



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

2024

VETERAN BENEFITS

MAGAZINE

COMPLETE GUIDE

OREGON AND FEDERAL VETERAN BENEFITS

NEW INSIDE

TRIBAL VSOS
SPECIAL ADVOCACY
VETERAN GRANTS
THE PACT ACT
VETERAN HOME LOANS

PREFERENCE FOR VETERAN-
OWNED BUSINESSES

WARRIORS' PRIDE

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER CARRY A LEGACY OF MILITARY SERVICE

HEALTH CARE • DISABILITY COMPENSATION • HOME LOANS • BURIAL • TRANSPORTATION • EDUCATION • HOUSING • EMPLOYMENT



OREGON WELCOMES YOU HOME WITH A LIFETIME VETERAN HOME LOAN

Since 1945, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) has offered home loans exclusively to Oregon veterans, typically at lower than market interest rates, for the purchase of owner-occupied, single-family residences in the state of Oregon.

*This veteran program is **separate and distinct** from the federal VA Home Loan Guarantee program, as ODVA is the lender and servicer of all loans made. ODVA has proudly helped more than 335,000 veterans achieve their dream of home ownership since the program's inception.*

The ODVA Home Loan Program criteria expressed below are general in nature and are not to be construed as the only and final authority on eligibility or lending decisions. Currently, ODVA offers eligible veterans fixed-rate financing for:

- Owner-occupied single family residence
- Financing up to \$766,550
(Federal Housing Finance Agency Loan 2024 Max)
- Purchase only (no refinancing)
- Four (4) home loan maximum
- Lifetime benefit
- Property must be located within the state of Oregon; however, veteran borrowers are not required to be an Oregon resident upon application.

Contact ODVA at 800-633-6826 or visit www.orvethomeloans.com
More program information can be found on page 36.





YOUR VETERAN JOURNEY STARTS HERE



Whether you've recently transitioned from the military or have been a civilian for some time, this magazine is your comprehensive guide to the state and federal veteran benefits you've earned through your service to our nation.

Oregon takes immense pride in catering to more than 270,000 veterans spanning five major wartime eras of service. From essential tasks like purchasing a home and pursuing higher education to navigating disability compensation or pension claims, accessing behavioral health resources, or exploring health and aging care options, Oregon veterans will discover a wealth of veteran-specific resources and benefits tailored to their needs.

Within these pages, you'll find a robust network of state and federal benefits designed to support veterans and their families comprehensively. Should you ever require assistance in navigating these resources or finding the right program for your specific needs, our dedicated ODVA team is just a call away at 800-692-9666. We're here to ensure you receive the support and care you deserve.

Your veteran journey starts here, and you are not alone. No matter where your path leads, know that we welcome you home with open arms.



Dr. Nakeia Council Daniels is a proud U.S. Army veteran and the director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA), overseeing services for nearly 300,000 veterans. Previously, she served at the Oregon Youth Authority and in various roles including equity director for former Governor Kate Brown. With a Ph.D. in business administration, she's a renowned speaker and author on leadership and equity, lecturing at prestigious universities like Harvard. Dr. Daniels is certified in Equal Employment Opportunity law and is dedicated to equity, drawing from her military and familial ties to the Army.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 6 Working with a Veterans Service Officer
- 7 Veteran Services Office Directory
- 8 Disability Compensation & Pension
- 10 Special Advocacy
- 12 Health and Dental Care
- 14 Health Care Transportation
- 17 Behavioral Health Care
- 18 Homelessness & Housing Instability
- 20 Emergency Financial Assistance
- 21 Veteran IDs & Military Records
- 22 Education
- 24 Cover Story
- 28 Veteran Employment
- 30 Burial Benefits
- 32 Oregon Veterans' Homes
- 34 Long-Term Care
- 36 ODVA Veteran Home Loan Program
- 37 Housing and Adaptive Grants
- 38 Family and Survivor Benefits
- 41 Justice-Involved Veterans
- 42 Veteran-Owned Businesses
- 45 Veterans' License Plates
- 46 Veteran Recreation



This magazine is produced and published by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs to assist and educate veterans in learning about state and federal veterans' benefits.

Information is updated annually. Please reach out to your local veteran services office or the ODVA customer service team if you need assistance navigating your benefits.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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Salem, OR 97301

503-373-2085 or 800- 692-9666
www.oregon.gov/odva

Need help navigating veterans' benefits or programs in Oregon?
customer.service@odva.oregon.gov

Want a veterans service officer to contact you for assistance?
oregon.gov/odva/pages/vetform.aspx

Order copies of this magazine:
Visit qrfy.io/r/vbmagazine or use the QR code below:



This Veteran Benefits magazine can be found on ODVA's website. To order copies of this magazine, visit ODVA online at www.oregon.gov/odva.

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On the Cover:
Desiree Coyote and her daughter, Genai Trixter, U.S. Army Tribal veterans. See their story on **page 24**.



ACCESSING VETERAN SERVICES ANYWHERE IN OREGON

STARTS WITH A VSO

WORKING WITH A VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER
IN ANY OF OREGON'S 36 COUNTIES OR
FOUR TRIBAL LANDS IS A **FREE SERVICE**

MEET WITH A **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER** EVERY FOUR TO FIVE YEARS — OR AS SERVICE-RELATED CONDITIONS WORSEN

Oregon is proud to offer veterans a robust network of veteran services offices accessible in all 36 counties and on four Tribal lands across the state — enabling veterans to be served in and by their own communities.

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) partners with counties and Tribal nations to train and certify veterans service officers who provide veterans and their families these free, confidential and critically important services that are accessible in every corner of Oregon.

When you need assistance, a veteran services office is where every veteran should start. ODVA also recommends meeting with a local office every four to five years, even if you have previously been denied. Not only do health conditions develop and change as we age, but the federal VA is continuously implementing new programs and expanding benefits and associated eligibility that could positively impact a disability claim.

The disability compensation and pension claim

process begins the moment you file a claim through a veteran services office. To file, veterans must sign a power of attorney (POA) that authorizes ODVA to act on a veteran's behalf when preparing, presenting and prosecuting a claim for any and all benefits from the federal VA.

If your disability claim is denied and you would like to appeal, ODVA's appeals team will represent you in adjudicating your claim in the Board of Veterans Appeals. These services, from filing to final rating decision, are a free benefit provided by the State of Oregon in support of our state's most honorable.

Even if you are unsure about the benefits for which you or your family may qualify or have been denied in the past, scheduling an appointment with a county or Tribal VSO will ensure you can make informed decisions about accessing the full range of earned state and federal veteran benefits and programs to which you are entitled.

A directory of veteran services offices in Oregon can be found on [page 7](#).

WORKING WITH A VETERANS SERVICES OFFICER IN OREGON

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS IN FEDERAL VA LAW

ODVA trains and certifies all Oregon county, Tribal and state veterans service officers for U.S. Veterans Benefits Administration accreditation to provide claims representation for Oregon veterans and their families. The state's VSOs operate under ODVA's power of attorney on file with the federal VA. ODVA trains and accredits VSOs to file defensible claims for disability compensation and pension benefits based on Title 38 federal law. All filed claims are reviewed and filed by ODVA and then rated by the USDVA.

WHO CAN WORK WITH A VSO?

All veterans and their families are eligible for services through their local veteran services office. Filing a claim for disability benefits in Oregon is a free and confidential process. In order to receive compensation or pension benefits, you must file a claim proving eligibility through legal, military and medical evidence. Though it is possible to file a claim yourself, it is highly recommended that you work with an accredited veterans service officer in any of Oregon's 36 counties and on some Tribal lands.

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A VSO FOR CLAIMS AND MORE

Even if you are unsure about the benefits you or your family may qualify for or have been denied in the past, scheduling an appointment with a local VSO will ensure you have access to the full range of earned state and federal veteran benefits and programs to which you are entitled. A list of VSOs can be found on the opposite page.

VSO SERVICES: FREE, TRUSTWORTHY, CONFIDENTIAL

EXPERT SUBJECT MATTER ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES

Accredited representatives and veteran service organizations in Oregon play pivotal roles in assisting veterans with understanding and applying for various VA benefits. These professionals offer a wide range of services aimed at ensuring veterans receive the support they need and deserve.

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING FOR BENEFITS

Accredited representatives and VSOs help veterans comprehend the full range of VA benefits available to them. These benefits may include financial support such as monthly payments, educational assistance, Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) programs, home loans, life insurance, pension benefits, healthcare coverage and burial benefits.

GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE

Trained and certified VSOs aid veterans in navigating the complexities of the benefit system. They provide detailed explanations about eligibility criteria and help veterans determine which benefits are applicable to their circumstances.

DOCUMENT PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

One crucial aspect of filing a VA claim is gathering supporting documentation. Accredited representatives and VSOs assist veterans in obtaining necessary documents such as medical reports or test results, ensuring that claims are well-supported and comprehensive.

FILING CLAIMS AND APPEALS

VSOs are authorized to file claims and appeals on behalf of veterans. They guide veterans through the application process, ensuring that all required paperwork is completed accurately and submitted promptly. If a claim is denied or the veteran wants to appeal an adverse decision or rating, VSOs continue to provide representation, support and valuable advice.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Beyond benefits application, VSOs offer additional resources tailored to veterans' needs. This may include assistance with transportation to medical appointments, accessing emergency funds, or navigating other challenges veterans may encounter.

VSO DIRECTORY: COUNTY, TRIBAL AND NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

When you need veteran benefit assistance in Oregon, a county or Tribal veteran services office is where every veteran and family member should start. ODVA also recommends meeting with a local office every four to five years regardless of whether you have a disability rating or have been denied in the past. Not only do health conditions develop and change as we age, but the federal VA continuously implements new programs and expands benefits that that could positively impact a disability claim.

COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES OFFICES

BAKER: 541 523 8223
rgloria@bakercounty.org

BENTON: 541 368 7100
veterans@ocwcog.org

CLACKAMAS: 503 650 5631
veterans@clackamas.us

CLATSOP: 971 308 1045
clatsopvso@ccaservices.org

COLUMBIA: 503 366 6580
enolan@cat-team.org

COOS: 541 551 0222
coosvets@co.coos.or.us

CROOK: 541 447 5304
veterans@co.crook.or.us

CURRY: 541 247 3205
voudya@co.curry.or.us

DESCHUTES: 541 385 3214
vets@deschutes.org

DOUGLAS: 541 440 4219
veterans@co.douglas.or.us

**GILLIAM / SHERMAN /
WHEELER**
541 705 0051
veteranservices@co.sherman.
or.us

GRANT: 541 620 8057
hoffmank@grantcounty-or.gov

HARNEY: 541 573 1342
brian.j.needham@co.harney.
or.us

HOOD RIVER: 541 386 1080
vsomanager@hoodrivercounty.
org

JACKSON: 541 774 8214
jcvso@jacksoncountyor.gov

JEFFERSON: 541 475 5228
veteransserviceoffice@
co.jefferson.or.us

JOSEPHINE: 541 474 5454
pickart@josephinecounty.gov

KLAMATH: 541 883 4274
kpierce@co.klamath.or.us

LAKE: 541 947 6043
jpereyra@co.lake.or.us

LANE: 541 682 4191
veterans@lanecountyor.gov

LINCOLN: 541 265 0570
vets@co.lincoln.or.us

LINN: 541 967 3882
linnvets@co.linn.or.us

MALHEUR: 541 889 6649
veterans@malheurco.org

MARION: 971 707 4400
info.vso@mwvcaa.org

MORROW: 541 922 6420
mcvets@co.morrow.or.us

MULTNOMAH: 503 988 8387
veteran.services@multco.us

POLK: 503 751 1644
vso@co.polk.or.us

TILLAMOOK: 503 842 4358
ntorres@co.tillamook.or.us

UMATILLA: 541 278 6363
vets@umatillacounty.gov

UNION: 541 962 8842
bblais@chdinc.org

WALLOWA: 541 426 0539
vets@co.wallowa.or.us

WASCO: 541 506 2502
russellj@co.wasco.or.us

WASHINGTON: 503 846 3060
HHSDAVSInfo@
washingtoncountyor.gov

YAMHILL: 503 434 7503
wilsonj@co.yamhill.or.us

TRIBAL VETERAN SERVICES

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES
OF GRAND RONDE**
Tribal Veteran Services Officer
503 879 1484

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES
OF SILETZ INDIANS**
Tribal Veteran Services Rep
541 444 8330

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES
OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN
RESERVATION**
Tribal Veteran Services Officer
541 429 7389

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES
OF WARM SPRINGS**
Tribal Veteran Service Officer
541 460 0605

**COW CREEK BAND OF UMPQUA
TRIBE OF INDIANS**
Tribal Veteran Services Officer
541 677 5513

THE KLAMATH TRIBES
Tribal Veteran Services Rep
541 882 1487, ext. 408

NATIONAL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN LEGION
503 412 4706

**DISABLED AMERICAN
VETERANS**
503 412 4750

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
BLACK VETERANS OF AMERICA**
503 412 4159

PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA
504 412 4762

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
503 412 4757

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
541 604 0963

DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND PENSION

DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Disability compensation is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. Disabilities or conditions stemming from or aggravated by military service are often termed “service-connected.” Disability compensation is paid monthly and varies with the degree of the disability, the impairment of the veteran’s earning capacity, and the number of dependents the veteran has. Veterans with certain severe disabilities or combinations of disabilities may be eligible for additional compensation.

PENSION BENEFIT

Non-Service-Connected Pension is a benefit paid by the federal VA to wartime veterans who have limited or no income, who are permanently and totally disabled, are 65 years of age or older, are a patient in a nursing home because of a disability, or are receiving Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income. The monthly pension award amount depends on the amount or type of income received by the veterans and their family, the number of dependents the veteran has, and whether the veteran requires assistance from another person to complete activities of daily living or is unable to leave their home due to their disabilities.

DEATH (SURVIVORS) PENSIONS

Death, or Survivors, Pension is a needs-based benefit paid to an unremarried surviving spouse or an unmarried child who meets certain age or disability requirements of a deceased wartime veteran. In order to qualify for this needs-based benefit, the amount received is determined via a mathematical formula of income received minus out of pocket medical expenses. If the income is below a certain level, the dependent or surviving spouse may be eligible for this pension.

SPECIAL MONTHLY PENSION (SMP)

Veterans who qualify for veterans’ improved pension may receive a higher pension award amount if they require the regular aid and attendance of another person to perform daily

living activities, are bedridden, are housebound, or are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity. The two levels of SMP are Aid and Attendance and Housebound.

AID AND ATTENDANCE (A&A)

Aid and Attendance is a benefit paid in addition to monthly pension and compensation. It may not be paid without eligibility. A&A is allowed if the veteran: requires the aid of another person in order to perform his or her daily living activities; is bedridden; or is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity.

HOUSEBOUND BENEFITS

Alternatively, veterans and survivors who qualify for federal VA compensation or pension, and are confined to the home because of a permanent disability may be eligible for additional Housebound benefits. Qualifying veterans must have a single permanent, service-connected disability (rated 100% disabled) and need assistance, or have a single permanent, service-connected disability (100% disabled) and another disability, or disabilities evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling. A veteran cannot receive both A&A and Housebound benefits at the same time.

SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION (SMC)

The federal VA offers additional compensation, called Special Monthly Compensation, to veterans with very severe service-connected disabilities, or who have lost (or lost the use of) limbs, organs or extremities as a result of their military service. The VA may also pay higher rates of compensation if you have lost or lost the use of more than one limb, organ or extremity, or if it is combined with another service-connected disability or condition, such as blindness or deafness.

SMC may also be paid to veterans, spouses, surviving spouses and parents if they are bedridden, housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person to perform the basic functions of everyday life, such as eating, dressing, bathing and going to the bathroom. More information can be found on the federal VA’s website at www.benefits.va.gov/compensation.

2024 VETERAN (ALONE, NO DEPENDENTS) VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION RATES

| 10% | 20% | 30% | 40% | 50% | 60% | 70% | 80% | 90% | 100% |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| \$171.23 | \$338.49 | \$524.31 | \$755.28 | \$1,075.16 | \$1,361.88 | \$1,716.28 | \$1,995.01 | \$2,241.91 | \$3,737.85 |

ELIGIBILITY

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR VA DISABILITY COMPENSATION?

You may be eligible for VA disability benefits or compensation if you meet both of the following requirements: You have a current condition (injury or illness) that affects your mind or body; and you served on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training.

At least one of the following must also be true: You got sick or injured while serving in the military — and can link your condition to this illness or injury (called an **in-service disability claim**); you had an illness or injury before you joined the military — and serving made it worse (called a **pre-service disability claim**); or you have a disability related to your active-duty service that didn't appear until after you ended your service (called a **post-service disability claim**).

For more information on eligibility criteria for service-connected disabilities, visit www.va.gov/disability/eligibility.

PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS

WHAT ARE PRESUMPTIVES?

For the purpose of disability compensation, there are specific health conditions that the federal VA assumes to be service-connected because of the unique nature of certain veterans' military service. These are called presumptive conditions. If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You need only to meet the service requirements for that presumption. When in doubt, talk to a VSO.

RECENTLY SEPARATED VETERANS

The first year after service is known as the "presumptive year." In most cases, if you have a presumptive condition and you file your claim within one year of separation from active service, then the effective date is the date you first got your disability. Veterans within one year after release who have been diagnosed with chronic diseases are encouraged to apply for disability compensation.

EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Veterans may have been exposed to a range of chemical, physical and environmental hazards during military service, and may be entitled to disability compensation if exposure to these hazards resulted in a disease of injury. Examples include exposure to atomic radiation, mustard gas, asbestos, burn pits, chemical fires, and contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. The PACT Act expanded health care and benefits to those veterans exposed to hazardous materials while in service. All veterans potentially exposed are encouraged to get a VA screening and file a claim.

GULF WAR ILLNESSES

Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War may receive disability compensation from disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses, which may include chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, functional gastrointestinal disorders and others.

AGENT ORANGE-RELATED ILLNESSES

If you served in Vietnam anytime between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, or in or near the Korean demilitarized zones anytime between April 1, 1968, and August 31, 1971, or various other locations around the world where Agent Orange was sprayed and stored, the VA presumes that you were exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in support of military operations. This entitles you to disability compensation for related medical conditions, which may include veterans' dependents and survivors.

PRISONERS OF WAR (POWS)

Former POW's, regardless of the amount of time they were held in captivity, have conditions the VA will presume was caused by their captivity if they become at least 10 percent disabled any time after military service. If you are a former POW who has been diagnosed as having one or more specific medical conditions to a degree that is at least 10 percent disabling, you are entitled to disability compensation.

VETERANS DIAGNOSED WITH ALS

Veterans diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)/Lou Gehrig's disease at any time after discharge or release from qualifying active service may be eligible for compensation if they served a minimum of 90 consecutive days of active service.

SPECIAL ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT FOR OREGON VETERANS

AGING VETERANS



With more than half of Oregon's veterans being 65 or older, the Aging Veteran Outreach Coordinator provides services directed at aging veterans, especially those receiving in-home care or care in long-term facilities around the state. The position is an integral part of the agency mission to ensure aging and vulnerable veterans receive the highest quality of veteran programs and benefits and priority representation from an accredited veterans service officer specializing in assisting veterans with benefits as they age. ODVA also offers priority representation to ensure each aging veteran has applied for benefits and is receiving all entitlements through the federal VA and other government and nonprofit entities.

HOUSELESS VETERANS



As Oregon has one of the highest rates of veteran homelessness in the nation, ODVA's Houseless Veterans Program collaborates with federal, state, county and Tribal agencies, veteran services offices, and community homeless service providers to meet the urgent and unique needs of Oregon's diverse veteran communities challenged with housing stability. In addition to advocating for Oregon veterans experiencing or at risk for homelessness, the program provides direct service to veterans and their families seeking federal and state veterans' benefits, including access to local VA health care, documentation of service, as well as other available state benefits, and local homeless services organizations and low-income assistance programs.

INCARCERATED VETERANS



First established in 2016, the Incarcerated Veterans Program works with veterans and the families of veterans entering or transitioning from the state prison system. Depending on the circumstances, justice-involved veterans may still be eligible for VA and other benefits, and ODVA Incarcerated Veteran Coordinators work with the Oregon Department of Corrections to determine eligibility and provide assistance as needed to connect veterans and their families with these resources. This work provides veterans and their families an opportunity to establish stability and mitigate negative outcomes during and after incarceration with state and federal veteran benefits, health and behavioral health care, re-employment and education programs, and more.

AGING VETERAN SERVICES

Email: ODVA_Outreach@odva.oregon.gov

Web: www.oregon.gov/odva/Resources/Pages/Aging-Veterans.aspx

VA Resource: www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-elderly.asp

HOUSELESS VETERANS PROGRAM

Email: houselessvets@odva.oregon.gov

Web: www.oregon.gov/odva/Resources/Pages/Homeless-Veterans.aspx

VA Resource: www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-homeless.asp

INCARCERATED VETERANS PROGRAM

Email: incarceratedvets@odva.oregon.gov

Veteran Courts: Contact your district attorney's office to see if a veteran docket or court is an option for your circumstance.

VA Resource: www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-incarcerated.asp

DEDICATED OUTREACH TO UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

LGBTQ+ VETERANS



Oregon is proud to have been the first in the nation to establish a dedicated LGBTQ+ Veterans Program offering direct services to LGBTQ+ veterans to assist with military records corrections, discharge status upgrades, and service-connected disability compensation claims filing for VA benefits. The program also provides extensive outreach to engage and foster community with LGBTQ+ veterans and assists veterans in enrolling in specialized health care through a Veterans Health Administration LGBTQ+ Veteran Care Coordinator. Through these efforts, veterans within the Oregon LGBTQ+ community now receive trauma-informed and dignity-affirming care while also connecting with needed federal, state and local services.

TRIBAL VETERANS



An estimated 3,128 of Oregon veterans are American Indian and Alaska Native, representing Oregon's nine federally recognized and non-recognized Tribes. Tribal members have one of the highest records of military service per capita of any ethnic group, and Native American communities in Oregon have a long and rich history of honoring and supporting all veterans. Working with Oregon's Tribes, ODVA continues to appreciate Tribal sovereignty and strong partnerships, providing annual Tribal veteran advocate training while supporting outreach events that honors Tribal veterans and raises awareness of veterans' benefits, programs and services across the state. A directory of Tribal veterans service officers and reps can be found on [page 7](#).

WOMEN VETERANS



In 2015, the Oregon Legislature created the Women Veterans Program to improve outcomes for women veterans in five specific areas: outreach, advocacy, data, research and policy. Focused outreach and advocacy is achieved via listening sessions and ongoing outreach to women veterans across Oregon. This work increases awareness of women veterans and their unique experiences, issues and needs as veterans. This program specializes in assisting in the claims process with women veteran specific expertise, especially related to difficult or challenging claims involving military sexual trauma. The Women Veterans Program also supports women veterans in accessing their earned benefits, including specialized health care and other care needs.

LGBTQ+ VETERANS PROGRAM

Email: ODVA_LGBTQVets@odva.oregon.gov

Web: www.oregon.gov/odva/Resources/Pages/LGBTQ-Veterans.aspx

VA Resource: www.benefits.va.gov/persona/lgbt.asp

TRIBAL VETERANS PROGRAM

Email: Tribal.Veterans@odva.oregon.gov

Web: www.oregon.gov/odva/Resources/Pages/Tribal-Veterans.aspx

VA Resource: www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-tribal.asp

WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM

Email: ODVA_ORWomenVets@odva.oregon.gov

Web: www.oregon.gov/odva/Resources/Pages/Women-Veterans.aspx

VA Resource: www.va.gov/womenvet

HEALTH AND DENTAL CARE

BASIC ELIGIBILITY

A person who served in the active military service and was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for federal VA health care benefits. Reservists and National Guard members may also qualify for federal VA health care benefits if they were called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty or have a service-connected disability.

ENROLLMENT

For most veterans, entry into the federal VA health care system begins by applying for enrollment. If you are not enrolled, you can apply at any time. If you served in the U.S. Armed Forces, you can use the federal VA Health Benefits Explorer to learn about the benefits you could receive if you are enrolled with federal VA for your health care.

To apply or use the federal VA Health Benefit Explorer, visit www.va.gov/health-care.

ONLINE HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Managing your health information — appointments, prescriptions, labs, blood tests and even exchanging messages with your health care team — has never been easier.

My HealtheVet, your online Personal Health Record, helps you gain a better understanding of your health status and allows you to explore a variety of ways to monitor and improve your health, 24 hours a day/seven days a week. To get the most out of My HealtheVet, veterans are urged to visit their local federal VA health care facility to get an upgraded account, known as In-Person Authentication (IPA). To begin using My HealtheVet, register at www.myhealth.va.gov.

NON-VA MEDICAL CENTER EMERGENCY CARE

Veterans are eligible for emergency care at non-VA facilities under certain circumstances. The 2010 Veterans Emergency Care Protective Act enables federal VA to reimburse veterans enrolled in federal VA health care for the remaining cost of emergency treatment if the veteran has outside insurance that only covers part of the cost. Learn more at www.va.gov/resources/getting-emergency-care-at-non-va-facilities.

Eligible veterans may also visit authorized urgent care centers for free, depending on their priority group, which is based on a veteran's service-connected disabilities and other factors. Learn more at www.va.gov/resources/getting-urgent-care-at-va-or-in-network-community-providers.

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE 1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636)

Comprehensive health services are available to women veterans including primary care, specialty care, mental health care and reproductive health care services. The federal VA provides management of acute and chronic illnesses, preventive care, contraceptive services, menopause management, cancer screenings including pap smear and mammograms, gynecology, maternity care and some child care. Infertility evaluation and limited treatments also are available. For more information, visit www.womenshealth.va.gov.

TRIBAL VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

To improve access to care for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Veterans, VA works with the Indian Health Service (IHS), Tribal Health Programs (THP) and Urban Indian Organization (UIO) (I/T/U) to reimburse the cost of care provided to eligible AI/AN Veterans at IHS, THP and UIO facilities. Through the VA Reimbursement Agreements Program (RAP), care is provided to Veterans closer to home in a culturally sensitive environment at an I/T/U facility. Visit www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/ihs or email tribal.agreements@va.gov.

VA DENTAL INSURANCE PROGRAM

VADIP offers eligible individuals the opportunity to purchase discounted dental insurance coverage that includes diagnostic services, preventive services, endodontic and other restorative services, surgical services and emergency services. Multiple plan options allow individuals to select a plan that provides benefits and premiums that meet their dental needs and budget. For more information, call Delta Dental at 1-855-370-3303 or MetLife at 1-888-310-1681. For information regarding VA dental care and the VADIP, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/VADIP.

OREGON VETERAN DENTAL CARE PROGRAM

Veterans who do not get dental care from Oregon Health Plan may now qualify for dental-only OHP benefits. OHP's Veteran Dental Program is different from the dental care offered by the Veterans Health Administration (VADIP). The Veteran Dental Program has the same dental care as OHP Plus, including teeth cleanings, filling and extractions, emergency dental care and some dentures. For more information or to find out if you qualify, visit ONE.Oregon.gov. Paper applications may also be obtained at OHP.Oregon.gov/Apply or by calling 1-800-699-9075.

FEDERAL VA MEDICAL CENTERS

The Veterans Health Administration is the largest integrated health care system in the United States. Every federal VA medical center has at least one patient advocate who ensures all veterans receive needed care.

PORTLAND VA MEDICAL CENTER

3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Rd
503 220 8262 or 800 949 1004
www.portland.va.gov

BOISE VA MEDICAL CENTER

500 W Fort Street, Boise, ID
208 422 1000
www.boise.va.gov

WHITE CITY (VA SORCC)

8495 Crater Lake Highway
541 826 2111 or 800 809 8725
www.southernoregon.va.gov

VANCOUVER VA MEDICAL CENTER

1601 E 4th Plain Blvd., Vancouver,
WA | 360 759 1901
www.portland.va.gov

ROSEBURG VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

913 N.W. Garden Valley Blvd.
541 440 1000 or 800 549 8387
www.roseburg.va.gov

VA WALLA WALLA HEALTH CARE

77 Wainwright Dr, Walla Walla, WA
509 525 5200
www.wallawalla.va.gov

COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINICS (CBOC)

Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) provide local and routine outpatient services, including health and wellness visits. There are 17 locations across Oregon.

BEND CBOC

2650 NE Courtney Drive
541 647 5200

BOARDMAN

(VA TELEHEALTH CLINIC)
2 Marine Drive Ste 103
541 481 2255

BROOKINGS VA CLINIC

840 Railroad Street
541 412 1152

BURNS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

271 N Egan Avenue
541 573 4009

ENTERPRISE (VA TELEHEALTH CLINIC)

401 NE 1st Street, Suite A
541 426 0219

EUGENE HEALTHCARE CENTER

3555 Chad Drive
541 607 0897

FAIRVIEW CLINIC

1800 NE Market Drive
503 660 0600

GRANTS PASS WEST VA CBOC

1877 Williams Highway
541 955 5551

HILLSBORO CBOC

1925 NE Stucki Avenue
Suite 300
503 906 5000

KLAMATH FALLS CBOC

2225 N El Dorado Blvd
541 273 6206

LA GRANDE CBOC

202 12th Street
541 963 0627

NEWPORT OUTREACH CLINIC

1010 SW Coast Highway
541 265 4182

NORTH BEND VA CLINIC

2191 Marion Avenue
541 756 8002

SALEM CBOC

1750 McGilchrist Street SE
Suite 130
971 304 2200

THE DALLES OUTREACH CLINIC

704 Veterans Drive
541 296 3937

WARRENTON (NORTH COAST CBOC)

91400 N Neacoxie Street, Bldg 7315
503 220 8262, ext. 52593

WEST LINN CBOC

1750 Blankenship Road
Suite 300
503 210 4900

HEALTH CARE TRANSPORTATION

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

The federal VA has the authority to provide eligible beneficiaries reimbursement for mileage, special mode of transportation, and in certain circumstances, a taxi or hired car.

If you meet the criteria below, you may be eligible for mileage reimbursement or special mode transport. You qualify if:

- You have a service-connected (SC) rating of 30 percent or more; or
- You are traveling for treatment of a SC condition; or
- You receive a VA pension; or
- Your income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate; or
- You are traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension examination.

You qualify for Special Mode Transportation if:

- Your medical condition requires an ambulance or a specially equipped van as determined by a VA clinician; and
- You meet one of the eligibility criteria listed above; and
- The travel is pre-authorized (authorization is not required for emergencies if a delay would be hazardous to life or health).

Scheduled appointments qualify for round-trip mileage. Unscheduled visits may be limited to return mileage only. In order to be eligible for travel benefits when transporting to VA care or treatment, a veteran must actually be incurring an expense. Should one or more veterans travel together in a private vehicle, only the owner of the vehicle is actually incurring expenses and, therefore is the only person entitled to travel reimbursement.

However, should multiple veterans share a vehicle where passengers must pay for their transport such as a taxi or where one veteran pays another veteran for transport, then all are entitled to travel reimbursement either at the mileage reimbursement rate or actual expense, whichever is less. Such persons must provide a receipt to indicate an incurred expense and to receive reimbursement. More information online at www.va.gov/health-care/get-reimbursed-for-travel-pay.

VETERANS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (VTP)

The federal VA has a transportation program

for non-ambulatory and remote VA patients. The Veterans Transportation Program provides transport for veterans to federal VA medical centers (VAMCs).

While all veterans with federal VA-funded medical appointments are eligible to ride Veteran Transportation Service, a first priority is given to wheelchair-bound patients who have no other transportation alternatives. VTS is establishing a network of community and volunteer transportation service providers to improve access to VA health care, including the Portland VAMC.

Reservations are needed for transportation at least four full business days before the date transport is needed. Specific information about the veteran also is required. To make a reservation, call the Portland VA Medical Center at 800-949-1004, ext. 57804; the Roseburg VA Medical Center at 541-440-1000, ext. 41293; or the White City VA Medical Center at 541-826-2111, ext. 3619.

DAV TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Because many veterans lack transportation to and from VA medical facilities for needed treatment, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) operates a nationwide transportation network to meet this need. Through the Transportation Network, DAV volunteers drive veterans to and from VA medical facilities for treatment.

The Transportation Network is a clear example of veterans helping veterans. DAV has 189 Hospital Service Coordinators around the country who coordinate the transportation needs for disabled veterans. Contact your local medical center ([page 13](#)) for more information.

DAV is always looking for volunteer drivers. If you are interested in volunteering in the DAV Transportation Network please visit www.dav.org/get-involved/volunteer/drive-a-vehicle.

ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

The federal VA will pay for installation of adaptive equipment for automobiles deemed necessary to ensure that eligible veterans will be able to safely operate vehicles, and to satisfy the applicable state standards of licensure. This equipment includes power steering, power brakes, power window lifts, power seats and other special equipment necessary to assist the person into and out of the vehicle or other conveyance. The federal VA will also repair, replace, or reinstall adaptive equipment determined necessary for

the operation of a vehicle acquired under this program, or for the operation of a vehicle an eligible veteran may previously or subsequently have acquired. Work with a local VSO ([see page 7](#)) for more information.

AUTOMOBILE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The federal VA offers qualified disabled veterans and active duty service members a one-time payment to be used toward the purchase of an automobile or other forms of conveyance.

To qualify, a veteran or service member must have one of the following disabilities including loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both feet; loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both hands; or permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to a certain degree. For more information, visit www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/special-claims/automobile-allowance-adaptive-equipment.

VA UBER HEALTH CONNECT

VA Uber Health Connect is a new initiative that provides supplemental transportation to eligible veterans needing access to and from medical care appointments. VA Uber Health Connect launched as a pilot program at 10 VA medical centers in 2022 and expanded to serve veterans in the Roseburg VA Health Care System in August 2023. Veterans or transportation teams interested in learning more about the program are encouraged to contact their local facility.

REDUCED TRIMET FARE FOR VETERANS

Veterans, active-duty service members and Reservists may qualify for reduced TriMet fares and can now apply for this benefit online. Visit trimet.org/military to apply for the military fare card and have it mailed to your home or business. You will need a government-issued photo ID as well as one of the following: Common Access Card (CAC) for active-duty military, Uniformed Services ID card or a copy of your DD 214. An Oregon driver license with veteran designation may also be used to confirm military status. You may also apply in person by visiting the TriMet Customer Support Center at Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland, which is open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



RURAL TRANSPORTATION FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

One of the long-standing barriers to health care for veterans who live in rural areas of Oregon is transportation to appointments.

To help remedy this barrier, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs receives both federal and state grant funding to administer two programs aimed at ensuring medical-related transport is available to veterans living in rural areas: the state-funded Rural Veterans Health Care Transportation Grant Program and the federally backed Highly Rural Transportation Grant Program.

Veterans participating in these programs are picked up and delivered back to their own homes at no cost to the veteran.

LOCATE SERVICES

Locate services online at www.oregon.gov/odva/Services/Pages/Transportation-Services.aspx or contact a county veteran services office ([page 7](#)) to learn more about using this service.



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

CALL, TEXT,
OR CHAT 988

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

VETERANS PRESS 1

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs encourages any veteran, family member, or loved one to reach out for immediate help at any sign of suicidal ideation or concern. We all served this nation, and we know our service sometimes changes our ability to process and cope, throwing us into a spiral of anxiety and depression. You are not alone. Ever.

Reach out to the Veterans 988 Lifeline anytime, for any reason, and connect with a trained crisis counselor who is ready to support you 24/7/365. You are not alone. You matter. If you or someone you know needs support now, call or **text 988** or **chat 988lifeline.org**.

Call ODVA if you need help with other services such as housing stability services referrals, transitional housing referrals, special advocacy services or VA accredited assistance filing a claim for disability compensation for injuries incurred in service.



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Veterans gain great strength from their service, but it is not surprising that the stress, difficult experiences and trauma service members may experience can lead to long-term challenges, which can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health conditions. The intense and prolonged stress of military deployments can result in a sense of disconnection from civilian life upon return, exacerbating feelings of alienation and isolation. Moreover, the transition from a highly structured military environment to civilian life can be overwhelming, with veterans facing difficulties in finding employment, establishing social connections, and navigating complex bureaucratic systems for health care and benefits. These cumulative stressors can manifest in a range of behavioral health issues, including depression, anxiety, substance abuse and suicidal ideation, prompting many veterans to seek professional help. Veterans needing someone to speak to can call the Vet Center Call Center any time, day or night (see [sidebar](#) for contact information).

SIGNS EXPERT HELP MAY BE NEEDED

These signs may indicate that a veteran needs help:

- Appearing sad or depressed most of the time
- Hopelessness
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling as if there is no reason to live
- Feeling excessive guilt, shame, or sense of failure
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug misuse
- Losing interest in hobbies, work or school
- Neglecting personal welfare and appearance
- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Showing violent behavior, like punching a hole in the wall or getting into fights
- Giving away prized possessions
- Getting affairs in order, tying up loose ends, or writing a will

CRISIS SIGNS

These signs require immediate attention:

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior, such as drug abuse, risky use of weapons, etc.

If you are experiencing any of these warning signs and need medical attention, call 911 now. For immediate help in dealing with a suicidal crisis, call the [Veterans Lifeline at 988, Veterans Press 1](#).

TAKE A SELF-CHECK ASSESSMENT

If you feel like you might be heading toward a crisis, VA or community-based services can help. Take a confidential, anonymous risk assessment to see if stress and depression might be affecting you: www.vetselfcheck.org/welcome.cfm.

VET CENTERS

Vet Centers are community-based counseling centers associated with the federal VA in all 50 states and U.S. territories that provide a wide range of social and psychological services including professional readjustment counseling to eligible veterans, service members — including National Guard and Reserve components — and their families.

Counselors and outreach staff, many of whom are veterans themselves, are experienced and able to discuss the tragedies of war, loss, grief and transition after trauma. To learn more, contact the nearest Vet Center in Oregon. Virtual appointments available.

CENTRAL OREGON VET CENTER
1645 NE Forbes Road, Ste 105
541 749 2112

EUGENE VET CENTER
190 E 11th Avenue
541 465 6918

GRANTS PASS VET CENTER
135 NE Steiger Street
541 479 6912

PORTLAND VET CENTER
1505 NE 122nd Avenue, Ste 110
503 688 5361

SALEM VET CENTER
2645 Portland Road NE, Ste 250
503 362 9911

VET CENTER CALL CENTER
1-877-WAR-VETS (877-927-8387)

Around-the-clock confidential call center where combat veterans and their families can call to talk about any issue they are facing.

MORE INFO:
www.vetcenter.va.gov/index.asp

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING INSTABILITY

ODVA HOUSELESS VETERANS COORDINATOR

If you are a veteran facing housing instability or are trying to avoid homelessness, contact the ODVA Houseless Veterans Program coordinator for assistance navigating available state and federal housing and stability resources including disability claims assistance. Call ODVA's main phone line at **800-692-9666** or email houselessvets@odva.oregon.gov.

HUD-VASH

This joint Housing Choice Program between the federal VA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides permanent housing and ongoing case management treatment services for homeless veterans who would not be able to live independently without the support of case management.

HUD's Housing Choice Voucher Program has designated vouchers to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) throughout the country for veterans who are homeless. These vouchers allow veterans to live in communities served by their VA medical facility where case management services can be provided.

Visit the HUD-VASH website for more information at www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp.

VA'S COMPENSATED WORK THERAPY

The federal VA's Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) consists of three unique programs which assist homeless veterans in returning to competitive employment: Sheltered Workshop, Transitional Work and Supported Employment. Veterans in CWT are paid at least the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is higher.

The Homeless Veteran Supported Employment Program provides vocational assistance, job development and placement, and ongoing support to improve employment outcomes among homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness. Veterans in CWT have been successfully employed over the years in competitive positions including health care, information technology, manufacturing, warehousing, construction trades, clerical and office support.

CWT programs develop an individual rehabilitation plan for each veteran and provide a wide range of support services to the veteran at CWT locations. VA benefits, including service-

connected compensation and non-service-connected pensions, cannot be reduced, denied, or discontinued based on participation in CWT.

For more information, visit va.gov/health/cwt.

TRANSITIONAL RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Transitional Residence Program is a work-based residential rehabilitation treatment program offering a therapeutic residential setting for veterans involved in CWT. The TR program provides a rehabilitation-focused residential setting for veterans recovering from chronic mental illness, chemical dependency and homelessness.

The TR Program provides a bridge between hospitalization or intensive outpatient treatment and successful community reintegration. It utilizes a residential therapeutic community of peer and professional support, with a strong emphasis on increasing personal responsibility and achievement of individualized rehabilitation goals.

For more information, visit www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp.

STAND DOWNS

Stand downs are typically one- to three-day events providing supplies and services to homeless veterans, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings and benefits counseling. Veterans can also receive referrals to other assistance such as health care, housing solutions, employment, ID cards and access to other programs to meet their immediate needs. They are collaborative events, coordinated between local VA medical centers, state and federal agencies, veterans service organizations and local nonprofits. For information on stand down dates and locations in Oregon, visit oregon.gov/odva/Resources/Pages/Homeless-Veterans.aspx or va.gov/HOMELESS/events.asp.

DROP-IN CENTERS

These programs provide a daytime sanctuary where homeless veterans can clean up, wash their clothing and participate in a variety of therapeutic and rehabilitative activities. Links to longer-term assistance are also available. Locations vary.

For more information: Contact your local Vet Center or federal VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) for locations and services in your area. Directory of those services can be found on [pages 13 and 17](#).

A man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a light blue t-shirt and dark pants, sits on a dark wooden bench. He is holding a blue bag in his lap. Behind him is a tree trunk and several American flags on poles. In the background, a light blue house with white trim is visible. The scene is outdoors on a grassy area.

ARE YOU A VETERAN WITHOUT STABLE HOUSING?

THERE IS HELP.

NATIONAL CALL CENTER FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838)

If you are a homeless veteran or are trying to help a veteran avoid homelessness, contact the federal VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans to speak to a trained VA responder. The hotline and online chat are free and neither VA registration nor enrollment in VA health care is required to use these services.

Expert responders staff the hotline for homeless veterans 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The responders can provide emergency support and resources to homeless veterans and family members, as well as community agencies and non-VA providers.



**OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

You can also contact ODVA's Houseless Veteran Coordinator to help navigate you to resources that can help avoid homelessness and provide resource assistance to designed to lead to transitional and long-term housing stability. Contact ODVA's Houseless Coordinator for assistance: houselessvets@odva.oregon.gov.

COMMUNITY RELIEF AND VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

VETERANS EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAMS AND OTHER SERVICES IN OREGON

Many military and veteran service organizations have emergency relief programs designated to help veterans and their families. Inquire at local organizations about programs such as the Air Force Aid Society, American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance, Army Emergency Relief, Disabled American Veterans Disaster Relief Grants, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, Oregon National Guard Emergency Relief, Salvation Army Home Front War Relief Program and VFW Unmet Needs.

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are local, nonprofit organizations that provide support to low-income families in Oregon. CAAs are also known as grant subgrantees. CAAs can help families gain self-sufficiency and overcome hardships. They can also provide short-term financial assistance for housing, transportation, employment, and energy bills. CAAs have offices in all 36 Oregon counties and have programs specifically funded for veteran assistance. Learn more online at caporegon.org.

VETERANS' EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Oregon Veterans' Emergency Financial Assistance Program provides a one-time grant to veterans or their immediate family members who need emergency financial assistance. Grants are awarded monthly to veterans who experience sudden and unanticipated financial instability.

Most grant requests are in support of keeping veterans in their homes by assisting with expenses such as past-due monthly rent and mortgage payments, utility payments, home and vehicle repair, dental and medical expenses.

Applicants are also connected with a local veteran services office for access to other veterans benefits and services and community resources to encourage financial stability.

Learn more at oregon.gov/odva/Benefits/Pages/Emergency-Assistance.aspx.

VETERANS EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE GRANT

The Veterans Educational Bridge Grant is administered by ODVA to help veterans achieve their educational goals. This grant is specifically designed to provide support to veterans who find themselves unable to complete their academic or training programs on time, due to the unavailability of a required class or training hours or debt on a student account that prevents registration.

As a result of these types of issues, veterans in these programs may be under financial strain and decide to go to work without completing their post-secondary goals.

The Veterans Educational Bridge Grant alleviates some of the financial stress that may be encountered when attempting to complete a program, by offering grants of up to \$5,000 to veterans who meet the eligibility requirements.

Learn more and apply online at oregon.gov/odva/agency-programs/grants/Pages/Educational-Bridge-Grant.aspx.

VETERAN SERVICES GRANT FUND

House Bill 2891 (2017) established the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs' Veteran Services Grant Fund. The purpose of the grant fund is to leverage existing community programs and resources available to veterans across the state.

Eligible grant recipients are nonprofit organizations, local and Tribal governments and other entities that provide direct services to veterans in Oregon.

Examples of services provided free of charge to veterans include legal assistance, housing support and services, outreach to tribal veterans, behavioral health services, peer-to-peer support services, and employment assistance programs.

More information can be found at oregon.gov/odva/agency-programs/grants/Pages/Veteran-Services-Grant.aspx.

VETERAN DESIGNATION ON OREGON DRIVER LICENSE

Oregon Driver & Motor Vehicle Services offers a veteran designation that can be voluntarily placed on Oregon driver licenses. In order to receive the designation, you must be a United States veteran, provide proof of veteran status and meet all other Oregon requirements for a driver license or identification card including payment of the original, renewal or replacement fee. There is no additional fee for the veteran designation. [Call your local DMV for more details.](#)

VETERAN HEALTH IDENTIFICATION CARD

A Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) is a photo ID card used to check in at federal VA health care appointments. The VHIC is issued only to veterans who are enrolled in VA health care and may be obtained in person at a VA medical center or online. It cannot be used as a credit or insurance card, and it does not authorize or pay for care at non-VA facilities. Learn more at www.va.gov/health-care/get-health-id-card.

VETERAN ID CARD

A Veteran ID Card (VIC) is a photo ID you can use to get veterans' discounts offered at restaurants, hotels, stores and other businesses. It is distinct from the ID cards the military issues to current service members, retirees and certain veterans with a 100% disability rating. You may be eligible if you served on active duty, in the Reserves or in the National Guard, and received an honorable or general discharge. As of September 2022, all Veteran ID Cards are digital. To apply, visit www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic.

MILITARY RECORDS & MEDALS

Veterans or their next of kin who need assistance in obtaining service records, a DD 214, or replacement awards and medals must formally request them through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). The NPRC is the records custodian for most discharged and retired members of all branches of service. Requests can be made by mailing or faxing a Standard Form 180. The forms are available in any veteran service office or online at www.archives.gov/veterans.

CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

Requests to have military records corrected are handled through each branch's Board for the Correction of Military Records. Requests must be filed within three years of discovery of the error and be supported by evidence, such as signed statements from witnesses or copies of other records that support your case. Applying for a correction is a simple process; however, it is recommended you use the services of a VSO or special advocate ([pages 7 and 10-11](#)).

APPLYING FOR REVIEW OF DISCHARGE

An application to upgrade the condition of your discharge status must be filed within 15 years of your discharge. If your discharge is older, you must apply for a change to your military records using the process detailed above. The required forms and other assistance can be obtained from a VSO or special advocate ([pages 7 and 10-11](#)).

DEERS LOCATIONS

If you are an active-duty, Reserve or National Guard service member, dependent or retiree, you can get a military ID at any DEERS location within Oregon. **Call ahead** to your local DEERS location for details.

BEND

Bend Armory
875 SW Simpson Ave.
Bend, OR 97702
971 355 7629

KLAMATH FALLS

Kingsley Field
211 Arnold Ave., Bldg 211 Rm 306
Klamath Falls, OR 97603
541 885 6133

NORTH BEND

U.S. Coast Guard
2000 Connecticut Ave.
North Bend, OR 97459
541 756 9665

PORTLAND

Oregon Air National Guard Base
6801 NE Cornfoot Rd. Bldg 170
Portland, OR 97218
503 335 4046

Naval & Marine Corps Reserve Center

6735 N Basin Ave.
Portland, OR 97217
503 285 4566, Ext 525

SALEM

Oregon National Guard
Anderson Readiness Center
3225 State St. NE, Rm 231
Salem, OR 97301
971 355 4376

SPRINGFIELD

Armed Forces Reserve Center
3106 Pierce Pkwy Suite A
Springfield, OR 97477
541 915 2391

WARRENTON

U.S. Coast Guard
2185 SE 12th Pl.
Warrenton, OR 97146
503 861 6300

EDUCATION BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS

VETERANS EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE GRANT

The Veterans Educational Bridge Grant was established in 2019 to provide financial assistance grants of up to \$5,000 to eligible veterans to alleviate the financial stress during a gap period when required courses are not available or when debt is on a student account, allowing them to remain enrolled in school or their apprenticeship training. Grant funds may also be used to pay off debt on a student account that is preventing enrollment in future terms. Learn more and apply online at oregon.gov/odva/agency-programs/grants/Pages/Educational-Bridge-Grant.aspx.

ODVA CAMPUS VETERANS COORDINATOR

ODVA's Campus Veteran Coordinator works directly with veteran resource coordinators at public universities and community colleges to help build a supportive community for veteran-serving campus professionals through advocacy, training, and regular meetings. The Campus Veterans Coordinator facilitates connections between campus partners and regional resources such as county and Tribal VSOs, VA medical and mental health care services, and others. The Campus Veterans Coordinator can be reached via email at campus.vets@odva.oregon.gov.

COLLEGE CREDIT FOR MILITARY TRAINING

All universities and local community colleges in Oregon use the recommendations made by the American Council on Education to award academic credit toward a degree for education and training received in the military. To claim college credit for military training, request a transcript from your military service branch. Each service branch will provide official copies to schools at no charge.

NONRESIDENT VETERAN IN-STATE TUITION

Nonresident veterans pursuing undergraduate studies pay tuition rates and fees no greater than the Oregon resident rate. Veterans must establish Oregon residency within one year of enrollment at one of the seven university campuses. To qualify, the nonresident veteran must have served in the Armed Forces and been relieved or discharged from that service under honorable conditions. Eligible nonresident student veterans should contact the financial aid office at Oregon universities to request this benefit.

STATEWIDE APPRENTICESHIPS

Eligible apprentices may be able to receive benefit payments from the GI Bill® while training in an apprenticeship program. If an existing apprenticeship program is not currently approved to administer GI Bill benefits, they may contact the State Approving Agency by phone at **503-373-**

7367 or email at ODVA_OregonSAA@odva.oregon.gov to apply for approval. Search for approved apprenticeship programs on the GI Bill Comparison Tool: www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool

STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR THE OREGON ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The State of Oregon now offers eligible members of the Oregon National Guard the chance to get an education without having to worry about paying for school tuition, provided they attend an Oregon community college or public university and are working toward an associate or bachelor's degree. For more information or to find out if you qualify, visit www.oregonarmyguard.com/education.

CAMPUS VETERAN RESOURCE CENTERS

Senate Bill 143 (2017) established the Campus Veteran Resource Center Grant Program to support campus veteran resource centers at all of Oregon's community colleges and public universities. Resource centers help veterans successfully transition from military service to college life, complete their education and achieve their vocational goals. Find campus veteran services online at www.oregon.gov/odva/services/pages/campus-veteran-services.aspx.

SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATION ASSISTANCE (DEA)

Both the state and federal VA have a dependent education benefit that provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents, spouses and survivors of 100% service-connected veterans. More information can be found in the Family Benefits section on [page 38](#).

POST-9/11 GI BILL®

The Post-9/11 GI Bill® provides financial support for tuition and housing to honorably discharged veterans with at least 90 days of aggregate service on Title 10 Active Duty or Title 32 Active Guard Reserve Duty after September 10, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. The Post-9/11 GI Bill® may pay eligible individuals up to the cost of full tuition and fees at the in-state rate for public schools.

A monthly housing allowance based on the basic allowance for housing for an E-5 with dependents may also be available. This benefit provides up to 36 months of education benefits and is now a lifetime benefit for veterans discharged after January 1, 2013. Prior to discharge, this benefit may be transferred to dependents and spouses based on number of years of active service. More information online at www.gibill.va.gov.

TILLMAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Pat Tillman Foundation's Tillman Scholars Program supports our nation's active-duty service members and veterans and their families by removing financial barriers to completing a degree or certification program of choice. The scholarships covers not only direct expenses such as tuition and fees but also other needs, including housing and child care. More information online at pattillmanfoundation.org/apply.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL® PROGRAMS

The Montgomery GI Bill® Active Duty (MGIB-AD) can help you pay for education and training programs if you've served at least two years on active duty. The amount you'll receive depends on your length of service, the type of education or training program you choose and other factors. The Montgomery GI Bill® Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) program offers up to 36 months of education and training benefits for members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, or Air National Guard. More information online at www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits.

YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM

The Yellow Ribbon Program can help you pay for higher out-of-state, private school, foreign school, or graduate school tuition and fees that the Post-9/11 GI Bill® doesn't cover. To be eligible, the student must be a veteran receiving benefits at the 100% benefit rate payable, a transfer-of-entitlement-eligible child or spouse of a veteran. The federal VA will match the school's percentage (up to 50%) to reduce or eliminate out-of-pocket costs for eligible participants.

To receive this benefit, your school must agree to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program. Many Oregon universities, colleges and institutions participate. Learn more online at www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/yellow-ribbon-program, or search for your school at www.va.gov/education/yellow-ribbon-participating-schools.

VETERAN READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

The Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Program provides veterans with service-connected disabilities help with job training, education, employment accommodations, resume development, and job seeking skills coaching. Other services may be provided to assist veterans and service members in starting their own businesses or independent-living services for those who are severely disabled and unable to work in traditional employment. Eligibility and entitlement for VR&E are two different things. You may meet eligibility criteria, yet not be entitled to services. The first step in the VR&E process is to be evaluated to determine if you qualify for services. More information online at www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab.



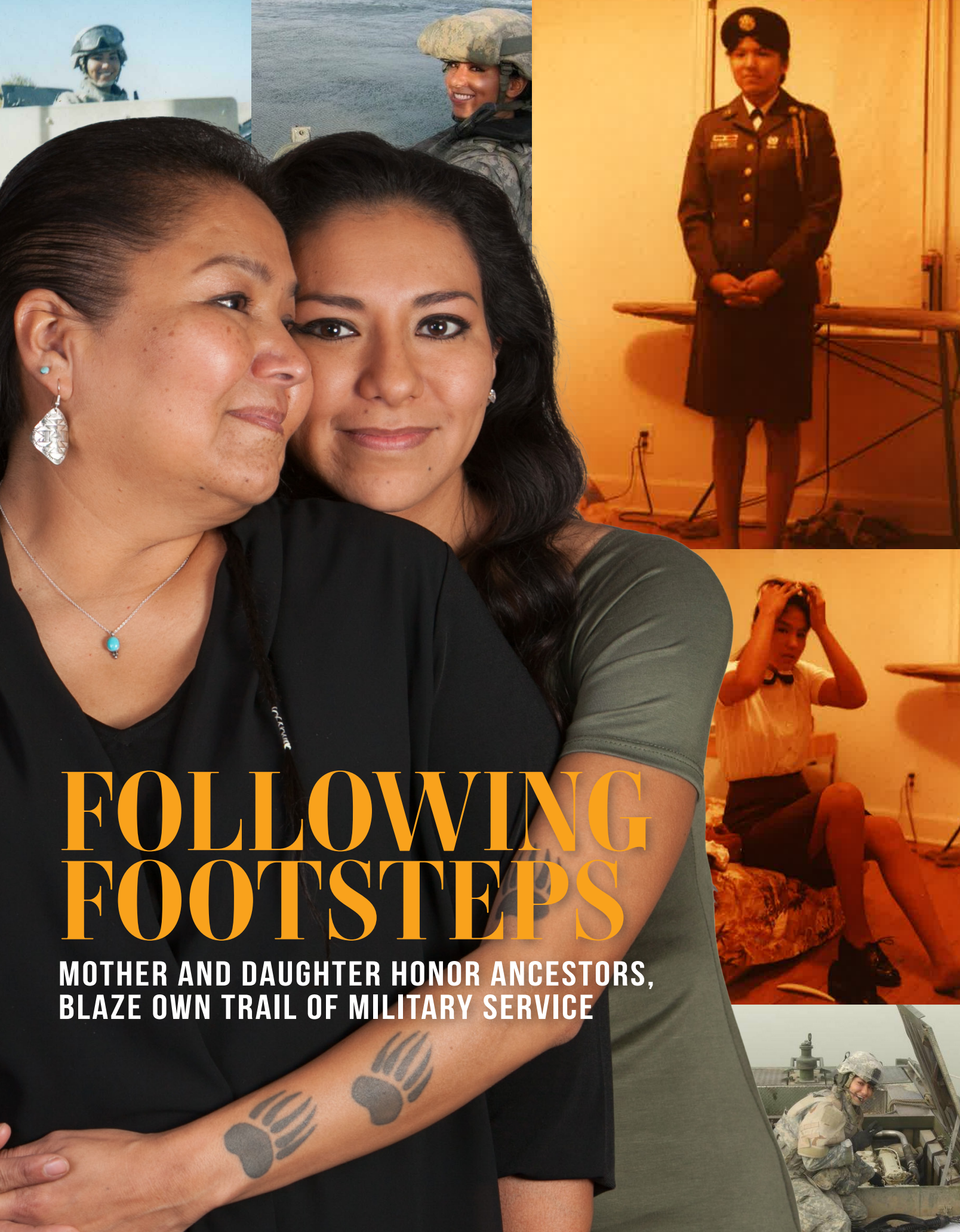
ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Did you know that your military service education benefits can be applied to on-the-job training opportunities as a first responder, electrician, plumber and many other quality trade and apprenticeship opportunities?

On-the-job training allows eligible veterans to use their Post-9/11 GI Bill®, Montgomery GI Bill® Active Duty, Montgomery GI Bill® Selected Reserve or the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits toward apprenticeship and on-the-job training opportunities rather than formal education.

Depending on your circumstances, this benefit can provide a monthly tax-free stipend on top of your base salary while still in probationary status. Dependents or survivors may also qualify.

For more information, contact ODVA at campusvets@odva.oregon.gov or visit va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/on-the-job-training-apprenticeships.



FOLLOWING FOOTSTEPS

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER HONOR ANCESTORS,
BLAZE OWN TRAIL OF MILITARY SERVICE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION

For many veterans, there is a deep sense of pride in walking in the footsteps of their brothers and sisters in arms who came before them.

For United States Army Tribal veteran Desireé Coyote and her daughter and fellow Army veteran, Genai Trixster, these feelings of pride, and following in the warrior's traditions, run even deeper.

Desireé was 16 when she enlisted in the Delayed Entry Program in 1976. At the time, she felt directionless and thought a major life change would do her good. Her home life was a challenge, to say the least, and racism against Native Americans was a sad and "constant" reality at her small school in rural Oregon.

"A change was necessary," Desireé recalled. "Mom agreed. She accompanied me and signed the paperwork at the local recruiting station."

It wasn't really until after completing her own service, as well as a tour as a military spouse, that Desireé began to fully recognize and connect with the warrior's spirit that runs strongly through her family and ancestral Tribes (Nez Perce on her father's side, Umatilla, Walla Walla and Cayuse on her mother's).

She soon learned that American Indians and Alaskan Natives serve in the United States military at a higher rate per capita than any other ethnic demographic — and at a rate that is five times

higher than the national average.

"There were many instances that reminded me that I served in the military and how proud I was knowing I was one of many Indigenous that served," she said. "When attending Indigenous celebrations, they would acknowledge Indigenous veterans with songs, dance and then an introduction of each prior or current service member. I stood up and danced with them! And soon, my daughter and I both joined the ceremonies — truly an honor for me."

**MY MOTHER AND I
STAND TOGETHER
WHEN VETERANS ARE
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IT IS IMPORTANT TO
SHOW THE PUBLIC
THAT WE,
INDIGENOUS
WOMEN VETERANS,
EXIST.**

— Genai Trixster

Desireé's daughter Sgt. Genai Trixster served 10 years in the Army Corps of Engineers, from 2004 to 2014, as a boat operator for Army bridge crews.

She served two deployments in Iraq (2006-07 and 2009-10).

"I watched the terrible events of 9/11 happen while sitting in my science class in high school," Genai recalled. "I understood when I signed up in 2004 that the war in the Middle East was still happening, that there was a good chance I would be sent to the Middle East."

She, too, found strength and motivation from following in the footsteps of her family members and loved ones who had also answered the call to serve.

"My motivation to serve mostly came from a want to prove to myself what I felt inside — that I could stand toe to toe and be as strong as those already serving or who had served before me," she said. "To serve the country and people that I love, to make a difference. I have a brother, mother, aunties and uncles, cousins, and grandfathers who have served in military branches across the board. I knew I could do it, too." Both mother and daughter have experienced the

frustrating lack of recognition that is too often the common experience shared by Tribal women veterans.

“During my early years in nonprofit work when attending meetings or conferences, when the event acknowledged veterans, silently I said to myself, ‘Hey, that’s me too!’” Desireé said. “When, in passing, someone would say out loud, ‘Thank you for your service,’ to a white man wearing a ball cap with his branch insignia, I would again, silently say to myself ‘Hey, that’s me too!’”

“I served 10 years in the U.S. Army, yet I am overlooked when people walk down the line shaking veterans’ hands,” Genai agreed.

“I do not fit the stereotypical veteran profile; I am a woman. I am proud of my time in service with the Army. I just wish I didn’t have to deal with situations or conversations where my military service is questioned or unobserved.”


While the lack of recognition as women and Tribal veterans can be frustrating, the pair also take pride in and draw strength from their unique status and experiences.

“The majority of my dad’s side, both men and women, serve but also a majority of the Nez Perce Tribal members served or have prior history serving,” Desireé said. “My dad, Clifford Allen Sr., served as a paratrooper during the Korean War. About half of my siblings served and two of my five children served. We, the original peoples of this land, have survived genocide, racism, termination, Caucasian religion, removal, and yet, we continue to protect our land, our people.”

“My mother and I stand together when veterans are called to walk with the flags of our country and military branches,” Genai added. “It is important to show the public that we, Indigenous women veterans, exist. It is our hope to have more women veterans stand up with us, as we know women veterans deserve recognition just as male veterans deserve recognition.”

Following their military service, both veterans pursued careers serving women and families, Genai as a lead in the Child Support Program for the Oregon Department of Justice, and Desireé as the manager of the Family Violence Services Program for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. As a survivor of domestic and sexual violence herself, the work is very personal for Desireé.

“I moved back to Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in 2002,” she explained. “Being new to my mom’s land and Tribe, I immediately took part in Tribal events, listened to community members who were willing to share their experiences, and listened to the experiences of survivors impacted by domestic and sexual violence, stalking, dating violence and elder abuse.

“The horrific experiences of survivors pushed me on to learn how to serve them better and I learned how to engage with systems that touch the lives of these survivors. As Indigenous peoples of this land, we have slowly but consistently been taking ourselves off the endangered list. The strides we’ve made locally have been great! As a Tribe, as a community, we continue to move forward, together.” 

TRIBAL VETERAN SERVICES IN OREGON

To learn more about veterans benefits, resources and services available to Tribal veterans and families in Oregon, or to connect with the Tribal veterans service officer nearest you, [see page 13](#) for a directory of offices throughout Oregon. You can also contact **ODVA's Tribal Veterans Coordinator** at tribal.veterans@odva.oregon.gov or call or text **971-239-6673**.

If you are a survivor of domestic or sexual violence, call or text the **National Domestic Violence Hotline** at **1-800-799-7233**, or find resources for Tribal members at www.justice.gov/usao-or/indian-country/resources.

Resources and services for non-Native Oregonians are available at www.oregon.gov/odhs/dv/pages/default.aspx and www.courts.oregon.gov/programs/family/domestic-violence/pages/default.aspx.

JOIN ODVA'S VETERAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM TODAY!



VOLUNTEER TO HELP VETERANS ACCESS THEIR EARNED BENEFITS



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

VETERAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

ODVA's Veteran Volunteer Program is now statewide! Whether you've served in the military or not, if you're 18 years or older, we welcome you to join our cause, and start making a difference in the lives of veterans across Oregon.

As a volunteer, you'll receive training to raise awareness about federal and state veterans benefits, and help expand outreach efforts alongside the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs and our partners. Your efforts directly impact the lives of veterans by providing crucial information and support. You'll assist veterans in understanding and accessing state and federal services, guide them to state-certified VSOs or other agencies, and contribute to expanding our outreach initiatives.

Let's work together to empower our veterans and ensure they receive the benefits they've earned!

READY TO LEND A HAND TO THOSE WHO'VE SERVED OUR COUNTRY?

Visit www.oregon.gov/odva/benefits/pages/volunteer-program.aspx to learn more and fill out our interest form. For any inquiries, contact us at **503-373-2057** or **Veteran.Volunteer@odva.oregon.gov**.

VETERAN EMPLOYMENT



PUBLIC SECTOR OREGON VETERANS' PREFERENCE

Under Oregon law, a public employer must grant preference to a veteran or disabled veteran who applies for a vacant civil service position or seeks promotion to a job if the veteran successfully completes an application screening, exam or civil service test, and meets the minimum and any special qualifications for the job.

The law calls for public employers to add five percentage points for a veteran and 10 percentage points for a disabled veteran to their total examination score. If the employer doesn't score applicants for promotions, then the agency must "devise and apply methods" to give special consideration to veterans and disabled veterans. More information on veterans' preference within Oregon public sector jobs can be found on BOLI's website at oregon.gov/jobs/pages/veterans.aspx.

FEDERAL VETERANS' PREFERENCE

Veterans' preference gives eligible veterans preference in appointment over many other applicants. Veterans' preference applies to virtually all new appointments in both the competitive and excepted service.

Veterans' preference does not guarantee veterans a job and it does not apply to internal agency actions such as promotions, transfers, reassignments and reinstatements.

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

Only veterans discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions are eligible for veterans' preference. This means the discharge must have been under an honorable or general discharge conditions. Retired members of the armed forces are eligible if a disability rating has been awarded by the military or federal VA or the retirement was below the rank of major or its equivalent.

There are three types of preference eligibles, disabled (10 point preference eligible), non-disabled (5 point preference eligible) and sole survivorship preference (0 point preference eligible). Zero-point preference eligible means that no points are added to the passing score or rating of a veteran who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother or one or more siblings.

Learn more about eligibility to receive veteran preference for federal jobs at www.opm.gov/fedshirevets.

WORKSOURCE OREGON PRIORITY OF SERVICE

Through Worksource Oregon, veterans and their spouses may qualify for priority of service in employment and training services. This includes priority referrals to jobs and other services over non-veteran applicants with the same qualifications.

WorkSource staff give priority of service if:

- You are a veteran that served at least one day in the active-duty military service, and were discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable; or
- You are an eligible spouse of a veteran; or
- You are a National Guard member who has been mobilized by federal authorities (i.e., activated and deployed under presidential orders).

OREGON DISABLED VETERAN AND VETERAN EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVES

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 through the Employment Department. These offices have specialists who work directly with veterans and disabled veterans to find employment.

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialists (DVOPs) and Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVERs) assist veterans in applying for federal, state, local government and private sector employment.

DVOPs and LVERs have offices to serve all veterans in more than 20 Oregon cities. Find eligibility information or locate a veteran employment rep at www.worksourceoregon.org/jobseekers.

DIRECT PROFESSIONAL LICENSING FOR MILITARY EXPERIENCE

Thanks to an Oregon law passed in 2012, you may be able to attain official accreditation for skills gained from your military experience.

The program, designed to quickly get service members back to work after serving in the military, requires certain professional licensing agencies and boards in Oregon to accept military training or experience as an allowable substitution for traditional civilian education or experience required for licensure, certification or registration. That means veterans in certain fields don't need to go back to school for training they have already received in the military.

Direct licensing does not apply to all vocations; however, professions that are named include: private security professional, teacher, engineer, land surveyor, psychologist, occupational therapist, occupational therapy assistant, physician assistant, nursing assistant, denture

technology, chiropractor, physical therapist, radiologist, hemodialysis technician, athletic trainer, respiratory care, pharmacist, pharmacy technician, cosmetologist, mortician, embalmer, polygraph examiner, private investigator, and commercial driver.

Certain professions may have special requirements that must be met in addition to military education or experience.

STATEWIDE APPRENTICESHIPS

Oregon Apprenticeship opportunities are offered through the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI). If eligible, an apprentice may use veterans' educational benefits while registered in an apprenticeship program.

If an existing apprenticeship program does not have an approved veteran's program in place, veterans can coordinate the establishment of a new training program by communicating with an employer and the Apprenticeship and Training Division.

Typically, an apprenticeship lasts two to five years, depending on industry requirements.

Contact the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry at **971-673-0761** or www.oregon.gov/boli.

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

Did you know that your military service education benefits can be applied to on-the-job training opportunities as a first responder, electrician, plumber, and many other apprenticeship opportunities?

On-the-job training (OJT) allows eligible veterans to use their Post-9/11 GI Bill®, Montgomery GI Bill®, Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve or the Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits toward apprenticeship and on-the-job training opportunities rather than formal education.

Depending on your circumstances, OJT can provide a monthly tax-free stipend on top of your base salary while still in probationary status. Dependents or survivors may also qualify.

For more information, contact the ODVA Campus Veterans Coordinator at CampusVets@odva.oregon.gov or visit va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/on-the-job-training-apprenticeships.

COMPANY VETERAN PROGRAMS

Often, private companies, such as banks, technology corporations and other competitive fields have programs designed to attract, prepare and hire veterans and transitioning service members, based on the proven leadership skills and other talents veterans bring to the workplace. Look for such programs on company websites.

BURIAL BENEFITS

PRE-NEED BURIAL ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

The federal VA has implemented a pre-need burial eligibility determination program to assist anyone who would like to know if they are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery. Veterans and their eligible family members are encouraged to plan in advance to use federal VA burial benefits that veterans have earned through their military service. Planning in advance for a veteran's or loved one's final resting place can eliminate unnecessary delays and reduce stress on a family at a difficult time.

Burial in a national cemetery is open to all members of the U.S. Armed Forces and veterans who have met minimum active duty service requirements, as applicable by law, and were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Spouses, minor children and, under certain conditions, dependent unmarried adult children are also eligible for burial even if they predecease the veteran.

For more information or to apply, work with a local VSO (see page 7) or visit www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility.

SERVICE-CONNECTED DEATH

If a veteran's death is service-connected, the VA will pay a burial allowance. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of moving the veteran's body to the national cemetery nearest the veteran's home may also be reimbursed. There is no time limit for applying for a service-connected burial allowance. The person who bore the veteran's burial expense may claim reimbursement from any VA regional office. For full eligibility requirements, visit www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance.

NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DEATH

Under certain circumstances, the federal VA may pay a non-service-connected burial allowance if they determine the veteran's passing was not related to their military service. The non-service-connected burial allowance amount paid depends on the circumstances of the veteran's passing, such as if they were hospitalized by the VA at the time of their death. A claim for this non-service-connected burial allowance must be filed within two years of the veteran's burial or cremation. For

full eligibility requirements, visit www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-burial.asp.

BURIAL PLOT ALLOWANCE

When a veteran is buried in a cemetery that is not under U.S. government jurisdiction, the federal VA may also pay a plot allowance, provided that the veteran was discharged under a condition other than dishonorable and meets other qualifications similar to that of a non-service-connected death.

FILING A CLAIM FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES

To file for reimbursement of burial expenses, an Application of Burial Allowance form must be submitted to the VA. The person filing the claim must also provide a certified copy of the veteran's death certificate and proof of the veteran's military service (Form DD 214), and itemized bills of the funeral and burial expenses.

BURIAL FLAG

A United States 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 a veteran's military service to his or her country. When burial is in a national, state or post cemetery, a burial flag will automatically be provided. When burial is in a private cemetery, the funeral director will generally help the next of kin with this process.

BURIAL AT SEA

The VA National Cemetery Administration cannot provide burial at sea. For information, contact the U.S. Navy Mortuary Affairs office toll free at **866-787-0081**.

PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATES

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current president, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans. More information can be found online at www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items/presidential-memorial-certificates.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

The Department of Defense is responsible for providing dignified military funeral honors to

OREGON NATIONAL CEMETERIES

veterans who have defended our nation, including folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of "Taps."

More information is available at www.cem.va.gov/military_funeral_honors.asp.

HEADSTONES, MARKERS, AND BRONZE MEDALLIONS

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

For eligible veterans that died on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone, the VA may also furnish a headstone or marker to supplement the grave or a medallion to be affixed to the privately purchased headstone. Eligible veterans are entitled to either a government-furnished headstone or marker, or the medallion, but not both.

If requested, the medallion is furnished in lieu of a traditional government headstone or marker. For more information, visit www.cem.va.gov/hmm/types.asp.

PLAN A VETERAN BURIAL

It is always a good idea for families of veterans to know where military discharge paperwork (DD 214) is located. This document is proof of a veterans eligibility for burial benefits. If you are unable to locate this document, an Oregon Funeral Home is able to assist you in requesting an expedited copy from the National Archives.

Funeral Homes in Oregon are able to assist in planning a veteran burial, including helping you communicate with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to arrange for items such as a Presidential Memorial Certificate, veteran headstones or markers, and burial in a VA National Cemetery.

This includes the gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, a grave box, and perpetual care.



EAGLE POINT NATIONAL CEMETERY
2763 Riley Road
Eagle Point, OR 97524
541 826 2511



FORT STEVENS NATIONAL CEMETERY
1090 Russell Drive
Hammond, OR 97121
541 273 5250



ROSEBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY
913 N.W. Garden Valley Blvd.
Roseburg, OR 97471
541 677 3152



WILLAMETTE NATIONAL CEMETERY
11800 S.E. Mount Scott Blvd.
Portland, OR 97086-6937
503 273 5250



GOVERNOR LEADS ON VETERANS' SERVICES

Oregon Governor Tina Kotek has been a stalwart supporter of the Oregon Veterans' Homes and a firm leader in expanding services and benefits for veterans throughout her time in office. From visiting the Oregon Veterans' Home in Lebanon to meet with honored residents, family members, staff and community members (pictured above) to her early and pivotal support of the effort to build a third Veterans' Home in Roseburg, Governor Kotek has been a vocal and visible proponent of ensuring access to the highest possible care and services for our state's most vulnerable veterans.

The governor has emphasized funding for veterans' services in the key areas of housing and homelessness, mental and behavioral health (especially suicide prevention and intervention), and education. And she has underscored her support of aging, vulnerable and other underrepresented veteran communities by her many appearances at veterans' events, including ODVA's Oregon Remembers Statewide Memorial Day Ceremony at the Oregon World War II Memorial in Salem and the Korean War Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Oregon Korean War Memorial in Wilsonville, and appointing Dr. Nakeia Council Daniels as the first Black woman to lead the state veterans' affairs department in its 80-year history.

OREGON VETERANS' HOMES

STATE VETERANS' HOMES

A veterans' home is a facility that offers skilled nursing, rehabilitation and memory care to veterans, spouses and surviving spouses of veterans, and Gold Star parents who are in need of this care. The Oregon Veterans' Homes are owned and operated by the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. One of the main differences between the Oregon Veterans' Homes and other skilled-nursing facilities is that we have the privilege of concentrating on serving veterans and their families. We take pride in serving our residents with the honor and dignity they deserve after their service and sacrifice for our country. We do this through recognizing military culture, honoring traditions and respecting each resident's personal experiences.

SKILLED NURSING CARE

In order to be admitted to any Oregon Veterans' Home, a resident must be in need of 24-hour nursing care as recommended by their primary care physician, and the federal VA must concur with the physician on this assessment. Skilled nursing care is when a person needs assistance with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, eating and ambulation. The Homes' nursing model features individualized, goal-oriented care that includes comprehensive around-the-clock services, on-call physician coverage, medication administration, a quality memory care unit, certified physical rehabilitation, and speech and occupational therapists.

REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation care includes services that help you keep, get back or improve activities of daily living and can include physical, occupational or speech therapy.

This skilled service is available to any resident at an OVH who requires short-term rehabilitative aid during their recovery to allow them to return home after hospitalization. The Home's nursing team is complemented by physical, occupational, and speech therapists who provide specific physician-ordered services that help our guests meet their maximum rehabilitative potential.

MEMORY CARE

We are dedicated to serving the unique medical needs of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of memory-related conditions. We focus on the individual needs of each respected resident and family we serve. The primary goal is the highest possible quality of life for our honored guests.

COST

Veterans who have a 70% or greater service-connected disability and are in need of skilled nursing care due to their disability may be eligible to have their cost of care covered by the federal VA. The Homes are also Medicare- and Medicaid-certified, and the veteran's private pay rate is significantly lower than most nursing homes in Oregon. Veteran residents are also permitted to combine private, federal and/or Medicare or Medicaid to cover daily costs. Specialized memory care is an additional cost.

ADMISSIONS

Our staff will gladly assist veterans and their families to determine the best options for financing your living arrangements and cost of care. Visit our websites below or call today to speak with our admissions teams or learn more about our Oregon Veterans' Homes.



OREGON VETERANS' HOME — THE DALLES

700 Veterans Drive, The Dalles
541 296 7190

www.thedalles.oregonveteranshomes.com



OREGON VETERANS' HOME — LEBANON

600 North 5th Street, Lebanon
541 497 7265

www.lebanon.oregonveteranshomes.com

CONSERVATORSHIP SERVICES

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Conservatorship Program serves veterans, their surviving spouses, minor children or helpless adult children of veterans, and dependent parents.

Professional Trust Officers assist Oregon veterans in managing their financial affairs and property while helping ease the burdens often associated with paying bills, collecting funds on debts owed to the veteran, corresponding with creditors, buying or selling real estate, or other investments. Trust officers are experts in Oregon law, administrative rules and veterans law and regulation. Whenever possible, they work closely with family members in planning for the welfare and best interest of the veteran, their spouse or dependent.

A conservator is granted possession of all income and assets, and establishes a personal budget and pays for care, personal needs, dependent support, property maintenance, etc., according to that budget. A conservator applies for all benefits for which the protected person may be eligible and invests or otherwise conserves unused funds.

An accounting of financial activities is submitted to the court, the federal VA, protected persons and others as required by law. For a person with substantial income, assets or property who is unable to manage his or her finances well enough to provide adequate care themselves, a conservator may be needed. Causes may include mental illness or deficiency, physical illness or disability, chronic use of alcohol or controlled substances, disappearance or confinement and helpless or minor children.

A petition asking for the appointment of a conservator may be submitted to a court by anyone interested in the estate, affairs or welfare of the person. The court appoints a conservator and the order remains in effect until the person's condition improves, age of majority is reached, or until death.

REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE

ODVA also offers Representative Payee Services for veteran clients and their dependents. As a representative payee, ODVA acts in a limited capacity to pay the bills on behalf of their clients. Contact ODVA to learn more about the Conservatorship or Representative Payee Program at [503-373-2085](tel:503-373-2085).

OREGON VETERANS' HOMES

Oregon currently has Veterans' Homes located in

The Dalles and Lebanon. These homes offer skilled nursing, rehabilitative and memory care in an environment that understands the unique needs of veterans. More information on [pages 32-33](#).

PATIENT ADVOCATE

The federal VA Patient Advocacy Program is for all veterans and their families who receive care at any federal VA health care facility and need someone to help with care concerns. If you need help getting care or getting your problems resolved, talk to the Patient Advocate at your nearest federal VA Medical Center ([listed on page 13](#)).

OREGON OMBUDSMAN OFFICE

The Oregon Ombudsman Office helps residents living in licensed long-term care facilities address issues of quality of care, residents' rights, charges for services, and more. Services are free and confidential. Anyone concerned about the care and well-being of residents can call [1-800-522-2602](tel:1-800-522-2602).

PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS (PFAFC)

The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) is for eligible veterans who have incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty. This program may provide resources, education, support, a financial stipend, health insurance and beneficiary travel to caregivers of eligible veterans. For more information, visit www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers or call the toll-free Caregiver Support Line at [1-855-260-3274](tel:1-855-260-3274).

CAREGIVER SUPPORT COORDINATORS

Caregiver Support Coordinators are stationed at every federal VA medical center and can help caregivers navigate the services and supports that are available to them. Learn more about the VA's Caregiver Support Program, or locate the caregiver support coordinator closest to you at www.caregiver.va.gov.

RESPIRE CARE

This service provides supportive care to veterans on a short-term basis to give the caregiver a planned period of relief from the physical and emotional demands associated with providing care. Respite care can be provided in the home or other non-institutional settings. Learn more at www.va.gov/geriatrics/pages/Respite_Care.asp.

GERIATRICS AND EXTENDED CARE RESOURCES

The federal VA's website serves as a



comprehensive hub of information and support for aging veterans and their caregivers, offering resources to help navigate the complexities of geriatric care within the VA system. The site offers comprehensive information on geriatric and extended care services provided by the VA, including details on programs, initiatives, and resources tailored to meet the unique needs of aging veterans including:

Caregiver Support: Information, resources and support for caregivers of elderly veterans, including information on caregiver support programs, respite care options, and educational materials to assist caregivers in providing quality care to their loved ones.

Advanced Care Planning: Information on advanced care planning resources and tools to help veterans and their families make informed decisions about end-of-life care preferences and advance directives.

Community Resources: Links to community-based resources and organizations that provide support and services for older veterans, including information on veteran service organizations, senior centers, and community healthcare providers.

Visit the federal VA's website at www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/index.asp for more information about geriatrics and extended care.

OREGON VETERAN HOME LOAN PROGRAM

ODVA HOME LOAN PROGRAM

The ODVA Home Loan was the first official benefit offered by the State of Oregon to veterans when the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs was established in 1945 — and remains one of the agency's signature programs to this day. Oregon is one of only five states that offers a veteran home loan program. This state benefit is available exclusive to Oregon veterans, separate and distinct from the federal VA's home loan guaranty, and has lent approximately \$8 billion in low-interest home loans to more than 334,000 veterans since its inception.

HIGHLIGHTS

The ODVA Home Loan Program offers eligible veterans fixed-rate financing for:

- One owner-occupied, single-family residence.
- Up to the Fannie Mae limit.
- Purchase only (no refinancing is available).
- Is a lifetime veterans benefit and may be used up to four times by an eligible veteran.

LOAN SERVICING

ODVA is both the lender and servicer for all home loans issued through our program. This allows for excellent and familiar customer service for veteran borrowers and flexibility over the life of the loan. Our goal is to help all Oregon veterans achieve their dream of home ownership. With eight decades of exclusively serving Oregon veteran borrowers, ODVA is your **Oregon veteran home loan experts!**

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, a veteran must meet at least one of the following three service criteria:

1) Have served on active duty:

- For more than 90 consecutive days beginning on or before Jan. 31, 1955; or
- For more than 178 consecutive days beginning after Jan. 31, 1955; or
- For 178 days or less and discharged because of a service-connected disability; or
- For 178 days or less and has a disability rating from the federal VA; or
- For at least one day in a combat zone.

2) Received a combat, campaign or expeditionary ribbon or medal for service; or

3) Is receiving a non-service-connected pension from the federal VA.

GETTING STARTED

After establishing eligibility with ODVA, veterans work through local brokers and lenders to originate their state home loan benefit. Working with a local broker or lender to get an ODVA home loan is easy. To find a participating mortgage loan originator or lender in your area, please contact our Home Loan Program specialists.

Call us toll-free at **1-800-633-6826**, email us at orvetshomeloans@odva.oregon.gov, or visit www.orvethomeloans.com.

ODVA HOME LOAN PROGRAM RATES*

| PROGRAM | LTV | RATE | FEE | APR |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 30-Year Fixed Rate (QVMB Funds**) | Up to 95% LTV | 6.250% 6.000% | 0.000% 1.375% | 6.268% 6.148% |
| 30-Year Fixed Rate (Unrestricted Funds***) | Up to 95% LTV | 6.500% 6.250% | 0.000% 1.375% | 6.518% 6.400% |
| 20-Year Fixed Rate (QVMB Funds**) | Up to 95% LTV | 6.000% 5.750% | 0.000% 1.375% | 6.023% 5.944% |
| 20-Year Fixed Rate (Unrestricted Funds***) | Up to 95% LTV | 6.250% 6.000% | 0.000% 1.375% | 6.274% 6.196% |

Loans that meet the limited ODVA refinance criteria MUST be priced at the "Unrestricted Funds" rates and fees, regardless of veteran's discharge date. The refinance program criteria can be found on the ODVA Home Loan Program synopsis available at www.orvethomeloans.com.

Annual Percentage Rates based on \$350,000, 30-year loan with 20% down. This information, which is general in nature, is based on applicable federal and state laws, Administrative Rules, and the policies and procedures of ODVA. Interest rates are subject to change.

* Rates current and effective as of April 22, 2024. Rates are subject to change. Visit qr.fy.io/r/ODVAHomeLoanRates for an updated rate sheet.

**QVMB Funds are for veterans whose discharge date is within 25 years from date of loan lock/reservation of funds.

***Unrestricted Funds are for veterans whose discharge date is more than 25 years from date of loan lock/reservation of funds.

HOUSING AND ADAPTIVE GRANTS

VA HOME LOAN GUARANTY

Unlike in the ODVA Home Loan Program, the federal VA does not actually lend money to veterans. Federal VA guaranteed loans are made by private lenders, such as banks, savings and loans, or mortgage companies. The VA guaranty means the lender is protected if the veteran fails to repay the loan. You can apply for a VA loan with any mortgage lender that participates in the VA home loan program. The spouse of a veteran can also apply for home loan eligibility. Visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans or call the Home Loan Eligibility Center at **888-768-2132** for more information.

SPECIAL HOME ADAPTATION AND SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING GRANTS

Through the Special Home Adaptation (SHA) Program, the federal VA may approve a grant for the actual cost, up to a maximum of **\$23,444** (for fiscal year 2024) for adaptations to a veteran's residence that are determined by the VA to be reasonably necessary. A temporary Residence Adaptation Grant in the amount of up to **\$8,415** may be available to adapt a family member's home if a veteran currently qualifies for the SHA.

Through the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Program, the federal VA may approve a grant of not more than half of the cost of building, buying or remodeling adapted homes, or paying indebtedness on homes previously acquired, up to a maximum of **\$117,014** for fiscal year 2024. Veterans must be entitled to compensation for permanent and total service-connected disability to qualify. A temporary Residence Adaptation Grant in the amount of up to **\$47,130** may be available to adapt a family member's home if a veteran currently qualifies for the SAH.

For more information about SHA and SAH grants, visit www.va.gov/housing-assistance/disability-housing-grants.

HOUSING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM

The federal VA, through its Specially Adapted Housing Assistive Technology (SAHAT) Grant Program, is authorized to award grants of up to \$200,000 per fiscal year to encourage the development of specially adapted housing assistive technologies. For more information on the SAHAT Grant Program, visit www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/sahat.asp.

SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCING LOAN GUARANTY

Veterans who have available loan guaranty entitlement may also obtain a guaranteed loan

or possibly a direct loan from the federal VA to supplement the grants to acquire a specially adapted home. For more information, visit www.va.gov/housing-assistance/disability-housing-grants.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS (HISA)

The HISA program provides funding for disabled veterans to make home improvements necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home, essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. Disabled veterans may be eligible for HISA when it is determined medically necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of the service-connected disability. For more information about the HISA program, visit www.prosthetics.va.gov/psas/HISA2.asp.

OREGON DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE (DPA)

Down payment assistance program funds are awarded to organizations throughout the state to create, continue and expand their existing down payment assistance programs.

When funds are available, they are from the state's document recording fee, and certain jurisdictions' Construction Excise Taxes collected. A portion of these funds is distributed to Oregon Housing and Community Services to support home ownership for low- to moderate-income families and individuals, with a percentage of funds reserved specifically for Oregon veterans.

Please contact the awarded organization serving your area for their program availability and requirements. The list of current awarded organizations, along with more information about DPA, can be found at www.oregon.gov/ohcs/homeownership/pages/downpayment.aspx.

OREGON PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

If you are a disabled veteran or the surviving spouse or registered domestic partner of a veteran, you may be entitled to exempt **\$25,537 or \$30,646** (in 2024) of your homestead property's assessed value from property taxes. The exemption amount increases by 3% each year. The exemption is first applied to your home and then to your taxable personal property.

Active-duty service members, including National Guard and military reserve forces, as well as the surviving spouses of veterans, may also qualify for a residential property tax exemption. For more details, visit the Department of Revenue online at www.oregon.gov/DOR/programs/property/Pages/exemptions.aspx or your county assessor.



DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is the primary monthly monetary benefit payable to surviving dependents of a deceased veteran, and is the equivalent benefit to disability compensation for veterans. This benefit is payable if the veteran died while on active duty, in the line of duty and not due to willful misconduct; or, if death was after service, the death was caused or attributed to a service-connected disability. DIC may also be established if a veteran was 100% service-connected disabled for 10 consecutive years, and a spouse was married to the veteran for at least one year prior to the veteran's passing.

DEATH (SURVIVORS) PENSIONS

Death, or Survivors, Pension is a needs-based benefit paid to an unremarried surviving spouse or an unmarried child who meets certain age or disability requirements, of a deceased wartime veteran. In order to qualify for the federal VA Death Pension, the VA calculates income received from most sources by the surviving spouse and any eligible children, deducting out-of-pocket medical. If the income is below a certain level, the dependent or surviving spouse may be eligible for this pension.

SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN

When a military retiree dies, their retirement pay stops. One option for surviving spouses is the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). The SBP is an insurance plan that will pay the veteran's surviving spouse a monthly payment (annuity) to help make up for the loss of retirement income. The qualifying veteran must opt in and agree to pay into the program with a monthly stipend from their retirement benefits to qualify. For more information, call **800-321-1080**.

BURIAL BENEFITS

Dependents and surviving spouses of an eligible veteran are eligible to be buried in national cemeteries ([see page 30](#)). When a death occurs and eligibility for interment in a national cemetery is determined, grave space is assigned by the cemetery director in the name of the veteran or family member. One gravesite is permitted for the interment of all eligible family members, unless soil conditions or the number of family decedents necessitate more than one grave. There is no charge for burial in a national cemetery.

VA HOME LOAN GUARANTY

The spouse of a veteran can also apply for home loan eligibility under one of the following

conditions: Unremarried spouse of a veteran who died while in service or from a service-connected disability, or spouse of a service member missing in action or a prisoner of war, or surviving spouse who remarries on or after attaining age 57.

CHAMPVA AND TRICARE

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the VA (CHAMPVA) is a comprehensive health care program in which the VA shares the cost of covered health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. Due to the similarity between CHAMPVA and the Department of Defense (DoD) TRICARE program, the two are often mistaken for each other.

CHAMPVA is a federal VA program, whereas TRICARE is a regionally managed health care program for active duty and retired members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors. In some cases, a veteran may look to be eligible for both/either program on paper. However, if you are a military retiree, or the spouse of a veteran who was killed in action, you are and will always be a TRICARE beneficiary.

Learn more about CHAMPVA at www.va.gov/health-care/family-caregiver-benefits/champva or call TriCare at 888-847-9378.

POST-9/11 GI BILL TRANSFER OF ENTITLEMENT

Some service members may be eligible to transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill® benefits to their family members. An individual approved to transfer months of benefits entitlement under this section may choose to transfer entitlement to the individual's spouse, or one or more children, or any combination of spouse and child.

A service member must be on active duty or actively serving in the reserves in order to be eligible to transfer benefits. Eligible family members must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS), and be eligible for benefits at the time of transfer. Visit www.va.gov/education/transfer-post-9-11-gi-bill-benefits.

OREGON VETERANS DEPENDENT TUITION WAIVER

This state benefit provides a full tuition waiver (excluding fees) for a bachelor's, master's or associate degree at a public university or community college for children and spouses (who have not remarried) of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who either died in active duty,

became 100% disabled in connection with military service (universities only), or died as a result of a disability sustained in active duty. Family members of recipients who earned a Purple Heart after September 11, 2001, are also eligible to receive a tuition waiver from Oregon universities. Eligibility differs slightly for community colleges and universities. Call the college admissions department or check the school's website for detailed information on this benefit.

SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (DEA)

If you're the child or spouse of a veteran or service member who has died, is captured or missing, or has disabilities, you may be able to get help paying for school or job training through the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program — also called Chapter 35. The program offers up to 36 months of education benefits for many types of education and training including degree programs, certificate courses at private career schools, apprenticeships, or other on-the-job training.

You may also get educational and career counseling. For more information, including current DEA payment rates, visit www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/dependents-education-assistance.

JOHN DAVID FRY SCHOLARSHIP

Children or surviving spouses of a member of the Armed Forces or the Selected Reserve who died on or after September 11, 2001, may be eligible for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship). The Fry Scholarship pays out benefits similar to the Post 9/11 GI Bill®. Learn more about eligibility and apply online at www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/fry-scholarship.

PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) is for eligible veterans who have incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975, or on or after September 11, 2001. This program may provide resources, education, support, a financial stipend, health insurance and beneficiary travel to caregivers of eligible veterans.

For more information, visit www.caregiver.va.gov/support/support_benefits.asp or call the toll-free Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274.



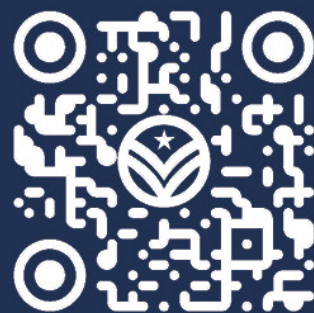
STAY CONNECTED.

Want to keep up with the latest Oregon veterans' benefits and news that are relevant to you? **Subscribe to updates from ODVA by email or text!**

ODVA's email or text service is provided to Oregon veterans and family members completely free of charge and can be discontinued at any time.

Subscribe only to the topics and benefit areas that interest you — as many as you'd like, with dozens of topics to choose from. By law, ODVA will never sell or share your information with outside parties. Standard messaging rates will apply.

To subscribe, scan the QR code or visit qrify.io/r/ODVAsubscribe.
For more information or questions, email us at ODVAPUBLIC_INFO@odva.oregon.gov.



JUSTICE-INVOLVED AND INCARCERATED VETERANS

ODVA INCARCERATED VETERANS PROGRAM

ODVA's Incarcerated Veteran Coordinators assist veterans transitioning into state prisons and as they transition back to their communities. Coordinators work to mitigate negative outcomes of incarceration for veterans and their families. This includes ensuring timely notification to the federal VA of the veteran's incarceration to minimize overpayments, addressing overpayments by establishing payment plans, and transferring withheld monetary benefits to family members if financial need can be established. A targeted outcome of the program is to help veterans access resources upon release, ultimately successfully reintegrating back into their communities and decreasing likelihood of recidivism. For more information, email incarceratedvets@odva.oregon.gov.

BENEFITS FOR INCARCERATED VETERANS

Federal VA benefits are affected if a beneficiary is convicted of a felony and imprisoned for more than 60 days. Disability compensation paid to an incarcerated veteran rated 20% or more disabled is limited to the 10% rate. Payments are not reduced for participants in work-release programs, residing in halfway houses or under community control. Failure to notify the VA of a veteran's incarceration can result in overpayment of benefits and the subsequent loss of all VA financial benefits until the overpayment is recovered. The VA may be able to take a portion of the amount that an incarcerated veteran is not receiving and pay it to his or her dependents, if they can show need. When a veteran is released from prison, his or her compensation or pension benefits may be restored. Depending upon the type of disability, the VA may schedule a medical examination to see if the veteran's disability has improved or worsened. For more information, contact your local veterans service officer ([page 7](#)), or visit www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-incarcerated.asp.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

Oregon's Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs) are designed to serve eligible justice-involved service members and veterans with substance use disorders, mental health disorders or trauma. Treatment courts are an evidence-based model, proven effective at promoting accountability, facilitating treatment and recovery, and decreasing repeat offenses.

Treatment courts help participants achieve stability and contribute productively to their communities. VTCs connect military participants

with local, state, and federal benefits and services and often involve volunteer veteran mentors who provide non-clinical support. In addition to providing a range of support services, treatment courts emphasize accountability through regular attendance and engagement with the court, treatment compliance, and drug testing.

As of 2024, there are five VTCs in Oregon, serving Columbia, Klamath, Lane, Marion and Washington counties. Even if there isn't a VTC in a specific county or community, service members, veterans and their families may also be engaged with other treatment court types, depending on factors such as eligibility requirements and location. For more information about local treatment courts and eligibility requirements, contact your attorney, a Veteran Justice Outreach Specialist, or your local circuit court. You can also contact Oregon's Office of the State Court Administrator by email at sca.esd.treatment.court.staff@ojd.or.us.

VETERANS JUSTICE OUTREACH PROGRAM

The federal VA's Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Program offers outreach and case management to veterans involved in law enforcement encounters, overseen by treatment courts, and incarcerated in local jails. The purpose of the VJO initiative is to avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among veterans by ensuring that eligible justice-involved veterans have timely access to mental health and substance abuse services when clinically indicated, and other VA services and benefits as appropriate. Each VA medical center has been asked to designate a facility-based Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, responsible for direct outreach, assessment, and case management for justice-involved Veterans in local courts and jails, and liaison with local justice system partners. For more information or to find VJO contacts near you, visit www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp.

HEALTH CARE FOR REENTRY VETERANS (HCRV) SERVICES AND RESOURCES

Most veterans who are in jail or prison will eventually reenter the community. The federal VA's HCRV program is designed to promote success and prevent homelessness among veterans returning home after incarceration. HCRV services include: outreach and prerelease assessments services for veterans in prison; referrals to medical, mental health and social services, including employment services on release; and short-term case management assistance. Learn more at www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp.

VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES

OREGONBUYS STATEWIDE ePROCUREMENT SYSTEM

All procurement and contract opportunities within the State of Oregon enterprise are now posted online on OregonBuys. A vendor must be registered in the OregonBuys eProcurement system to bid on state opportunities.

To register or for more information, visit OregonBuys.gov and click "Complete Registration." There is no cost to sign up. For assistance, contact support.oregonbuys@das.oregon.gov or 1-855-800-5046.

DISABLED VETERANS PREFERENCE IN STATE PROCUREMENT

In carrying out a goal, action or program, Oregon state agencies may limit competition for any public contract up to \$50,000 to service-disabled veteran-owned businesses as defined under Oregon Administrative Rules 125-246-0314(2).

The service-disabled veteran or veterans must own or control at least 51% of the applicant business to qualify. Procuring agencies may require proof of service-connected disability, including a federal VA award letter or card.

CERTIFICATION OFFICE OF BUSINESS INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY (COBID)

www.oregon.gov/biz/programs/cobid/pages/default.aspx

COBID is the certifying agency for Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE) Certification (see below). Other certifications include Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Women Business Enterprise (WBE), Emerging Small Business (ESB) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certifications.

VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (VBE) CERTIFICATION

503-986-0075

biz.cobid@biz.oregon.gov

www.oregon.gov/biz/programs/COBID/SDV/Pages/default.aspx

Veteran Business Enterprise (VBE) certification is for service-disabled veteran-owned and veteran-owned businesses seeking opportunities for state, county, and city government, and special jurisdiction (e.g. hospitals and universities) contracts. SDV is based on the individual rather than the size of the business. Certifications do not expire.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS PROCUREMENT OFFICE

www.oregon.gov/odva

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs Procurement Office secures goods and services for ODVA and the Oregon Veterans' Homes in areas such as trade services (painting, plumbing, signage, etc.), construction services, repair and maintenance and service contracts.

ODVA strongly supports veterans preference and disabled veterans preference for contracts up to \$50,000 whenever possible.

VETS FIRST VERIFICATION PROGRAM

Help Desk: 866-584-2344

Status: verificationfollowup@va.gov

Profile Questions: vip@va.gov

The federal VA has developed a Verification Assistance Program to help veterans understand the verification policy and process. The goal of the program is to reduce the risk of denial due to lack of understanding and misinterpretation of the regulation.

OTHER RESOURCES FOR VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES

BUSINESS OREGON

503-986-0123 or 866-467-3466

www.oregon.gov/biz/aboutus/contactus/Pages/default.aspx

www.oregon.gov/biz/Pages/default.aspx

GOVERNMENT CONTRACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

www.gcap.org

ODOT PROJECT-SPECIFIC MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM

www.oregon.gov/odot/business/ocr/pages/index.aspx

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PROCUREMENT SERVICES

www.oregon.gov/das/procurement/pages/index.aspx

OREGON DHS AND OHA OFFICE OF CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT (OC&P)

503-945-5818 | ocp.request@odhsoha.oregon.gov

www.oregon.gov/odhs/about/pages/contracts.aspx



**OREGON EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT
SELF-EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
503-451-2400 or 877-345-3484
unemployment.oregon.gov/self-employment

**OREGON OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE**
503-986-2200 or 844-469-5512
Business.SOS@sos.oregon.gov
www.oregon.gov/smallbusiness/Pages/default.aspx

SCORE
503-326-5211
www.score.org/portlandor

SECRETARY OF STATE CORPORATION DIVISION
503-986-2200
sos.oregon.gov/business/Pages/got-a-question.aspx
www.FilingInOregon.com

**SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
AND SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
CENTERS**
www.bizcenter.org

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
503-326-2682
pdxhelp@sba.gov
www.sba.gov/OR or www.sba.gov/district/boise



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

VETERANS EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE GRANT PROGRAM

Education Grants Up to \$5,000 Available to Eligible Oregon Veterans



ACADEMIC, ON-THE-JOB TRAINING & APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS MAY QUALIFY



**Explore the
Veterans
Educational
Bridge Grant
further or
apply online.**

Veterans who:

- have debt on a student account or
- are or expect to be experiencing a disruption in their degree, certificate, apprenticeship, or OJT program

may be eligible for up to \$5,000 in financial support from ODVA.

EBG@odva.oregon.gov | www.oregon.gov/odva/agency-programs/grants/Pages/Educational-Bridge-Grant.aspx



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) serves nearly 300,000 veterans across the state in accessing state and federal veteran benefits and programs. To learn more about ODVA and its programs, visit www.oregon.gov/odva.

VETERANS' LICENSE PLATES AND DISABLED VETERAN PARKING

VETERAN RECOGNITION LICENSE PLATES



Disabled Veteran Plate



Military Campaign Plates



Purple Heart Plate



Ex-POW Plate



Branch of Service Plates



Service Medal Plates



Gold Star Family Plate



Medal of Honor Plate

VETERANS' RECOGNITION LICENSE PLATE

First instituted in 2008, Oregon's veterans' license plate program was a joint effort between ODVA and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Today, many specialty plates exist for veterans and their families. The purchase of these plates dedicate funding to organizations like the Oregon Veterans' Homes.

The Oregon DMV offers specialty license plates to veterans, disabled veterans and qualifying family members. Plates that indicate branch of service, campaign or service medals are available along with some specialty plates that support service organizations such as the Gold Star family plate or the Purple Heart plates.

To obtain a veterans' recognition plate, proof of honorable military service (DD 214) and/or proof of award of a military related medal must be presented upon application at DMV. For more details, visit www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/pages/vehicle/plates.aspx.

OREGON WOUNDED WARRIOR PARKING PLACARD

Disabled veterans may now obtain the new Oregon Wounded Warrior parking placard from the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles. The Oregon Wounded Warrior parking placard is a disabled parking placard or decal with the "Oregon Wounded Warrior" sticker affixed to it.

This parking placard exempts the driver from paying fees in public parking areas with metered parking. It also enables veterans to park in time-limited spaces for longer than the posted limit (except in zones that are designated 30 minutes or less.) There is no fee for the placard, and it will carry the same expiration as the veteran's driver license.

Eligibility includes Oregon veterans who qualify for a disabled parking permit from the Oregon Department of Transportation's Driver and Motor Vehicles Division (DMV) and have a service-connected disability that is VA-rated at 50% or greater.

You will need to fill out Form 735-265, the DMV's application for a disabled parking permit, and check the box for the Wounded Warrior placard.

If you do not already have a disabled parking placard, your physician will need to complete and sign the Certificate of Disability section of this form to confirm your eligibility for the handicap placard.

You must also submit a copy of your benefit summary letter (also known as the "tax abatement letter") from the federal VA, confirming your service-connected disability rating of 50 percent or greater. This is a letter that is mailed annually to all disabled veterans. It comes in a bright green envelope.

If you need a copy of this letter, you can log into eBenefits to download a copy immediately, or you may request a copy from your local county veteran service office or VA regional office.

The completed form may be turned in at any DMV field office in the state or by mail to: **DMV Driver Issuance Unit, Parking Permits Clerk at 1905 Lana Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97314** or call **(503) 945-5000**.

For more information about Oregon disabled parking permits, visit www.oregon.gov/ODOT/DMV/pages/driverid/disarking.aspx.

VETERAN RECREATION

OREGON HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

A free hunting and angling license for disabled war veterans rated at 25 percent service-connected disabled or more with the VA is offered through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Veterans must be Oregon residents for at least six months. Hunting licenses are half-price (\$16) for resident uniformed service members. Non-resident uniformed service members are able to hunt or fish in Oregon for the same cost as a state resident (non-service member). Visit www.myodfw.com/articles/hunters-and-anglers-disabilities for more information.

SPECIAL ACCESS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Service-connected disabled veterans and active duty service members on official leave can apply for this pass from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Passes are valid for four years and allow free parking at 26 Oregon state parks and free camping for up to 10 nights at a time at state RV and tent sites. Active duty members get the same benefit, but they have to pay up front and then file for reimbursement. Additionally, all active duty service members can visit Oregon state parks for free on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

Visit www.oregonstateparks.org/?do=v.page&id=19 for more information.

FREE HUNTING TAGS FOR DISABLED VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

The Department of Fish and Wildlife currently operates a program to provide terminally ill children with hunting and fishing opportunities, at no charge, by issuing a certain number of free tags to nonprofit entities that organize and sponsor such adventures. The Legislature has expanded this by incorporating disabled veterans and Purple Heart recipients into the existing program.

A maximum of 35 tags will be made available to each year for both terminally ill children and veterans, with the former receiving precedence but being capped at 15. The measure also limits eligible veteran beneficiaries to one tag per year.

ACTIVE DUTY LEAVE REIMBURSEMENT

Active duty military on official leave are eligible to be reimbursed for state park visits. After your visit, send the camping receipt for the dates of your stay, and a letter from your CO on official letterhead stating you were on leave for the dates you camped.

The refund request must arrive no later than

30 days after departure date of your stay. Send a receipt to Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept., ATTN: Veterans Pass Program, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL — THE NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASS SERIES

The America the Beautiful Parks Pass Series is your ticket to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites. Included in this series are two passes that benefit current service members and disabled veterans. A free annual pass (normally \$80) is available to active duty military, reserve and National Guard members and their dependents. A free access pass is also available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents with a permanent disability.

Each pass covers entrance fees at national parks and national wildlife refuges, standard amenity fees at national forests and grasslands and at lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation. You can obtain a pass in person, with proper documentation, from a participating federal recreation site or office.

For more information, visit www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm.

ADDITIONAL PREFERENCE POINTS FOR DISABLED VETERAN HUNTERS

A bill passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2019 allows individuals issued a resident disabled veteran hunting license to receive additional preference points in Oregon's controlled hunt permit system. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife issues tags for general hunting seasons as well as for limited-entry, controlled hunts. Most big game hunting in Oregon is limited-entry. Controlled hunts are organized by location and species, and hunters must apply in advance for an opportunity to participate in a random drawing to receive tags.

The system is designed to increase unsuccessful applicants' chances of receiving a deer or elk tag over time, by giving preference points every year they don't receive a tag. Current law also allows for additional preference points to be given to individuals issued a resident annual pioneer combination hunting and angling license (for persons at least 65 years old who have lived in Oregon at least 50 years).

Senate Bill 593 adds individuals issued a resident disabled veteran hunting license to those who are eligible to receive additional preference points for controlled hunts.



EXPERIENCE THE HEALING POWER OF THE GREAT OREGON OUTDOORS.

Enjoy hiking, fishing, hunting, boating and other recreational opportunities — exclusively for Oregon veterans and service members.

Getting outside to fish, paddle, hike, camp, or boat can be healing. Reduced rates and unique opportunities for hunting, fishing, hiking, and more are available to veterans at state and national parks and on other public lands. Gold Star Families may also receive free access passes to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites.

Scan the QR code or visit qrty.io/r/odvarecreation to learn more about outdoor recreational benefits and opportunities available exclusively to veterans and active-duty service members in Oregon.



OREGON DEPARTMENT
of VETERANS' AFFAIRS

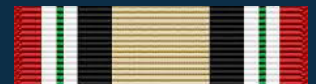




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PACT ACT QUESTIONS?

Were you exposed to burn pits, nuclear weapons, chemical, Agent Orange, or other toxins while serving in the military?

The **PACT Act** is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history, expanding and extending eligibility to **veterans** with toxic exposure and veterans of the **Vietnam, Gulf War** and **post-9/11 eras**. This means millions of veterans who were previously ineligible may now qualify for **VA health care**, service-connected **disability compensation** and other life-changing earned benefits.

FOR ASSISTANCE, CONTACT ODVA OR LOCATE VETERAN SERVICES OFFICES AT:

Call 800-692-9666 | oregon.gov/odva/services | Page 4 | va.gov/PACT