

NORTH DAKOTA VETERANS TRANSITION GUIDE



North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

Putting Veterans First

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Table of Contents

ND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	3
CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS	5
National and State Service Officers.....	5
County Veterans Service Officers	5
Tribal Veterans Service Officers	6
CLAIMS RESOURCES AND INFORMATION.....	7
Service-Connected Compensation	7
Non-Service-Connected Pension.....	7
Treatment for Service-Connected and Non-Service-Connected Disabilities	8
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).....	8
Survivors Pension	9
1151 Claim.....	9
Assistance with Appeals.....	9
Burial Benefits	10
North Dakota Veterans Cemetery.....	12
VA MEDICAL CARE ELIGIBILITY	13
Vet Centers.....	14
Health Registries	15
TRAVEL RELATED BENEFITS FOR VETERANS	16
VETERANS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.....	18
Veterans’ Federal Employment Preference	19
Veteran’s Preference in North Dakota.....	20
Veterans Readiness & Employment (Vocational Rehabilitation)	21
Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA)	22
VETERANS EDUCATION.....	23
Federal Education Benefits	23
FACILITIES IN NORTH DAKOTA APPROVED FOR GI BILL®	24
NON-COLLEGE DEGREE SCHOOLS	24
Hair Styling/Massage Programs	24
Industry Training Programs	24
OTHER FEDERAL BENEFITS	25
Veteran Suicide Prevention Program.....	25
Justice Involved Veterans (JIV) Program	25
Homeless Veteran Program	25
VA Home Loan Guarantee.....	25
Free National Park access	26
VA LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAMS.....	27
WOMEN VETERANS.....	28
VETERAN STATE BENEFITS	29
Veteran Indicator on ND Driver’s License	29
ND License Plates	29
Hunting and Fishing Licenses	29
State Park Admission.....	29
North Dakota Department of Workforce Development.....	30
Disabled Veterans Property Tax Credit.....	31
Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption	32
Vehicle Registration Exemption	32
ND Dependent Tuition Waiver	32
ND Loan Program	33
ND Hardship Assistance Grant Program	33
NORTH DAKOTA MILITARY INSTALLATIONS	34

ND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Our Mission

The mission of the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is to assist veterans of North Dakota and their dependents in obtaining all benefits to which they are entitled, both federal and state, either by direct contact or through the assistance of County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers.

North Dakota Veterans Affairs – Fargo Headquarters

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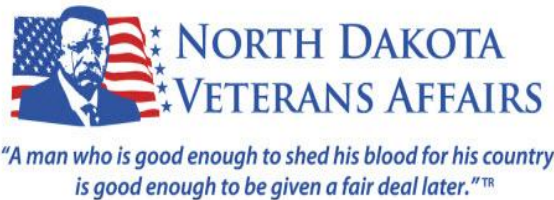
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ABOUT

North Dakota is home to over 55,000 Veterans. Our goal is to ensure that every Veteran in the State of North Dakota receives every benefit to which he or she may be entitled from the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), other agencies, and the State of North Dakota.

The department disseminates current information to the state veteran population through the use of news media, Veterans Service Officers, veterans' organizations, and this website. We accept and carry through to completion compensation claims, counsel veterans on employment, educational programs, disability benefits, medical care entitlement, nursing home assistance, death benefits, and other related veterans' activities. The department, working under the supervision of the Administrative Committee, also monitors legislation and assists others in acquiring information. We also administer the Veterans Aid Loan Program, the Hardship Grant Program to assist veterans financially with basic needs such as dental, hearing, etc., and the Transportation Program to help transport veterans to the VA Hospital in Fargo, Miles City, MT, or Ft. Meade, SD and to several community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs).

The department has the responsibility of training newly appointed Tribal and County Veterans Service Officers selected by their respective Tribal Councils or County Board of Commissioners. The department also conducts a minimum of two training seminars each year for all County and Tribal appointees.



CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS

The County, State and National Service officers assist veterans with filing claims with the VA for benefits and compensation. Something like that.

[Click here to find a County, State or National Service Officer](#)

National and State Service Officers

National Service Officers (NSO), to include those that represent the state, work as a liaison between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers to determine the best plan for veterans and their dependents to receive benefits. Veterans and their dependents may work directly with an NSO also.

NSOs are employed by and work for Veterans Organizations or the state. NSOs act as power-of-attorney, at the request of the veteran, and represent veterans and/or their dependents with benefits claims submitted to the US VA. A veteran **IS NOT** required to be a member of the organization to have them serve as their representative.

These services are provided at **NO CHARGE** to the veteran and their dependents.

County Veterans Service Officers

County Veterans Service Officer (VSO's) are your local resource for dedicated and professional assistance in obtaining federal and state veterans' benefits. They provide the expertise and advocacy that veterans need to optimize access to benefit programs.

County VSO's handle inquiries and applications regarding veterans' health care, compensation, pension, long-term care and other benefits for veterans of all ages. Burial benefit assistance is provided to the survivors of veterans. Widows and widowers of veterans are eligible for many state benefits, and in limited cases, federal benefits. County VSOs are there to assist them as well.

Most of the program's veterans utilize are offered through the US Department of Veterans Affairs or the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. County VSOs are in contact with these agencies on a regular basis. They also work with the National Service Officers of various veterans' organizations when filing VA benefit claims. County VSOs also interact with other county, state, and federal government agencies that also provide resources or assistance to veterans.

The County VSO's and staff are employees of their respective counties. Each County is required by law to appoint and pay the expenses of a VSO as provided by NDCC 37-14-18 and NDCC 37-14-19. Funding is provided by county property tax per NDCC 57-15-06.4 and NDCC 57-15-06.7 (7)

These services are provided at **NO CHARGE** to Veterans and their dependents.

Tribal Veterans Service Officers

Tribal VSOs are your local resource for dedicated and professional assistance in obtaining federal and state veterans' benefits. They provide the expertise and advocacy that veterans need to optimize access to benefit programs.

Tribal VSO's handle inquiries and applications regarding veterans' health care, compensation, pension, long-term care and other benefits for veterans of all ages. Burial benefit assistance is provided to the survivors of veterans. Widows and widowers of veterans are eligible for many state benefits, and in limited cases, federal benefits. Tribal VSOs are there to assist them as well.

Most of the program's veterans utilize are offered through the US Department of Veterans Affairs or the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. Tribal VSOs are in contact with these agencies on a regular basis. They also work with the National Service Officers of various veterans' organizations when filing VA benefit claims. Tribal VSOs also interact with other tribal, state, and federal government agencies that also provide resources or assistance to veterans.

The Tribal Veterans Service Officer and staff are employees of their respective tribe.

These services are provided at **NO CHARGE** to Veterans and their dependents.

[Fort Berthold](#) | [Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate](#) | [Spirit Lake Nation](#) | [Standing Rock](#) | [Turtle Mountain](#)



CLAIMS RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

Service-Connected Compensation

Service-Connected Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a veteran for certain qualifying disabilities. Veterans may be eligible for disability compensation if they have a service-related disability and were not discharged under less than honorable conditions. Many veterans do not realize they may qualify for monthly payments due to health conditions that can be traced back to their military service. The VA calls these health conditions service-connected disabilities.

- Combat deployment is not required for a service-connected disability rating or compensation.
- Service-connected disabilities are rated from 0% to 100%. Compensation amounts are based on the rating and number of veterans' dependents.
- VA compensation is not subject to federal or state taxes.
- The VA will consider all disabilities when they are included within the claim.
- If combined service-connected disabilities rated at 70 or more cause unemployability or a single rating of 60% which causes an inability to gainful employment, the veteran may be paid at the 100% rate by VA.
- Most claim payments start to accrue within a month of the day you file, no matter how long it takes to get the claim settled.
- Veterans may receive additional compensation rates for dependents when rated greater than 30% disabled.
- Surviving spouses may be able to file for benefits of presumptive conditions, even if the veteran has passed and never filed a claim, making them eligible for Dependents Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

Non-Service-Connected Pension

Non-service-connected pension is a monthly benefit paid to wartime veterans who have limited or no (household) income.

Who qualifies?

Veterans who:

- Are 65 or older, or permanently and totally disabled;
- Not discharged from service under less than honorable conditions;
- Meet active-duty service requirements with at least one day during a period of war time (combat experience is not required);
- Have a family income lower than the limit (depends on spouse/dependents).

These eligibility requirements are general and there are additional factors that affect eligibility.

Treatment for Service-Connected and Non-Service-Connected Disabilities

Eligibility for treatment of non-service-connected disabilities is on a space-available basis at VA hospitals and clinics (a co-payment may be required):

- Treatment of all disabilities without charge if rated 50% or more.
- VA may pay for emergency hospitalization in private facilities for service-connected disabilities if VA facilities are not available. The VA medical facility that has jurisdiction must be notified within 72 hours of admission to the private facility.
- If the veteran resides in an area that is a long distance from a VA medical facility, VA may pay for outpatient medical treatment from private doctors for any service-connected disability and for all disabilities except dental if the veteran is rated 50% or more for service-connected disabilities.
- VA furnishes, free of charge, medicines required for treatment of service-connected disabilities and for all disabilities if the veteran is rated 50% or more for service-connected disabilities.
- Prosthetic appliances and services are available at VA expense for eligible veterans.
- If a veteran is hospitalized in excess of 21 days or recovering for one month or more for service-connected disabilities, he/she may be entitled to a temporary 100% rating during that period.
- VA pays an annual clothing allowance to veterans whose prosthetic devices for service-connected disabilities tend to wear or tear their clothing. Also, the allowance is available to any veteran whose service-connected skin condition requires prescribed medication that irreparably damages the veteran's outer garments.
- A service-connected disability rating provides preference points for federal employment under certain conditions. Educational benefits are available to the spouse and other dependents of permanent 100% service-connected veterans, of veterans who die from service-connected disabilities and of members whose active-duty deaths are incurred in the line of duty.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

VA may provide a monthly benefit to the surviving spouse or parent(s) upon a veteran's death.

Who qualifies?

To be eligible, the veteran's death must have resulted from one of these causes:

- A disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.
- An injury, heart attack/cardiac arrest, or stroke incurred or aggravated in the line of duty or while on inactive duty for training.
- A service-connected condition that affects a vital organ or bodily process.

For the most Current VA Disability Compensation Rates, visit www.benefits.va.gov

Survivors Pension

VA provides pensions to low-income surviving spouses and unmarried children of deceased veterans with wartime service (combat experience is not required). The survivors pension provides a monthly payment to bring an eligible person's income to a level established by law.

Who qualifies?

- 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, or have become permanently incapable of self-support because of disability before age 18.
- The veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have qualifying service.
- A surviving spouse may be entitled to a higher income limit if in need of the aid and attendance of another person, living in a nursing home, or permanently housebound.

1151 Claim

Compensation is available for veterans who are injured while undergoing treatment or vocational rehabilitation under VA care.

Who qualifies?

Someone who had a qualifying additional disability or death that was not the result of the veteran's willful misconduct, and at least one of the following:

- Was caused by hospital care, medical or surgical treatment, or examination furnished by the VA and the proximate cause of the disability or death was carelessness, negligence, lack of proper skill, error in judgement, or similar instance of fault on the part of the VA in furnishing the hospital care, medical or surgical treatment, or examination; or event not reasonably foreseeable.
- The disability or death was proximately caused by the provision of training and rehabilitation services by the Department of Veterans Affairs as part of an approved rehabilitation program.

These eligibility requirements are general and there may be additional factors that affect eligibility.

How to get it?

Meet with your local North Dakota Veterans Affairs or County Veterans Service Officer (VCSO) who will guide you through the process and identify any paperwork required.

Assistance with Appeals

You have the right to appeal decisions the VA makes. Claims experts will talk you through the process and represent you.



Burial Benefits

Veterans, spouses, and dependents may be eligible for VA burial and memorial benefits including reimbursement of burial expenses, military funeral honors, VA headstones and markers, presidential memorial certificates, burial flags, burial in VA National Cemeteries or other veterans' cemeteries.

Military Funeral Honors

Upon request, the Department of Defense will provide military funeral honors consisting of folding and presentation of the U.S. flag and the sounding of "Taps".

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the Nation's deep gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. This ceremonial paying of respect is the final demonstration a grateful Nation can provide to the veteran's families. The tradition of providing Military Funeral Honors, in some form, began in ancient Greece and Rome. The funeral honors protocol of today traces its roots to these ancient ceremonies as well as to historical American experiences.

Who qualifies?

Active-duty personnel who served a minimum of 24 consecutive months or the full period of active duty, and reservists or National Guard members called to active duty for a limited duration. Eligibility is not established by active-duty training in the Reserves or National Guard.

How to get it?

Family members should inform their funeral directors if they want military honors.

VA Headstones & Markers

VA furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a government headstone or marker for any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world, regardless of their date of death.

Who qualifies?

Active-duty personnel who served a minimum of 24 consecutive months or the full period of active duty, and reservists or National Guard members called to active duty for a limited duration. Eligibility is not established by active-duty training in the Reserves or National Guard.

How to get it?

- When burial or memorialization is in a national, military post, or state veteran's cemetery, cemetery staff will order a headstone or marker.
- When burial is in a private cemetery, VA form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker, must be submitted with a copy of the veteran's DD214.



Burial Flags

A U.S. flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of the veteran's military service to their country.

Who qualifies?

Veterans who:

- Served on active duty a minimum of 24 consecutive months or the full period of active duty, and reservists or National Guard members called to active duty for a limited duration. Eligibility is not established by active-duty training in the Reserves or National Guard.
- Served during wartime.
- Died on active duty after May 27, 1941.
- Served after Jan. 31, 1955.
- Served during peacetime and were discharged before June 27, 1950.
- Served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951.
- Certain former members of the Selected Reserves.

How to get it?

- Complete VA Form 21-2008, Application for U.S. Flag for Burial Purposes and take to the Post Office for issuance of the flag.

Burial in National Cemetery

Families are encouraged to prepare in advance by discussing cemetery options, collecting the veteran's military information including discharge papers, and by contacting the cemetery where burial is desired. Gravesites in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance, but reservations made prior to 1962 will be honored.



North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

The ND Veterans Cemetery was established in 1989. It is located adjacent to Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park.

Address:

4606 Highway 1806

Mandan, ND 58554

Who qualifies?

- Military members on active duty
- Military retirees
- Members and former members of the Selected Reserve, who served at least one enlistment term
- Eligible U.S. veterans of any war
- Other U.S. veterans who served at least one term of enlistment and separated under conditions other than dishonorable
- Present & past National Guard members and present & past members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve forces. Length of service in the National Guard and Reserve, for enlisted personnel will be completion of at least one term of enlistment and officers who have completed at least four years of service. All military people interred in the cemetery must have received a discharge shown as: "Honorable", "Under Honorable Conditions" or "General". Undesirable, bad conduct, and any type of discharge other than honorable may or may not qualify the individual for burial, depending upon a determination made by the Adjutant General of North Dakota.
- The eligible spouse, widow, or widower of any person listed above. Normally the veteran and spouse (and other eligible dependents of the veteran) will be interred in the same gravesite or an adjoining gravesite, as appropriate.

[Application for Burial in State Veterans Cemetery](#)

***"A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country
is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards."***

Speech to veterans, Springfield, IL, July 4, 1903

Theodore Roosevelt

VA MEDICAL CARE ELIGIBILITY

The VA operates the nation's largest integrated healthcare system with more than 1,400 sites of care, including hospitals, community clinics, community living centers, domiciliary, readjustment counseling centers, and other facilities.

Who qualifies?

Veterans may qualify for VA healthcare benefits and are not required to have a service-connected disability. Complete VA Form 10-10EZ, [Application for Medical Benefits](#).

VA Medical Facilities in North Dakota

Fargo VA Healthcare System (Hospital)
2101 Elm Street N
Fargo, ND 58102

Bismarck VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
(located in Gateway Mall)
2700 State St.#5
Bismarck, ND 58503

Dickinson VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
766 Elks Dr.
Suite 6/H
Dickinson, ND 58601

Grafton VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1319 11th St
Grafton, ND 58237

Grand Forks VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
3221 32nd Ave S
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Jamestown VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
2430 20th ST SW
Jamestown, ND 58401

Minot VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
3400 South Broadway St
Minot, ND 58701

Williston VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1542 16th St W #300
Williston, ND 58801

Vet Centers

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services, including professional counseling to eligible Veterans, service members, including National Guard and Reserve components, and their families. Counseling is offered to make a successful transition from military to civilian life or after a traumatic event experienced in the military to include military sexual trauma (MST). Individual, group, marriage and family counseling are offered in addition to referral and connection to other VA or community benefits and services. Vet Center counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are Veterans themselves, are experienced and prepared to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma.

Locations:

Bismarck VET CENTER
619 Riverwood Drive
Suite 105
Bismarck, ND 58504

Fargo VET CENTER
5622 34th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58104

Grand Forks VET CENTER Outstation
3001 32nd Ave
Suite 6
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Minot VET CENTER
3300 South Broadway
Minot, ND 58701

[Link to Veteran Crisis Line](#)

[Other Mental Health Resources](#)



Health Registries

Free medical exams and health related information are available for veterans of the Gulf War, OEF/OIF, Vietnam War and exposed to ionizing radiation.

Agent Orange Registry for Vietnam Era Veterans

Any Vietnam era veteran who:

- Served at least one day in the Republic of Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 regardless of length of service;
- Served aboard vessels operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975;
- Served aboard smaller river patrol and swift boats that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam (also known as “Brown Water Veterans”);
- Served in Korea from April 1, 1968, to Aug. 31, 1971, in a unit stationed near the DMZ; or
- May have been exposed to dioxin or other toxic substances. For more information visit the Public Health section of the VA website.
- Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation New Dawn

Any veteran who served on active military duty in southwest Asia during the Gulf War which began in 1990 and ongoing to a date yet to be determined.

Burn Pit Registry

The use of burn pits was a common waste disposal practice at military sites in Iraq and Afghanistan. Smoke from these pits contained substances that may have short and long-term health effects. VA has created the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry for veterans and service members.

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

Ionizing Radiation Exposure

- Veterans who participated in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki from Aug. 6, 1945 through July 1, 1946, or
- Internment as a Prisoner of War (POW) in Japan (or service on active duty in Japan immediately following such internment) during World War II which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines.



TRAVEL RELATED BENEFITS FOR VETERANS

Highly Rural Transportation Grant

The Highly Rural Transportation Grant (HRTG) is a Federal Grant under the Federal VA which was awarded to the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (NDDVA) starting in October of 2015. This grant appropriates funds to the NDDVA to provide transportation to VA-authorized medical appointments for Veterans of Highly Rural Counties. The NDDVA, working with the North Dakota Department of Transportation, has contracted with existing ND Transit providers. These transit contractors will provide transportation for Veterans to VA-authorized medical appointments at no charge to the Veteran. The medical appointments can be at a VA health care facility or any non-VA health care facility.

The terms of the HRTG are that only Veterans in Highly Rural areas are eligible. In North Dakota 36 of its 53 counties are eligible. They are:

[Adams](#), [Benson](#), [Billings](#), [Bottineau](#), [Bowman](#), [Burke](#), [Cavalier](#), [Dickey](#), [Divide](#), [Dunn](#), [Eddy](#), [Emmons](#), [Foster](#), [Golden Valley](#), [Grant](#), [Griggs](#), [Hettinger](#), [Kidder](#), [LaMoure](#), [Logan](#), [McHenry](#), [McIntosh](#), [McKenzie](#), [McLean](#), [Mountrail](#), [Nelson](#), [Oliver](#), [Pierce](#), [Renville](#), [Sargent](#), [Sheridan](#), [Sioux](#), [Slope](#), [Steele](#), [Towner](#), and [Wells](#). Find contact information for your county provider at [NDDOT Transit Services](#) or the [VSO page](#).

DAV/VA Van routes and Schedules

VA Vans are provided by a multi organizational effort. The vans are purchased by the ND Department of Veterans Affairs and funds from the Columbia Trust which is operated by the DAV. The vans are then donated to the VAHCS who provide funding for the van maintenance, fuel, license and insurance. The VAHCS then place the vans with County Veteran Service Offices in North Dakota who provide volunteer drivers and coordinate the van trips to the VAHCS in Fargo and Ft. Meade SD.

- The DAV/VA vans transport veterans to...
 - VA medical facilities
 - Community Based Outreach Clinics (CBOC's)
 - VA approved care in the community appointments
- The rides are free for Veterans.
- Van routes are established, and vans are not allowed to deviate from these routes
- Family is not allowed to ride with veteran exceptions for required "care-giver"
- Travel eligibility is not required to utilize the DAV/VA vans
- VA will not pay travel pay to veterans using the DAV/VA vans (using DAV/VA van and submitting travel voucher could be considered Fraud)
- DAV/VA vans do not have wheelchair accessibility
- Vans only make scheduled stops

VA Beneficiary Travel Pay

VA travel pay reimbursement pays eligible Veterans and caregivers back for mileage and other travel expenses to and from approved health care appointments. Find out if you're eligible and how to file a claim.

Eligibility for general health care travel reimbursement

For Veterans

As a Veteran, you may be eligible for reimbursement if you meet the requirements listed here.

This must be true:

- You're traveling for care at a VA health facility or for VA-approved care at a non-VA health facility in your community.

And at least one of these must also be true:

- You have a VA disability rating of 30% or higher, **or**
- You're traveling for treatment of a service-connected condition, even if your VA disability rating is less than 30%, **or**
- You receive a VA pension, **or**
- You have an income that's below the maximum annual VA pension rate, **or**
- You can't afford to pay for your travel, as defined by our guidelines, **or**
- You're traveling for one of these reasons: A scheduled VA claim exam (also called a compensation and pension, or C&P, exam), to get a service dog, or for VA-approved transplant care

For caregivers

We may pay for transportation and related lodging and meals for non-Veterans if the person meets any of these requirements.

At least one of these must be true:

- The person is your family caregiver under the National Caregiver Program traveling to receive caregiver training or to support your care, **or**
- The person is your medically required attendant traveling with you to support your care, **or**
- The person is your transplant care donor or support person

We may also pay for care for an allied beneficiary when the appropriate foreign government agency has authorized their care, or for the beneficiary of another federal agency when that agency has approved their care.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Veteran Employment Services executes these major functions:

Veterans Career Resources

The Veteran Career Resources is comprised of Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists who serve across the state of North Dakota. DVOPs play a crucial role by offering individualized career services to veterans. Their focus is on facilitating job placements that cater to the unique employment needs of veterans prioritizing service to special disabled veterans, other disabled veterans, and other categories of veterans based on rules established by the Secretary of Labor. Services include:

- Job coaching;
- Supportive service referrals;
- Transition assistance;
- Resume/state and federal application assistance;
- Job-searching techniques training;
- Job posting referrals;
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) Pre-Certification;
- Post-employment follow-up; and
- VA Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) Orientations; and

Veteran Career & Recruitment Services

The Veteran Career & Recruitment Services JVSG Consolidated Positions (CPs) outreach to veterans in rural communities, ensuring they are aware of the valuable supports and opportunities available to them through these services.

Family Employment Services

The Family Career Advisors provide job coaching to qualified spouses, family members, and caregivers of active-duty service members, and veterans who are not eligible for Disabled Veterans Outreach Program-funded services.

Resources include:

- Job search techniques training;
- Résumé and application assistance;
- Job posting referrals;
- Supportive service referrals; and
- Post-employment follow-up.



Veterans' Federal Employment Preference

Federal Title 5, United States Code, Section 2108 (5 USC 2108)

Veterans' Preference gives eligible veterans preference in appointment over many other applicants. Veterans' Preference applies to all new appointments in the competitive service and many in the excepted service. It does not guarantee veterans a job and it does not apply to internal agency actions such as promotions, transfers, reassignments and reinstatements. Eligibility can be based on dates of active-duty service, receipt of a campaign badge or Purple Heart, or a service-connected disability. Only veterans discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions (under an honorable or general discharge) are eligible for Veterans' Preference.

Understanding how Veterans' Preference works can be a challenge. In accordance with Title 5, United States Code, Section 2108 (5 USC 2108) Veterans' Preference eligibility can be based on dates of active-duty service, receipt of a campaign badge, receipt of a Purple Heart, or a service-connected disability. Please know that not all active-duty service may qualify for Veterans' Preference.

Only veterans discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions are eligible. This means you must have been discharged under an honorable or general discharge. Under the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, an individual who has reason to believe they will be entitled to Veterans' Preference upon discharge may apply for a position in advance of the discharge, and receive consideration as a preference eligible, if the service member is able to provide a certification that they expect to be discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions not later than 120 days from the date of the certification. The circumstances of the discharge are verified at the time of actual appointment.

If you are a "retired member of the armed forces" you are not included in the definition of preference eligible unless you are a disabled veteran OR you retired below the rank of major or its equivalent.

There are basically three types of preference eligibility:

1. 0-Point Preference eligible (Sole Survivorship Preference)
2. 5-Point Preference
3. 10-Point Compensable Disability Preference
4. 10-Point 30 Percent Compensable Disability Preference
5. 10-Point Disability Preference
6. 10-Point Derived Preference

VETERANS PREFERENCE INFORMATION

Veteran's Preference in North Dakota

As defined in [NDCC 37-19.1-02](#)

Veterans are entitled to preference, over all other applicants, in recruitment and selection processes by governmental agencies, provided that such veteran is a United States citizen at the time of application for employment. Veterans qualified for preference may not be disqualified from holding any position with an agency because of physical or mental disability, unless the disability renders them unable to properly perform the duties of the position applied for.

There are several groups of individuals that could potentially be eligible for this benefit:

- Veteran
- National Guard or Reserve Veteran
- Disabled Veteran
- Spouse of 100% Disabled Veteran
- Spouse of Deceased Veteran

[Eligibility Criteria can be found here.](#)

Appeals:

There is an appeal process for those that are not selected. [Details can be found here.](#)



Veterans Readiness & Employment (Vocational Rehabilitation)

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) program provides educational and vocational counseling to service members, veterans, and certain dependents at no charge. These counseling services are designed to help an individual choose a vocational direction, determine the course needed to achieve the chosen goal, and evaluate the career possibilities open to them. Services that may be provided include comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation to determine abilities, skills, and interests for employment, vocational counseling, and rehabilitation planning for employment services.

Other services may include:

- Job training, job-search skills, resume development, and other work readiness assistance.
- Assistance finding and keeping a job - including the use of special employer incentives and job accommodations.
- On-the-Job Training (OJT), apprenticeships, and non-paid work experiences, post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical, or business school.
- Supportive rehabilitation services including case management, counseling, and medical referrals, and independent living services for veterans unable to work due to the severity of their disabilities.

Who qualifies?

Veterans who:

- Receive a discharge that is not an “other than honorable” discharge;
- The basic period of eligibility which VR&E services may be used is 12 years from the date of separation from active military service, or the date the veteran was first notified by VA of any new service-connected disability.
- Have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10%. There may be additional factors that affect eligibility.

[Apply here for Veteran Readiness and Employment](#)



Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA)

You have the right to be reemployed in your civilian job if you leave that job to perform service in the uniformed service and:

- You ensure that your employer receives advance written or verbal notice of your service;
- You have five years or less of cumulative service in the uniformed services while with that particular employer;
- You return to work or apply for reemployment in a timely manner after conclusion of service; and
- You have not been separated from service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions. If you are eligible to be re-employed, you must be restored to the job and benefits you would have attained if you had not been absent due to military service or, in some cases, a comparable job.

Additional Information:

Important USERRA resources and compliance assistance materials for uniformed Service members and their civilian employers are available through the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training website. The toll-free helpline is 1-866-4USADOL (1-866-487-2365). The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve also provides resources.



VETERANS EDUCATION

Federal Education Benefits

The ND State Approving Agency approves education and training programs offered by colleges, universities, trade schools, training facilities, and employers in North Dakota and for which the various G.I. Bill® benefits can be used. The State Approving Agency ensures that institutions and employers comply with federal guidelines and are qualified to provide the type of training offered.

G.I. Bill® benefits may be used for approved programs and costs such as:

- School, college and university tuition
- Training program costs
- Degree and Certificate programs
- Flight training
- On the-job training programs
- Apprenticeship programs
- Licensing and Certification Exams

G.I. Bill® education and training benefits include the Montgomery G.I. Bill®, the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill®, Survivors & Dependent Assistance, and the Veterans' Educational Assistance Program. Additional VA education benefits that may be available under Vocational Rehabilitation, Career Counseling, VET TEC, and similar programs.

- Visit www.va.gov/education/ learn more about applying for and using your education and training benefit, transferring entitlements, and additional benefits that may be available to you.
- Visit <https://www.va.gov/education/choosing-a-school/> to more about where you can use your benefits and how those benefits are applied at different schools.

[Apply here for VA Education Benefits](#)

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FACILITIES IN NORTH DAKOTA APPROVED FOR GI BILL®

ND Institutions of Higher Learning

- [Bismarck State College](#)
- [Cankdeska Cikana Community College](#)
- [Dakota College at Bottineau](#)
- [Dickinson State University](#)
- [Embry-Riddle Aero University at Minot AFB](#)
- [Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College](#)
- [Lake Region State College](#)
- [Mayville State University](#)
- [Minot State University](#)
- [North Dakota State College of Science](#)
- [North Dakota State University](#)
- [Rasmussen University - Fargo](#)
- [Sitting Bull College](#)
- [Trinity Bible College](#)
- [Turtle Mountain Community College](#)
- [United Tribes Technical College](#)
- [University of Jamestown](#)
- [University of Mary](#)
- [University of Maryland Global Campus at Minot AFB](#)
- [University of North Dakota](#)
- [Valley City State University](#)
- [Williston State College](#)

NON-COLLEGE DEGREE SCHOOLS

Hair Styling/Massage Programs

- [Elite Massage Academy](#) [Josef's School of Hair Skin and Body](#)
- [Moler Barber College of Hair Styling](#)
- [Salon Professional Academy](#)
- [The Hair Academy](#)

Industry Training Programs

- [Sanford Health EMS Education](#)
- [Lynnes Welding Training](#)
- [Trinity Health Radiologic Technology](#)

- [All States Driving Academy](#)

OTHER FEDERAL BENEFITS

Veteran Suicide Prevention Program

This program focuses on reducing veteran suicide through training and technical assistance specific to veteran's mental health needs, with focus on screening/ assessment, gatekeeping, lethal means safety, intervention/crisis management, postvention, and promoting evidence-based practices. VA Mental Health also partners with national, statewide, and local stakeholders on initiatives and efforts to reduce veteran suicide, local coalition building, and contributing to reports and recommendations for the State Legislature.

Justice Involved Veterans (JIV) Program

The JIV Program improves veteran services across the entire criminal justice continuum by providing technical assistance and training to all Veteran Treatment Courts across North Dakota, partnering with the local and state law enforcement to deliver training to peace officers on trauma-affected veterans and crisis intervention strategies, and by working with local jails and the state prison system to better ensure that incarcerated veterans have access to veteran-specific services, programming, and reentry efforts.

[To learn more about the JIV program click here](#)

Homeless Veteran Program

Given the overlap between mental health needs and advanced risk for homelessness, VA Mental Health aims to reduce veteran homelessness in both urban and rural settings across North Dakota. Homeless Veteran Coordinators work to help veteran families experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness find and access local, state, and federal resources.

[To learn more about VA's Homeless program click here](#)

VA Home Loan Guarantee

VA helps Veterans, Servicemembers, and eligible surviving spouses become homeowners. As part of our mission to serve you, we provide a home loan guaranty benefit and other housing-related programs to help you buy, build, repair, retain, or adapt a home for your own personal occupancy. VA Home Loans are provided by private lenders, such as banks and mortgage companies. VA guarantees a portion of the loan, enabling the lender to provide you with more favorable terms.

[To learn more about VA home Loans click here](#)

Free National Park access

The National Park Service in partnership with Operation Live Well would like to thank military personnel and their families for their service and invite them to enjoy their national parks.

The free Military Pass is a way to thank current US military members and their dependents, Gold Star Families, and US military veterans for their support of our country and to encourage them to explore recreational opportunities on their public lands and waters.

A free lifetime Military Pass is available for Gold Star Families and US military veterans. A free annual Military Pass is available for current US military members and their dependents. The passes provide free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests.

[Click here to find out more](#)



VA LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAMS

Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife)

Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) provides low-cost coverage to Veterans with service-connected disabilities. You must have a minimum of 0% Service-Connected Disability rating. [Apply for VALife](#)

Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)

Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI) offers mortgage protection insurance to the families of Veterans with severe service-connected disabilities who've adapted a home to fit their needs. [To learn more about VMLI click here](#)

Service Members Group Life Insurance (SGLI)

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) offers low-cost term coverage to eligible service members. If you're a service member who meets certain criteria, we'll automatically sign you up. [To learn more about SGLI click here](#)

Family Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (FSGLI)

Family SGLI, also known as Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI), offers coverage for the spouse and dependent children of service members covered under full-time SGLI. [To learn more about FSGLI click here](#)

Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI)

TSGLI (also known as Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection) provides short-term financial support to help eligible service members recover from a severe injury. If you were covered by SGLI and experienced a traumatic injury while serving in the military, find out how to file a claim for TSGLI or appeal a past decision. [To learn more about TSGLI click here](#)

Veterans Group Life Insurance

With Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), you may be able to keep your life insurance coverage after you leave the military for as long as you continue to pay the premiums. [To learn more about VGLI click here](#)

WOMEN VETERANS

It is the desire of the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that women veterans have equitable access to federal and state veterans' benefits and services. Our Women Veterans Coordinator works to increase support for women veterans throughout North Dakota by collaborating with federal, state, county, municipal, and private agencies that provide services to women veterans.

Outreach

The Women Veterans Program informs women veterans about the services and benefits available to them where they live and provides guidance and direction to women veterans applying for grants, benefits, or services including, but not limited to:

- Education (i.e. Montgomery GI Bill, and Post 9/11 GI Bill)
- Claims
- Employment
- Health Care Advocacy
- Mental Health - Military Veteran Peer Network, Peer-to-Peer Support
- Veteran Entrepreneur Program

Education

The Women Veterans Program, in coordination with federal, state, county, municipal, and private agencies, plans and conducts conferences, seminars, training workshops, and state-wide community events to:
Improve the awareness of women veteran's eligibility for federal and state benefits and services
Assess the needs of women veterans with respect to benefits and services
Connect women veterans to those agencies that meet the needs of women veterans

Recognition

The Women Veterans Program creates public awareness by recognizing and honoring the women veterans of this state and women who serve in the military Through various events and outreach including annual women veteran's community outreach campaigns and Women Veterans Day events, the number of women veterans who identify as a veteran increase.

Calie Lindseth
Women & Minority Veterans State Coordinator
Fargo VA Regional Office
2101 N Elm Street
Fargo, ND 58102
P: 701-451-4645
Calie.lindseth@va.gov

VETERAN STATE BENEFITS

Veteran Indicator on ND Driver's License

Who qualifies for a Veteran Indicator?

As per NDCC 37-01-40(1) Veteran defined – Uniform service dates for wartime veterans:

A "veteran" is an individual who has served on continuous federalized active military duty:

- for one hundred eighty days or the full period,
- for which the individual was called or ordered to active military duty,
- for reasons other than training,
- and who was discharged or released under other than dishonorable conditions.

Note: A shorter term of service qualifies an individual as a veteran if the discharge includes the phrases "expiration of term of service", "completion of required service", or other language to that effect.

How do I apply for a Veteran Indicator?

Take a copy of your discharge papers (DD214) to a [Veteran Service Officer](#). The Veteran Service Officer will verify that you qualify as a veteran according to NDCC 37-01-04(1), then complete and sign the SFN 59980 "Verification of Veteran Status for Veteran Indicator on Driver's License" form.

You can take this form to an [ND Driver License Site](#) when you renew your driver license. If your license is not yet due for renewal, you will be charged an \$8 duplicate fee.

ND License Plates

There are several options for personalized plates that support veterans and/or identify you as a veteran who has honorably served their country.

[Click here for more details.](#)

Hunting and Fishing Licenses

Veterans with 100% service-connected disability rating may be eligible for a reduced hunting and fishing license fee.

[Click here to find out more.](#)

State Park Admission

ND veterans with a 50 percent or greater service-related disability and former POWs are eligible for a free [annual lifetime pass](#). All other ND veterans with service-related disabilities may purchase an annual permit for \$28. Requires a current Summary of Benefits Letter issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for proof of disability. Acceptable proof of POW includes DD214 or, if civilian, official written proof from the National Archives Database attesting to former POW status. Contact parkrec@nd.gov for more information.

[Click here to find out more.](#)

North Dakota Department of Workforce Development

North Dakota welcomes active-duty service members, Veterans and their families to find the good life you seek. In fact, we are adopting policies, developing resources and creating opportunities to be the most military friendly state in the nation. It's an extraordinary place to advance a career, launch a business, be on the cusp of leading technology — and to discover inviting communities and outstanding outdoors.

If you are currently in the military planning to relocate to one of North Dakota's installations soon or discharging from service and seeking new opportunities, there are reasons why North Dakota is the place for you:

[Click here to find out more:](#)



Disabled Veterans Property Tax Credit

The Disabled Veteran's Property Tax Credit is available to veterans of the United States Armed Forces with a disability of 50% or greater.

If eligible, the credit may reduce the taxable value of a homestead. A homestead can include a house, the land the house is on, and/or other buildings on the same land. If a qualified veteran moves to a different homestead, the credit can be applied to the new property.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for this program, you must:

- Be a disabled veteran of the United States Armed Forces with an armed forces service-connected disability of 50% or greater in the year for which the application is made.
- Your extra-schedular rating, to include individual unemployability, may bring the total disability rating to 100%, as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Have received an honorable discharge or be retired from the United States Armed Forces.
- Reside on and be invested in the property.

If two disabled veterans are married and living together, the combined credits may not exceed 100% of \$8,100 of taxable value of the homestead. In the event of the applicant's death, the spouse is eligible for the credit. The spouse who is receiving United States Department of Veterans Affairs dependency and indemnity compensation receives 100% of the credit.

Application Process: To apply for the Disabled Veteran's Property Tax Credit, submit:

[Application for Disabled Veterans Property Tax Credit](#) to the [local assessor or county director of tax equalization](#).

The application is due by March 31 of the year in which the property is assessed and for which the credit is requested. Include documentation regarding the applicant's service-connected disability and military honorable discharge with your application.



Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption

Eligibility

A resident disabled veteran who has a 100% service-connected disability as determined by the US Department of Veterans Affairs, or a resident disabled veteran who has an extra-schedular rating to include individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability rating to 100%. Exemption is good for two vehicles.

An un-remarried surviving spouse who is receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation retains the exemption for one vehicle.

This is covered under NDCC 57-40.3-04 (1)

Use exemption code 14 on the [Application for Certificate of Title & Registration of a Vehicle \(SFN 2872\)](#)

Vehicle Registration Exemption

Eligibility

A resident disabled veteran who has a 100% service-connected disability as determined by the US Department of Veterans Affairs, or a resident disabled veteran who has an extra-schedular rating to include individual unemployability that brings the veteran's total disability rating to 100%. Exemption is good for two vehicles.

An un-remarried surviving spouse who is receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation retains the exemption for one vehicle.

This is covered under NDCC 39-04-18 (2) (j)

Use exemption code 14 on the [Application for Certificate of Title & Registration of a Vehicle \(SFN 2872\)](#)

ND Dependent Tuition Waiver

If you are the dependent of a North Dakota veteran who was killed, totally disabled or declared missing in action, you may attend a ND State Institution of Higher Education without paying tuition or fees toward a certificate of completion or bachelor's degree.

To be eligible, you first must be accepted for enrollment by a University System campus. For detailed information, contact the financial aid office or veteran's services department on the campus of your choice.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

ND Loan Program

The Veterans Aid Fund is a permanent fund to be used solely for the purpose of making loans to veterans or their widow/widowers.

To qualify, the applicant is required to be:

a peacetime veteran, or

a wartime veteran, or

Current or former reservists or National Guard members as defined in NDCC 37-14-01.1,

OR

an un-remarried widow/widower of a qualified veteran

AND

a resident of North Dakota for at least one year

and have the financial ability to make payments

The maximum loan amount is \$5,000. The interest rate is 8% per annum. Term limit can be from six months to 48 months. One half of the interest paid will be refunded provided the loan is repaid under the agreed upon terms. The Department has the right to take legal action to collect on delinquent loans.

[Contact your Veterans Service Officer to apply.](#)

ND Hardship Assistance Grant Program

The purpose of this assistance is to provide monies to give aid and comfort to veterans [as defined in NDCC 37-14] and their spouses, or un-remarried widow/widowers of eligible veterans.

The individual must have an unmet need of dental and/or denture work (routine and maintenance procedures are not covered), optical, hearing, transportation (for medical treatment), special needs for medical reasons, housing deposit, other emergency needs approved by the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

The following requirements need to be met to apply (DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED):

Qualify as veteran or eligible dependent as defined in NDCC 37-14-01.1.

Income and asset level. Income will be based on established indexes such as pension rates and poverty guidelines which will be reviewed annually.

Must be a North Dakota resident for one year prior to application date.

Medical bills showing all work completed, and all payments and credits must be received by the department within 60-90 days of the date of approval.

[Contact your Veterans Service Officer to apply.](#)

NORTH DAKOTA MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Grand Forks AFB

226 Steen Blvd

Bldg. 812

Grand Forks, ND AFB, ND 58205

701-747-5351

<https://www.grandforks.af.mil/>

Minot AFB

196 Missile Ave

Minot AFB, ND 58705-5003

701-723-4066

<https://www.minot.af.mil/>

119 Wing ND Air National Guard

1400 32nd Ave N

Fargo, ND 58102

701-451-2102

<https://www.119wg.ang.af.mil/>

Camp Grafton Training Center

Devils Lake, ND

701-662-0200

<https://www.ndguard.nd.gov/camp-grafton-training-center>

North Dakota Army National Guard

PO Box 5511

Bismarck, ND 58506-5511

701-333-2000

<https://www.ndguard.nd.gov/>

<https://www.ndguard.nd.gov/contact>

Find out what the NDDVA can do for you!



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