

New Jersey
RESOURCE GUIDE
for Women

Section XIX:

VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES



State of New Jersey
Department of Community Affairs
Summer 2011

ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION AND SERVICES

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NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Toll free: 1-800-827-1000

State of NJ - Web: <http://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/index.html>

Regional Veterans Service Offices

Web: <http://www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide/appendix-a.html>

- ◆ Through our network of regional Veterans Service Offices, the N.J. Division of Veterans Programs provides the state's 712,000 veterans and their dependents with information and guidance in filing claims. Trained veterans service officers at those offices also assist veterans with issues pertaining to employment, education, burial, counseling, housing, social and medical services, and other areas of concern to veterans and their families.

Veteran's Benefits

NJ Department of Health and Senior Services

Division of Aging and Community Services

Web: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/senior/federalbenefits/veterans.shtml>

- VA Welcoming Vets Home
- Veterans' Pensions
- Disability Compensation
- Medical Care
- Prescription Drug Coverage
- Home Loans
- Homelessness
- Death Benefits
- Denial of Benefits
- Other Services, Benefits
- Uniformed Services Beneficiaries

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder & Readjustment Counseling

Contact: Local Veterans Service Office

Web: <http://www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide/appendix-b.html>

- ◆ This program addresses the readjustment problems of veterans and offers treatment to combat veterans of all war periods. Treatment extends to family members affected by the veteran's affliction. State veterans service officers assist the veteran with scheduling counseling and the filing of any applicable VA claims. Contracted clinicians, experienced in PTSD counseling, determine the best course of treatment for the veteran and the veteran's family. Assistance is not limited by VA regulations or restrictions.

Transportation Program

Contact: Local Veterans Service Office

Web: <http://www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide/appendix-b.html>

- ◆ This program assists the veteran in need of transportation. The program originated due to the distance many N.J. veterans had to travel to get to a VA facility for medical care. Free transportation is offered to VA medical centers, clinics, pharmacies, private physicians, regional veteran's services offices or job service offices, and other community services in most counties. The state veteran's service officer in the county should be contacted to explain the details of the program, level of service in that county, qualifications and requirements, and assist in scheduling the transportation.

Catastrophic Entitlement

Web: <http://www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/njguide/catastrophic.html>

- ◆ The state of New Jersey, through the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, pays \$750 a year to those veterans who are receiving VA compensation entitlements for 100 percent disability ratings and who have the following disabilities:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blindness ▪ Double Amputee ▪ Hemiplegia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Osteochondritis ▪ Paraplegia ▪ Quadriplegia
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- ◆ In the Absence of One of the Disabilities Listed: A veteran may qualify if in receipt of a single 100 percent war-time service-connected disability or a combination of permanent war-time service-connected disabilities totaling 100 percent that are equivalent to the symptoms of one or a combination of the seven above disabilities.

To Qualify

- Service must have been during a time of war and the veteran must have been a resident of New Jersey at the time of entry into the military and when applying for the entitlement. The law now includes payment to the surviving spouse of the veteran.
- Any veteran or surviving spouse receiving the entitlement who is required to move from the state for reasons of health or employment may be entitled to continue to receive the compensation under certain conditions. Application may be made through any Division of Veterans Programs service office.

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Homes

Contact: Social Service office at a Memorial Home nearest you

Web: http://www.state.nj.us/counties/mercercer/departments/pdfs/vs_memorial_homes.pdf

- ◆ New Jersey's three state-operated veterans' nursing homes are located in Paramus, Menlo Park, and Vineland. Around-the-clock medical and nursing cares, as well as rehabilitative services are provided. The facilities are open to veterans of all wars who served on active duty and were honorably discharged, qualified National Guard/Reserve Retirees, the veteran's spouse, and to spouses and parents of members of the military who were killed in action during a period of war (Gold Star Parent). A spouse/widow/widower must be at least 50 years of age and must have been married to the veteran for a period of not less than 10 years. Preference is given to applicants who were state residents for at least two years immediately prior to application for admission. Applicants must meet certain asset limitation criteria. Residents pay according to ability based on income.

Memorial and Burial Services:

National Veterans Cemeteries

Toll Free: 1-800-827-1000

- ◆ Requests for burial in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery cannot be made via the Internet. Eligibility: A determination of eligibility is usually made in response to a request for burial in a VA national cemetery. VA Regional Offices will also assist in determining eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery.

State Veterans Cemetery

Brigadier General William C. Doyle
 Veterans Memorial Cemetery
 350 Provenceline Road, Rt. #2
 Wrightstown, New Jersey 08562
Phone: 609-758-7250
Fax: 609-758-0169

Veterans Organizations' Service Offices	
All offices are Located at 20 Washington Place, Newark, NJ 07102	
American Legion Phone: 973-297-3377	Jewish War Veterans Phone: 973-297-3388
Disabled American Veterans Phone: 973-297-3378	Military Order of the Purple Heart Phone: 973-297-3389
Vietnam Veterans of America Phone: (973) 297-3227	Veterans of Foreign Wars Phone: 973-297-3226

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Web: <http://www.va.gov/>

- VA Benefits: 1-800-827-1000
 - Burial
 - Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)
 - Death Pension
 - Dependency Indemnity Compensation
 - Direct Deposit
 - Directions to VA Benefits Regional Offices
 - Disability Compensation
 - Disability Pension
 - Education
 - Home Loan Guaranty
 - Life Insurance
 - Medical Care
 - Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
- Beneficiaries in receipt of Pension Benefits: 1-877-294-6380
- Education (GI Bill): 1-888-442-4551
- Health Care Benefits: 1-877-222-8387
- Income Verification and Means Testing: 1-800-929-8387
- Life Insurance: 1-800-669-8477
- Mammography Helpline: 1-888-492-7844
- Special Issues - Gulf War/Agent Orange/Project Shad/Mustard Agents and Lewisite/Ionizing Radiation: 1-800-749-8387
- Status of Headstones and Markers: 1-800-697-6947
- Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): 1-800-829-4833
- For health care services, contact your nearest VA medical facility. To locate all VA facilities visit <http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isflash=1>.

Women Veteran's Health Care**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards****Web:** <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/index.asp>

- ◆ Women veterans are eligible for the same VA benefits as male veterans. VA is required to provide appropriate and timely medical care to any eligible woman veteran.
- ◆ In addition to routine medical care, each VA medical facility provides women veterans the following:
 - Complete physical exams that include breast & pelvic examinations
 - Gynecology services
 - Referral for necessary services that may not be available at that facility
- ◆ VA medical centers have made structural changes & renovated areas to assure privacy for women veterans.
- ◆ Women veterans' coordinators are available at each VA medical center and regional office to counsel & assist women veterans in applying for VA benefits & services.

Veterans Who Were Victims of Sexual Trauma**Toll Free: 1 (800) 827-1000****Web:** <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/trauma.asp>

- ◆ To be eligible to receive counseling and treatment for sexual trauma from VA, there is no requirement that a woman veteran must report the sexual trauma when it occurred or at any time during her active military service. Where can a woman veteran receive care or more information regarding the VA sexual trauma services? A woman veteran seeking counseling and treatment for sexual trauma may contact the Women Veterans' Coordinator at the nearest VA regional office, medical center or vet center. The telephone number for the medical center or vet center can be found in the telephone directory under "U.S. Government" listings. Veterans may also call the VA national toll free information and assistance number for up-to-date information about VA sexual trauma programs and services and other benefits that may be available both from VA and the local communities.

Can a veteran who experienced a sexual trauma while serving on active duty qualify for disability compensation?

- VA may pay compensation to a woman veteran for disabilities incurred in or aggravated by military service, including disabilities or injuries resulting from sexual trauma. Veterans who experienced a sexual trauma while serving in the military can obtain assistance from their local VA regional office for filing a disability claim. Information may also be obtained by calling **toll-free:1-800-827-1000**. A Women Veterans' Coordinator is available at each regional office to assist women veterans in obtaining information about accessing VA benefits and services.

Does a veteran who experienced sexual trauma while serving on active duty automatically qualify for VA disability compensation?

- No. As indicated above, payment of compensation is based on the severity of the service-connected disability or disabilities. VA must first determine if there are current disabilities related to military service. If disabilities are deemed service related, VA then evaluates the degree of disability that determines the amount of compensation payable. Once again, compensation is not payable for a less than 10 percent evaluation. A woman who has experienced sexual trauma may or may not have a residual disability that can be considered as service-connected. Each case is reviewed and a decision made based on the specific circumstances of the claimed disability. More information about the entitlement criteria for disability compensation can be obtained by calling the local VA regional office at **toll-free: 1-800-827-1000**.

Services for Those Still Serving and Their Families:

NJ National Guard Family Programs

3650 Saylors Pond Road, Fort Dix, NJ 08640-7600

Toll Free: 1-888-859-0352

Web: <http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/home.html>

- ◆ National Guard families must plan to take care of personal affairs early, so that problems do not become an unnecessary crisis during a state emergency, call-up or mobilization. This website and toll free number will help make soldiers and their families aware of a number of benefits, programs, support organizations and networks available to them. It will also assist in keeping family records updated.

Possible Benefits

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissary ▪ Dental ▪ Exchange ▪ Family ID Cards ▪ Free College Credits ▪ Government Quarters ▪ Hunting/Fishing Licenses ▪ Legal Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ License Plates ▪ Medical ▪ MWR ▪ NJ Military Academy ▪ Park Passes ▪ Travel on Military Aircraft ▪ Vacation Spots
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Family Readiness Mobilization Guide

NJ National Guard Family Programs

Web: http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/family_readiness/index.html

- The purpose of this handbook is to make a sometimes-difficult life a little easier. It will inform you of the benefits that you are entitled to receive, and to be prepared in the event of mobilization. It is an important book, full of information that will answer questions you may have or will have in the future. It has been prepared to reduce the stress and strain on the family and the service member before, during, and after mobilization.

Women’s Referral Central

Toll Free: 1-800-322-8092

24 hours a day/ 7 days a week

- ◆ Provides information and referrals to women in New Jersey through a statewide toll-free telephone line. The Hotline provides referrals and basic information in areas such as veteran benefits and services, discrimination, affordable housing, displaced homemakers, addiction services, continuing education, domestic violence, employment, legal assistance, divorce and separation, violence, health care, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, child care, child support/custody, single parenting, job training, social services, services including medical, mental and reproductive health and other areas of concern.