through leadership, advocacy, and services.

As one of America's leading veterans' service organizations with over 250,000 members, AMVETS (or American Veterans) has a proud history of assisting veterans and sponsoring numerous programs that serve the United States and its citizens. Membership in AMVETS is open to anyone who is currently serving, or who has honorably served, in the U.S. Armed Forces from World War II to the present, including the National Guard and Reserves.

The helping hand that AMVETS extends to veterans and their families takes many forms.

Veteran Services. One of the most visible is a network of trained national service officers (NSOs) accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Funded by the AMVETS National Service Foundation, these dedicated men and women provide sound advice and prompt action on compensation claims at no charge to the veteran. In one recent year alone, AMVETS national service officers processed more than 74,000 claims.

AMVETS in Action. In addition to the work of the national service officers, other AMVETS members, as well as those in the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, devote as many as one million hours of free time a year to brighten the lives of hospitalized veterans. Here, something as simple as playing cards with the lonely or watching television with the disabled can make a world of difference.

Each year AMVETS awards scholarships totaling \$40,000 to deserving high school seniors, ROTC students and veterans pursuing higher education.

AMVETS members in more than 1,400 posts nationwide also promote and support community-service programs ranging from Special Olympics and ROTC to scouting and organ-donor projects.

Advocacy. Over the years, AMVETS has been at the forefront of public policy related to national defense, services for homeless veterans, adequate funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, concurrent receipt of retirement pay and disability compensation by disabled military retirees, veterans employment and training, POW/MIA accountability, and flag protection.

Apart from these initiatives, the organization has thrown its monetary support behind work on such national monuments as the USS. Arizona, the Statue of Liberty, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. It also sponsors its own carillon program to honor America's deceased servicemen and women. Since 1949, when President Truman dedicated the first carillon at Arlington National Cemetery, this program has grown to encompass more than 60 sites in the United States and overseas.

Another tribute unique to AMVETS is the Silver Helmet Award, often referred to as the Veterans' Oscar. A replica of the World War II GI helmet, this prestigious award is presented annually to recognize excellence and achievement in Americanism, defense, rehabilitation, congressional service, and other fields.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) (<https://www.dav.org/>)

DAV is a nonprofit charity that provides a lifetime of support for veterans of all generations and their families, helping more than one million veterans each year. The organization provides more than 700,000 rides for veterans attending medical appointments and assists veterans with more than 300,000 benefit claims annually. In 2015, DAV helped attain more than \$4 billion in new and retroactive benefits to care for themselves and for veterans and their families.

DAV is also a leader in connecting veterans with meaningful employment, hosting job fairs and providing resources to ensure they have the opportunity to participate in the American Dream their sacrifices have made possible.

With almost 1,300 chapters and nearly 1.3 million members across the country, DAV empowers our nation's heroes and their families by helping to provide the resources they need.

DAV is dedicated to empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them, fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capitol Hill, and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

DAV renders professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service and provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies of government.

DAV provides outreach concerning its program services to the American people generally, and to disabled veterans and their families specifically

DAV represents the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses, and their orphans before Congress, the White House and the Judicial Branch, as well as state and local government.

DAV extends its mission of hope into the communities where these veterans and their families live through a network of state-level Departments and local Chapters.

The organ provides a structure through which disabled veterans can express their compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer programs.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) (<http://www.vfw.org/>)

The VFW traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many of them arrived home wounded or sick, and there was no medical care or veterans' pension for them; they were left to care for themselves.

In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations with what would become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado, and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. By 1915, membership grew to 5,000, and by 1936, membership was almost 200,000.

Since then, the VFW's voice had been instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, creating a GI Bill for the 20th century, the development of the national cemetery system and the fight for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome. In 2008, VFW won a long-fought victory with the passing of a GI Bill for the 21st Century, giving expanded educational benefits to America's active-duty service members, and members of the Guard and Reserves, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The VFW also has fought for improving VA medical centers services for women veterans. It helped fund the creation of the Vietnam, Korean War, World War II, Women, and Disabled Veterans service memorials.

Annually, the nearly 1.7 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliaries contribute more than 8.6 million hours of volunteerism in the community, including participation in Make a Difference Day and National Volunteer Week.

VFW provides over \$3 million in college scholarships and savings bonds to students every year.

Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) (bva.org/)

The Blinded Veterans Association is an organization of blinded veterans helping blinded veterans. Through its service programs, regional groups, resources, and advocacy before the legislative and executive branches of government, hopes to make life better for blinded veterans, offering encouragement and support, to ensure no blinded veteran is left behind.

The new Field Service Program Resource Center is a one-stop shop for services provided by BVA, featuring a dedicated toll free number which any blind veteran across the nation can call and receive services from any BVA National Field Service Officer regardless of where they live. This will streamline services and provide consistency to all veterans.

The Blinded Veterans Association was established specifically to help veterans and their families meet and overcome the challenges of blindness. The organization welcomes those who can offer their ideas, thoughts, and service in achievement of this worthy objective.

Catholic War Veterans of the United States (CWV) (<http://cwvusa.org/>)

CWV provides the services of our National and local area VA Service Officers free of charge to those members and other veterans who request professional assistance in preparing and defending their claims for Federal Veterans' Benefits. Welfare Officers and volunteers assist VA Medical Centers, transportation, hosting parties, providing food and clothing to the less fortunate, and offering prayers.

Jewish War Veterans of the United States (JWV) (<http://www.jwv.org/>)

Since 1946, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) has been an active participant in the DVA VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program, providing more than a million hours of service. VAVS volunteers assist sick and disabled veterans in DVA hospitals, domiciliaries, nursing homes, geriatric centers, outreach centers and homeless programs throughout the country.

As anti-Semitism rises around the globe, the JWV declares its support for the state of Israel, the bastion of democracy in the Middle East, and its readiness to fight bigotry and prejudice wherever it is found.

Marine Corps League (<http://www.mclnational.org/>)

The Marines Helping Marines program of the Marine Corps League (<http://www.marineshelpingmarines.org/about.asp>) provides material support in the form of needed health and comfort items. The injured Marines arrive at the hospital with no more than the hospital gowns on their backs. While the hospital provides the basic toilet items, very often more is needed.

In addition to personal comfort items, the Marine Corps League provides financial assistance to the families who are visiting their Marines (taxi vouchers, restaurant vouchers, phone cards and limited housing funding); outings to professional baseball games for “outpatient” Marines—they are recognized by the PA announcer; electronic entertainment (e.g., DVDs and DVD players) for patients; and airline tickets and travel money to wounded Marines for emergency leave. The Marine Corps League holds monthly cookouts on the hospital grounds for the walking wounded, their visiting families and the hospital staff to lift their spirits and speed their recovery.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) (<http://www.moaa.org/>)

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers and their families at every stage of their careers.

Military Order of the Purple Heart (<http://www.purpleheart.org/>)

The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families.

Italian American War Veterans of the United States (<http://www.itamvets.org/>)

The purposes and objectives of this organization are the following:

- to aid and assist veterans and their families;
- to assist public and private agencies and institutions endeavoring to promote the public welfare;
- to foster, encourage, and promote social, civic, historical, athletic, patriotic, musical, and scientific activities and affairs;
- to uphold and maintain the honor and integrity of the United States, and to preserve and defend it from her enemies;
- to uphold and maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States and fidelity to the Constitution;

- to promote patriotism, advance the civic welfare, encourage benevolence, stimulate charity, champion the cause of education, and inspire friendship;
- to stimulate a feeling of mutual devotion, helpfulness, and comradeship among all veterans, spouses, and survivors;
- to encourage and develop in all people a spirit of good will, fellowship, and understanding as a guard against future wars and chaos.

Vietnam Veterans of America (<https://vva.org/>)

The Vietnam Veterans of America provides services in four broad areas: benefit claims assistance, financial counseling, employment, and legislative advocacy.

Other Organizations

The following private organizations that provide services to veterans are listed in the VA's 2013/2014 Directory of Veterans and Military Service Organizations. The directory includes contact listings for the various organizations.

- African American Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Association
- African American Veterans and Families
- African American War Veterans of the U.S. Air Force Association
- Air Force Sergeants Association
- All Faith Consortium
- American Division Veterans Association
- American Coalition for Filipino Veterans
- American Ex-Prisoners of War
- American GI Forum of the United States
- American Gold Star Mothers
- The American Legion
- American Logistics Association
- American Merchant Marine Veterans
- American Military Retirees Association
- American Military Society
- American Red Cross
- American Retiree Association
- American Veterans Alliance
- American Veterans for Equal Rights, Inc.
- American Volunteer Reserve
- American War Mothers
- AMVETS
- Arab American War Veterans
- Army Aviation Association of America
- Army & Navy Union, USA
- Asian American Veterans Association
- Association of Military Surgeons (AMSUS)
- Association of the U.S. Army
- Association of the United States Navy
- Association of the Vietnam Veterans of America
- Blinded Veterans Association
- Blinded American Veterans Foundation
- Blue Star Mothers of America
- Bowlers to Veterans Link
- Catholic War Veterans, USA
- The Chosen Few
- Cold War Veterans Association
- Commissioned Officers Association of the US Health Service
- Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust
- Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the United States of America
- CWO & WO Association US Coast Guard
- Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War
- Destroyer-Escort Sailors Association
- Disabled American Veterans

- Eighth Air Force Historical Society
- Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the US
- Fleet Reserve Association
- The Forty & Eight
- Gold Star Wives of America
- Help Hospitalized Veterans
- Hispanic War Veterans of America
- Homeless & Disabled Veterans
- Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of the United States
- Italian American War Veterans of the United States
- Japanese American Veterans Association
- Japanese American Veterans Counsel
- Jewish War Veterans of the USA
- Korea Veterans of America
- Korean Defense Veterans of America
- Korean Ex-Prisoners of War
- Korean War Veterans Association
- Legion of Valor of the USA
- Marine Corps League
- Marine Corps Reserve Association
- Military Chaplains Association of the USA of America
- Military Officers Association of America
- Military Order of the Purple Heart of the U.S.A.
- Military Order of the World Wars
- NAM-POWs Corporation
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National American Indian Veterans
- National Amputation Foundation
- National Association for Black Veterans
- National Association for Uniformed Services
- National Association of American Veterans
- National Association of Atomic Veterans
- National Association of Black Military Women
- National Association of County Veterans Service Officers
- National Association of Fleet Tug Sailors
- National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs
- National Association of State Veterans Homes
- National Association of State Women Veterans Coordinators (NASWVC)
- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
- National Congress of Puerto Rican Veterans
- National 4th Infantry (IVY) Division Association
- National Guard Association of the United States
- National Gulf War Resource Center
- National League of Families
- National Military Family Association
- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
- National Veterans Foundation
- National Veterans Legal Services Program
- National Veterans Organization of America (NVOA)
- Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
- Navy Club of the United States of America
- Navy League of the United States
- Navy Mutual Aid Association
- Navy Nurse Corp. Association
- Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Non Commissioned Officers Association
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA
- Red River Valley Fighter Pilot Association
- Reserve Enlisted Association of the United States
- Reserve Officer Association of the United States
- 2nd Airborne Ranger Association
- Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces (SMCAF)
- Society of Military Widows
- Student Veterans of America
- Swords to Plowshares: Veterans Rights Organization
- The Red River Valley Fighter Pilot Association
- TREA: The Enlisted Association
- TLC Brotherhood Inc. Veterans of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia in Vietnam War

- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
- United. Spinal Association
- United States Army Warrant Officers Association
- United States Federation of Korea Veterans Organization
- United States Merchant Marine Veterans of World War
- United States Navy Cruiser Sailors Association
- United States Navy Veterans Association
- United States Submarine Veterans
- United States Volunteers America
- USCG Chief Petty' Officers Association
- Veterans for Common Sense
- Veterans and Military Families for Progress
- Veterans Assistance Foundation
- Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania
- Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
- Veterans of Modern Warfare
- Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
- Veterans of the Vietnam War & the Veterans Coalition
- Veterans' Widowers International Network
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
- Vietnam Veterans of America
- Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation
- WAVES National
- Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation
- Women's Airforce Service Pilots, WWII
- Women's Army Corps Veterans Association
- Women Marines Association
- Women Overseas Service League
- Women's Veterans of America
- Wounded Warriors
- Wounded Warrior Project

OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS

In addition to the service organizations listed in the chapter on veterans' service organizations, there is a wide range of nonprofit organizations that are not connected to one or more branches of the uniformed services, but provide various services specifically to veterans. SR 255 directs the Commission to compile a list of services and programs provided by "nonprofit organizations that advertise in their primary mission statement that they provide a service or support to veterans and their families." The following is a listing of Pennsylvania nonprofits that provide services to veterans, without any claim that every such organization is listed here. Excluded are organizations that provide services without regard to veteran, or veteran-related status. The list of organizations below was selected from the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs' Veterans Resource Online Directory.⁴³

Business

Veterans Corporation

The mission of the Veterans Corporation (also known as Veteranscorp.org) is to help structure and facilitate collaborations between nonprofit and profit small business entities and veteran-owned small businesses. Formerly a federal entity, the Veterans Corporation, though not chartered, has assumed the original mission: to help and educate veterans in small business. To accomplish its mission, Veteranscorp.org acts as a clearinghouse for ideas and information useful to veteran and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. It also acts as a clearinghouse for soliciting and distributing small business information to the general public. See more at <http://www.veteranscorp.org/aboutus-2/#sthash.gdgOxbcK.dpuf>.

Death and Disability

Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund

The Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund (<http://www.cfsrf.org/>) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that was founded in October 2003 as a means of providing college grants and financial

⁴³ PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. *Veterans Resource Online Directory*, available at <http://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Pages/Programs%20and%20Services/Veterans-Resource-Online-Directory.aspx#.V03GUN7D8XJ> (accessed June 2016).

assistance to surviving children and spouses of U.S. military service-members who have lost their lives as a result of their service in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars.

Fisher House Foundation

The Fisher House Foundation (<http://www.fisherhouse.org/>) is best known for a network of comfort homes where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. These homes are located at major military and VA medical centers nationwide, close to the medical center or hospital they serve. Fisher Houses have up to 21 suites, with private bedrooms and baths. Families share a common kitchen, laundry facilities, a warm dining room and an inviting living room. Fisher House Foundation ensures that there is never a lodging fee. Since inception, the program has saved military and veterans' families an estimated \$320 million in out of pocket costs for lodging and transportation.

Fisher House Foundation also operates the Hero Miles program, using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members as well as the Hotels for Heroes program using donated hotel points to allow family members to stay at hotels near medical centers without charge. The Foundation also manages a grant program that supports other military charities and scholarship funds for military children, spouses, and children of fallen and disabled veterans.

Freedom and Honor Transition Team

Freedom and Honor (<http://www.freedomandhonor.org/>) offers training programs and workshops that bridge the gap between combat tours, military to civilian life, and between mental health support and other community services. When traversing the sometimes foreign landscape, it is crucial to learn the skills to regain the ability to engage at peak performance. These confidential programs are open to any branch of service: Active Duty, Guard, Reserves and Veterans of any conflict or military duty. The goal: mission-ready military and productive and healthy veteran citizens.

Homes for Our Troops (HFOT)

Homes for Our Troops (<https://www.hfotusa.org/mission/>) is a privately funded 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds mortgage-free, specially adapted homes nationwide for severely injured veterans post- 9/11, to enable them to rebuild their lives. Most of these veterans have sustained injuries including multiple limb amputations, partial or full paralysis, or severe traumatic brain injury. These homes restore some of the freedom and independence veterans sacrificed while defending our country, and enable them to focus on their family, recovery, and rebuilding their lives. Since its inception in 2004, nearly 90 cents of every dollar has gone directly to program services for veterans. HFOT builds these homes where the veteran chooses to live, and continues its relationship with the veterans after home delivery to assist them with rebuilding their lives.

Job Opportunities for Disabled Veterans

Job Opportunities for Disabled Veterans <https://www.jofdav.com/> is the premier non-profit job search website offering jobs for veterans who are disabled since 2009. This organization works in concert with many Wounded Warrior Transition Command Centers, DVOPs, LVERs and multiple military organizations that support our Nation's Heroes in their job search for employment. Its board boasts over 200,000 active jobs with hundreds and sometimes thousands of new jobs posted daily.

Operation First Response (OFR)

The mission of Operation First Response, Inc (<http://www.operationfirstresponse.org/>) is to serve all branches of our nation's wounded heroes and disabled veterans and their families with personal and financial needs. Services are provided from the onset of injuries or illness, throughout their recovery period and along their journey from military life to the civilian world. Financial aid varies as each case is based on individual needs ranging from rent, utilities, vehicle payments, groceries, clothing, and travel expenses.

Sentinels of Freedom (SOF)

Sentinels of Freedom (<http://www.sentinelsoffreedom.org/>) provides two- to four-year, multifaceted scholarships to severely wounded post 9/11 veterans who pursue higher education after transitioning from the military. The SOF program includes financial support for housing, mentoring for personal, academic and professional success, and employment networking upon completion of a degree.

Vans for Vets

Vans for Vets (<http://www.vansforvets.org/>) was established in 2007 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that provides handicap-equipped vehicles, mobile homes and certain classes of water craft along with mental health and outreach services to honorably discharged, disabled American veterans, homeless veterans, and family members, free of charge.

Wounded Heroes Foundation (WHF)

The Wounded Heroes Foundation (<http://www.woundedheroesfund.net/>) supports the injured men and women of our Armed Forces serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world. WHF helps meet the needs of these wounded heroes and their families during the difficult recovery time by offering physical, emotional, and financial support.

Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)

Wounded Warrior Project (<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>) provides a variety of programs to assist injured service members and their families. Its goals are:

- to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members;
- to help injured service members aid and assist each other;
- to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of injured service members.

Education

Armed Services YMCA

The Armed Services YMCA (<http://www.asymca.org/>) makes military life easier by providing programs and services to the young men and women of all five armed services: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The organization supports 500,000 young enlisted soldiers, sailors, and airmen, and their families each year with the help of gracious donors and stalwart volunteers through specialized programs and support services to military service members and their families with a particular focus on junior-enlisted men and women — the individuals on the front lines of defending our nation. Programs are offered at no or low cost and require no dues or membership fees.

Fisher House

The above-mentioned Fisher House Foundation (<http://www.militaryscholar.org/>) offers scholarships for spouses and children of military service members.

University of Pennsylvania — TRIO Veterans Upward Bound Program (VUB)

The TRIO Veterans Upward Bound Program (<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/eap/vub/>) at the University of Pennsylvania is a free, non-credited, non-profit, precollege program federally funded with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The primary goal of TRIO VUB is to prepare eligible veterans to enter college, be successful in college, and to graduate from college. In order for students to be fully prepared for college, TRIO VUB emulates the college experience. High expectations are placed on students while attending TRIO VUB in order to support their success in the program and later in college.

Employment

American Corporate Partners (ACP)

American Corporate Partners (<http://www.acp-usa.org/about-us/mission>) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting veterans in their transition from the armed services to the civilian workforce. With the help of business professionals nationwide, ACP offers veterans tools for long-term career development through mentoring, career counseling, and networking opportunities.

Helmets to Hardhats

Helmets to Hardhats (<http://www.helmetstohardhats.org/>) is a national, nonprofit program that connects National Guard, Reserve, retired and transitioning active-duty military service members with skilled training and quality career opportunities in the construction industry. The program is designed to help military service members successfully transition back into civilian life by offering them the means to secure a quality career in the construction industry.

Veterans Across America (VAA)

Veterans Across America (<http://www.veteransacrossamerica.org/>) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with over 15 years of experience assisting veterans. The primary focus is the enhancement and economic well-being of veterans and their family caregivers. VAA is dedicated to working on behalf of America's veterans and creating an employment demand for them among a broad network of business leaders, organizations, and institutions. VAA strives to create an environment that enables veterans to reintegrate into society, which includes job placement, access to healthcare, mentoring, and championing the disenfranchised.

Warriors to Work

Warriors to Work (<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/programs/warriors-to-work>), a veteran employment program, provides career guidance and support services to Wounded Warriors Project alumni interested in transitioning to the civilian workforce. It matches skills and experience to the needs of hiring managers. These services are also open to those registered with Family Support.

Financial

Military Saves

Military Saves (<http://www.militarysaves.org/learn-more-about-us/what-is-military-saves#sthash.qlpRrt21.dpuf>), a component of the nonprofit America Saves and a partner in the Department of Defense's Financial Readiness Campaign, seeks to motivate, support, and encourage military families to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth. The research-based campaign uses the principles of behavioral economics and social marketing to change behavior.

Pennsylvania Veterans Foundation

Pennsylvania Veterans Foundation (<http://www.paveteransfoundation.org/>) is a charitable 501(c)(3) corporation whose purposes include the following:

- To provide assistance and support for Pennsylvania veterans and their families,
- To make grants to other recognized charitable foundations and organizations and veterans' service organizations to carry out the charitable purposes of the Corporation.
- To make grants and to undertake charitable programs and projects to assist and support deserving Pennsylvania veterans and their families.
- To assist Pennsylvania veterans in need of shelter and the necessities of living.
- To provide aid, comfort, assistance, and support for Pennsylvania veterans, including veterans of war or armed conflict and peacetime veterans, and their families.
- To help ensure that Pennsylvania veterans and their dependents have access to accurate up-to-date information and assistance to qualify for federal, state, and local veterans benefits.

SaveAndInvest.org

SaveAndInvest.org (<https://www.saveandinvest.org/military>) provides unbiased financial tools and information from the Financial Investor Education Foundation (FINRA) to help military families and all investors make informed financial decisions.

Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc.

A good example of a nonprofit, grass-roots organization helping wounded veterans and their families is Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors. This organization is in some ways unique in its origin, significant growth, and broad recognition.

Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc., is an independent statewide nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization providing support to Pennsylvania wounded warriors and their families and veterans in crisis. It was created by Major General Gerald Sajer⁴⁴ and his wife, Helen Sajer, in 2006, after their son returned from Iraq. Major General Sajer is now deceased, but his wife, Helen Sajer, is still the leader of Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, its president.

Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors (PAWW) is a true grass-roots effort. It started with the Sajers visiting wounded warriors, including many amputees, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Major General Sajer⁴⁵ and his wife began bringing wounded soldiers and their families for weekend trips to their farm in Adams County. A relaxing weekend spent in a beautiful, peaceful environment with their families lifted the veterans' spirits and was beneficial for their physical and mental recovery. As the Sajers' friends and neighbors learned about their activities, some of them decided to participate as well and began donating food, transportation and recreational opportunities, such as organizing hunting trips for disabled veterans.

When Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors became aware of other veterans' needs, in part through their work with the VA Hospital in Lebanon, they started responding to emergency situations, for example helping with the rent or providing gas cards to give an opportunity to a wife to visit her husband who was being treated for his wounds at the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia.

With time, Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc., has been able to enhance its activities due to growing support. Currently, it receives donations from individuals; schools; churches; local, civic and business groups as well as veterans' organizations such as VFW, American Legion, DAV, Vietnam Veterans, and others. Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors staff is unpaid; it consists entirely of volunteers who donate their time and expertise to assist Pennsylvania veterans. A very small percentage of costs is used to cover administrative costs.⁴⁶ PAWW claims that 95-96 cents out of every dollar donated is used to directly assist a wounded veteran or his family in crisis.⁴⁷

Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc., describes its mission in the following way: "Our mission is to help restore wounded warriors to good physical, mental and emotional health."⁴⁸ Its motto is "No warrior without help." It perceives its efforts as supplementary, the help it provides as additional to medical and other benefits the wounded veteran is already receiving from VA or

⁴⁴ Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc., available at <http://www.pawoundedwarriors.org/> (accessed April 29, 2016).

⁴⁵ Major General Sajer was Pennsylvania Adjutant General from 1987 to 1995.

⁴⁶ *Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc., Information Brochure.*

⁴⁷ *Ibid.* See also Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc., available at <http://www.pawoundedwarriors.org/> (accessed April 29, 2016).

⁴⁸ *Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc., Information Brochure.*

other sources. PAWW can help veterans with payments such as mortgage or rent, security deposits, utilities, home or vehicle repairs, and also medical and education expenses not covered under current government programs. PAWW can also help with temporary housing to prevent a veteran from becoming homeless while in transition to permanent housing. In most circumstances, PAWW pays directly to vendors and creditors instead of giving cash directly to veterans. It encourages veterans in need of assistance to contact a local VA office, County Veterans Office, or a similar veterans' service agency first. To follow through with the referral, PAWW volunteers work directly with the caseworker assigned to the individual to support his or her request and to ensure the needs are met.

Throughout the year, PAWW staff volunteers visit veterans in hospitals and other military facilities such as PA State Veteran Centers. During these visits, PAWW representatives provide veterans with information on its programs and on other organizations within Pennsylvania that can also provide assistance or recreational activities for veterans and their families. They also distribute small gifts, such as Pennsylvania foods, homemade quilts, iTunes cards, and other similar items. These visits and gifts are intended to improve the veterans' quality of life and to improve their morale. Morale events have also included providing tickets to Hershey Park for wounded veterans and their families, to Pocono Raceway, and to dinners at local restaurants.

In 2014, Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors assisted over 1,200 wounded warriors and veterans in crisis with over \$600,000 in emergency financial assistance.⁴⁹ In 2015, the amount of assistance provided for the first time in the history of the organization reached a million mark and exceeded it: PAWW provided assistance of \$1,121,301 and served over 1400 veterans and their families.⁵⁰

The largest category of support is housing and home repair. PAWW perceives moving veterans to safe and stable housing, avoiding evictions and preventing homelessness as a primary goal. Therefore, in the past two years it dedicated over 50 percent of its monies to pay for security deposits, rent and mortgage payments and home repair.⁵¹ On housing issues PAWW staff collaborates with VA counselors and other nonprofit organizations around the Commonwealth.

The second-largest category of support in the past two years was basic utilities: PAWW paid for heating oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, and water. The third category was auto: car repair and car insurance as well as loan payments. The remaining finances were used towards morale events, grocery and gas gift cards, homeless emergency, and miscellaneous expenses such as medical bills and daycare.⁵²

In ten years of existence, PAWW has helped over 6,000 wounded warriors and veterans.⁵³

⁴⁹ Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc., available at <http://www.pawoundedwarriors.org/> (accessed April 29, 2016).

⁵⁰ *Pennsylvania Wounded Warriors, Inc., Information Brochure.*

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² *Ibid.*

⁵³ Information provided in a personal interview to the Joint State Government Commission by PAWW President, Ms. Helen Sajer, on April 19, 2016.

VETERANS' EDUCATION BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS

Higher Education

GI Bill of Rights and the State Approving Agency in Pennsylvania

Most of education benefits for veterans are provided by the GI Bill of Rights. GI Bill of Rights was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944. As Congress recognized that each state has the right and responsibility for the education and training of its residents, the State Approving Agency was established in each state to manage veterans' education benefits together with the federal government. In Pennsylvania, the State Approving Agency (SAA) is the Department of Education (PDE), specifically its Division of Veterans/Military Education.

The State Approving Agency is totally federally funded under an annual reimbursement contract. By federal statute and contract, the State Approving Agency must perform certain tasks and provide detailed documentation (in the form of reports, approval letters, program inventories, et cetera) to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). The Division of Veterans/Military Education staff work closely with DVA staff located in Philadelphia; Pittsburgh; and Buffalo, New York (the east region processing office for education benefits) as well as the Central Office located in Washington, D.C.⁵⁴ The PDE Division of Veterans/Military Education has three offices (Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia).

As the State Approving Agency, the PDE's role is to approve and supervise education programs, training programs, and licensure/certification examinations so that eligible veterans, reservists, and their dependents may use their GI Bill benefits. The SAA must specifically approve each education or training program where a veteran or another eligible person wishes to use GI Bill benefits. This ensures compliance with both state and federal requirements. In addition, the SAA conducts compliance surveys on behalf of the DVA.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Information provided to the Joint State Government Commission by Ms. Christine Hawk, Veterans' Education Manager from the DPE Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education, Division of Veterans/Military Education, on April 13, 2016.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

The SAA Activities

Program Approval

The scope of the SAA activities is broad. It conducts program approval for over 650 educational institutions, almost 600 apprenticeship/On-the-Job Training establishments, and 14 organizations offering licensure/certification examinations.⁵⁶

Educational institutions that have their programs approved by the Pennsylvania SSA include

- 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 (the largest correspondence school in the United States is located in Pennsylvania)
- Flight Schools
- High Schools (a limited program for dependent children who are 18 years of age)
- Other educational institutions (Police Academies, Game Commission, Fish and Boat Commission, et cetera).

The Pennsylvania SAA approved the following apprenticeship/on-the-job training establishments on the state, county and municipal levels as well as in the private sector:

State

- Corrections Officers
- State Police
- Probation and Parole Officers

County

- County Corrections Officers
- Deputy Wardens
- County Probation Officers

⁵⁶ Ibid. A list of Pennsylvania educational institutions approved for G.I. Bill benefits is provided in Appendix E.

Municipal

- Police Officers
- Fire Fighters
- Waste Water Treatment Technicians

Private Sector

- Manufacturing (Machinist, Tool and Die Maker, et cetera)
- Construction (Electrician, Plumber, Carpenter, et cetera)
- Automotive (Mechanic, Technician, Body Repairer, et cetera)
- Aviation (Mechanic, Instructor, et cetera)
- Other (Office Manager, Security Guard, Horseshoer, et cetera).

Licensure/certification examinations approved by the SAA in the Commonwealth include the Pennsylvania Bar Exam, various medical examinations, and computer certification tests, among others.

Outreach Activities

An important area of the SAA's activities is outreach. In order to use their benefits, veterans and their family members need to be aware of them and know how they can be accessed. Outreach plays a critical role in ensuring veterans use the benefits they are entitled to. With education benefits in particular, pro-active outreach may motivate some veterans decide to continue their education while otherwise, they might not make this decision.

The PDE Division of Veterans/Military Education develops and distributes numerous brochures to inform veterans and other eligible individuals of their GI benefits.

The department manages the Governor's Welcome Home program, mailing an information packet to each veteran returning to the Commonwealth. Once per quarter, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs forwards the information about all recently discharged individuals who listed Pennsylvania as their home of record. Based on this information, the SAA mails a packet to each of these individuals. The packet contains a GI Bill brochure and other relevant information. Over 200,000 packets have been mailed to returning individuals since 1990. In 2015, over 5,000 packets were sent to returning individuals.⁵⁷ The GI Bill brochure details what institutions and organizations the GI benefits can be used at and outlines specific steps an applicant needs to take to activate his benefits.

The GI Bill brochure sent out by the PDE includes a description of the additional sources of funding available in the Commonwealth to further assist eligible veterans to gain their

⁵⁷ Information provided to the Joint State Government Commission by Ms. Christine Hawk, Veterans' Education Manager from the DPE Bureau of Postsecondary and Adult Education, Division of Veterans/Military Education, on April 13, 2016.

education. The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) offers a State Grant Program to qualified veterans. Unlike other applicants, all veterans are considered for this PHEAA program without regard to the financial status of their parents. The Pennsylvania National Guard Educational Assistance Program can provide up to 100 percent of tuition charged at one of Pennsylvania's 14 state system of higher education institutions or one of the 14 community colleges in the Commonwealth. The brochure contains a brief review of both programs and specific contact information. These programs, along with other financial aid, may be combined with the GI Bill benefits for a total education package.

In addition to developing and distributing various brochures with the GI Bill benefits information and managing the Governor's Welcome Home program, the PDE Division of Veterans/Military Education participates in numerous job fairs and other similar activities throughout the state; sponsors annual meetings for educational institution officials and training establishment officials who work with veterans, dependents, and reservists; develops and distributes informational newsletters for school officials as needed; and provides new student/employee orientations on GI Bill benefits. The SAA also sponsors the annual Veterans Day Display in the Department of Education. These meetings and other events reach significant numbers of people. For example, in April 2015, three workshops for educational and training institution officials throughout the Commonwealth attracted over 300 attendees, who, in turn, work with hundreds of veterans and their dependents.⁵⁸

Compliance Surveys

The third area of the SAA activities, in addition to program approval and outreach, is compliance surveys. Since October 2011, the PDE Division of Veterans/Military Education has been conducting compliance service visits to educational institutions and training establishments that have GI Bill beneficiaries. With access to the DVA benefits system, the staff has additional information to verify that veterans and educational institutions have been properly certified and received the correct benefit amounts.⁵⁹

Post-9/11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program in Pennsylvania

In its current form, the Post-9/11 GI Bill⁶⁰ has vastly enhanced education and training benefits available to veterans. The Post-9/11 GI Bill can cover all in-state tuition and fees at public degree-granting schools, but may not cover all private degree-granting schools and out-of-state tuition. The Yellow Ribbon program provides additional support in those situations. Degree-granting institutions of higher learning that elect to participate in the Post-9-11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program agree to make additional funds available for a veteran's education program without an additional charge to the veteran's GI Bill entitlement. These institutions of higher learning voluntarily enter into a Yellow Ribbon agreement with VA and choose the amount of

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ 38 U.S.C. Ch. 33.

tuition and fees that will be contributed; VA matches that amount and issues payments directly to the institution.⁶¹

Most of the private colleges and universities in Pennsylvania participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program.⁶² The list of Pennsylvania institutions of higher learning, along with the information on specific programs and the maximum school contribution per student in the academic year 2015-2016 can be accessed online⁶³ and can also be found in this report, in Appendix F.

Only veterans entitled to the maximum benefit rate, as determined by service requirements, or their designated transferees may receive the Yellow Ribbon Program funding. Active duty service members and their spouses are not eligible for this program. Child transferees of active duty service members may be eligible if the service member is qualified at the 100 percent rate.⁶⁴

Descriptive national data on the prevalence and characteristics of services and support programs for military service members and veterans at postsecondary institutions in the United States is presented in the report prepared by the National Center of Education Statistics (NCES), the primary federal entity for collecting, analyzing, and reporting data related to education in the United States and other nations.⁶⁵ NCES conducted a survey that covered customized support services such as academic support/tutoring; career planning/services, and mental health counseling; availability of mentoring programs; customization of admissions and orientation activities; availability of Veterans Affairs (VA) work-study opportunities; and tutorial assistance using VA educational benefits. Other topics included institutions' policies for charging veterans in-state tuition, course offerings specifically for military service members and veterans, and availability of training for postsecondary staff members on issues specific to veterans and service members. The survey also collected information about the number and type of students enrolled, and the number and type of dependents enrolled who received military or veteran's financial education benefits.⁶⁶

In 2016, *U.S. News and World Report* in its "Best Colleges for Veterans" category, ranked the University of Pennsylvania No. 8 in the country while Pennsylvania State University-University Park and Lehigh University were tied at No. 38.⁶⁷

⁶¹ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *Education and Training. Yellow Ribbon Program*, available at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon.asp (accessed April 15, 2016).

⁶² Information provided to the Joint State Government Commission by Mr. Ron Uroda, Vice President for Research of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania, in his personal e-mail of April 14, 2016. The list of colleges and universities that do and do not participate in the program is available in Appendix E.

⁶³ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *Education and Training. PA State Yellow Ribbon Program Information 2015-2016*, available at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon/2015/states/pa.asp (accessed April 14, 2016).

⁶⁴ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. *Education and Training. Yellow Ribbon Program*, available at http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon.asp (accessed April 15, 2016).

⁶⁵ National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. *Services and Support Programs for Military Service Members and Veterans at Postsecondary Institutions, 2012-13: First Look*. Washington, D.C., February 2014, available at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2014/2014017.pdf> (accessed April 15, 2016).

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

⁶⁷ "Best Colleges for Veterans: National Universities." *U.S. News and World Report*, available at <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/veterans> (accessed July 22, 2016).

Recent Additional Measures to Facilitate Veterans' Access to Higher Education in the Commonwealth

In the past two years, the Commonwealth has taken additional steps to facilitate veterans' access to higher learning.

The Higher Education Course Scheduling Preference for Veterans Act (Act 46 of 2014) requires the public institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania to provide priority course scheduling to qualified veterans students.⁶⁸ The Act applies to community colleges, state-owned universities, and state-related universities, namely the University of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania State University, Temple University and Lincoln University and their branch campuses.⁶⁹ To qualify, an individual must

- have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including a reserve component and National Guard, and have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable;
- be admitted to a participating college; and
- reside in Pennsylvania while enrolled.

The intent of the Act is to increase course access for veteran students and thus, to give them a better chance of enrolling in a full course load and maximizing their education benefits before they expire.

Amendments in 2015 confer limited residency status for purposes of providing for attendance at public institutions of higher learning in Pennsylvania. Eligible individuals include veterans, their spouses and dependent children who do not currently reside in Pennsylvania; military personnel, their spouses and dependent children who are assigned to an active duty station in Pennsylvania and who reside in Pennsylvania; and any civilian personnel, their spouses and dependent children employed at a Department of Defense facility who are transferred to Pennsylvania by the Department of Defense and who reside in Pennsylvania.⁷⁰ Eligible students are charged in-state tuition rate, which also applies to distance learning tuition for any active military personnel and their dependents residing in the Commonwealth. If they attend a community college, they are charged the lowest local sponsor tuition rate.

Educational Gratuity

Pennsylvania offers an additional educational benefit: educational gratuity. Educational gratuities are intended for children of honorably discharged veterans who have been certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having wartime service-connected disabilities and rated as totally and permanently disabled or children of veterans who die or have died of war service-connected disabilities or died in service during a period of war or armed conflict. To be entitled to this educational gratuity, children must be between the ages of 16 and 23, living within the Commonwealth five years prior to application, and they must attend a school within the

⁶⁸ Act of May 14, 2014 (P.L.667, No.46); 24 P.S. §§ 7701-7703.

⁶⁹ A full list of Pennsylvania public institutions of higher education can be found in Appendix C.

⁷⁰ Act of Dec. 15, 1982 (P.L.1266, No.287), § 1; 24 P.S. § 2509.

Commonwealth. Applicants must demonstrate financial need. The maximum gratuity amount is \$500 per semester.⁷¹

Penn State

Penn State has been consistently described as a military/veteran-friendly school by numerous publications such as *Military Times*, *GI Jobs*, and *Military Advanced Education*.⁷² In 2015, Penn State World Campus undergraduate programs were ranked No. 1 in the country by *U.S. News and World Report*.⁷³ The World Campus works with students from all over the globe, including those currently deployed to Afghanistan and other places with active armed conflict. Current technology enables students to take classes in these remote areas, and Penn State provides them with support programs like military admissions help and academic advising, specifically targeted to service members and their spouses.

The Office of Veterans Affairs helps students receive their GI Bill benefits. The Post-9/11 GI Bill is considered complex, and many veterans need guidance in utilizing it. Penn State also offers counseling and outreach services. According to the Office of Veterans Programs at University Park, Penn State has had a veterans' outreach office since the 1980s, and even before that there has been somebody looking out for veterans since World War II.⁷⁴ Presently, the student outreach section of the Office of Veterans Programs is staffed by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs work-study students who contact prospective students seeking more information and encourage them, relying on their own experience.

Penn State World Campus is constantly working to establish scholarships for military and veteran students to help make their education more affordable. The newest, the Keystone Real Estate Group Scholarship for Military Students, will provide financial support to students who were in the armed forces and were wounded while serving on active duty. Another scholarship, established in honor of retired Capt. Ryan J. McCombie, a Penn State graduate who spent 26 years as a Navy Seal, is awarded to veterans, active-duty military, reservists, or National Guard members based on their academic record or promise.⁷⁵

One of Penn State's recent initiatives aimed at providing assistance to veterans is launching a new legal clinic. It is designed to provide "hands-on practice experience for law students as they represent veterans and current servicemembers in the unique legal issues they encounter."⁷⁶ At the

⁷¹ *State Veteran Benefits NY and PA*, available at <http://www.military.com/education/money-for-school/state-veteran-benefits-ny-and-pa.html> (accessed April 21, 2016).

⁷² Cappelli, Kathy. "Penn State's Commitment to Military/Veteran Students Stands out Nationally," available at <http://news.psu.edu/story/371947/2015/09/28/impact/penn-states-commitment-militaryveteran-students-stands-out-nationally> (accessed July 22, 2016).

⁷³ *Ibid.*

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷⁶ *Penn State Law Starts New legal Clinic for Veterans and Servicemembers*, available at <http://news.psu.edu/story/351882/2015/04/07/penn-state-law-starts-new-legal-clinic-veterans-and-servicemembers> (accessed June 23, 2016).

outset, the clinic is expected to focus its work on three areas: Veterans Benefits appeals, veterans' rights cases, and state and federal policy matters that pertain to veterans and service members.⁷⁷

Penn State also runs the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness, which was established in 2011 to facilitate support to military families and those who serve them. The Clearinghouse focuses on “catalyzing new research designed to translate science from multiple disciplines into the development, implementation, dissemination, and evaluation of evidence-based programs and practices designed to bolster military family readiness, resilience, and well-being.”⁷⁸

Secondary Schools

Pennsylvania is a member of the Military Interstate Compact for Children Commission (MIC3), which was created by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act, Feb. 2, 2012, P.L. 42, No. 6.⁷⁹ This compact has been signed by all 50 states. The purpose is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by

- Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of education records from the previous school district(s) or variations in entrance/age requirements.
- Facilitating the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content or assessment.
- Facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic, and social activities.
- Facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families.
- Providing for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative rules implementing the provisions of this compact.
- Providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools and military families under this compact.
- Promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts affecting military children.
- Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents and the student in order to achieve educational success for the student.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Act of Feb. 2, 2012 (P.L.42, No.6); 24 P.S. §§ 7301-7308.

The compact applies to the children of active duty members of the uniformed services as defined in this compact; members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one year after medical discharge or retirement; and members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one year after death.

The Governor in each state appoints the compact commissioner responsible for the administration and management of the state's participation in this compact. In 2015/2016, Pennsylvania did not have a compact commissioner; this role was temporarily performed by the Regional Director of the Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction of the PDE Division of Planning. The issues that needed to be addressed were mostly related to keystone test graduation requirement, sports eligibility, scheduling of try-outs and sign-ups for sports, and also credits and courses required for graduation.⁸⁰ In 2016, Mr. Robert Staver was appointed the Pennsylvania compact commissioner.

Military Schools

Valley Forge Military Academy and College

Valley Forge Military Academy and College (VFMA) is a preparatory boarding school and coeducational junior college in the military school tradition located in Wayne, Pennsylvania. It offers numerous scholarship opportunities for new and returning students. Last year, it awarded more than \$3,500,000 in merit and need-based aid.⁸¹

To pay for the Academy, students can take advantage of several scholarship opportunities. VFMA academic scholarships, designed to encourage outstanding academic achievement of students applying to the school, are awarded based on an applicant Grade Point Average (GPA). The highest academic merit award amount is \$5,000.⁸²

VFMA talent scholarships promote and reward exceptional skill in band or choir; they require auditions.

Valley Forge offers over forty endowed scholarships provided by patrons. Criteria for those are specified by the donor; some of them are based on need, and others on merit.

Two special need-based scholarship programs are sponsored by the State of Pennsylvania: Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC) and Education Improvement Tax Credit

⁸⁰ Information provided to the Joint State Government Commission by Mr. Karl Streckewald, Regional Director of the Bureau of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction of the PDE Division of Planning, in his personal e-mail of April 19, 2016.

⁸¹ Valley Forge Military Academy. *Paying for the Academy: Scholarship and Awards*, available at <http://www.vfmac.edu/academy/admissions/paying-academy/scholarships-awards/> (accessed September 23, 2016).

⁸² Ibid.

Program (EITC). To receive OSTC from VFMA, an eligible applicant must be a school-age student residing within the attendance boundary of a low-achieving school, who is resident of Pennsylvania, who is enrolled at VFMA, and who is a member of a household with an annual household income of not more than \$60,000, with the exception of an additional income allowance of \$12,000 permitted for the student and for each other dependent (as defined by the IRS) living within the same household. To receive EITC funding from VFMA, an eligible applicant must be a school-age student who is a resident of the Commonwealth, who is enrolled at VFMA, and who is a member of a household with an annual income of not more than \$60,000, with the exception of an additional income allowance of \$12,000 permitted for the student and for each other dependent (as defined by the IRS) living within the same household.⁸³

To pay for the College, students can utilize federal education benefits such as tuition assistance and various Montgomery GI Bill Benefits. Valley Forge Military Academy participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program, which means it will fund up to 50% of tuition expenses that exceed the annual maximum cap for private institutions, with VA matching the same amount as the institution. VFMA funds this in the form of a scholarship.⁸⁴

Additional opportunities are presented by the Pennsylvania Legislative Appointment. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Legislative Appointment Initiative (LAI) currently allows each of Pennsylvania's 203 Representatives and 50 Senators to appoint a student from his or her district as the Commonwealth Scholar for guaranteed admission and a guaranteed partial scholarship to Valley Forge Military College – the Military College of Pennsylvania. A student awarded the Legislative Appointment Initiative Scholarship may receive the award for up to two years.⁸⁵ LAI is available only to Pennsylvania residents only at Valley Forge Military College, the Military College of Pennsylvania. An eligible candidate must satisfy minimum academic requirements. The award amount depends upon the academic achievement of the student selected and ranges from \$12,000 to \$17,500.⁸⁶ A candidate can apply for this program either directly through his or her local state representative's or senator's office or by applying first to Valley Forge.

Carson Long Military Academy

Carson Long Military Academy is located in New Bloomfield, Pennsylvania; it is the oldest preparatory boarding school in the United States that features military training for grades 6 to 12. To promote socio-economic diversity among the Corps of Cadets and to make Carson Long Military Academy an inclusive and diverse educational community, the school offers a number of merit, leadership, and academic-based scholarships that enrolled students are eligible to receive each year.⁸⁷

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Valley Forge Military Academy. *Paying for College: Veteran Education Benefits*, available at <http://www.vfmac.edu/college/admissions/paying-college/veteran-education-benefits/> (accessed September 23, 2016).

⁸⁵ Valley Forge Military Academy. *Paying for College: PA Legislative Appointment*, available at <http://www.vfmac.edu/college/admissions/paying-college/pa-legislative-appointment> (accessed September 23, 2016).

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ *Carson Long Military Academy: Financial Aid*, available at <http://www.carsonlong.org/page.cfm?p=910> (accessed September 23, 2016).

Similar to VFMA, Carson Long Military Academy is approved as both a Scholarship Organization and an Opportunity Scholarship Organization as part of Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. Families who reside in Pennsylvania and meet state-mandated residence and income requirements may qualify for tuition scholarships. To apply for an EITC scholarship, the family must submit the EITC scholarship application to Carson Long.⁸⁸

Carson Long Military Academy provides a discount of \$1,000 for a cadet whose parent served in the military; it is in the process of raising it to \$5,000.⁸⁹

⁸⁸ *Carson Long Military Academy: PA's EITC Scholarship Program*, available at <http://www.carsonlong.org/page.cfm?p=937> (accessed September 23, 2016).

⁸⁹ Information provided to the Joint State Government Commission by LTC Mark Morgan, President of the Carson Long Military Academy, in his personal e-mail of July 22, 2016.

SELECTED BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES

As most benefits and programs for veterans and active military servicemen and servicewomen are federally mandated, they are very similar nationwide. Delivery systems may be slightly different, but the range and type of services are largely the same.

This chapter is a list of representative benefits and programs offered in states other than Pennsylvania. The descriptions are provided by Military.com and have not been verified by Commission staff.⁹⁰ Programs and benefits that are similar to those currently in place in Pennsylvania are not included.

Additional Benefits and Programs in Other States

Alabama

Commitment of Incompetent Veteran. Where it appears that an incompetent veteran of any war, military occupation, or expedition is eligible for treatment in a VA Medical Center and the treatment is necessary for the proper care of the veteran, the courts may communicate with the administration with reference to available facilities and eligibility. Upon receipt of a certificate from the administration stating that there are facilities available in a VA Medical Center where the veteran is entitled to hospitalization, the court may then direct the veteran's commitment to the hospital. Notice of the pending proceedings is furnished the person so committed, and he or she may contest the commitment.

Alaska

Veterans Land Discount/Purchase Preference. The Veterans Land Discount program allows certain veterans a 25% discount on the purchase price of state residential or recreational land. The discount may be used only once during the veteran's lifetime and may not be used in conjunction with the veterans' preference.

Driver's License Extensions. A service member's noncommercial driver's license or that of his or her spouse is valid for 90 days after discharge or return to the State, whichever occurs first.

⁹⁰ <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html> (visited April 21, 2016).

Arizona

Retirement. For members of a police or fire department, the period of military service is included in computing the length of service of the employee to determine eligibility for retirement.

California

California Military Family Relief Fund. The California Military Family Relief Fund (CMFRF) provides short term financial assistance in the form of grants to qualifying California National Guard members or families impacted by mobilization and deployment. (Pennsylvania's Military Family Relief Fund guidelines do not specifically include mobilization and deployment as exigent circumstances qualifying for relief.)⁹¹

Delaware

Tax Credit for Employers Hiring Veterans. Employers are eligible during the year a qualified veteran is hired and for two taxable years thereafter a tax credit of 10 percent of a qualified veteran's wages, up to a maximum of \$1,500. Employers may take the credit the year a veteran is hired and the two subsequent tax years. A qualified veteran is anyone who has served in a hostile environment, such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Florida

Handicapped Toll Permit. Any handicapped person who has a valid driver's license, operates a vehicle specially equipped for use by the handicapped, and is certified by a licensed physician or by the VA Adjudication Officer as physically disabled and having permanent impairments which impair the person's ability to deposit coins in toll baskets shall be allowed to pass free through all tollgates. A vehicle window sticker will be issued.

Georgia

Drivers' Licenses. These are issued free of charge to eligible veterans and National Guard or Reservists with 20 or more years of service.

Guardianship. The Uniform Guardianship Act provides for appointment of a guardian for incompetent veterans and for veterans' children where VA benefits are involved. These appointments are made on the basis of certificates issued only by VA.

⁹¹ See http://www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Pages/Programs%20and%20Services/Military-Family-Relief-Assistance-Program.aspx#.V1Bav0rD_cs.

Illinois

Global War on Terrorism Survivors Compensation. A \$3,000 compensation benefit is payable to survivors of military personnel killed in action by terrorist acts or hostile activities during the performance of military service in periods recognized as wartime by a United States campaign or service medals. Residency of one year in the State prior to entering military service is required.

Louisiana

Transfer of Military Skills to Civilian Employment. Qualifying individuals with military training and experience are granted professional licensure or certification when the service member has been awarded a military occupational specialty and performance in that specialty at a level equal to or exceeding the requirements for the license or certification. The program allows for spouses of individuals with military training and experience to be granted a license, certification, or registration to lawfully practice an occupation by the appropriate professional or occupational licensing board when the spouse meets certain conditions.

Massachusetts

Annuity. An annuity in the amount of \$2,000, which is payable biannually on August 1 and February 1 in two installments of \$1,000 each is available for certain veterans and their spouses, as well as Gold Star Parents.

Minnesota

Guardianship Division. The Guardianship Division provides financial case management services to incompetent veterans, their dependents, and survivors who may be vulnerable to exploitation by others or by their own inability to manage their funds.

Mississippi

Concealed Weapon Permit Fee Exemption. A veteran having a service-connected disability is exempt from concealed weapon permit fees and renewal fees. The veteran must be a resident of the State for 12 months or longer immediately preceding the filing of the application. However, this residency requirement may be waived, provided the applicant possesses a valid permit from another State, is active military personnel stationed in the State, or is a retired law enforcement officer establishing residency in the State.

Missouri

Tax Exemption for AO Settlement Payments. Agent Orange settlement payments made from the Agent Orange Fund to a veteran or his dependents are exempt from state tax.

Nevada

Guardianship Program. The State's Office of Veterans' Services may act as the financial guardian for incompetent veterans, their widows and children.

New Hampshire

Relief. War veterans and their dependent families who are unable to support themselves must be supported at public expense in the town or city in which they live.

New Jersey

Stand Down Operations. Stand Down helps the state's homeless veterans "combat" life on the streets by providing a broad range of necessities, including food, clothing, medical, legal, and mental health assistance, job counseling, and referrals, but most importantly, companionship and camaraderie. Membership is open to veterans and volunteers over the age of 18 who are willing and able to give of their time, efforts, and resources in assisting programs for homeless veterans.

North Dakota

Grant for Veterans with PTSD. State veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) may apply for a grant to provide them with a specially trained service dog. To meet the minimum qualifications for a PTSD service dog the veteran must be a state resident, have a diagnosis of PTSD, be engaged in counseling or therapy, and have a doctor's recommendation for a PTSD Service Dog.

Texas

No-Cost Medical Records. State veterans are eligible for medical records at no charge when they are obtained to file a claim for a disability against the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The health care provider or health care facility is not required to provide more than one complete record for the patient or former patient without charge. Some medical facilities charge a small administrative fee for obtaining the records.

Utah

Purple Heart Fee Exemption. A Recipient of a Purple Heart is exempt from paying the following motor vehicle license and registration fees: automobile driver education fee; motor vehicle registration fee; license plate issuance fees; uninsured motorist identification fee; and local option transportation corridor preservation fee. The only fee due is property tax or age-based fee.

Washington

Veterans Estate Management Program. The State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Veterans Estate Management Program offers protective payee services for veterans and family members who are incapable of managing their own financial affairs. By assuming custody of the individual's finances, the department ensures basic needs are provided, such as housing, food, clothing, and medical care.

Various Service Models

During the Joint State Government Commission staff meeting with representatives of Pennsylvania veterans' services organizations, three states were pointed out as those with especially effective models of providing services to veterans: New York, Virginia, and Texas. Accordingly, a brief description of these states' structures is included in this report.

New York

The Division of Veterans' Affairs is headed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs, who must be a veteran.⁹² He or she may appoint the Department's officers and staff.

The Veterans' Affairs Commission consists of 13 members. Two are appointed by the temporary president of the Senate, one by the minority leader of the Senate, two by the speaker of the Assembly and one by the House minority leader. The remaining seven are appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate. Its duty is "to assist the director in the formulation of policies affecting veterans and in the coordination of all operations of state agencies relating to veterans' affairs." The Adjutant General is an ex officio member of the Commission, and the Director can designate the heads of other state agencies as ex officio members.⁹³ There are no other specific requirements for membership on this Commission.

The active service members are under the Division of Military and Naval Affairs, which is headed by the Adjutant General, who is appointed by the Governor.⁹⁴

⁹² N.Y. Exec. Law § 351.

⁹³ N.Y. Exec. Law § 352.

⁹⁴ N.Y. Exec. Law § 190.

Virginia

The Department of Veterans Services is headed by a Commissioner appointed by the Governor.⁹⁵ The Department is responsible for the administration of “services for Virginia-domiciled veterans of the armed forces of the United States and their eligible spouses, orphans, and dependents.”⁹⁶ The Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs is responsible for the Department of Veterans Services, the Veterans Service Foundation, and the Virginia Military Advisory Council.⁹⁷

The Board of Veterans Services consists of 22 members comprising five legislative members (three members of the House of Delegates and two Senators) 14 citizen members appointed by the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Veterans Service Foundation, and the Chairman of the Joint Leadership Counsel of Veterans Service Organizations.⁹⁸ The Board is given nine specific powers, eight of which are advisory, specifically for the Department and the Commissioner of Veterans Services, the Governor, and the Veterans Services Foundation. A possibly non-advisory power is “establish policies related to the coordinated delivery of veterans services.”⁹⁹

The Veterans Service Foundation is an independent agency supporting the Department. The Foundation administers the Veterans Services Fund, provides veterans services and programs through the Fund, and accepts and raises other money for these services and programs. The Foundation is led by a 16-member Board of trustees.¹⁰⁰

The Virginia Military Advisory Council is an 11-member advisory council¹⁰¹ chaired by the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs. The purpose of this Council is:

to maintain a cooperative and constructive relationship between the Commonwealth and the leadership of the several Armed Forces of the United States and the military commanders of such Armed Forces stationed in the Commonwealth, and to encourage regular communication on continued military facility viability, the exploration of privatization opportunities and issues affecting preparedness, public safety and security.¹⁰²

⁹⁵ Va. Code § 2.2-2000.

⁹⁶ Va. Code § 2.2-2001.

⁹⁷ Va. Code § 2.2-231.

⁹⁸ Va. Code § 2.2-2452.

⁹⁹ Va. Code § 2.2-2454.

¹⁰⁰ Va. Code § 2.2-2715.

¹⁰¹ “Advisory council” is defined in Va. Code § 2.2-2100.

¹⁰² Va. Code § 2.2-2666.1.

Texas

From the governing statutes, it appears that the Lone Star State separates responsibility for active servicemembers from veterans' services. The former group, including the Texas National Guard and the Texas State Guard is under the jurisdiction of the Governor, who may delegate his or her authority to the Adjutant General.¹⁰³ The adjutant general is the military commander of the Texas military forces,¹⁰⁴ has overall responsibility for the State's military forces,¹⁰⁵ and appoints the executive director of the Texas Military Department.¹⁰⁶

The duty to assist veterans in obtaining services and benefits is assigned to the Texas Veterans Commission.¹⁰⁷ The Commission consists of five members appointed by the governor with the approval of the senate. Three members must have been honorably discharged from the armed forces.¹⁰⁸

Comparison with Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America has put forth a proposal¹⁰⁹ for the enactment of legislation restructuring the State Veterans Commission and expanding its powers and duties. The Proposal cites Texas as the state whose structure Pennsylvania should emulate. The restructuring would create an independent or autonomous agency Board of Commissioners responsible to the Governor or the Adjutant General, with an executive director and a staff. Currently the SVC is an advisory body¹¹⁰ under the direction of a board consisting mostly of representatives of sixteen veterans' service organizations.¹¹¹ The Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs serves as its Executive Secretary.¹¹² The general duty assigned to the SVC is to "advise the Adjutant General and the department on all matters pertaining to the status, welfare, benefits, employment and support of veterans and veterans' programs in this Commonwealth and [to] perform such other functions as are provided by law."¹¹³ SVC is further assigned seven specific powers,¹¹⁴ including three powers that go beyond the purely advisory: to oversee veterans' temporary assistance payments, to certify educational gratuity payments for eligible children, and to determine eligibility of veteran applicants for real property tax exemptions¹¹⁵ and to promulgate regulations governing its actions under the three foregoing

¹⁰³ Tex. Gov't Code, § 437.004.

¹⁰⁴ Tex. Gov't Code, § 437.001(2).

¹⁰⁵ Tex. Gov't Code, § 437.053.

¹⁰⁶ Tex. Gov't Code, § 437.101.

¹⁰⁷ Tex. Gov't Code, § 434.007.

¹⁰⁸ Tex. Gov't Code, § 434.003.

¹⁰⁹ Pennsylvania State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., Memo re "An Effective State Veterans [sic] Commission," October 26, 2016 ("The Proposal")

¹¹⁰ 51 Pa.C.S. §§ 1702 and 1703. All legal citations are from Thomson Reuters Westlaw.

¹¹¹ 51 Pa.C.S. § 1702(b).

¹¹² 51 Pa.C.S. § 1712(16).

¹¹³ 51 Pa.C.S. § 1703.

¹¹⁴ 51 Pa.C.S. § 1704.

¹¹⁵ 51 Pa.C.S. § 1704(4), (5), and (6)

powers.¹¹⁶ An amendment enacted in the 2015-16 Session added new criteria for the veterans' temporary assistance payments.¹¹⁷

With respect to veterans' affairs, the Adjutant General is given the powers to:

- (11) Coordinate with other Commonwealth agencies and departments, and the respective agencies of the Federal Government, all matters relating to veterans' affairs within this Commonwealth.
- (12) Appoint a Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans' Affairs, who shall serve as the Director of the Bureau for Veterans' Affairs.¹¹⁸

The Proposal requests that the SVC be given “the ability to oversee, coordinate and/or administer the multitude of state and local efforts throughout the Commonwealth that constitute veterans affairs” and “the ability to think strategically and act daily.” In essence, the proposal calls for the SVC to take the place of the Bureau for Veterans' Affairs. Instead of the SVC reporting to the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs, the DAG would be subordinate to the SVC.

The Proposal argues that the SVC is ineffective because it has no executive director and no assigned staff. The authors of the proposal maintain that, as a mere advisory body, it duplicates the Pennsylvania War Veterans' Council (and the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services¹¹⁹).

The Proposal's sponsors believe that the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs is overburdened in dealing with both veterans and the Pennsylvania National Guard. The Proposal claims that only eight States “saddle” their Adjutant General with responsibility for veterans' affairs, and that Pennsylvania current structure contradicts the separation at the federal level between the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). There are, however, significant differences between the state and federal departments as regards the scope of their responsibilities and functions.

The Adjutant General opposes the restructuring advocated by the Proposal. There are ongoing discussions about the SVC that have involved the Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services and the Lieutenant Governor's Advisory Committee.¹²⁰ As the Adjutant General does not think that he is overburdened with both responsibilities, there is no apparent need to change them. Though some states combine responsibility for active service members and veterans while others do not, the structure currently existing in Pennsylvania may, in fact, be more efficient. If fiscal austerity continues, there may be pressure on other states to combine these offices, as Pennsylvania does now.

¹¹⁶ 51 Pa.C.S. § 1704(7).

¹¹⁷ Act No. 2016-109 (P.L.882).

¹¹⁸ 51 Pa.C.S. § 902.

¹¹⁹ This Council was established by Governor Corbett by Executive Order No. 2013-03.

¹²⁰ Email from Bruce Foster to Joint State Government Commission Staff, September 1, 2016.

Pennsylvania's current structure puts both the active servicemembers and veterans under the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, under the Adjutant General, who is appointed by the Governor.¹²¹ (At least theoretically the military is the direct responsibility of the Governor as Commander-in-Chief.¹²²) Veterans' services are directly under the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs, who is appointed by the Adjutant General.¹²³ The State Veterans Commission is an advisory body.¹²⁴ Active service members are under the jurisdiction of the DMVA as delegatee of the Governor. The structure is thus closer to Virginia's than to Texas's.

One conspicuous difference between Pennsylvania, on the one hand, and Virginia and New York, on the other, is the predominance of veterans' service organizations in the composition of the State Veterans Commission. Sixteen of the members of the Pennsylvania SVC are heads of named veterans' service organizations, and the heads of the "big four" VSOs are nonvoting members. There are five other members, one of whom is the Adjutant General and four appointed by the Governor, all of whom must be members of a VSO. In New York, there is no stated requirement that any member represent a VSO, and in Virginia, the only required representation of VSOs is the mandatory membership of the Chairman of the Joint Leadership Counsel of Veterans Service Organizations.

The legislature may consider restructuring the State Veterans Commission to increase the representation of stakeholders other than veterans' service organizations, who overwhelmingly predominate in the current structure. An alternative structure could include the Adjutant General; four members representing veterans' service organizations: the American Legion, AMVETS (American Veterans), DAV (Disabled American Veterans), and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; four members selected by the House and Senate leadership, in the common pattern of the head of each caucus selecting one member; and six or eight other members selected by the Governor without restrictions.

It might be beneficial to have two separate organizations: an umbrella organization including representatives of all state veterans' service organizations, without any formal ties to state government, and the State Veterans Commission, established by the statute (as it is now), with the above-mentioned structure.

¹²¹ 51 Pa.C.S. §§ 703, 902.

¹²² 51 Pa.C.S. § 501.

¹²³ 51 Pa.C.S. §§ 902(12), 1712.

¹²⁴ 51 Pa.C.S. § 1702.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Most of the benefits and programs for veterans, active National Guard and Reserve service members are determined and funded by the federal government. Consequently, room for improvement lies mostly in the areas of effective program administration and facilitating access to services. In the staff conversations with veterans' service organizations' representatives and county directors of veterans' affairs, two issues emerged as the main focus: outreach to veterans and collaboration between agencies. The staff research confirmed the importance of these issues. Accordingly, most of the recommendations in this report deal with these focal areas.

- Conduct coordinated outreach and engagement efforts to proactively seek out veterans in need of assistance, sharing information across outreach teams and sites and collaborating across systems.
 - Establish representatives of veterans' service organizations presence in more local legislative offices;
 - Increase the number of service officers in underserved areas (for example, in rural, thinly populated northern counties);
 - Focus on the transitional periods in veterans' life such as readjustment to civilian life after the period of service, and retirement, which involves changes in insurance coverage, et cetera.
- Continue support for Act 66 Outreach programs; increase funding, if possible; and maintain a separate line item in the DMVA budget for this program.
- Increase coordination and collaboration between state departments, veterans' service organizations, and various agencies involved in veterans' life.
- Facilitate coordinated assessment and entry systems to improve the ability of veterans to get the help they need.
- Enhance educational campaign throughout various channels to deliver information about existing programs and services to veterans as well as their families, who are often less familiar with this information than veterans themselves.
- Add clarification regarding the Veterans' Trust Fund grants. The legislation establishing the Veterans' Trust Fund (51 Pa.C.S. § 1721) lists the organizations eligible for grants from the fund as the veterans service organizations (§ 1721(c)(1)(ii)) and "other charitable organizations with a primary mission to serve Pennsylvania veterans" (§ 1721(c)(1)(iii)). We recommend that the Deputy Adjutant General compile a list of organizations currently eligible to receive grants under § 1721(c)(1)(iii). This would assist in the fair and efficient administration of the Fund.

**APPENDIX A:
SENATE RESOLUTION 255**

PRIOR PRINTER'S NO. 1458

PRINTER'S NO. 1465

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. **255** Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, COSTA, ARGALL, FOLMER, RAFFERTY,
SABATINA, TEPLITZ, VOGEL, WILEY, YUDICHAK AND BROOKS,
DECEMBER 5, 2015

SENATOR VULAKOVICH, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
AS AMENDED, DECEMBER 9, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to review all
2 services, benefits and programs currently offered to
3 veterans, active, National Guard and Reserve service members
4 and their families by Commonwealth agencies, veteran service
5 organizations, secondary schools and the Federal Government.

6 WHEREAS, Over 900,000 Pennsylvania veterans, nearly 20,000
7 Pennsylvania National Guard members and thousands more currently
8 serving as active duty military personnel or military reservists
9 have answered the call of duty; and

10 WHEREAS, These brave men and women of our Commonwealth who
11 personify the virtues of patriotism, service, duty and courage
12 have made tremendous sacrifices by being deployed, leaving their
13 homes, their families and, in many cases, their jobs; and

14 WHEREAS, These men and women have risked their lives to
15 protect the interests of our nation and our Commonwealth and to
16 defend our freedoms; and

17 WHEREAS, Many have suffered greatly and some have made the
18 ultimate sacrifice; and

1 WHEREAS, Supportive family members and loved ones of members
2 of our armed forces have also endured hardships, made sacrifices
3 and suffered through long separations and deployments; and

4 WHEREAS, In recognition of those sacrifices, the Commonwealth
5 has established services, benefits and programs to assist our
6 veterans, active service members and their families and
7 survivors; and

8 WHEREAS, Numerous veteran service organizations also
9 recognize the sacrifices and have established similar programs
10 of assistance; and

11 WHEREAS, Many institutions of higher education offer Reserve
12 Officer Training Corps, otherwise known as ROTC, as well as
13 other programs and services that support active, National Guard
14 and Reserve service members, veterans and their families; and

15 WHEREAS, The Senate wishes to rededicate itself to fulfilling
16 its commitment to all those who have served and continue to
17 serve; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be
19 directed to review and provide a listing of all services,
20 benefits and programs currently offered to active, National
21 Guard and Reserve service members, veterans and their families
22 by Commonwealth agencies; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, THAT THE JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION BE <--
24 DIRECTED TO SURVEY COUNTY GOVERNMENTS AND MUNICIPALITIES AND
25 PROVIDE A GENERAL LISTING OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS CURRENTLY
26 PROVIDED TO ACTIVE, NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE SERVICE MEMBERS,
27 VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES; AND BE IT FURTHER

28 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be
29 directed to survey veterans service organizations in this
30 Commonwealth, including, but not limited to, the members of the

1 State Veterans Commission, PA War Veterans Council and private
2 nonprofit organizations that advertise in their primary mission
3 statement that they provide a service or support to veterans and
4 their families, and compile a listing of services and programs
5 currently provided to veterans; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be
7 directed to survey secondary schools, including military
8 schools, and institutions of higher education, including State-
9 owned, State-related and private colleges and universities, and
10 provide a general listing of services and programs currently
11 provided to active, National Guard and Reserve service members,
12 veterans and their families; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be
14 directed to compile a listing of Federal benefits from
15 enlistment to death benefits for active, National Guard and
16 Reserve service members, veterans and their families; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be
19 directed to review and compare other states' services, benefits
20 and programs for active service members, veterans and their
21 families and to make recommendations to the General Assembly on
22 additional programs to consider and how to administer current
23 programs more effectively; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, within
25 one year of the adoption date of this resolution, provide a
26 report and directory to the Senate outlining the services,
27 benefits and programs offered and the name of the providing
28 entity, the eligibility requirement and the appropriate contact
29 information for each service, benefit and program.

APPENDIX B:
COUNTY DIRECTORS OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

COUNTY DIRECTORS OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS						
County	County Websites	Director	Address	Work Phone	Fax	E-Mail
Adams	County Website	Stan Clark	117 Baltimore St., Suite 201-A Gettysburg, PA 17325-2376	717-337-9835	717-334-2091	sclark@adamscounty.us
Allegheny	County Website	VACANT	4141 5th Ave., 3rd Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3347	412-621-4357	412-621-3522	--
Armstrong	County Website	Chuck Righi	450 E. Market St., Suite 107 Kittanning, PA 16201-1461	724-548-3441	724-548-3732	vetaffairs@co.armstrong.pa.us
Beaver	County Website	Kathy Nairn	810 Third St., Room A100 Beaver, PA 15009-2129	724-770-4452	724-728-3875	knairn@beavercountypa.gov
Bedford	County Website	Barbara Cheke	206 S. Juliana St. Bedford, PA 15522-1767	814-623-4848	814-623-7431	bcheke@bedfordcountypa.org
Berks	County Website	Dale Derr	726 Cherry St. Reading PA 19602	610-378-5601	610-378-5627	dgderr@countyofberks.com
Blair	County Website	Cindy Kinzey	423 Allegheny St., Suite 112 Hollidaysburg, PA 16648-2022	814-693-3160	814-693-3159	ckinzey@blairco.org
Bradford	County Website	Jeff Scarboro	200 Main St., Suite 4 Towanda, PA 18848	570-265-1704	570-265-1758	bcvets@bradfordco.org
Bucks	County Website	Daniel Fraley	1260 Almshouse Rd. Doylestown, PA 18901	215-345-3307	215-345-3278	dhfraley@buckscounty.org
Butler	County Website	John P. Cyprian	124 W. Diamond St. Butler, PA 16003-1208	724-284-5352	724-284-1006	jcypryan@co.butler.pa.us
Cambria	County Website	Josh H. Hauser	200 S. Center St. Ebensburg, PA 15931-1947	814-472-1590	814-472-1423	jhauser@co.cambria.pa.us
Cameron	County Website	Joe Williams	20 E. 5th St. Emporium, PA 15834	814-389-5972	814-486-3176	dvawilliams@cameroncountypa.com

COUNTY DIRECTORS OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

County	County Websites	Director	Address	Work Phone	Fax	E-Mail
Carbon	County Website	Henry Desrosiers	2 Hazard Square Jim Thorpe, PA 18229	570-325-3986	570-325-5097	henrydesrosiers @carboncounty.net
Centre	County Website	Brian Querry	420 Holmes St., Suite 333 Bellefonte, PA 16823-1488	814-355-6812	814-548-1144	bquerry @centrecountypa.gov
Chester	County Website	Lawrence Davidson	601 Westtown Rd., Suite 385 West Chester, PA 19382-4545	610-344-6375	610-344-4552	Ldavidson @chesco.org
Clarion	County Website	Judy Zerbe	330 Main St., Rm. 109 Clarion, PA 16214-1024	814-226-4000 x2601	814-226-4906	ccva2 @co.clarion.pa.us
Clearfield	County Website	Betina Nicklas	212 East Locust St., Suite 104 Clearfield, PA 16830	814-765-2642 ext. 3010	814-765-8988	bnicklas @clearfieldco.org
Clinton	County Website	William Bechdel	311 Frederick St., Suite B Flemington, PA 17745	570-893-4339	570-893-4283	bbechdel @clintoncountypa.com
Columbia	County Website	Bridget Kingston	16 West Main Street, Suite 380 Bloomsburg, PA 17815	570-387-6501 option #1	570-387-6502	bklinger @columbiapa.org
Crawford	County Website	Richard Krankota	900 Water St., Suite 2 Meadville, PA 16335	814-333-7314	814-337-5623	rkrankota @co.crawford.pa.us
Cumberland	County Website	Neal J Delisanti	18 N. Hanover St., Suite 103 Carlisle, PA 17013-3079	717-240-6178	717-240-6570	ndelisanti@ccpa.net
Dauphin	County Website	Tony DiFrancesco	2 South 2nd St. Harrisburg, PA 17108-1295	717-780-6356	717-780-6330	tdifrancesco @dauphinc.org
Delaware	County Website	Bill Lovejoy	Govt. Center Bldg, 201 W. Front St. Media, PA 19063-2708	610-891-4646	610-891-8749	lovejoyw @co.delaware.pa.us
Elk	County Website	Leslie Neal	300 Center St., P.O. Box 448 Ridgway, PA 15853-1007	814-776-5370	814-776-5359	lneal @countyofelkpa.com
Erie	County Website	Thad Plasczynski	140 W. 6th St., Room 101 Erie, PA 16501- 1029	814-451-6265	814-451-7477	tplasczynski @eriecountypa.gov
Fayette	County Website	Madonna Nicklow	22 E. Main St. Uniontown, PA 15401	724-430-1241	724-430-1427	mnicklow @fayettepa.org

COUNTY DIRECTORS OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

County	County Websites	Director	Address	Work Phone	Fax	E-Mail
Forest	County Website	Basil Huffman	526 Elm St., Box 3 Tionesta, PA 16353	814-755-3404	814-755-8837	bhuffman @co.forest.pa.us
Franklin	County Website	Justin Slep	425 Franklin Farm Ln. Chambersburg, PA 17202	717-263-4326	717-263-1905	jdslep @franklincountypa. gov
Fulton	County Website	Bruce Carriker	116 W. Market St. McConnellsburg, PA 17233	717-485-6873	717-485-9411	veterans @co.fulton.pa.us
Greene	County Website	Dalene Watson	22 West High St., Suite 100 Waynesburg, PA 15370	724-852-5275	724-852-5307	dwatson @co.greene.pa.us
Huntingdon	County Website	Lou Ann Shontz	Court House 205 Penn St., Suite 2 Huntingdon, PA 16652-1457	814-643-1360	(814) 506- 9039	lshontz @huntingdoncounty.net
Indiana	County Website	Brenda Stormer	Court House, 825 Philadelphia St. Indiana, PA 15701-3934	724-465-3815	724-465-3991	bstormer @countyofindiana. org
Jefferson	County Website	VACANT	155 Main St, 2d Fl. Brookville, PA 15825-1269	814-849-3618	814-849-4084	
Juniata	County Website	Daniel Dreese	P.O. Box 68 Mifflintown, PA 17059-0068	717-436-7728	717-436-7769	ddreese @juniataco.org
Lackawanna	County Website	Robert Tuffyr	507 Linden St, 3d Fl. Scranton, PA 18503-1602	570-963-6778	570-963-6418	Tuffyr @lackawannacounty.org
Lancaster	County Website	Daniel Tooth	150 N. Queen St., Suite 103 Lancaster, PA 17603-3562	717-299-7920	717-209-3077	dtooth @co.lancaster.pa.us
Lawrence	County Website	Jesse Putnam	430 Court St. New Castle, PA 16101-3593	724-656-2180	724-656-2447	jputnam @co.lawrence.pa.us
Lebanon	County Website	Robert Kale	400 S. 8th St., Room 106 Lebanon, PA 17042-6794	717-228-4422	717-270-6479	rkale@lebcnty.org
Lehigh	County Website	Thomas Applebach	17 S. 7th St. Allentown, PA 18101-2400	610-782-3295	610-820-2026	thomasapplebach @lehighcounty.org
Luzerne	County Website	Jim Spagnola	77 Water Street Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711	570-706-3960	570-706-3969	james.spagnola @luzernecounty.org
Lycoming	County Website	George W. Heiges	330 Pine St., 4th Floor Williamsport, PA 17701-6514	570-327-2365	570-320-8148	gheiges@lyco.org
McKean	County Website	Zach Pearson	500 W. Main St. Smethport, PA 16749-1149	814-887-3241	814-887-3101	ZJPearson @mckeancountypa. org

COUNTY DIRECTORS OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

County	County Websites	Director	Address	Work Phone	Fax	E-Mail
Mercer	County Website	Larry Scheetz	14 Court House Mercer, PA 16137-0112	724-662-7511 724-662-7512	724-662-7516	lscheetz @mcc.co.mercer.pa .us
Mifflin	County Website	Christine DeArment	20 N. Wayne St. Lewistown, PA 17044-1770	717-248-6421	717-248-2527	cdearment @co.mifflin.pa.us
Monroe	County Website	Lisa Kaye	1 Quaker Plaza, Rm. 101 Stroudsburg, PA 18360-1246	570-517-3187	570-517-3188	lkaye @monroecountypa. gov
Montgomery	County Website	Sean Halbom	Human Service Center 1430 DeKalb St., P.O. Box 311 Norristown, PA 19404-0311	610-278-3285	610-278-5935	shalbom @montcopa.org
Montour	County Website	Doug Resseguie	114 Woodbine Lane, Suite 105 Danville, PA 17821-8120	570-271-3061	570-271-3033	vetaff @montourco.org
Northampton	County Website	Freddie Ramirez	2801 Emrick Blvd. Bethlehem, PA 18020	610-829-4877	610-829-2418	framirez @northamptoncounty. org
Northumberland	County Website	Belinda Albright	217 N. Center St. Sunbury, PA 17801	570-988-4213	570-495-4683	belinda.albright @norrycopa.net
Perry	County Website	Jim Scott	P.O. Box 37 New Bloomfield, PA 17068	717-582-2131 (Main Courthouse#)	717-582-5134	jscott@perryco.org
Philadelphia	County Website	Scott Brown	City Hall Room 127 Philadelphia, PA 19101	215-686-3256	215-563-3162	Scott.c.brown @phila.gov
Pike	County Website	Pierce J. Bunce	514 Broad St. Milford, PA 18337-1596	570-296-3563	570-296-3410	vetaffairs @pikepa.org
Potter	County Website	Bill Simpson	One North Main St. Coudersport, PA 16915	814-274-8290 x210	814-274-8307	wsimpson @pottercountypa.net
Schuylkill	County Website	Brenda Zechman	401 N. 2nd St. Pottsville, PA 17901-1756	570-628-1400	570-628-1429	bzechman @co.schuylkill.pa.us
Snyder	County Website	Anthony Korzenaski	c/o Union- Snyder Community Action Agency 713 Bridge St., Suite 10 Selinsgrove, PA 17870	(570) 374-0181	(570) 374- 2330	tkorzenaski @union- snydercaa.org
Somerset	County Website	Daniel Kinsella	300 N. Center Ave., Suite 380 Somerset, PA 15501-1497	814-445-1551	814-445-1446	kinsellad @co.somerset.pa.us

COUNTY DIRECTORS OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

County	County Websites	Director	Address	Work Phone	Fax	E-Mail
Sullivan	County Website	Mark Roinick	245 Muncy St., P.O. Box 157 LaPorte, PA 18626-0157	570-946-7677	570-946-4421	mroinick @sullivancounty- pa.us
Susquehanna	County Website	Richard Ely	81 Public Ave., P.O. Box 218 Montrose, PA 18801-1219	(570) 278-5955	570-278-9268	rely@susqco.com
Tioga	County Website	Tim Cleveland	1835 Shumway Hill Rd. Suite 1 Wellsboro, PA 16901	570-723-8141	570-723-8403	tcleveland @tiogacountypa.us
Union	County Website	J. D. Kerstetter	155 North 15th St. Lewisburg, PA 17837	570-524-8676	570-524-8635	jkerstetter @unionco.org
Venango	County Website	Richard Mulholland	1 Dale Ave. Franklin, PA 16323	814-432-9780	814-437-2338	rmulholland @co.venango.pa.us
Warren	County Website	Edgar Burris	204 Fourth Ave. Warren, PA 16365-2399	814-728-3478	814-728-3480	eburris @warren- county.net
Washington	County Website	Susan Meighen	100 W. Beau St., Suite 703 Washington, PA 15301-4432	724-228-6865	724-228-6872	meighens @co.washington.pa .us
Wayne	County Website	Frank Muggeo	925 Court St. Honesdale, PA 18436	570-253-5970 x3114	570-253-7278	fmuggeo @waynecountypa .gov
Westmoreland	County Website	Matthew Zamosky	2 N. Main St., Suite 502 Greensburg, PA 15601-2405	724-830-3530	724-830-3010	mzamosky @co.westmoreland. pa.us
Wyoming	County Website	Jack Hubert	1 Courthouse SquareTunkhann ock, PA 18657	570-996-2258	570-836-7244	jhubert @wycopa.org
York	County Website	Terry Gendron	100 W. Market St. York, PA 17401-1332	717-771-9218	717-771-4617	tgendron @yorkcountypa.gov

APPENDIX C
PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

Community Colleges

- Bucks County Community College
- Butler County Community College
- Community College of Allegheny County
- Community College of Beaver County
- Community College of Philadelphia
- Delaware County Community College
- Harrisburg Area Community College
- Lehigh Carbon County College
- Luzerne County Community College
- Montgomery County Community College
- Northampton County Community College
- Pennsylvania Highlands Community College
- Reading Area Community College
- Westmorland County Community College

State-Owned Universities

- Bloomsburg University of PA
- California University of PA
- Cheyney University of PA
- Clarion University of PA
- East Stroudsburg University of PA
- Edinboro University of PA
- Indiana University of PA
- Kutztown University of PA
- Lock Haven University of PA
- Mansfield University of PA
- Millersville University of PA
- Shippensburg University of PA
- Slippery Rock University of PA
- West Chester University of PA

State-Related Universities

- University of Pittsburgh
- Pennsylvania State University
- Temple University
- Lincoln University

APPENDIX D: PDE LETTER TO VETERANS



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Dear Veteran:

On behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I want to welcome you home and thank you for serving our nation. There is an array of services and programs available to you as a Pennsylvania veteran. Enclosed are brief descriptions of the programs that can assist you. I encourage you to use these resources as you plan your future.

I also want to inform you of your earned federal benefit under the newest GI Bill® known as the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 and the Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010. Together, these Acts are referred to as Chapter 33 and provide substantial benefits for those who have served on active duty. Chapter 33 became effective October 1, 2011. I suggest you visit the United States Department of Veterans Affairs website, at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill, for additional information on your eligibility and specific benefit amount.

If you need assistance in determining your options or have specific questions, the agencies of the Commonwealth are ready to assist you. Please explore all of your options, especially your GI Bill® educational benefits. The GI Bill® can be used for two- or four- year colleges as well as trade and technical schools, apprenticeships and on-the-job training programs. Your GI Bill® benefits can also be used for licensure or certification examination fees. Please contact the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Division of Veterans and Military Education (the Pennsylvania state approving agency) with specific questions concerning using your educational benefits at (717) 787-2414 or RA-VetED@pa.gov.

On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, you have my sincere appreciation for your contributions to our nation's security, and I hope that your future will be happy, fulfilling, and prosperous.

Sincerely,


TOM WOLF
Governor

Enclosures:

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency's (PHEAA) State Grant Program Brochure
Your Keystone to G.I. Benefits® Brochure
On-The-Job or Apprenticeship Training Brochure
"GI Bill®" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill.

APPENDIX E
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFITS

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT						
ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Abington Mem Hospital Dixon Sch of Nursing	2500 Maryland Ave Suite 200	Willow Grove	PA	19090	215	481- 5549
Keystone Technical Institute	2301 Academy Drive	Harrisburg	PA	17112	717	545- 4747
Ace Pilot Training	600 Hayden Circle	Allentown	PA	18109	610	264- 1105
Admiral Peary AVTS	948 Ben Franklin Highway	Ebensburg	PA	15931	814	472- 6490
Albright College	PO Box 15234, 13th & Bern Streets	Reading	PA	19612	610	921- 7515
Allegheny County Police Training Academy	700 West Ridge Drive North Park	Allison Park	PA	15101	724	935- 5566
Allegheny College	520 North Main Street	Meadville	PA	16335	814	332- 2701
Allegheny General Hosp	320 East North Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15212	412	359- 3541
Drexel - Heath Services	Mail Stop 445 245 N 15th Street	Philadelphia	PA	19102	215	991- 8258
Drexel - Queen Lane Campus	2900 Queens Lane	Philadelphia	PA	19129	215	991- 8258
DeSales University	2755 Station Avenue	Center Valley	PA	18034	610	282- 1100
Allentown Police Academy	2110 Park Drive	Allentown	PA	18103	610	437- 7744
Beauty Institute (The) - Allentown	1921 Union Boulevard	Allentown	PA	18103	610	437- 4626
Fortis Institute - Forty Fort	166 Slocum Street	Forty Fort	PA	18704	570	288- 8400
Fortis Institute - Scranton	517 Ash Street	Scranton	PA	18509	570	342- 8000
All-State Career Schools -Lester	50 West Powhattan Ave	Essington	PA	19029	610	521- 1818
All-State Career Schools - West Mifflin	1200 Lebanon Road Suite 101	West Mifflin	PA	15122	412	823- 1818
Altoona Beauty School	1554 Valleyview Boulevard	Altoona	PA	16602	814	942- 3141
South Hills School of Business - Altoona	508 58th Street	Altoona	PA	16602	814	944- 6134

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Alvernia University	400 St Bernadine Street	Reading	PA	19607	610	796-8213
Antonelli Institute	300 Montgomery Avenue	Erdenheim	PA	19038	215	836-2222
Antonelli Med & Prof Institute	1700 Industrial Highway	Pottstown	PA	19464	610	323-7270
Armstrong County Memorial Hospital	One Nolte Drive	Kittanning	PA	16201	724	543-8206
Art Institute of Philadelphia	1622 Chestnut Street	Philadelphia	PA	19103	215	405-6362
Art Institute of Pittsburgh	420 Boulevard of the Allies	Pittsburgh	PA	15219	412	291-6315
Automotive Training Center - Exton	114 Pickering Way	Exton	PA	19341	610	363-6716
Summit University of Pennsylvania	538 Venard Road, PO Box 800	Clarks Summit	PA	18411	570	587-8045
Bar/Bri Review	1800 JFK Blvd Suite 500	Philadelphia	PA	19103	215	563-4988
Barber Styling Institute	3433 Simpson Ferry Rd	Camp Hill	PA	17011	717	763-4787
Arcadia University	450 South Easton Road	Glenside	PA	19038	215	572-2935
Beaver Falls Beauty Academy	720 13th Street	Beaver Falls	PA	15010	724	843-7700
Berks Career & Tech Center	3307 Friedensburg Road	Oley	PA	19547	610	987-6201
Berks Tech Institute	2205 Ridgewood Road	Wyomissing	PA	19610	610	372-1722
Biblical Theological Seminary	200 North Main Street	Hatfield	PA	19440	215	368-5000
Bidwell Training Center	1815 Metropolitan Street	Pittsburgh	PA	15233	412	323-4000
Bloomsburg University	400 East Second St	Bloomsburg	PA	17815	570	389-4263
Northern Tier Career Center	120 Career Center Lane 125 West Station Square Drive, Suite 129	Towanda	PA	18848	570	265-8113
Bradford School	429	Pittsburgh	PA	15219	412	391-6361
Art Institute of York	1409 Williams Road	York	PA	17402	717	757-1215
Brentwood Borough High School	3601 Brownsville Road	Pittsburgh	PA	15227	412	881-2227
Bryn Athyn College of the New Church	2945 College Drive Po Box 717	Bryn Athyn	PA	19009	267	502-2493
Bryn Mawr College	101 North Merion Ave	Bryn Mawr	PA	19010	610	526-5041

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Bucknell University	1 Bucknell University	Lewisburg	PA	17837	570	577-1201
Bucks County Community College	275 Swamp Road	Newtown	PA	18940	215	968-8490
Bucks County School of Beauty Culture	1761 Bustleton Pike	Feasterville	PA	19053	215	322-0667
Laurel Technical Institute - Meadville	847 North Main Street	Meadville	PA	16335	814	724-0700
Laurel Technical Institute - Sharon	200 Sterling Avenue	Sharon	Pa	16146	724	983-0700
Butler Beauty Academy	233 South Main Street	Butler	PA	16001	724	287-0708
Butler County Community College	College Dr, PO Box 1203	Butler	PA	16003	724	287-8711
Cabrini College	610 King of Prussia Road	Radnor	PA	19087	610	902-8188
California University	250 University Ave	California	PA	15419	724	938-4076
Pennsylvania Highlands Community College	101 Community College Way	Johnstown	PA	15904	814	262-6435
Cambria Rowe Business College - Johnstown	221 Central Avenue	Johnstown	PA	15902	814	536-5168
Career Institute of Technology	5335 Kesslerville Road	Easton	PA	18040	610	258-2448
Career Tech Center of Lackawanna County	3201 Rockwell Avenue	Scranton	PA	18508	570	346-8471
Career Training Academy - New Kensington	179 Hillcrest Shopping Center	Lower Burrell	PA	15068	412	367-4000
Career Training Academy - Monroeville	4314 Old William Penn Highway	Monroeville	Pa	15146	412	372-3900
Carlow University	3333 Fifth Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15213	412	578-6592
Carnegie-Mellon University	5000 Forbes Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15213	412	268-2404
Community College of Allegheny County	808 Ridge Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15212	412	237-6503
Cedar Crest College	100 College Drive	Allentown	PA	18104	610	740-3765
Chester County Intermediate Unit - PN	443 Boot Road	Downingtown	PA	19335	484	593-5950
Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania	230 McKee Place, Suite 500	Pittsburgh	PA	15213	412	647-3904
Center for Innovative Training	714 Market Street, Suite 433	Philadelphia	PA	19106	215	922-6555
Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science & Technology	540 North Harrison Rd	Pleasant Gap	PA	16823	814	359-2793

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Central Penn College	600 Valley Road, PO Box 309	Summerdale	PA	17093	717	728-2281
Central Susquehanna LPN	1339 St Mary Street Suite 2	Lewisburg	PA	17837	570	988-6760
Chatham University	Woodland Road	Pittsburgh	PA	15232	412	365-1122
Mercersburg Academy	300 East Seminary St	Mercersburg	PA	17236	717	328-6123
Selinsgrove Area High School	500 N. Broad Street	Selinsgrove	PA	17870	570	372-2237
Academy Park High School	300 Calcon Hook Road	Sharon Hill	PA	19079	610	522-4330
Western Pennsylvania School of Taxidermy	3058 Rt. 36	Oliveburg	PA	15764	814	938-6508
Pittsburgh Multicultural Cosmetology Academy	415 Smithfield St. 3rd Fl	Pittsburgh	PA	15222	412	281-7707
World a Cuts Barber Institute	121 N. George Street	York	PA	17401	717	846-8711
Carbondale Barber School	53 Salem Avenue	Carbondale	PA	18407	570	282-1003
American Red Cross SEPA Nurse Assistant Training Institute	4000 Powelton Street	Philadelphia	PA	19104	215	299-4154
Muulti-Cultural Academy Charter School	3821 N. Broad	Philadelphia	PA	19141	215	227-0513
Empire Beauty School - Springfield	799 West Sproul Road	Springfield	PA	19064	570	429-4321
Studio Incamminati	340 North 12th Street ste 400	Philadelphia	PA	19107	215	592-1918
Star Career Academy - Audubon	2501 Monroe Boulevard 150 East Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite	Audubon	PA	19403	610	783-7827
Pulse Beauty Academy	250	Downingtown	PA	19335	610	873-8600
Premier Barber Institute	573 East Main Street	Norristown	PA	19401	610	719-0100
Ringgold High School	#1 Ram Drive	Monongahela	PA	15063	724	258-2200
Pine-Richland High School	700 Warrendale Road	Gibsonia	PA	15044	724	624-4444
Emmaus High School	500 Macungie Ave	Emmaus	PA	18049	610	965-1650
Reading Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center	2615 Warren Rd	Reading	PA	19604	610	921-7321
Franklin University Monaca	1 Campus Drive	Monaca	PA	15061	724	513-9811
Steel Valley High School	3113 Main street	Munhall	PA	15120	412	464-3600

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Chestnut Hill College	9601 Germantown Ave	Philadelphia	PA	19118	215	248-7064
Institute for Caregiver Education	3583 Scotland Road Building 55	Scotland	PA	17254	717	263-7766
Mercer Area Middle High School	545 West Butler St	Mercer	PA	16137	724	662
Lancaster Bible College, CUTS	1300 W Hunting Park Ave	Philadelphia	PA	19140	215	329
MTT Aviation Services	469 Airport Road	Johnstown	PA	15904	814	361-3500
Tack Operator Development, LLC	P.O. Box 5	Duncannon	PA	17020	717	919-2768
Ligonier Valley High School	40 Springer Road	Ligonier	PA	15658	724	238-9531
Universal Beauty School	4717 Rising Sun Avenue	Philadelphia	PA	19120	215	329-4329
Susuqehanna County Career & Technology Center	2380 Elk Lake School Road	Springville	PA	18844	570	278-6671
Valley Aviation Inc						
Cheyney University	1837 University Circle	Cheyney	PA	19319	610	399-2193
American Board of Allergy and Immunology	111 S Independence Mall East	Philadelphia	PA	19106		
Delaware Valley High School	1311 Chancellor St	Philadelphia	PA	19107	215	732-5060
Meyersdale Area High School	1349 Shaw Mines Road	Meyersdale	PA	15552	814	634-8311
Just Four Paws Academy of Pet Styling	1530 West 26th Street	Erie	PA	15608	814	456-7297
Penn Cambria High School	401 Linden Avenue	Cresson	PA	16630		
Meadville Medical Center	751 Liberty Street	Meadville	PA	16335	814	333-5546
Dutch Country Helicopters, Inc	500 Airport Road Suite T	Lititz	PA	17543	717	735-2208
Bald Eagle Area High School	751 South Eagle Valley Road	Wingate	PA	16823	814	355-4868
Hollidaysburg Area Sr High School	1510 N Montgomery St	Hollidaysburg	PA	16648	814	695-4416
Derry Area High School	988 North Chestnut Extension	Derry	PA	15627	724	694-2780
Kaplan Career Institute - Franklin Mills	177 Franklin Mills Boulevard	Philadelphia	PA	19154	215	612-6616
Smethport Area High School	412 South Area High School	Smethport	PA	16749	814	887-5545
Council Rock High School North	62 Swamp Rd	Newtown	PA	18940	215	944-1300
Cambria-Rowe Business College	210 Industrial Park Drive Suite 120	Johnstown	PA	15904	814	619-3183

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
William Penn Charter High School	3000 W. School House Lane	Philadelphia	PA	19144	215	844-3460
Bella Capelli Academy - Robinson	Robinson Plaza II Suite 100	Pittsburgh	PA	15205	412	424-0379
National Personal Training Institute Of Pittsburgh	6325 Penn Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	215	791-5344
PSU The Dickinson School of Law						
American Barber Academy	110 Morgantown Road	Reading	PA	19611	610	927-5664
International Institute of Restorative Practice	531 Main Street	Bethlehem	Pa	18018	610	807-9221
All-State Career School-Essington	50 West Powhattan Ave Lawrence Pk Shopping Ctr,1991 Sproul	Essington	PA	19029	610	362-1124
Kaplan Career Institute - Broomall	Rd,#42	Broomall	PA	19008	610	325-1728
Global Power Line Academy Franklin County Career & Technology Center - Adult	RD#1 Blue Knob Road	Claysburg	PA	16625	814	937-6255
Education	2463 Loop Road 101 South 25th Street, Suite 50 Kline	Chambersburg	PA	17202	717	263-9033
Divine Crown Academy of Cosmetology	Plaza	Harrisburg	PA	17104	717	234-8463
Motorcycle Technology Center	52-6 Grumbacher Road	York	PA	17406	717	757-1100
New Horizons Computer Learning Center Institute	3 Parkway Center, Suite 103	Pittsburgh	PA	15220	412	444-2882
Citizen's School of Nursing	651 Fourth Ave	New Kensington	PA	15068	724	337-5090
AAA School of Trucking - Harrisburg	6003 Jonestown Road	Harrisburg	PA	17112	717	652-3652
Clarion County Career Center	490 Career Lane	Shippenville	PA	16254	814	226-5857
Clarion University	840 Wood Street	Clarion	PA	16214	814	393-2315
Clearfield County CTC	1620 River Road	Clearfield	PA	16830	814	765-5308
Misericordia University	301 Lake Street	Dallas	PA	18612	570	674-6756
Community College of Beaver County	One Campus Drive	Monaca	PA	15061	724	480-3395
Community College of Philadelphia	1700 Spring Garden Street	Philadelphia	PA	19130	215	751-8259
YTI Career Institute - Altoona	2900 Fairway Drive	Altoona	PA	16602	814	296-2638

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center	1086 Franklin Street	Johnstown	PA	15905	814	534-9890
Consolidated School of Business - Lancaster	2124 Ambassador Circle, Suite 22	Lancaster	PA	17603	717	394-6211
Consolidated School of Business - York	1605 Clugston Rd	York	PA	17404	717	764-9550
Crawford County Career & Technical Center	860 Thurston Road	Meadville	PA	16335	814	724-6028
Crozer Chester EMS Training Institute	One Medical Center Boulevard	Upland	PA	19013	610	447-6297
Crozer-Keystone Health System	1260 East Woodland Avenue	Springfield	PA	19064	610	690-4491
Curtis Institute of Music	1726 Locust Street 111 S. Independence Mall E. Bourse Bld	Philadelphia	PA	19103	215	717-3188
DPT Business School	8th	Philadelphia	PA	19106	215	627-8140
DCI Career Institute, Inc	366 Beaver Valley Mall	Monaca	PA	15010	724	728-0260
Dean Inst of Technology	1501 W. Liberty Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15226	412	531-4433
Delaware County Community College	901 South Media Line Road DCIU Marple Education Ctr 86 North	Media	PA	19063	610	359-5346
Delaware County Technical School	Malin Rd	Broomall	PA	19008	484	423-7003
Delaware Valley Academy of Med	3330 Grant Avenue	Philadelphia	PA	19114	215	676-1200
Delaware Valley College	700 East Butler Ave	Doylestown	PA	18901	215	489-2475
Dickinson College	P. O. Box 1773	Carlisle	PA	17013	717	245-1308
Penn State - The Dickinson School of Law	333 W South Street	Carlisle	PA	17013	717	240-5256
Douglas Education Center	130 Seventh Street	Monessen	PA	15062	724	653-2195
Drexel University	3141 Chestnut Street	Philadelphia	PA	19104	215	991-8258
DuBois Business College - DuBois	PO Box 0, One Beaver Drive	DuBois	PA	15801	814	371-6920
Everest Institute	Suite 1200 100 Forbes Ave	Pittsburgh	PA	15222	412	304-0722
Duquesne University	600 Forbes Avenue Registrar's Office	Pittsburgh	PA	15282	412	396-6213
East Stroudsburg University	200 Prospect Street	East Stroudsburg	PA	18301	570	422-2830

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Palmer Theological Seminary	6 Lancaster Avenue	Wynnewood	PA	19096	484	384-2953
Eastern University	1300 Eagle Road	Saint Davids	PA	19087	610	341-1781
Eastern Mennonite University	PO Box 10936, 1846 Charter Lane	Lancaster	PA	17605	717	397-5190
Eastern Center for Arts & Technology	3075 Terwood Road	Willow Grove	PA	19090	215	784-4819
Edinboro University	219 Meadville St	Edinboro	PA	16444	814	732-1564
Einstein Medical Center & EMS	5501 Old York Road	Philadelphia	PA	19144	215	456-6013
Elizabethtown College	1 Alpha Drive	Elizabethtown	PA	17022	717	361-1409
Empire Beauty School - Hanover	St. 4	Hanover	PA	17331	717	633-6201
Empire Beauty School - Hbg	3941 Jonestown Road	Harrisburg	PA	17101	717	658-8500
Empire Beauty School - Lanc	1801 Columbia Avenue	Lancaster	PA	17604	717	394-8561
Empire Beauty School - Lebanon	1776 Quentin Rd, Cedar Crest Sq	Lebanon	PA	17042	717	272-3323
Empire Beauty School - Pottsville	396 Pottsville / StClair Hwy	Pottsville	PA	17901	570	622-6060
Empire Beauty School - Reading	2302 North 5th St Highway	Reading	PA	19605	610	372-2777
Empire Beauty School - Shamokin Dam	30 Baldwin Blvd	Shamokin Dam	PA	17876	570	743-1410
Empire Beauty School - Warminster	435 York Road	Warminster	PA	18974	215	443-8446
Empire Beauty School - Wyoming Valley	3370 Birney Avenue	Moosic	PA	18507	570	343-4730
Empire Beauty School - (Lehigh Valley)	1634 MacArthur Road 2592 Eastern Blvd, Kingston Sq	Whitehall	PA	18052	610	776-8908
Empire Beauty School - York	Shopping	York	PA	17402	717	600-8111
Erie Inst of Technology	940 Millcreek Mall	Erie	PA	16565	814	868-9900
Evangelical Theological Seminary	121 South College Street	Myerstown	PA	17067	717	866-5775
Fayette County Career & Technical Institute	175 Georges Fairchance Road	Uniontown	PA	15401	724	437-2721
Fayette Institute of Commerce & Technology	PO Box 136 45 West Kerr Street,	Uniontown	PA	15401	724	438-4568
Forbes Road Career & Tech Center	607 Beatty Road	Monroeville	PA	15146	412	373-8100

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Aria Health	3 Neshaminy Interplex	Feasterville-Trevoze	PA	19053	215	710-3522
Franklin & Marshall College	PO Box 3003	Lancaster	PA	17604	717	291-4168
Franklin County Career & Technology Center	1015 Philadelphia Avenue	Chambersburg	PA	17201	717	263-5667
Free Gospel Bible Institute	PO Box 477, 6525 Italy Road	Export	PA	15632	724	327-5454
Gannon University	109 University Square	Erie	PA	16541	814	871-7000
Gateway Aviation	Queen City Airport, 1730 Vultee St	Allentown	PA	18103	610	797-7942
Geisinger Medical Center	100 North Academy Ave	Danville	PA	17822	570	271-6114
Geneva College	3200 College Ave	Beaver Falls	PA	15010	724	846-5100
Gettysburg College	300 North Washington Street	Gettysburg	PA	17325	717	337-6244
Gratz College	7605 Old York Road	Melrose Park	PA	19126	215	635-7300
Great Lakes Institute - Toni & Guy Hairdressing Academy	5100 Peach Street	Erie	PA	16509	814	864-6666
Great Lakes Institute Institute of Technology	5100 Peach Street	Erie	PA	16509	814	864-6666
Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center	1500 Fourth Avenue	Altoona	PA	16602	814	946-8463
Greater Johnstown Career & Technology Center	445 Schoolhouse Road	Johnstown	PA	15904	814	266-6073
Greene County Career and Technology Center	60 Zimmerman Drive	Waynesburg	PA	15370	724	627-3106
Gwynedd-Mercy College	1325 Sumneytown Pike	Gwynedd Valley	PA	19437	215	646-7300
H R Stackhouse School of Fish Conservation	1601 Elmerton Avenue	Harrisburg	PA	17110	717	705-7861
Hamot Medical Center - Residencies	201 State Street	Erie	PA	16512	814	877-6257
Harcum College	750 Montgomery Ave	Bryn Mawr	PA	19010	610	526-6008
Harrisburg Area Community College	1 HACC Drive	Harrisburg	PA	17110	717	736-4149
Haverford College	370 Lancaster Avenue	Haverford	PA	19041	610	896-1350
Hazleton Area Career Center	1451 West 23rd Street	Hazleton	PA	18202	570	459-3221
Penn State University College of Medicine	500 University Drive	Hershey	PA	17033	717	531-4102

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Commonwealth Technical Institute	727 Goucher Street	Johnstown	PA	15905	814	255-8372
Holy Family University	9801 Frankford Ave	Philadelphia	PA	19114	215	637-7700
Huntingdon County Career & Technology Center	11893 Technology Dr The Bourse Ste 300 111 S Independence	Mill Creek	PA	17060	814	643-0951
Hussian School of Art	Mall E	Philadelphia	PA	19107	215	981-0900
Kaplan Career Institute	933 Penn Ave	Pittsburgh	PA	15222	412	338-5822
Penn Foster Career School	925 Oak Street	Scranton	PA	18515	570	961-4856
Immaculata University	1145 King Road	Immaculata	PA	19345	610	647-4400
Indiana County Technology Center	441 Hamill Road	Indiana	PA	15701	724	349-6700
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Clark Hall-Rm 126, 1090 South Dr.	Indiana	PA	15705	724	357-7997
Pennsylvania School of Business	265 Lehigh Street	Allentown	PA	18102	610	841-3333
Institute of Real Estate Studies	1521 Cedar Cliff Drive	Camp Hill	PA	17011	717	975-8825
ITT Technical Institute - Harrisburg	449 Eisenhower Boulevard Suite 100	Harrisburg	PA	17111	717	565-1700
ITT Technical Institute - Tarentum	100 Pittsburgh Mills Circle	Tarentum	PA	15084	800	274-1400
ITT Technical Institute - Pittsburgh	5460 Campbells Run Rd	Pittsburgh	PA	15205	412	446-2900
Jameson Health System	1211 Wilmington Ave	New Castle	PA	16105	724	656-4052
Jean Madeline Ed Center Cosmetology	315-A Bainbridge Street	Philadelphia	PA	19147	215	238-9998
Jefferson County-DuBois AVTS	576 Vo-Tech Road	Reynoldsville	PA	15851	814	653-8265
JeffStat EMS Training Center - Jefferson University Hospital	833 Chestnut Street, Suit 940	Philadelphia	PA	19107	215	578-3734
JNA Institution of Culinary	1212 South Broad Street	Philadelphia	PA	19146	215	468-8800
Johnson College	3427 North Main Ave	Scranton	PA	18508	570	702-8915
Juniata College	1700 Moore Street	Huntingdon	PA	16652	814	643-3165
Mifflin-Juniata Career & Tech Center	700 Pitt Street	Lewistown	PA	17044	717	447-0394
Keystone College	PO Box 50, 1College Green	La Plume	PA	18440	570	945-5141

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
King's College	133 North River Street	Wilkes Barre	PA	18711	570	208-5900
Kittanning Beauty Academy	120 Market Street	Kittanning	PA	16201	724	548-2031
Kutztown University	15520 Kutztown Road, PO Box 730	Kutztown	PA	19530	610	683-4718
Lackawanna College	501 Vine Street	Scranton	PA	18509	570	961-7830
Lafayette College	High Street	Easton	PA	18042	610	330-5092
Lake Erie College Osteopathic Medicine	1858 West Grandview Blvd	Erie	PA	16509	814	866-8438
Lancaster Bible College	901 Eden Road	Lancaster	PA	17601	717	560-8554
Lancaster County CTC - Brownstown	Snyder & Metzler Rds, PO Box 519	Brownstown	PA	17508	717	464-7054
Lancaster County CTC - Mount Joy	PO Box 537, 432 Old Market St	Mount Joy	PA	17552	717	464-7054
Lancaster County CTC - Willow Street	1730 Hans Herr Drive, PO Box 527	Willow Street	PA	17584	717	464-7054
Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences	410 North Lime Street	Lancaster	PA	17602	717	544-8042
Lancaster School of Cosmetology	50 Ranck Avenue	Lancaster	PA	17602	717	299-0200
Lancaster Theological Seminary	555 West James Street	Lancaster	PA	17603	717	290-8709
Lansdale School of Business	290 Wissahickon Ave	North Wales	PA	19454	215	699-5700
Lansdale School of Cosmetology	215 West Main Street	Lansdale	PA	19446	215	362-2322
LaRoche College	9000 Babcock Boulevard	Pittsburgh	PA	15237	412	536-1080
La Salle University	1900 West Olney Ave	Philadelphia	PA	19141	215	951-1840
Laurel Business Institute	11 East Penn Street	Uniontown	PA	15401	724	439-4900
Lebanon County Career & Tech Center	833 Metro Drive	Lebanon	PA	17042	717	273-8551
Lebanon Valley College	101 North College Aveue	Annville	PA	17003	717	867-6126
Lehigh Carbon Community College	4525 Education Park Dr	Schnecksville	PA	18078	610	799-1177
Lehigh Career & Technical Institute	4500 Education Park Dr	Schnecksville	PA	18078	610	799-1391
Lehigh University	27 Memorial Drive West	Bethlehem	PA	18015	610	758-3191
Lenape Technical School	104 Armstrong Street	Ford City	PA	16226	724	545-7311

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Levittown Beauty Academy	8919 New Falls Road	Levittown	PA	19054	215	943-0298
Lincoln Technical Institute - Allentown	5151 Tilghman Street	Allentown	PA	18104	610	398-5300
Lincoln Technical Institute - Philadelphia	9191 Torresdale Avenue	Philadelphia	PA	19136	215	335-0800
Lincoln University	1570 Baltimore Pike	Lincoln University	PA	19352	484	365-8086
Lock Haven University	Office of Financial Aid	Lock Haven	PA	17745	570	484-2483
Lutheran Theological Seminary - Gettysburg	61 Seminary Ridge	Gettysburg	PA	17325	717	334-6286
Lutheran Theological Seminary - Philadelphia	7301 Germantown Ave	Philadelphia	PA	19119	215	248-4616
Luzerne County Community College	1333 South Prospect St	Nanticoke	PA	18634	570	740-0389
Lycoming College	700 College Place	Williamsport	PA	17701	570	321-4145
Manor College	700 Fox Chase Road	Jenkintown	PA	19046	215	884-6051
Mansfield University	231 South Hall, 71 S. Academy St.	Mansfield	PA	16933	570	662-4418
Marywood University	2300 Adams Avenue	Scranton	PA	18509	570	961-4584
McCann School of Business - Hazelton	370 Maplewood Drive	Hazle Township	PA	18202	570	454-6172
McCann School of Business - Pottsville	2650 Woodglen Road	Pottsville	PA	17901	570	622-3293
McDowell High School	3580 West 38th Street	Erie	PA	16506	814	835-5043
McKeesport Hospital	1500 Fifth Avenue	McKeesport	PA	15132	412	664-2131
Vet Tech Institute	125 Seventh Street	Pittsburgh	PA	15222	412	391-7021
Mercer County Career Center	776 Greenville Road	Mercer	PA	16137	724	662-3000
UPMC Mercy Hospital	1401 Boulevard of the Allies	Pittsburgh	PA	15219	412	232-8171
Mercyhurst University	501 East 38th Street, Room 204 Main	Erie	PA	16546	814	824-2617
Messiah College	One College Avenue	Mechanicsburg	PA	17055	717	766-2511
Methodist Hospital	2301 South Broad Street	Philadelphia	PA	19148	215	952-9416
Millersville University	PO Box 1002	Millersville	PA	17551	717	872-3506
Monroe Career & Technical Institute	PO Box 66, Laurel Lake Drive	Bartonsville	PA	18321	570	629-2001

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Montgomery County Community College	340 De Kalb Pike, PO Box 400	Blue Bell	PA	19422	215	619-7307
Montgomery Co Comm College - Pottstown	101 College Drive	Pottstown	PA	19464	610	718-1840
Montgomery Hospital	1301 Powell Street	Norristown	PA	19401	610	270-2153
Moore College of Art	The Parkway at 20th St.	Philadelphia	PA	19103	215	965-4041
Moravian College	1200 Main Street	Bethlehem	PA	18018	610	861-1350
Mount Aloysius College	7373 Admiral Peary Highway	Cresson	PA	16630	814	866-6492
Moyer Aviation	188 Airport Drive	Tobyhanna	PA	10466	610	258-0473
Muhlenberg College	2400 West Chew Street	Allentown	PA	18104	484	664-3191
Nazareth Hospital	2601 Holme Avenue	Philadelphia	PA	19152	215	335-6216
Neumann University	One Neumann Drive	Aston	PA	19014	610	558-5635
New Castle Beauty Academy	314 East Washington St	New Castle	PA	16101	724	287-0708
New Castle School of Trades	4117 Pulaski Road	New Castle	PA	16143	724	964-8811
North Montco Technical Career Center	1265 Sunneytown Pike	Lansdale	PA	19446	215	368-1177
Northampton Community College	3835 Green Pond Road	Bethlehem	PA	18017	610	861-5508
Northeastern Hospital School of Nursing	2301 E. Allegheny Avenue	Philadelphia	PA	19134	215	926-3170
UPMC Northwest Medical Center	100 Fairfield Drive	Seneca	PA	16346	814	677-1434
Northwood Institute of Taxidermy	2231 Stoystown Road	Friedens	PA	15541	814	445-6215
Ohio Valley General Hospital	Heckel Road	McKees Rocks	PA	15136	412	777-6204
Orleans Technical Institute	2770 Red Lion Road	Philadelphia	PA	19114	215	728-4733
Pennsylvania State Police Academy - Hershey	175 East Hershey Park Drive	Hershey	PA	17033	717	533-9111
Pennsylvania State Police - SE	2047-B Bridge Road	Schwenksville	PA	19473	610	584-8633
Reading Hospital	Sixth Avenue & Spruce Street	West Reading	PA	19611	610	988-5951
Peirce College	1420 Pine Street	Philadelphia	PA	19102	215	670-9120
Penn Commercial Business Technical School	242 Oak Springs Road	Washington	PA	15301	724	222-5330

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Penn View Bible Institute	125 Penn View Drive	Penns Creek	PA	17862	570	837-1855
Pennsylvania Academy of Cosmetology Arts - DuBois	19 North Brady Street	DuBois	PA	15801	814	371-4151
Pennsylvania Academy of Cosmetology Arts - Johnstown	2445 Bedford Street	Johnstown	PA	15904	814	269-3444
Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts	128 North Broad Street	Philadelphia	PA	19102	215	972-2017
Salus University	8360 Old York Road	Elkins Park	PA	19141	215	780-1317
Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine	Eighth at Race Street Conwell Hall	Philadelphia	PA	19107	215	629-0300
Pennsylvania College of Technology	One College Avenue		PA	17701	570	320-2400
Pennsylvania Gunsmith School	812 Ohio River Boulevard	Pittsburgh	PA	15202	412	766-1812
Pennsylvania Institute of Massage Therapy	93 South WestEnd Blvd, Suite 102-103	Quakertown	PA	18951	215	538-5339
Pennsylvania Institute of Taxidermy	118 Industrial Park Road	Ebensburg	PA	15931	814	472-4510
Pennsylvania Institute of Technology	800 Manchester Avenue	Media	PA	19063	610	892-1536
Pennsylvania College of Art & Design	204 North Prince St, PO Box 59	Lancaster	PA	17608	717	396-7833
Cortiva Institute - Pennsylvania	211 South Gulph Road, Suite 100	King of Prussia	PA	19406	610	666-9060
Pennco Technical Institute Person-Wolinsky CPA Review Courses of Eastern	3815 Otter Street	Bristol	PA	19007	215	785-0111
Pennsylvania	109 Norman Circle	Glenmoore	PA	19343	610	458-6310
Cairn University	200 Manor Avenue	Langhorne	PA	19047	215	752-5800
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine	4170 City Avenue	Philadelphia	PA	19131	215	871-6707
Philadelphia Police Academy	8501 State Road	Philadelphia	PA	19136	215	685-8086
Philadelphia University	4201 Henry Avenue	Philadelphia	PA	19144	215	951-2940
Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics	5 Allegheny Airport PO Box 10897	West Mifflin	PA	15122	412	346-2114
Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science	5808 Baum Boulevard	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	412	362-8500
Pittsburgh Police Training Academy	1395 Washington Blvd	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	412	665-3600
Pittsburgh Technical Institute	1111 McKee Road	Oakdale	PA	15071	412	809-5250

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary	616 North Highland Ave	Pittsburgh	PA	15206	412	924-1379
Point Park University	201 Wood Street, 9th Fl Thayer Hall	Pittsburgh	PA	15222	412	392-3433
Schuylkill Health School of Nursing	450 Washington Street	Pottsville	PA	17901	570	621-5027
Professional Drivers Academy	2300 Housels Run Road	Milton	PA	17847	570	523-3100
The Salon Professional Academy	705 12th Street	Altoona	PA	16602	814	944-4494
Penn State - Abington	1600 Woodland Road	Abington	PA	19001	215	881-7625
Penn State - Altoona	3000 Ivyside Drive	Altoona	PA	16601	814	949-5086
Penn State - Beaver	100 University Drive	Monaca	PA	15061	724	773-3803
Penn State - Behrend	4701 College Drive.	Erie	PA	16563	814	898-6335
Penn State - Berks Campus	Tulpehocken Road, PO Box 7009	Reading	PA	19610	610	396-6072
Penn State - Lehigh Valley	2809 Saucon Valley Road	Center Valley	PA	18034	610	285-5033
Penn State - Brandywine	25 Yearsley Mill Road	Media	PA	19063	610	436-2627
Penn State - DuBois	College Place	DuBois	PA	15801	814	375-4720
Penn State - Fayette-Eberly	PO Box 519, Route 119 North	Uniontown	PA	15401	724	430-4215
Penn State - Great Valley	30 East Swedesford Road	Malvern	PA	19355	610	648-3311
Penn State - Harrisburg	777 West Harrisburg Pike	Middletown	PA	17057	717	948-6307
Penn State - Hazleton	76 University Drive	Hazleton	PA	18201	570	450-3142
Penn State - Main/University Park	325 Boucke Building	University Park	PA	16802	814	863-0465
Penn State - Greater Allegheny	4000 University Drive	McKeesport	PA	15132	412	675-9013
Penn State - Mont Alto	1 Campus Drive	Mont Alto	PA	17237	717	749-6133
Penn State - New Kensington	3550 Seventh Street Rd	New Kensington	PA	15068	724	334-6046
Penn State - Schuylkill	200 University Drive	Schuylkill Haven	PA	17972	570	385-6245
Penn State - Shenango	147 Shenango Avenue	Sharon	PA	16146	724	983-2803
Penn State - Wilkes Barre Commonwealth Campus	PO Box PSU	Lehman	PA	18627	570	675-0279

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Penn State - Worth-Scranc	120 Ridgeview Drive	Dunmore	PA	18512	570	963-2690
Penn State - York	1031 Edgecomb Avenue	York	PA	17403	717	771-4045
Penn State - Penn College	One College Avenue	Williamsport	PA	17701	570	322-5771
Aviation Institute of Maintenance	3001 Grant Avenue	Philadelphia	PA	19114	215	676-7700
Reading Area Community College	10 South Second Street	Reading	PA	19603	610	372-4721
Reading Hospital	PO Box 16052	Reading	PA	19612	610	741-0105
Reading Police Academy	815 Washington Street	Reading	PA	19601	610	655-6332
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College	1299 Church Road	Wyncote	PA	19095	215	576-0800
Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary	7418 Penn Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15208	412	731-6000
Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College	4207 Walnut Street	Philadelphia	PA	19104	215	295-2315
Robert Morris University	6001 University Boulevard	Moon Township	PA	15108	412	397-3695
Rochester Area High School	540 Reno Street	Rochester	PA	15074	412	775-7500
Rosedale Technical College	215 Beecham Drive Suite 2	Pittsburgh	PA	15205	412	521-6200
Rosemont College	1400 Montgomery Ave	Rosemont	PA	19010	610	527-0200
Ross Leffler School of Conservation	2001 Elmerton Avenue	Harrisburg	PA	17110	717	787-3168
Roxborough Memorial Hospital	5800 Ridge Avenue	Philadelphia	PA	19128	215	487-4286
Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary	100 East Wynnewood Road	Wynnewood	PA	19096	610	785-6235
Saint Christopher's Hospital for Children	Erie Avenue at Front Street	Philadelphia	PA	19134	215	427-6751
Saint Francis University	PO Box 600	Loretto	PA	15940	814	472-3372
Saint Joseph's University	5600 City Avenue	Philadelphia	PA	19131	610	660-1323
Saint Lukes Hospital and Health Network	801 Ostrum Street	Bethlehem	PA	18015	610	954-3550
Saint Margaret School of Nursing	221 Seventh Street, Suite 100	Pittsburgh	PA	15238	412	784-4993
Saint Tikhon's Theological Seminary	19 St Tikhon's Road	South Canaan	PA	18459	570	937-4411
Saint Vincent College & Seminary	300 Fraser Purchase Road	Latrobe	PA	15650	724	805-2500

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Allegheny Health Network-Saint Vincent Hospital	311 West 24th Street, 4th Floor	Erie	PA	16502	814	452-5717
Schuylkill Technology Center	101 Technology Drive	Frackville	PA	17931	570	874-1034
Seton Hill University	Seton Hill Drive	Greensburg	PA	15601	724	838-4218
Sharon Pennsylvania Hospital Co, LLC	740 East State Street	Sharon	PA	16146	724	983-5645
Shippensburg University	1871 Old Main Drive	Shippensburg	PA	17257	717	477-1131
Slippery Rock University	1 Morrow Way	Slippery Rock	PA	16057	724	738-2184
Somerset County Technology Center	281 Technology Drive	Somerset	PA	15501	814	443-3651
South Hills Beauty Academy	3269 West Liberty Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15216	412	561-3381
South Hills School of Business & Technology	480 Waupelani Drive	State College	PA	16801	814	234-7755
Star Career Academy - Philadelphia	2371 Welsh Road	Philadelphia	PA	19114	215	969-5877
Strong Vincent High School	1330 West 8th Street	Erie	PA	16502	814	874-6516
Stroudsburg School of Cosmetology	100 North Eighth Street	Stroudsburg	PA	18360	570	421-3387
Susquehanna University	514 University Avenue	Selinsgrove	PA	17870	570	372-4628
Swarthmore College	500 College Avenue	Swarthmore	PA	19081	610	328-8299
Temple University Medical College - Hosp	1801 North Broad St. 2nd Floor	Philadelphia	PA	19122	215	204-7358
Temple University	1801 North Broad St	Philadelphia	PA	19122	215	204-7358
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology	750 East King Street	Lancaster	PA	17602	717	391-3510
Thiel College	75 College Ave	Greenville	PA	16125	724	589-2178
Thomas Jefferson University	1025 Walnut Street Rm. G-22	Philadelphia	PA	19107	215	955-5001
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital	1015 Chestnut Str Suite 719	Philadelphia	PA	19107	215	955-6610
Brightwood Career Institute	5650 Derry Street	Harrisburg	PA	17111	717	901-5858
Kaplan Career Institute - Philadelphia	3010 Market Street	Philadelphia	PA	19104	215	594-4021
Trans American Technical Institute	PO Box 321	Carbondale	PA	18407	570	222-4884
Triangle Tech - DuBois	225 Tannery Row Road	Falls Creek	PA	15840	814	371-2090

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Triangle Tech - Erie	2000 Liberty Street	Erie	PA	16502	814	453-6016
Triangle Tech - Greensburg	222 East Pittsburgh St, Suite A	Greensburg	PA	15601	724	832-1050
Triangle Tech - Pittsburgh	1940 Perrysville Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15214	412	359-1000
Trinity Episc School for Ministry	311 Eleventh Street	Ambridge	PA	15003	724	266-3838
Fortis Institute - Erie	5757 West 26th Street Iroquois Building Suite 300, 3600 Fifth	Erie	PA	16506	814	838-7673
University Health Center of Pittsburgh	AVe	Pittsburgh	PA	15213	412	647-5815
University of Pennsylvania	3451 Walnut Street, Rm 221	Philadelphia	PA	19104	215	898-6892
University of Pennsylvania Health Systems	3400 Spruce Street	Philadelphia	PA	19104	215	662-6176
University of Pittsburgh - Main/Pittsburgh	407 Cathedral of Learning	Pittsburgh	PA	15260	412	624-3213
University of Pittsburgh - Bradford	300 Campus Drive	Bradford	PA	16702	814	362-7676
University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg	150 Finoli Drive	Greensburg	PA	15601	724	837-7040
University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown	450 Schoolhouse Rd	Johnstown	PA	15904	814	269-7055
University of Pittsburgh - Titusville	504 E. Main Street, PO Box 287	Titusville	PA	16354	814	827-4470
University of Scranton	800 Linden Street	Scranton	PA	18510	570	941-7721
University of the Arts	320 South Broad Street	Philadelphia	PA	19102	215	717-6420
University of the Sciences in Philadelphia	600 South 43rd Street	Philadelphia	PA	19104	215	596-8816
UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing	5230 Centre Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15232	412	623-7096
Upper Bucks County AVTS	3115 Ridge Road	Perkasie	PA	18944	215	795-2011
Upper Saint Clair High School	1825 McLaughlin Run Road	Pittsburgh	PA	15241	412	833-1600
Ursinus College	PO Box 1000	Collegeville	PA	19426	610	409-3605
Valley Forge Christian College	PO Box 810, 1401 Charlestown Road	Phoenixville	PA	19460	610	917-1427
Venango Technology Center - Practical Nursing	1 Vo-Tech Drive	Oil City	PA	16301	814	677-3097
Venus Beauty Academy	1033 Chester Pike	Sharon Hill	PA	19079	610	586-2500

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Central Pennsylvania Diesel Institute	1718 Old Trail Road	Liverpool	PA	17045	717	444-3134
Villanova University	800 Lancaster Avenue	Villanova	PA	19085	610	519-4042
Washington & Jefferson College	60 South Lincoln Street	Washington	PA	15301	724	223-6017
Washington Hospital	155 Wilson Avenue	Washington	PA	15301	724	223-3167
Waynesburg University	51 West College Street	Waynesburg	PA	15370	724	852-3375
Welder Training & Testing Institute	729 East Highland Street	Allentown	PA	18109	610	437
West Chester University	25 University Ave	West Chester	PA	19383	610	436-2601
West Philadelphia Catholic HS	4501 Chestnut Street	Philadelphia	PA	19139	215	386-2244
Pennsylvania Institute of Health & Technology	PO Box 278, Mt Braddock Road	Mount Braddock	PA	15465	724	437-4600
Western Area Career & Technology Center	688 Western Avenue	Canonsburg	PA	15317	724	746-2890
Western Pennsylvania Hospital	4800-4900 Friendship Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15224	412	395-6054
Pittsburgh Career Institute	421 Seventh Ave	Pittsburgh	PA	15219	412	281-2600
Westminster College	319 South Market Street	New Wilmington	PA	16172	724	946-8761
Westminster Theological Seminary	2960 Church Road	Glenside	PA	1908	215	935-3868
Westmoreland County Community College	145 Pavilion Lane	Youngwood	PA	15697	724	925-4056
Widener University	One University Place	Chester	PA	19013	610	499-4159
Widener University School of Law	3800 Vartan Way	Harrisburg	PA	17110	717	541-3904
Wilkes Barre Career & Technical Center	350 Jumper Road	Wilkes Barre	PA	18205	570	822-6539
Wilkes-Barre General Hospital	575 North River Street	Wilkes Barre	PA	18764	570	552-1760
Wilkes University	84 West South Street	Wilkes Barre	PA	18766	570	408-2000
Wilson College	1015 Philadelphia Avenue	Chambersburg	PA	17201	717	262-2016
Wrightco Technologies - Ebensburg	1336 N Center Street	Ebensburg	PA	15931	814	472-5211
York College of Pennsylvania	Country Club Road	York	PA	17405	717	815-1232
York County School of Technology	2179 South Queen Street	York	PA	17402	717	741-0820

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
YTI Career Institute - York	1405 Williams Road	York	PA	17402	717	757-1100
William Penn High School	101 W College Ave	York	PA	17403	717	849-1308
Pennsylvania State Police - NE	1989 Wyoming Avenue	Forty-Fort	PA	18704	570	288-3659
Pennsylvania State Police - NW	195 Valley View Dr, RD 3, Box 785-D	Meadville	PA	16335	814	332-6888
Pennsylvania State Police - SW	2900 Seminary Drive	Greensburg	PA	15601	724	832-5250
York Hospital	1001 S. George Street	York	PA	17405	717	812-3399
University of Phoenix - Philadelphia	1170 Devon Park Drive	Wayne	PA	19087	610	386-1145
DuBois Business College - Huntingdon	1001 Moore Street	Huntingdon	PA	16652	814	641-0440
Massage Arts Center of Philadelphia	714 Market Street, Suite 103	Philadelphia	PA	19106	215	321-0200
Health Options Institute	1926 Second Street	Bethlehem	PA	18020	610	419-3535
DuBois Business College - Oil City	701 East Third Street	Oil City	PA	16301	814	677-1322
University of Phoenix - Pittsburgh	651 Holiday Drive	Pittsburgh	PA	15220	412	747-9000
Career Development & Employment - Wilkes Barre	100 N Wilkes Barre Blvd	Wilkes Barre	PA	18701	570	823-3891
Blacklick Valley Jr-Sr HS	555 Birch Street	Nanty-Glo	PA	15943	814	749-9213
Metropolitan Career Center	100 South Broad Street, Suite 830	Philadelphia	PA	19110	215	568-9215
McCann School of Business - Sunbury	1147 North 4th Street	Sunbury	Pa	17801	570	286-3058
Industrial Training & Testing Institute	2251 Fraley Street	Philadelphia	PA	19137	215	744-1008
Empire Beauty School - Monroeville	The Plaza, 320 Mall Boulevard	Monroeville	PA	15146	412	373-7727
Career Training Academy - Pittsburgh	1014 West View Park Drive	Pittsburgh	PA	15229	412	367-4000
Lehigh Valley Health Network	1247 S. Cedar Crest Blvd-2nd Fl	Allentown	PA	18103	610	402-2570
Springhouse Computer School	700 Pennsylvania Dr. Suite 120	Exton	PA	19341	610	321-2090
ITT Technical Institute - Levittown	311 Veterans Highway Suite 100	Levittown	PA	19056	215	702-6300
Connellsville Area HS	201 Falcon Drive	Connellsville	PA	15425	724	628-1350
Bill Allen's Pocono Institute of Taxidermy	1100 Foster Avenue	White Haven	PA	18661	570	443-9166

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Baltimore School of Massage	170 Red Rock Road	York	PA	17406	717	268-1881
Purchase Line High School	16559 Rt 286 Highway E, PO Box 374	Commodore	PA	15729	724	254-4312
Heritage Valley Health System - Beaver Falls	918 Third Avenue	Beaver Falls	PA	15010	724	843-6000
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency	PO Box 1167, 3101 N Front St	Harrisburg	PA	17108	717	705-3693
Lebanon County Career School	18 East Weidman Street	Lebanon	PA	17046	717	274-8804
Hazleton Area HS	1601 West 23rd Street	Hazleton	PA	18201	570	459-3221
Pinnacle Health Hospitals	4300 Londonderry RD	Harrisburg	PA	17105	717	657-7525
Empire Beauty School - Phila/Chestnut	1522 Chestnut Street	Philadelphia	PA	19102	215	568-3745
Lancaster General Hospital	555 North Duke Street, PO Box 3555	Lancaster	PA	17604	717	290-4940
Altoona Hospital	620 Howard Avenue	Altoona	PA	16601	814	946-2835
DeVry University	1140 Virginia Drive	Fort Washington	PA	19034	215	591-5731
Bradford Regional Med Center	116 Interstate Parkway, P.O. Box 218	Bradford	PA	16701	814	362-8292
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia	34th Street & Civic Center Blvd	Philadelphia	PA	19104	215	590-3961
Mercy Suburban Hospital	2701 DeKalb Pike	Norristown	PA	19401	610	278-2003
Shaler Area High School	381 Wible Run Road	Pittsburgh	PA	15209	412	492-1200
Wyotech-Blairsville	500 Innovation Drive	Blairsville	PA	15717	724	459-4303
Lincoln Technical Institute - Horning Road (NE)	2180 Horning Road, Building A	Philadelphia	PA	19116	215	268-0423
York Suburban Sr HS	1800 Hollywood Drive	York	PA	17403	717	843-3881
Lincoln Technical Institute - Market Street	3600 Market Street	Philadelphia	PA	19104	215	382-1553
Waynesburg Central HS	30 Zimmerman Drive	Waynesburg	PA	15370	724	627-8151
New Wave Computer Training	42 South 15th Street	Philadelphia	PA	19154	215	496-9388
Triangle Tech - Sunbury	191 Performance Drive	Sunbury	PA	17801	570	988-0700
ITT Technical Institute - Plymouth Meeting	220 West Germantown Pike, Suite 100	Plymouth Meeting	PA	19462	610	832-3453
McCann School of Business - Dickson City	227 Scranton/Carbondale Highway	Dickson City	PA	18519	570	969-4330

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Keystone Diesel Institute	647 Evans City Road	Butler	PA	16001	724	482-0019
Strayer University - Delaware County	760 W. Sproul Road Suite 200	Springfield	PA	19064	610	604-7702
Jolie Hair and Beauty Academy - Wilkes Barre	125 North Wilkes Barre Boulevard	Wilkes-Barre	PA	18702	570	825-8363
Jolie Hair and Beauty Academy - Hazelton	1057 A North Church Street	Hazelton	PA	18202	570	459-5501
Strayer University - Bucks	3800 Horizon Blvd Suite 100	Treose	PA	19053	703	561-2194
YTI Career Institute - Lancaster	3050 Hempland Road	Lancaster	PA	17601	717	391-5946
Penn-Cambria HS	401 Linden Avenue	Cresson	PA	16630	814	886-8188
Real Estate School of LanCo	1930 Harrington Drive	Lancaster	PA	17601	717	569-5031
Abington Mem Hospital Residency	1200 Old York Road	Abington	Pa	19090	215	481-2606
Steel City Aviation	Hangar 7, Allegheny County Airport	West Mifflin	PA	15122	412	466-1111
Education & Technology Institute	219 Donohoe Road	Greensburg	PA	15601	724	836-2395
Precision Manufacturing Institute	764 Bessemer Street, Suite 105	Meadville	PA	16335	814	333-2415
Dauphin County Technical School	6001 Locust Lane	Harrisburg	PA	17109	717	652-3170
New Horizons CLC - Pittston	145 Center Point Blvd	Pittston	PA	18706	570	602-2700
Delaware Valley Friends High School	19 East Central Avenue	Paoli	PA	19301	610	640-4150
Strayer University - KP	234 Mall Boulevard	King of Prussia	PA	19406	610	491-3202
American College	270 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue	Bryn Mawr	PA	19010	610	526-1426
DeVry University - CC Phila	1800 JFK Blvd, Suite 104	Philadelphia	PA	19103	215	568-2911
New Horizons CLC - Mechanicsburg	5001 Louise Drive Suite 100	Mechanicsburg	PA	17055	717	506-9613
Training Camp (The)	The Fernwood Resort, Route 209	Bushkill	PA	18324	215	677-1310
South Hills School of Business - Lewistown	124 East Market Street	Lewistown	PA	17044	717	248-8140
North Hills Beauty Academy	813 West View Park Drive	Pittsburgh	PA	15229	412	931-8553
Northwest Regional Technology Institute	3104 State Street	Erie	PA	16508	814	455-4446
Clarion Hospital	One Hospital Drive	Clarion	PA	16214	814	226-1306

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Burgettstown Area Jr. Sr HS	104 Bavington Road	Burgettstown	PA	15021	724	947-8136
Harrisburg University of Science & Technology	326 Market Street	Harrisburg	PA	17101	717	901-5117
Beauty Institute (The) - Philadelphia	9898-9902 E Roosevelt Blvd	Philadelphia	PA	19115	215	331-1515
Wills Eye Hospital	840 Walnut Street	Philadelphia	PA	19107	214	440-3170
Institute of Medical Careers	133 Jefferson Road Suite 101	Pittsburgh	PA	15235	412	481-2553
Blackstone Career Institute	1011 Brookside Rd Suite 300 2393 Mountainview Drive Century	Allentown	PA	18106	610	871-0031
Empire Beauty School - West Mifflin	Square Mall Kutztown Univ., De Francesco Bldg,	West Mifflin	PA	15122	412	653-2870
Small Business Development Center - Kutztown University	Room 2	Kutztown	PA	19530	610	683-4574
Small Business Development Center - Bucknell University	112 Dana Engineering Bldg	Lewisburg	PA	17837	570	523-8867
Small Business Development Center - University of Scranton	800 Linden St.	Scranton	PA	18510	570	941-7588
New Horizons CLC – Wayne	565 E. Swedesford Rd.	Wayne	PA	19087	610	270-8700
Strayer University – Center City	1601 Cherry Street, Suite 100	Philadelphia	PA	19102	703	561-2194
Cocalico High School	P.O. Box 800	Denver	PA	17517	717	336-1427
Allegheny Valley Institute of Technology	One Kiski Avenue	Leechburg	PA	15656	724	845-5100
Universal Technical Institute	750 Pennsylvania Ave	Exton	PA	19341	610	646-8756
Millcreek Community Hospital	5515 Peach Street	Erie	PA	16509	814	864-4031
Triangle Tech - Bethlehem	3184 Airport Rd.	Bethlehem	PA	18017	610	691-1300
Pennsylvania Myotherapy Institute	6955 York Road	Abbottstown	Pa	17301	717	624-3333
Memorial Hospital	325 South Belmont Street	York	PA	17405	717	849-5340
Strayer University - Warrendale	800 Warrendale Village Drive	Warrendale	PA	15086	412	747-7802
Thomas Jefferson HS	310 Old Clairton Road	Jefferson Hills	PA	15025	412	655-8610
Pittsburgh Filmmakers	477 Melwood Ave	Pittsburgh	PA	15213	412	681-5449

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Aero Tech Services	500 P Airport Road	Lititz	PA	17543	717	394-2675
CDE Career Institute - Tannersville	1644 Route 611	Tannersville	Pa	18372	570	421-5014
Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School	565 Lewis Run Road	Jefferson Hills	PA	15025	412	469-3200
Intermediate Unit One	One Intermediat Unit Drive	Coal Center	PA	15423	724	938-3241
CDM Institute	1275 GlenLivet Drive	Allentown	PA	18106	610	481-0933
Lancaster School of Massage	313 West Liberty St ste 326	Lancaster	PA	17603	717	293-9698
Pennsylvania Hospital of UPHS	800 Spruce St, 2 Pine West	Philadelphia	PA	19107	215	829-5933
University of Phoenix - Harrisburg	4050 Crums Mill Road Suite 100	Harrisburg	PA	17112	717	540-3312
Jean Madeline Ed Center (Aveda Institute)	7248 Farankford Ave	Philadelphia	PA	19135	215	238-9998
Albert Einstein Med Center	5501 Old York Road	Philadelphia	PA	19141	215	456-6398
Bryn Mawr Hospital	101 Bryn Mawr Ave. Sutie 201	Bryn Mawr	PA	19010	610	520-0746
Fox Chase Cancer Center	333 Cottman Ave	Philadelphia	PA	19111	215	728-3097
William F Goodling Advanced Skills Center	2101 Pennsylvania Ave	York	PA	17404	717	699-0832
SciTech High School	215 Market Street	Harrisburg	PA	17101	717	703-1904
Good Fellowship Ambulance & EMS Training	600 Montgomery Ave	West Chester	PA	19381	610	431-2303
Valley Forge Military Academy & College	1001 Eagle Road	Wayne	PA	19087	610	989-1383
National Personal Training Institute	11000 Roosevelt Blvd, World Gym	Philadelphia	PA	19116	267	446-3512
Automotive Training Center - Warminster	900 Johnsville Boulevard	Warminster	PA	18974	215	259-1900
Chester County Middle College High School	906 Springdale Drive	Exton	PA	19341	610	280-9379
Allegany College of Maryland Somerset	6022 Glades Pike Suite 100	Somerset	PA	15501	814	445-5323
Allegany College of Maryland Bedford	18 North River Lane	Everett	PA	15537	814	652-9528
RCS/AMS Race Car Service	2522 Library Road	Pittsburgh	PA	15234	412	881-1000
Hempfield Area High School	4345 Route 136	Greensburg	PA	15601	724	834-9000
B.Reed Henderson High School	400 Montgomery Ave	West Chester	PA	19380	484	266-3311

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Bethlehem Center-High School	194 Crawford Road	Frederick	PA	15333	724	267-4944
Penn Hills High School	12200 Garland Drive	Pittsburgh	PA	15235	412	793-7000
North Hills High School	53 Rochester Road	Pittsburgh	PA	15229	412	318-1418
Lewistown Hospital School of Nursing	400 Highland Ave	Lewistown	PA	17044	717	242-7930
ITT Technical Institute - Dunmore	1000 Meade St Landmark Building 10 S Clinton St. Suite	Dunmore	PA	18512	570	330-0600
International School of Shiatsu	300	Doylestown	PA	18901	215	340-9918
National Commission for Health	1541 Alta Drive, Suite 303	Whitehall	PA	18051	484	223-0770
Danville Area High School	600 Walnut Street	Danville	PA	17821	570	271-3268
Baldwin High School	4653 Clairton Boulevard	Pittsburgh	PA	15236	412	855-7840
Full Circle Computing Inc	740 Springdale Drive # 125	Exton	PA	19341	610	594-9510
South Fayette High School	3640 Old Oakdale Road	McDonald	PA	15057	412	221-4542
Harry S Truman High School	3001 Green Lane	Levittown	Pa	19057	215	547-3002
Pittsburgh School of Massage Therapy	3600 Laketon Road	Pittsburgh	PA	15235	412	241-5155
Project Management Institute	14 Campus Boulevard	Newtown Square	PA	19703	610	356-4600
American Board of Internal Med	510 Walnut Street, Suite 1700	Philadelphia	PA	19106	215	446-3500
Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates	3624 Market Street	Philadelphia	PA	19104	215	823-2115
Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners	5070A Ritter Road Suite 300	Mechanicsburg	Pa	17055	717	231-3364
Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers	140 Philips Road	Exton	PA	19341	610	594-7305
Strayer University - Allentown	3800 Sierra Circle	Center Valley	PA	18034	484	809-7802
Art Institute of Pittsburgh - Online	1400 Penn Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15222	412	395-2217
Altoona Area High School	1415 Sixth Ave	Altoona	PA	16602	814	946-8305
McCann School of Business - Allentown	2200 North Irving Street	Allentown	PA	18109	570	391-3083
National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners	P.O. Box 510	Bellefonte	PA	16823	814	357-0487

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
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ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
Laurel Highlands Therapeutic Academy	3135 New Germany Road Suite 39	Ebensburg	PA	15931	814	471- 6871
McCann School of Business - Carlisle	346 York Road	Carlisle	PA	17013	717	218- 3400
Empire Beauty School - North Hills	4768 McKnight Road	Pittsburgh	PA	15237	412	367- 1765
Prism Career Institute - Philadelphia	8040 Roosevelt Boulevard	Philadelphia	PA	19152	215	331- 4600
Pennsylvania Realtors Institute	500 North 12th Street	Lemoyne	PA	17043	717	561- 1303
Mutual Aid Ambulance Service, Inc	561 West Otterman Street	Greensburg	PA	15601	724	837- 6134
Smith & Solomon Driver Training - Phila	4219 Richmond Street	Philadelphia	PA	19137	215	288- 2294
Little Flower High School	1000 West Lycoming Street	Philadephia	PA	19140	215	455- 6900
Mobile Air Conditioning Society World Wide	225 South Broad Street	Landsdale	Pa	19446	215	631- 7020
Next Level Purchasing Inc	PO Box 901	Moon Township	PA	15108	412	294- 1990
Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation	125 Enterprise Drive	Pittsburgh	PA	15275	412	859- 6104
Software Engineering Institute	4500 Fifth Ave	Pittsburgh	PA	15213	412	268- 5384
George Washington Carver HS	1600 West Norris Street	Philadelphia	PA	19121	215	684- 5079
Sacred Heart Hospital	450 Chew Street	Allentown	PA	18102	610	776- 4983
East-West School of Massage	510 Park Road North	Wyomissing	PA	19610	610	375- 7520
Moore Aviation,Inc	7 Piper Street Suite # 2	Beaver Falls	Pa	15010	724	843- 4800
Metro Beauty Academy	4977 Medical Center Circle	Allentown	PA	18106	610	398- 6227
Bucks County Technical High School	610 Wistar Road	Fairless Hills	PA	19030	215	949- 1700
WON Istitute of Graduate Studies	137 South Easton Road	Glenside	PA	19038	215	884- 8942
Beauty Institute (The) - Ambler	50 East Butler Pike	Ambler	PA	19002	215	643- 3753
IndoChinese American Council	4934-36 Old York Road	Philadelphia	PA	19141	215	457- 0272
East Coast Institute of Taxidermy	1505 Bell Road	Wapwallopen	PA	18660	570	379- 3157
North Penn High School	1340 Valley Forge Road	Lansdale	PA	19446	215	368- 9800
Lewistown Area High School	2 Manor Drive	Lewistown	PA	17044	717	242- 1401

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
APPROVED FOR VETERAN BENEFIT**

ESTABLISHMENT	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	AC	PHONE
PITC Institute	140 South Easton Road	Glenside	PA	19038	215	576-5650
Commonwealth Medical College	501 Vine Street 3rd Floor	Scranton	PA	18509	570	504-9668
Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius	3605 Perrysville Avenue	Pittsburgh	PA	15214	412	321-8383
Simon Gratz High School Mastery Charter School	1798 W. Hunting Park Ave	Philadelphia	PA	19140	267	535-1608
Barone Beauty Academy	501 E. Third Street	Williamsport	PA	17701	570	326-7534
Marion Center Area High School	22800 Route 403 Highway North	Marion City	PA	15759	724	397-5551
Academy for Media Production (The)	238 Main Street	McSherrystown	PA	17344	800	661-2981
Waynesboro Area Senior High School	550 E. 2nd Street	Waynesboro	PA	17268	717	762-1191
Roman Cathoic High School	301 North Broad Street	Philadelphia	PA	19140	215	627-1270
SUN Area Technical Institute	815 East Market Street	New Berlin	PA	17855	570	966-1031
Claysburg-Kimmel High School	531 Bedford Street	Claysburg	PA	16625	814	239-0308
Cambria Rowe Business College - Indiana	422 South 13th Street	Indiana	PA	15701	814	536-5168
Smith & Solomon Driver Training - Norristown	103 East Main Street Knights Road Shopping Center 4026	Norristown	PA	19401	610	272-6050
Empire Beauty School - Woodhaven Rd	Woodhaven	Philadelphia	PA	19154	215	637-1800
Fountain of Youth Academy of Cosmetology	108 Scharsberry Lane	Mars	PA	16046	724	625-3691
Barber School of Pittsburgh	143 Steuben Street	Pittsburgh	PA	15220	412	922-1234
DCS School of Driving, LLC	1060 Zinns Quarry Road	York	PA	17404	717	586-9648
New Horizons CLC - Bethlehem	100 Brodhead Road Suite 120	Bethlehem	PA	18017	610	867-4002
New Horizons CLC - Reading	3 Park Plaza Park Road Suite 103	Wyomissing	PA	19610	610	685-2613
Saint John Neumann Regional Academy	Williamsport	PA	PA	17701	570	323-9953
Bella Capelli Academy - Monroeville	151 Wyngate Drive	Monroeville	PA	15146	412	373-3402
Smith & Solomon Driver Training - Dupont	98 Grove Street	Dupont	PA	18641	570	602-8780
SSPC - The Society for Protective Coatings	40 24th Street 6th Floor	Pittsburgh	PA	15222	412	281-2331

APPENDIX F:

PENNSYLVANIA STATE YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

PA State Yellow Ribbon Program Information 2015 – 2016 http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon/2015/states/pa.asp					
Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
Albright College	Reading	All	All	Unlimited	\$8,910.00
Allegheny College	Meadville	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	\$10,000.00
Alvernia University	Reading	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Antonelli Institute	Erdenheim	All	All	10	\$2,000.00
Arcadia University	Glenside	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
The Art Institute of Philadelphia	Philadelphia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
The Art Institute of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
The Art Institute of Pittsburgh - Online	Pittsburgh	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
The Art Institute of York	York	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Berks Technical Institute	Wyomissing	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Bryn Mawr College	Bryn Mawr	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	\$12,373.00
Bryn Mawr College	Bryn Mawr	Graduate	Social Work & Research	Unlimited	\$9,725.00
Bryn Mawr College	Bryn Mawr	Doctoral	Social Work & Research	Unlimited	\$5,380.00
Bryn Mawr College	Bryn Mawr	UG Pre-Med Post Baccalaureate	All	Unlimited	\$11,025.00
Bucknell University	Lewisburg	Undergraduate	All	20	\$15,000.00
Bucks County Community College	Newtown	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
CHI - Broomall	Broomall	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
CHI Institute – Franklin Mills	Philadelphia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Cabrini College	Radnor	Undergraduate	All	30	\$15,000.00

PA State Yellow Ribbon Program Information 2015 – 2016

http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon/2015/states/pa.asp

Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
Cairn University	Langhorne	Undergraduate	All	15	\$8,000.00
Cairn University	Langhorne	Graduate	All	15	\$3,300.00
Career Training Academy - Monroeville	Monroeville	Undergraduate	Professional	4	\$2,000.00
Career Training Academy – New Kensington	New Kensington	Undergraduate	Professional	4	\$2,000.00
Career Training Academy - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Undergraduate	Professional	2	\$2,000.00
Carlow University	Pittsburgh	Undergraduate	All	10	\$3,500.00
Carlow University	Pittsburgh	Graduate	All	10	\$3,500.00
Carlow University	Pittsburgh	Doctoral	All	10	\$3,500.00
Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh	Undergraduate	All	35	\$8,000.00
Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh	Graduate	All (Non-Heinz, Non-Tepper, Non-Info Networking Institute)	20	\$10,000.00
Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh	Graduate	Heinz College	20	\$12,161.00
Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh	Graduate	Info Networking Institute	5	\$9,000.00
Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh	Graduate	Tepper School of Business	30	\$15,000.00
Cedar Crest College	Allentown	All	All	50	\$5,000.00
Central Michigan University	Philadelphia	Graduate	College of Graduate Studies	100	\$500.00
Central Pennsylvania College	Summerdale	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	\$2,000.00
Chattam University	Pittsburgh	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Chattam University	Pittsburgh	Graduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Chattam University	Pittsburgh	Doctoral	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Chestnut Hill College	Philadelphia	All	All	100	\$13,000.00
Community College of Beaver County	Monaca	Undergraduate	All	6	\$1,800.00
Delaware Valley College	Doylestown	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
DeSales University - Center Valley	Center Valley	All	All	50	\$8,000.00

PA State Yellow Ribbon Program Information 2015 – 2016

http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon/2015/states/pa.asp

Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
DeVry University - Ft. Washington	Ft. Washington	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
DeVry University - King of Prussia	King of Prussia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
DeVry University – Philadelphia (cc campus)	Philadelphia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
DeVry University - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Dickinson College - Carlisle	Carlisle	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Douglas Education Center	Monessen	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Drexel University – City Center Campus	Philadelphia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Drexel University – College of Medicine	Philadelphia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Drexel University – Main Campus	Philadelphia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Duquesne University	Pittsburgh	All	All	200	Unlimited
East Stroudsburg University	East Stroudsburg	All	All	8	\$6,000.00
Eastern Mennonite University	Harrisonburg	Graduate	Biomedicine	3	\$2,800.00
Eastern University	St. Davids	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Elizabethtown College	Elizabethtown	All	All	Unlimited	\$10,738.00
Everest Institute	Pittsburgh	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Fortis Institute	Erie	All	All	Unlimited	\$2,500.00
Fortis Institute	Scranton	Undergraduate	Professional	5	\$5,000.00
Franklin & Marshall College	Lancaster	Undergraduate	All	5	\$5,000.00
Gannon University	Erie	All	All	Unlimited	\$2,500.00
Geneva College	Beaver Falls	All	All	Unlimited	\$24,480.00
Gettysburg College	Gettysburg	Undergraduate	All	12	\$12,500.00
Gwynedd-Mercy College	Gwynedd Valley	Undergraduate	Associates & Bachelors (Gwnedd Valley Campus only)	Unlimited	Unlimited
Harrisburg Area Community College	Harrisburg	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited

PA State Yellow Ribbon Program Information 2015 – 2016

http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon/2015/states/pa.asp

Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
Harrisburg University of Science & Technology	Harrisburg	Undergraduate	All	50	\$1,500.00
Harrisburg University of Science & Technology	Harrisburg	Graduate	All	50	\$1,500.00
Holy Family University	Philadelphia	Undergraduate, Masters	Holy Family University	1,000	\$3,500.00
ITT Technical Institute - Bensalem	Bensalem	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
ITT Technical Institute - Dunmore	Dunmore	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
ITT Technical Institute - Harrisburg	Harrisburg	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
ITT Technical Institute – King of Prussia	King of Prussia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
ITT Technical Institute - Philadelphia	Philadelphia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
ITT Technical Institute - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
ITT Technical Institute - Tarentum	Tarentum	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Immaculata University	Immaculata	All	College of Undergraduate Studies	Unlimited	Unlimited
Immaculata University	Immaculata	All	College of Lifelong Learning	Unlimited	Unlimited
Immaculata University	Immaculata	All	College of Graduate Studies	Unlimited	Unlimited
Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Indiana	All	All	5	\$1,000.00
Johnson College	Scranton	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	\$5,000.00
Juniata College - Huntington	Huntington	Undergraduate	All	50	\$8,000.00
Kaplan Career Institute - Broomall	Broomall	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Kaplan Career Institute – Franklin Mills	Philadelphia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Kaplan Career Institute - Harrisburg	Harrisburg	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Kaplan Career Institute - Philadelphia	Philadelphia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Kaplan Career Institute - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Keystone College	La Plume	All	All	Unlimited	\$3,000.00
King’s College	Wilkes Barre	All	All	30	\$5,000.00
Kutztown University	Kutztown	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited

PA State Yellow Ribbon Program Information 2015 – 2016

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Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
LaRoche College	Pittsburgh	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
La Salle University	Philadelphia	Undergraduate	All	100	\$10,500.00
La Salle University	Philadelphia	Graduate	All	100	\$5,500.00
Lackawanna College	Scranton	All	College	Unlimited	Unlimited
Lafayette College	Easton	Undergraduate	All	10	\$10,000.00
Le Cordon Bleu - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Lebanon Valley College	Annville	Undergraduate	All	100	\$8,251.00
Lebanon Valley College	Annville	Graduate	All	100	\$3,849.00
Lehigh University	Bethlehem	Undergraduate	All	10	\$10,000.00
Lehigh University	Bethlehem	Graduate	All	40	\$2,000.00
Lincoln Technical Institute - Allentown	Allentown	Undergraduate	Associate	10	\$1,000.00
Lincoln Technical Institute – Market Street	Philadelphia	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Lincoln Technical Institute - Torresdale Ave.	Philadelphia	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Lincoln University	Lincoln	Undergraduate	All	40	\$2,638.50
Lincoln University	Lincoln	Graduate	All	10	\$3,744.50
Lock Haven University	Lock Haven	All	All	5	\$1,000.00
Lycoming College	Williamsport	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	\$10,000.00
Manor College	Jenkintown	All	All	Unlimited	\$3,000.00
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania	Mansfield	Undergraduate	All	15	Unlimited
Marywood University	Scranton	All	All	Unlimited	\$12,000.00
McCann School of Business and Technology - Allentown	Allentown	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	\$1,500.00
McCann School of Business and Technology - Carlisle	Carlisle	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	\$1,500.00

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Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
McCann School of Business and Technology - Dickson City	Dickson City	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	\$1,500.00
McCann School of Business and Technology - Hazelton	Hazelton	All	All	Unlimited	\$1,500.00
McCann School of Business & Technology - Pottsville	Pottsville	All	All	Unlimited	\$1,500.00
McCann School of Business & Technology - Sunbury	Sunbury	All	All	Unlimited	\$1,500.00
McCann School of Business & Technology – Wilkes Barre	Wilkes Barre	All	All	Unlimited	\$1,500.00
Mercyhurst University	Erie	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Messiah College	Grantham	Undergraduate	All	50	\$6,000.00
Misericordia University	Dallas	All	All	Unlimited	\$5,000.00
Montgomery County Community College	Blue Bell	Undergraduate	All	10	Unlimited
Moore College of Art Design	Philadelphia	Undergraduate, Graduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Moravian College	Bethlehem	Undergraduate	All	100	Unlimited
Mount Aloysius College	Cresson	All	All	50	\$5,000.00
Mountain State University - Center Township	Monaca	All	All	Unlimited	\$4,000.00
Muhlenberg College	Allentown	Undergraduate	All	10	\$12,000.00
Muhlenberg College	Allentown	Undergraduate	Wescoe School	20	\$5,000.00
Neumann University	Aston	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Peirce College	Philadelphia	Undergraduate	All	100	\$7,000.00
Pennco Tech	Bristol	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Pennsylvania College of Technology	Williamsport	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	\$2,000.00
Pennsylvania Institute of Health & Technology	Mount Braddock	Undergraduate	All	30	\$1,800.00
Penn State University - Abington	Abington	All	All	70	\$12,000.00

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Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
Penn State University - Altoona	Altoona	All	All	90	\$12,000.00
Penn State University - Beaver	Monaca	All	All	20	\$12,000.00
Penn State University - Behrend/Erie	Erie	All	All	110	\$12,000.00
Penn State University - Berks	Reading	All	All	60	\$12,000.00
Penn State University - Brandywine	Media	All	All	20	\$12,000.00
Penn State University – Dickinson School of Law	Carlisle	Graduate	School of Law	10	\$5,000.00
Penn State University - DuBois	DuBois	All	All	40	\$12,000.00
Penn State University - Fayette/Eberly	Uniontown	All	All	50	\$12,000.00
Penn State University - Great Valley	Malvern	All	All	60	\$15,000.00
Penn State University – Greater Allegheny	McKeesport	All	All	20	\$12,000.00
Penn State University - Harrisburg	Middletown	All	All	220	\$15,000.00
Penn State University - Hazleton	Hazleton	All	All	20	\$12,000.00
Penn State University - Lehigh Valley	Center Valley	All	All	30	\$12,000.00
Penn State University - Mont Alto	Mont Alto	All	All	50	\$12,000.00
Penn State University – New Kensington	New Kensington	All	All	40	\$12,000.00
Penn State University - Schuylkill	Schuylkill Haven	All	All	30	\$12,000.00
Penn State University - Shenango	Sharon	All	All	30	\$12,000.00
Penn State University – University Park	University Park	All	All	300	\$15,000.00
Penn State University - Wilkes Barre	Lehman	All	All	30	\$12,000.00
Penn State University – Worthington Scranton	Dunmore	All	All	40	\$12,000.00
Penn State University - York	York	All	All	80	\$12,000.00
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine	Philadelphia	Graduate	All	10	\$2,000.00
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine	Philadelphia	Doctoral	All	10	\$4,000.00
Philadelphia University	Philadelphia	Undergraduate	All	20	\$3,214.00

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Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
Philadelphia University	Philadelphia	Graduate	All	50	\$2,000.00
Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science	Pittsburgh	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Pittsburgh Technical Institute	Oakdale	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Pittsburgh Technical Institute	Oakdale	Graduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Point Park University	Pittsburgh	All	Conservatory School	Unlimited	\$13,500.00
Point Park University	Pittsburgh	All	Schools of Business, Communications, Arts & Sciences	Unlimited	\$8,500.00
Robert Morris University	Moon Township	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Robert Morris University	Moon Township	Graduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Robert Morris University	Moon Township	Doctoral	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Rosemont College	Rosemont	Undergraduate	College	Unlimited	\$7,000.00
Rosemont College	Rosemont	Graduate	School of Graduate & Professional Studies	200	\$7,000.00
St. Francis University	Loretto	All	All	89	\$8,296.00
St. Joseph's University	Philadelphia	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
St. Joseph's University	Philadelphia	Graduate	All	Unlimited	\$5,000.00
St. Vincent College	Latrobe	All	All	30	Unlimited
Sanford Brown Institute - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Sanford Brown Institute - Trevoise	Trevoise	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Sanford Brown Institute Wilkins Township	Pittsburgh	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Seton Hill University	Greensburg	All	All	Unlimited	\$10,000.00
South Hills School of Business & Technology	State College	Undergraduate	College	5	\$500.00
Strayer University - Allentown	Center Valley	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Strayer University – Center City	Philadelphia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Strayer University - Delaware County	Springfield	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Strayer University – King of Prussia	King of Prussia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited

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Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
Strayer University – Lower Bucks County	Treose	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Strayer University – Penn Center West	Pittsburgh	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Strayer University - Warrendale	Warrendale	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Susquehanna University	Selinsgrove	Undergraduate	All	100	Unlimited
Swarthmore College	Swarthmore	Undergraduate	All	2	\$5,000.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Temple University	Philadelphia	Professional	Beasley School of Law	5	\$2,500.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Professional	Komberg School of Dentistry	1	\$3,500.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	Boyer School of Music	5	\$1,000.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	Center for the Arts	5	\$1,000.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	College of Education	5	\$3,900.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	College of Engineering	10	\$2,000.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	Community/Regional Planning	2	\$3,576.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	Fox School of Business - Online MBA	Unlimited	\$5,000.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	Fox School of Business - Executive MBA	Unlimited	\$5,000.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	Fox School of Business - Professional MBA	5	\$5,000.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	Fox School of Business - Global MBA	5	\$5,000.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	Health Professions/Social	5	\$1,000.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	Landscape Architecture	1	\$1,000.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	School of Media & Communications	3	\$1,500.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	School of Pharmacy	4	\$500.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	Science/Technology	2	\$500.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	Tourism/Hospitality Management	5	\$3,200.00

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Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
Temple University	Philadelphia	Graduate	Tyler School of Art	5	\$1,000.00
Temple University	Philadelphia	Doctorate	Podiatric Medicine	1	\$1,000.00
Thiel College	Greenville	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Thompson Institute - Philadelphia	Philadelphia	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Triangle Tech Inc. - Bethlehem	Bethlehem	Undergraduate	All	60	Unlimited
Triangle Tech Inc. - DuBois	DuBois	Undergraduate	All	60	Unlimited
Triangle Tech Inc. - Erie	Erie	Undergraduate	All	40	Unlimited
Triangle Tech Inc. - Greensburg	Greensburg	Undergraduate	All	60	Unlimited
Triangle Tech Inc. - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	Undergraduate	All	60	Unlimited
Triangle Tech Inc. - Sunbury	Sunbury	Undergraduate	All	60	Unlimited
The University of The Arts	Philadelphia	Undergraduate	All	15	\$2,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Undergraduate	Liberal & Professional Studies	30	\$10,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Undergraduate	School of Engineering & Applied Sciences	5	\$4,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Graduate	School of Arts & Sciences	10	\$10,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Graduate	School of Design	2	\$13,499.49
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Graduate	School of Education	5	\$4,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Graduate	School of Engineering & Applied Science	5	\$10,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Graduate	School of Law	10	\$20,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Graduate	School of Medicine	4	\$10,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Graduate	School of Nursing	20	\$11,634.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Graduate	School of Social Policy & Practice	10	\$11,300.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Graduate	Wharton School	50	\$10,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Doctoral	Annenberg School for Communications	5	\$4,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Doctoral	School of Arts & Sciences	10	\$10,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Doctoral	School of Dental Medicine	4	\$10,000.00

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Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Doctoral	School of Design	2	\$6,370.49
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Doctoral	School of Education	5	\$4,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Doctoral	School of Engineering & Applied Science	5	\$10,000.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Doctoral	School of Medicine	6	\$5,739.00
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Doctoral	School of Nursing	5	\$6, 740.49
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	Doctoral	School of Social Policy & Practice	3	\$7,880.00
University of Phoenix - Harrisburg	Harrisburg	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Phoenix - Philadelphia	Wayne	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Phoenix - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Bradford	Bradford	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Greensburg	Greensburg	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown	Johnstown	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Arts & Sciences	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Business	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Center for International Studies	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Education	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Engineering	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	General Studies	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Honors College	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Information Sciences	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Law	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Medicine	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Nursing	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Pharmacy	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Public Health	Unlimited	Unlimited

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Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Public & International Affairs	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	School of Dental Medicine	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh	All	Social Work	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of Pittsburgh - Titusville	Titusville	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
University of the Sciences - Philadelphia	Philadelphia	All	All	25	Unlimited
The University of Scranton	Scranton	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Ursinus College	Collegeville	Undergraduate	All	10	\$5,000.00
Valley Forge Military Academy and College	Wayne	Undergraduate	Associate Degree	100	\$8,000.00
Vet Tech Institute	Pittsburgh	Undergraduate	Veterinary Technology	10	\$1,500.00
Villanova University	Villanova	All	All	14	\$4,100.00
Washington & Jefferson College	Washington	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	\$10,000.00
Waynesburg University	Waynesburg	Undergraduate	All	60	\$3,000.00
Waynesburg University	Waynesburg	Graduate	All	20	\$1,500.00
Waynesburg University	Waynesburg	Doctoral	All	20	\$1,500.00
West Chester University	West Chester	All	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Westminster College	New Williamton	All	All	50	\$7,250.00
Widener University	Chester	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	\$17,500.00
Widener University	Chester	Graduate	Chester	Unlimited	\$5,500.00
Widener University	Chester	Doctoral	All	Unlimited	\$5,500.00
Widener University	Harrisburg	Doctoral	School of Law	10	Unlimited
Wilkes University	Wilkes-Barre	Undergraduate	All	Unlimited	Unlimited
Wilson College	Chambersburg	All	All	35	Unlimited
Wyotech	Blairsville	All	All	Unlimited	\$Unlimited
YTI Career Institute - Altoona	Altoona	Undergraduate	All	50	\$1,250.00
YTI Career Institute - Capital Region	Mechanicsburg	Undergraduate	All	50	\$1,250.00

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Name of College	Location	Degree Level	Division or School	Number of Students	Max School Contribution Amt. (Per Student /Per Year)
YTI Career Institute - Lancaster	Lancaster	Undergraduate	All	50	\$1,250.00
YTI Career Institute - York	York	Undergraduate	All	50	\$1,250.00
York College of Pennsylvania	York	All	All	50	\$1,000.00

**APPENDIX G:
VETERANS' SERVICES AT PRIVATE COLLEGES**

VETERANS' SERVICES AT PRIVATE COLLEGES

Institution Name	City Location	Does the institution participate in the Post-9/11 GI Bill Yellow Ribbon Program?	Does the institution offer academic credit for experiences and training gained while in military service?	Does the institution have a dedicated point of contact for support services for veterans, military service members, and their families?	Is the institution a member of Service members Opportunity Colleges?	Does the institution have a recognized student veteran organization on campus?	Does the institution offer an on-campus Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program?	Does the institution offer an Army ROTC program?	Does the institution offer a Navy ROTC program?	Does the institution offer an Air Force ROTC program?	Institution web address for Veterans and Military Service members tuition policies.
Albright College	Reading	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	www.albright.edu/admission/financialaid/forms-and-docs.html
Allegheny College	Meadville	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
Alvernia University	Reading	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	www.alvernia.edu/financialaid/veteran/index.html
Arcadia University	Glenside	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	www.arcadia.edu/admissions/veterans-information/
Bryn Athyn College	Bryn Athyn	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	
Bryn Mawr College	Bryn Mawr	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	www.brynmawr.edu/financial-aid/aid/special-programs-yellow-ribbon-program
Bucknell University	Lewisburg	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	
Cabrini College	Radnor	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	www.cabrini.edu/Admissions/Financial-Aid/Types-of-Financial-Aid/Yellow-Ribbon-Program/
Cairn University	Langhorne	no	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	
Carlow University	Pittsburgh	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	www.carlow.edu/Veterans_Benefits.aspx

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Carnegie Mellon University	Pittsburgh	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	www.cmu.edu/hub/transcripts/benefits/index.html
Cedar Crest College	Allentown	yes	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	www.cedarcrest.edu/ca/catalog_2013-2014/financialaid.shtm
Chatham University	Pittsburgh	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	http://www.chatham.edu/admission/aid/yellowribbon.cfm
Chestnut Hill College	Philadelphia	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	www.chc.edu/Undergraduate/Financial_Aid/Veteran_s_Benefits/
Delaware Valley University	Doylestown	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	www.delval.edu/academics/for-military-members-veterans
DeSales University	Center Valley	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	www.desales.edu/home/admissions-financial-aid/costs-financial-aid/graduate/funding-your-education/military-benefits
Dickinson College	Carlisle	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	www.dickinson.edu/info/20259/grants_and_scholarships/944/scholarships
Drexel University	Philadelphia	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	drexel.edu/studentaffairs/student_family_resources/veterans/resources/Yellow%20Ribbon/

VETERANS' SERVICES AT PRIVATE COLLEGES

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Duquesne University	Pittsburgh	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	www.duq.edu/academics/schools/leadership-and-professional-advancement/military-programs
Eastern University	Saint Davids	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	www.eastern.edu/offices-centers/student-accounts-office/va-benefits
Elizabeth-town College	Elizabethtown	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	www.etown.edu/offices/registration-records/veterans
Elizabeth-town College School of Continuing and Professional Studies	Elizabethtown	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	www.etowndegrees.com/admissions-aid/veteran.aspx
Franklin and Marshall College	Lancaster	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
Gannon University	Erie	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	www.gannon.edu/Admissions/Veterans-at-Gannon/
Geneva College	Beaver Falls	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	www.geneva.edu/object/veterans
Gettysburg College	Gettysburg	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	www.gettysburg.edu/scholarships_aid/how-to-apply-continuing/yellow-ribbon.dot
Gratz College	Melrose Park	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	

VETERANS' SERVICES AT PRIVATE COLLEGES

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Grove City College	Grove City	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
Gwynedd Mercy University	Gwynedd Valley	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	www.gmercyu.edu/admissions-aid/accelerated-online-admissions/military
Harcum College	Bryn Mawr	no	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	
Harrisburg University of Science and Technology	Harrisburg	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	
Haverford College	Haverford	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
Holy Family University	Philadelphia	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	www.holyfamily.edu/choosing-holy-family-u/academics/registrar/veterans-affairs
Immaculata University	Immaculata	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	www.immaculata.edu/cll/veterans
Johnson College	Scranton	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	www.johnson.edu/prospective-students/veteran-student-services-at-johnson-college/
Juniata College	Huntingdon	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	www.juniata.edu/services/registrar/VAPrograms.doc
Keystone College	La Plume	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	www.keystone.edu/admissions/veterans/
King's College	Wilkes-Barre	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	

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La Roche College	Pittsburgh	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	www.laroche.edu/military-admissions/
La Salle University	Philadelphia	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	www.lasalle.edu/military/veterans-resources/
Lackawanna College	Scranton	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	www.lackawanna19.reachlocal.net/admissions/veterans/
Lafayette College	Easton	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine	Erie	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	lecom.edu/catalog.php
Lancaster Bible College	Lancaster	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	www.lbc.edu/Assets/PDFs/Adult%20Learner/lbc_dc-va-application-and-enrollment-checklist.pdf
Lebanon Valley College	Annville	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	www.lvc.edu/financial-aid/military-benefits.aspx
Lehigh University	Bethlehem	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	www.lehigh.edu/registrar/students/veterans.html
Lycoming College	Williamsport	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	
Manor College	Jenkintown	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	www.manor.edu/admissions/fin-aid/veterans.php
Marywood University	Scranton	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	
Mercyhurst University	Erie	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	no	no	www.mercyhurst.edu/veterans

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Mercyhurst University-North East Campus	North East	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	northeast.mercyhurst.edu/admissions-mne/cost%20and%20aid/veteran%20benefits
Messiah College	Mechanicsburg	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	www.messiah.edu/info/21314/financial_aid_for_undergraduate_programs/2397/financial_aid_information_for_veterans
Misericordia University	Dallas	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	
Moore College of Art and Design	Philadelphia	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	moore.edu/uploads/files/843769556413633519-2013-2014-moore-bfa-student-handbook.pdf#page=27
Moravian College	Bethlehem	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	www.moravian.edu/default.aspx?pageid=6181
Mount Aloysius College	Cresson	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	
Muhlenberg College	Allentown	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	www.muhlenberg.edu/main/wesco/prospectiveStudents/veteran.html
Neumann University	Aston	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	neumann.edu/military/veterans.asp
Peirce College	Philadelphia	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	https://www.peirce.edu/military/vet-benefits
Pennsylvania College of	Lancaster	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	www.pcad.edu/finaid

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Art and Design											
Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences	Lancaster	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	www.pacollege.edu/uploadedFiles/Pages/academics/Student_Handbook.pdf
Pennsylvania Institute of Technology	Media	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	my.pit.edu/College-Life/SVO.aspx
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine	Philadelphia	yes	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	www.pcom.edu
Philadelphia University	Philadelphia	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	www.philau.edu/veterans/
Point Park University	Pittsburgh	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	
Robert Morris University	Moon Township	yes	no	no	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	www.rmu.edu/MilitaryVeterans/VETSCenter
Rosemont College	Rosemont	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	www.rosemont.edu/admissions/military-discounts/index.aspx
Saint Francis University	Loretto	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	francis.edu/military/
Saint Joseph's University	Philadelphia	yes	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	www.sju.edu/information/veterans

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Saint Vincent College	Latrobe	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	
Seton Hill University	Greensburg	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	
Summit University	Clarks Summit	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	www.bbc.edu/college/military/
Susquehanna University	Selinsgrove	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	
Swarthmore College	Swarthmore	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
The Commonwealth Medical College	Scranton	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	
The University of the Arts	Philadelphia	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
Thiel College	Greenville	no	no	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	www.thiel.edu
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia	yes	no	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	www.upenn.edu/registrar/veterans/index.html
University of Scranton	Scranton	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	no	no	www.scranton.edu/academics/registrar/veterans-info.shtml
University of the Sciences	Philadelphia	yes	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	www.usciences.edu/applying/financialaid/yellowribbon.aspx
Ursinus College	Collegetown	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	

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Valley Forge Military College	Wayne	yes	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	www.vfmac.edu/college-paying-for-college/college-paying-for-college-veteran-ed-benefits/
Villanova University	Villanova	yes	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	www1.villanova.edu/villanova/enroll/registrar/veterans.html
Washington & Jefferson College	Washington	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	www.washjeff.edu/military-benefits
Waynesburg University	Waynesburg	yes	yes	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	www.waynesburg.edu/financial-aid/veterans-education-benefits
Westminster College	New Wilmington	yes	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	www.westminster.edu/admissions/financial_aid/finaid_veterans_and_military.cfm
Widener University- Main Campus	Chester	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	no	www.widener.edu/about/widener_leadership/administrative/enrollment/veterans.aspx
Wilkes University	Wilkes-Barre	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	yes	www.wilkes.edu/pages/3284.asp
Wilson College	Chambersburg	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	no	no	no	
York College Pennsylvania	York	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	no	no	www.ycp.edu/offices-and-services/records/veterans/