

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

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www.veterans.ky.gov

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Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

Serving Kentucky's Veterans

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) is an official state agency of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. KDVA does partner with the US Department of Veterans Affairs, however, KDVA is a separate agency for Kentucky's veterans and their families charged with ensuring that all Kentucky veterans and their families obtain the benefits and services they have earned.

KDVA administers numerous veterans programs and facilities such as:

- **Veterans Benefits**
- **Homeless Veterans**
- **Women Veterans**
- **Educational Benefits**
- **5 State Veterans Cemeteries**
- **4 State Veterans Centers for long-term nursing care**

KDVA can assist veterans with networking with Veterans Service Organizations in their area, as well as other regionally specific resources.

Online information can be found on the KDVA website:

www.veterans.ky.gov

Veterans Benefits

Who Is Eligible?

Eligibility for most federal and state veterans benefits is based on discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions for a minimum period specified by law. The Department of Defense issues each veteran a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty: DD Form 214, identifying the veteran's service characterization as honorable, general under honorable conditions, under other than honorable conditions, bad conduct or dishonorable.

VA Benefit Guide Available

The VA comprehensive benefits guide is a 100-page handbook that describes all the benefits provided by VA and an overview of programs and services for veterans provided by other federal agencies. This guide explains how to access many of these benefits online. A printed copy of the book can be purchased by calling the Government Printing Office toll free: **(866) 512-1800**.

Keep Important Documents

Important papers and copies of public documents that you should save and protect for your future use are:

- **DD Form 214** - *Certificate of Release or Discharge*
- **Military Medical Records** - *paper or CD*
- **Certificates of Service** - *Papers associated with active duty, such as orders to and from active duty, vouchers, warrants, commissions, diplomas, citations, etc.*
- **Social Security information**
- **Family Records:** *marriage license, birth certificates, death certificates, divorce decree, guardianship or custody evidence, adoption papers, and any other permanent records.*

Certified Copies of Records - No Fees

Kentucky law requires agencies to furnish at no charge certificates of birth or death required in support of any claim against the government for compensation, insurance, back pay, or other allowances or benefits for any person who has at any time served as a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard of the United States.

Copies of any public records required by the VA to be used in determining eligibility of a person to participate in benefits made available by VA, will be provided without charge.

24-Hour VA Crisis Hotline

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Recognize the Suicide Warning Signs:

- 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, weapons, etc.

Don't Wait! Call Immediately!

[More information here](#)

Federal VA Health Care

Veteran healthcare is provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs through VA Medical Centers and Community-Based Outreach Clinics. Find more information at: <https://www.va.gov/health/>

US Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Medical Centers Serving Kentucky Veterans

Lexington VAMC: Lexington, KY

Phone: 859-233-4511

Website: www.lexington.va.gov

Robley Rex VAMC, Louisville, KY

Phone: 502-287-4000

Website: www.louisville.va.gov

Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, Nashville, TN

Phone: 615-327-4751

Website: www.tennesseevalley.va.gov

Cincinnati, OH

Phone: 513-861-3100

Website: www.cincinnati.va.gov

Huntington, WV

Phone: 304-429-6741

Website: www.huntington.va.gov

Marion, Illinois

Phone: 765-674-3321

Website: www.marion.va.gov

VA Community-Based Outreach Clinics (CBOC) Serving Kentucky Veterans

- Bellevue
- Berea
- Bowling Green
- Carrollton
- Clarkson
- Florence
- Ft. Knox
- Hanson
- Hazard
- Louisville - DuPont
- Louisville - Newburg
- Louisville - Shively
- Mayfield
- Morehead
- Owensboro
- Paducah
- Prestonsburg
- Somerset

For more information on a CBOC near you, visit:

<https://www.va.gov/health>

KY Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits Field Offices

There are 19 districts across the State that are staffed by Veterans Benefits Field Representatives (VBFR) and Regional Administrators to assist veterans in obtaining benefit information and in filing claims.

KDVA representatives are highly trained and officially certified to advise and counsel veterans on benefits they may have earned through their military service. They are qualified to file “Fully Developed” benefits claims and appeals to the federal U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs **FREE OF CHARGE.**

Veterans should not file a benefits claim on their own and do not have to pay to have assistance when filing a claim. Beware of organizations or individuals who offer benefits filing services for a fee. KDVA’s Field Representatives can file claims and appeals for **FREE.**

KDVA Veterans Benefits Field Representatives maintain regular and published office hours in the District Field Offices. Veterans may call and schedule an appointment at any of these locations.

**[Find details about VBFR hours
and locations online.](#)**

or call:

1-800-928-4012

Region 1

WESTERN KENTUCKY COUNTIES

District 1 and District 6

Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman, Fulton, Graves, Marshall, Calloway

Paducah Office (270) 556-0474

District 17

Crittenden, Henderson, Hopkins, Union, Webster

Hanson Office (270) 399-1618

District 19

Davies, Hancock, McLean, Ohio, Muhlenberg

Owensboro Office (270) 705-3331

District 11

Hardin, Larue, Nelson

Radcliff Office (270) 351-1980

District 3

Caldwell, Christina, Lyon, Todd, Trigg

Hopkinsville Office (270) 484-7887

District 2

Breckinridge, Butler, Grayson, Meade

Radcliff Office (270) 446-9010

Region 2

LOUISVILLE METRO REGION

District 4

Bullitt, Henry, Jefferson, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Carroll

Louisville VAMC Office (502) 287-6092

Shively Office (502) 356-1551

LaGrange Office (502) 229-6070

Region 3

SOUTH-CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNTIES

District 5

Anderson, Casey, Lincoln, Marion, Mercer, Taylor, Washington

Harrodsburg Office (859) 325-8288

District 9

Adair, Allen, Barren, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Russell, Simpson, Warren

Glasgow Office (270) 576-3534

District 14

Boyle, Garrard, Jessamine, Madison

Wilmore Office (859) 553-9144

Region 4

SOUTHEASTERN KENTUCKY COUNTIES

District 16

Bell, Clay, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Lee, McCreary, Owsley, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Wayne, Whitley

London Office (606) 231-1318

District 18

Harlan, Knott, Leslie, Letcher, Perry

Hazard Office (606) 422-9791 / (606) 629-9239

District 8

Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin, Morgan, Pike

Pikeville Office (606) 422-9791

Region 5

NORTHEASTERN KENTUCKY COUNTIES

District 12

Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Pendleton

Independence Office (859) 409-6551

District 7

Bath, Clark, Estill, Fleming, Harrison, Menifee, Montgomery, Nicholas, Robertson, Rowan, Wolfe

Mt. Sterling Office (859) 432-6121

District 15

Boyd, Carter, Elliot, Greenup, Lewis

Catlettsburg Office (606) 585-3833

CENTRAL KENTUCKY

District 20

Bourbon, Franklin, Owen, Scott, Woodford

Georgetown Office (859) 270-3117

District 10

Fayette

Leestown VA Office (859) 409-6485

Veteran ID

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is now issuing Veteran ID Cards (VICs).

Only those Veterans with honorable service will be able to apply for the ID card which will provide proof of military service, and may be accepted by retailers in lieu of the standard DD-214 form to obtain promotional discounts and other services where offered to Veterans.

The VIC provides a more portable and secure alternative for those who served the minimum obligated time in service, but did not meet the retirement or medical discharge threshold. Veterans who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and who have a discharge of honorable or general (under honorable conditions) can request a VIC.

To request a VIC, Veterans must visit vets.gov, click on "[Apply for Printed Veteran ID Card](#)" on the bottom of the page and sign in or create an account.

Veterans who apply for a card should receive it within 60 days and can check delivery status of their cards at vets.gov.

The Veteran-Designated Kentucky Driver's License is also available to honorably discharged veterans. It is available at your Circuit Clerk's office at no charge when you renew your Driver's License, or for a small fee between renewals.

Kentucky Veterans Centers

KDVA operates four long-term skilled nursing facilities for veterans. Residents are charged a reasonable fee per month based on the veteran's assets and income and in accordance with a published fee schedule.

KDVA is committed to serving Kentucky's veterans by fostering independence, preserving dignity and providing compassionate care.

Admission Criteria

Must be a veteran with an other than dishonorable discharge, a resident of Kentucky prior to submitting an application, and satisfy admission criteria for skilled nursing care.

To be eligible for admission, a person must :

- (a) Be a veteran;
- (b) Be disabled by reason of disease, wounds, age, or otherwise be in need of nursing care;
- (c) Be a Kentucky resident as of the date of admission to a Kentucky Veterans Center; and
- (d) Have a military discharge that is not of a dishonorable nature.

A person shall not be eligible for admission if the person:

- (a) Has been diagnosed by a qualified health care professional as acutely mentally ill, as an acute alcoholic, as addicted to drugs, as continuously disruptive, or is dangerous to self or others;
- (b) Is ventilator dependent; or has needs that cannot be met by the Veterans' Center.

Kentucky Veterans Centers

Thomson-Hood Veterans Center

100 Veterans Drive
Wilmore, Kentucky 40390
(859) 858-2814
Toll free (800) 928-4838
TTY (859) 858-3829

Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center

200 Veterans Drive
Hazard, Kentucky 41701
(606) 435-6196
(877) 856-0004
TTY (606) 435-6203

Western Kentucky Veterans Center

926 Veterans Drive
Hanson, Kentucky 42413
(270) 322-9087
(877) 662-0008
TTY (270) 322-9752

Radcliff Veterans Center

100 Veterans Drive
Radcliff, Kentucky 40160
(270) 352-6700
TTY (270) 352-6839

**[Apply Directly for Admission
to One of Our Facilities](#)**

KDVA State Veterans Cemeteries

Kentucky currently operates five state veterans cemeteries to provide secure, dignified interment for veterans and their eligible dependents. These State Veterans Cemeteries in Kentucky complement the existing three National Cemeteries (Camp Nelson in Jessamine County, Lebanon in Marion County and Mills Springs in Pulaski County) that still have burial space available.

[Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West](#)

5817 Fort Campbell Blvd.

Hopkinsville, KY 42240 Phone: (270) 889-6106

[Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central](#)

2501 North Dixie Boulevard

Radcliff, KY 40160 Phone: (270) 351-5115

[Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North](#)

205 Eibeck Lane

Williamstown, KY 41097 Phone: (859) 823-0720

[Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Northeast](#)

100 Veterans Memorial Drive

Greenup County, KY 41143 Phone: (606) 929-5354

[Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Southeast](#)

1280 KY Highway 118 (Tim Couch Pass)

Hyden, KY 41749 Phone: (606) 672-2168

Burial Honors

Federal law requires that upon the family's request, every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony, to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. Other benefits include:

- Burial in Veterans Cemetery
- Headstone and Markers
- Presidential Memorial Certificate
- Burial Allowance

[Find more information here](#)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs National Veterans Cemeteries in Kentucky:

- Camp Nelson National Cemetery (859) 885-5727
- Mill Springs National Cemetery (859) 885-5727
- Lebanon National Cemetery (502) 893-3852

Women Veterans Program

The mission of the Kentucky Women Veterans Program is to ensure Kentucky's women veterans have equitable access to federal and state veterans' services and benefits. The program provides assistance to women who served in the United States Armed Forces, or in forces incorporated as part of the United States Armed Forces, and who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

The Kentucky Women Veterans Coordinator collaborates with federal, state, and local agencies on issues related to women veterans; performs outreach to improve awareness of eligibility for services and benefits; assesses the needs of women veterans with respect to benefits and services; makes recommendations to the commissioner to improve benefits and services; and incorporates women veterans' issues in strategic planning concerning benefits and services.

For assistance with [Women Veterans Services](#)

Kentucky Women Veterans Coordinator

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

1111B Louisville Rd.

Frankfort, KY 40601

(502) 564-9203

Cell: (502) 545-4193

Homeless Veterans Program

KDVA's Homeless Veterans Program provides two basic types of assistance to veterans who are homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless:

- **Emergency Assistance** - KDVA is authorized by law to provide one-time cash assistance for veterans to obtain or maintain rental housing or vital utilities (electricity, gas, or water). Find out more by calling the Kentucky Homeless Veterans Program Coordinator at (502) 564-9203.
- **Resource Location Assistance** - KDVA can also help with locating other resources for veterans and their families in their area, such as shelters, food pantries, drug rehab programs, etc.

For assistance with
[Homeless Veterans Services](#)

Kentucky Homeless Veterans Program

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs
1111B Louisville Road
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 564-9203
Cell: (502) 352-3120

Employment

KyVETS is the Kentucky Veterans Employment Training and Support Program. KyVETS provides resources and support to assist veterans across the Commonwealth in gainful employment and training services.

The KyVETS program director maintains a database of Kentucky veterans seeking employment. This database includes only those Kentucky veterans who have volunteered their information to KDVA. The information in this database is strictly confidential. The database is used to match employment-seeking veterans with veteran-seeking employers.

If you would like to become part of the KyVETS employment-seeking veteran database, please complete the online form at <http://veterans.ky.gov/employmentinfo>

For more information regarding the KyVETS program, contact the all the program director at 502-564-9203.

Education

State Educational Benefits

Kentucky law provides the following educational benefits to veterans and/or family members:

High School Diplomas for:

- **World War II Veterans**
- **Korean War Veterans**
- **Vietnam Veterans**

Kentucky Tuition Waiver Program

The tuition waiver is provided for children, stepchildren, adopted children, spouses, and un-remarried widows and widowers of veterans who meet eligibility.

Federal Educational Benefits

GI Bill benefits are designed to help servicemembers and eligible veterans cover the costs associated with getting an education or training. The GI Bill has several programs and each is administrated differently. For a description of each GI Bill program, including eligibility requirements, and payment amounts select from this list of GI Bill programs:

- [Post-9/11 GI Bill](#)
- [Active Duty Montgomery GI Bill](#)
- [Reserve and Guard Montgomery GI Bill](#)
- [Vocational Rehabilitation and Education Program](#)

Vocational Rehabilitation

For disabled veterans, VA will pay tuition and fees, and the cost of books, tools and other program expenses as well as provide a monthly living allowance. Upon completion of the vocational rehabilitation program, VA will assist in finding employment.

Additional Programs

- [Veterans License Plates](#)
- [Veteran Identification](#)
- [Kentucky Veteran Program Trust Fund](#)
- [Discharge Upgrades](#)
- [Veterans Treatment Courts](#)
- [Waivers and Discounts of Fees for Hunting and Fishing Licenses](#)
- [Kentucky State Parks Discounts for current military, retirees, and veterans](#)