Dashboard of Services Available to Maryland Veterans

State Benefits and Information Guide

The State of Maryland offers many benefits for veterans and their eligible dependents. These benefits include educational grants and scholarships, special exemptions or discounts on fees and taxes, business loans, veteran's homes, free hunting and fishing privileges, and much more.

Be sure to take advantage of the benefits you have earned. Use the links on the left to explore the benefits are that are available to you.

Claims and Benefits Assistance

If you require assistance in filing a claim or have questions about veteran benefits, please call the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Service Program at 800.446.4926 ext. 6450.

Job Placement and Training

Contact a Veteran Employment Representative.

Education - GI Bill and other Veterans Scholarship Information

To determine if you are eligible for the GI Bill or have any questions about what the GI Bill covers, call the Veterans Affairs Analyst at the Maryland Higher Education Commission at 410.767.3067 or visit Maryland Financial Aid Program Descriptions and Maryland Higher Education Benefits for Veterans

Veterans Health Care Benefits

To inquire about whether or not you are eligible to enroll in the VA Health Care System:

Western Maryland: Call 800.817.3807

Central Maryland/Eastern Shore: Call 410.605.7324

Montgomery County/Prince George's County/Southern Maryland: Call 202.745.8251

Behavioral Health Services (counseling, substance abuse programs, etc.)

If you or a family member is in need of counseling, please call 877.770.4801.

Veterans Designation on Maryland Driver's Licenses

If you would like to have the veteran designation placed on your driver's license, you have two options:

- 1) Request it the next time your license is up for renewal (no cost to you), or
- 2) Request it before your license is up for renewal (\$20 fee) *
- * If you are within six months of your scheduled license expiration date applicable license renewal fees will apply.

Instructions:

Bring one of the following documents to your local Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) Branch Office:

- DD214
- Honorable Discharge Certificate
- Letter from the Personnel Center in St. Louis confirming veteran status

If you do not have any one of these documents and you are a veteran with a discharge that is other than dishonorable, you will need to visit your nearest Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Service Office to obtain a letter verifying your status as a veteran. To find the location of the MDVA Service Office closest to you, call 800.446.4926 ext. 6450 or visit the website at http://www.mdva.state.md.us/about/serviceProgram.html

Once you obtain this letter, you can then bring it to your local MVA Branch Office to request the veteran designation on your driver's license.

Questions: Contact Jerry Boden, MDVA, at 410.260.3841

Legal Assistance

If you have legal problems and need legal advice, please call the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service 410.547.6537

Housing

Need help finding affordable rental housing? Call 877.428.8844 Need help with buying a home? Call 1.800.638.7781 Housing Opportunities for Maryland Veterans & Military Families Call 800.756.0119

Mortgage Assistance

Facing foreclosure or need mortgage assistance? Call 877.462.7555

Homeless Assistance

Help for Homeless Veterans: 877.424.3838

Central Maryland: Call Craig Cook at 410.605.7264

Western Maryland: Call Jason Malcy at 304.263.0811 ext. 4659

Montgomery County/Prince George's County/Southern Maryland: Call Kevin Morton at

202.215.5692

Homeless Legal Assistance

If you are homeless and need legal advice, call the Homeless Person Representation Project, Inc. 410.685.6589

Financial Assistance to Avoid Homelessness

If you require **financial assistance to avoid homelessness**, **and you currently live in one of the following counties:** Baltimore County, Harford, Howard, Cecil, Carroll or Baltimore City, please call Alliance, Inc. at 410.282.5900 ext. 3333.

<u>Financial Assistance – Long Term</u>

If you are experiencing a **long term/permanent financial hardship**, please visit and contact your local Department of Social Services office.

Financial Assistance - Temporary

If you have a **temporary financial hardship**, and need temporary assistance until you get back on track, please call the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund (Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs) at 410.974.2399

Small Business Ownership Assistance

If you are a service-disabled veteran small business owner and are seeking funds to maintain/grow your business; you may be eligible for an interest free loan under the State of Maryland's Military Personnel and Service Disabled Veteran No-Interest Loan Program. For more information, please call 410.260.3841

Hunting Licenses

A complimentary lifetime hunting license is available to Maryland residents certified as a former prisoner of war or a 100% service connected disabled veteran; for more information call 410.260.3220

Fishing Licenses

A complimentary lifetime fishing license is available to Maryland residents who are 100% service connected disabled veterans or former prisoners of war; for more information, please call 410.656.9526

Disabled Veterans

For employment assistance, call the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Office in Baltimore at 410.230.4452 or visit <u>VA Vocational</u> Rehabilitation

For state programs available for the disabled, please visit State Programs for Disabled Veterans

Senior Citizens

Maryland's State programs for senior citizens at the Maryland Department of Aging

Maryland Access Point (MAP) Website

Search for long-term support information and services throughout Maryland

Incarcerated Veterans

If you are currently incarcerated and are within six months from being released or you have been released within the past twelve months please contact Jim Haskell, Incarcerated Veterans Reentry Specialist (Maryland), U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs at 410.605.7000 ext. 6425 or Rodney D. Carter, Incarcerated Veterans Reentry Specialist (Prince George's and Montgomery Counties) at 202.745.8000 ext. 5267.

Veterans Long Term Care – Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living

The <u>Charlotte Hall Veterans Home</u>, our State Veterans Home is located in St. Mary's County. For information call 800.522.8387 ext. 1409.

Burial Benefits

Maryland has five State Veteran Cemeteries. For more information, please call 410.923.6981.

Small Business Guide

DBED's Resource Guide for Small Businesses