

NEW JERSEY VETERANS' BENEFITS GUIDE



**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**





Welcome to the New Jersey Veterans Benefits Guide. This guide continues a tradition of providing relevant information to New Jersey’s Veterans community.

Keeping you informed is part of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NJDMAVA) continuing outreach efforts. Through extensive research and preparation, NJDMAVA has assembled valuable material into this edition of the Veterans Benefits Guide. Many

New Jersey Veterans are unaware of the numerous federal and state program benefits, entitlements and services they have earned in defense of this great nation.

Our website at <https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/> acts as a portal to assist New Jersey’s Veterans in obtaining information they need to access benefits and services more efficiently and effectively.

We encourage you to contact the Department’s Veterans Service Officers for additional information and assistance when applying for a program, benefit or entitlement.

“Serving those who served” are more than just our watchwords at NJDMAVA; it is a promise that we will support those whose service and sacrifice have ensured this nation’s survival.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
1-888-8NJ-VETS (1-888-865-8387), or email: VBB@dmava.nj.gov
<https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/>

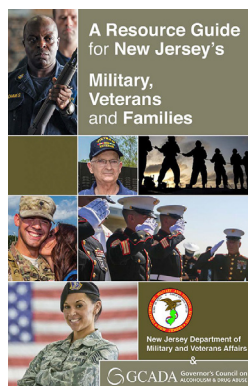
If you are reading this publication online, you can click on any of the images or URLs to go to the link.

Follow us on:



ALSO CHECK OUT:
A RESOURCE GUIDE FOR NEW JERSEY’S MILITARY, VETERANS AND FAMILIES

The guide, which was created by the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse and the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, provides more detailed information on support assistance, housing, health care, employment, education, women Veterans support, as well as legal, tax benefits and licensing. The guide is updated as new information becomes available and can be accessed at: <https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/>



MEDICAL

United States Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Administration (VA)
(800) 827-1000



VA NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The newly launched website provides a better and an easier online experience. Find a health facility near you, and manage your health online. Sign up for community events and updates. <https://www.va.gov/new-jersey-health-care/>

VA HEALTH CARE BENEFITS HEALTH ELIGIBILITY CENTER

For eligibility and additional information: *(877) 222-8387*. You may also visit the website at: www.va.gov/healtheligibility

VA MEDICAL CENTERS (VAMC) / CLINICS

www.va.gov/directory/ is the website for VA Medical Center facilities. With contact numbers and explanations of benefits, as well as administrative issues.

NEW JERSEY

VAMC East Orange Campus, 385 Tremont Avenue *(973) 676-1000*

VAMC Lyons Campus, 151 Knollcroft Road *(908) 647-0180*

Brick, James J. Howard Clinic, 970 Route 70 *(732) 206-8900*

Camden Clinic, 300 Broadway, Suite 103 *(877) 232-5240*

VA Cape May County CBOC, 3801 US 9 South- Unit 2, Rio Grande
(800) 461-8262 Ext. 2850

Elizabeth Clinic, 654 East Jersey Street, Suite 2A *(908) 994-0120*

Hackensack Clinic, 385 Prospect Avenue *(201) 487-1390 / (201) 342-4536*

Hamilton Clinic, 3635 Quakerbridge Road *(609) 570-6600*

Jersey City Clinic, 115 Christopher Columbus Drive *(201) 435-3055*

Marlton Clinic, 3000 Lincoln Drive East *(844) 441-5499*

Morristown Clinic, 540 West Hanover Avenue *(973) 539-9791/9794*

Northfield Clinic, 1909 New Road *(800) 461-8262 Ext. 2800*

Paterson Clinic, 11 Getty Ave, Bldg. 275 *(973) 247-1666*

Piscataway Clinic, 14 Wills Way, Building 5 *(732) 981-8193*

Sewell Clinic, 211 County House Road *(877) 823-5230*

Sussex Outpatient Clinic, 222 High Street, Suite 103, *(973) 756-1504*

Tinton Falls Clinic, 55 N. Gilbert Street, Building 4 *(732) 842-4751*

Vineland Clinic, 79 W. Landis Avenue *(800) 461-8262 Ext. 6500*

PHILADELPHIA

Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VAMC 3900 Woodland Avenue, Philadelphia PA
19104 *(215) 823-5800 / (800) 949-1001*

VAMC Coatesville, 1400 Black Horse Hill Road, *(610) 384-7711*

DELAWARE

VAMC 1601 Kirkwood Highway, Wilmington *(302) 994-2511 / (800) 461-8262*

EYEGLASSES, HEARING AIDS AND DENTAL CARE

Eyeglasses and hearing aids normally require a service rating of 10 percent or more. Routine dental treatment for teeth or jaws is provided to Veterans who are 100 percent service-connected or have a service-connected dental disability. For active duty and retired members of the Uniformed Services, their families and survivors; contact the TRICARE Region East office at **(888) 777-8343** or visit <https://tricare.mil/>

HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN

Many VA hospitals have VA Women Veterans Health Centers whose services include gynecology, sexual trauma counseling, mammography screening, and transition assistance programs for women separating from the Armed Forces. Call **(800) 827-1000** to find out if your local VA hospital has a Women Veterans Health Center or visit the website at: www.womenshealth.va.gov. For information on VA Mammography, visit: www.va.gov/health/mammography.

WOMEN VETERANS CALL CENTER

The Women Veterans Call Center staff is trained to provide women Veterans, their families, and caregivers information about VA services and resources. The Call Center can be reached at **(855) 829-6636** and is available Monday through Friday 8 AM - 10 PM ET, and on Saturdays from 8 AM - 6:30 PM ET.

VA NJ WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

For information on services and programs, call **(973) 676-1000, (ext) 2716**, or visit: www.newjersey.va.gov/services/women/index.asp.

VA IDENTIFICATION CARD

The VA provides eligible Veterans with a Veterans Identification Card (VIC) for use at VA medical facilities. Only Veterans who are eligible for VA medical benefits will receive the card. The card's purpose is for identification and check-in at VA appointments. It is important to keep the VIC safe and secure. Some bar code readers, including cell phone applications, can scan the bar code on the front of the card, revealing the Veteran's social security number, making the Veteran subject to identity theft. If the card is lost or stolen, contact the VA medical facility where they took their picture to request a new card be re-issued. The Veteran should receive a new card in 7-10 days. If the card is not received in that time, call VA at **(877) 222-8387**. The VA also offers a card certifying proof of service. It can be obtained only by applying online at www.vets.gov. Most counties also offer a Veterans Photo ID. Call your county's Veterans' Bureau or County Clerk for information.

LOCAL VET CENTERS

Vet Centers offer broad readjustment services for combat theater and other Veterans. They focus on counseling for military traumas, employment and family issues. They also provide referral services for VA benefits, medical assistance, and liaison with community agencies. Individual and group counseling are available for Veterans and their significant others. The centers also provide substance abuse information, referrals and job counseling and can be reached at **(800) 905-4675**.

To find your local Vet Center, call **(800) 827-1000**, or visit www.vetcenter.va.gov.

NEW JERSEY

Bloomfield Vet Center
2 Broad Street, Suite 703
Bloomfield, NJ 07003
(973) 748-0980

Lakewood Vet Center
1255 Route 70, Unit 22N
Parkway Seventy Plaza
Lakewood, NJ 08701
(908) 607-6364 / (732) 905-0327

Secaucus Vet Center
110A Meadowlands Parkway, Suite
102
Secaucus, NJ 07094
(201) 223-7787

South Jersey Vet Center
2900 Fire Road, Suite 101
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
(609) 487-8387

Trenton Vet Center
934 Parkway Avenue, Suite 201
Ewing, NJ 08618
(609) 882-5744

DELAWARE

Wilmington Vet Center
2710 Centerville Road, Suite 103
Wilmington, DE 19808
(302) 994-1660

PENNSYLVANIA

Bucks County Vet Center
2 Canals End Road, Suite 201B
Bristol, PA 19007
(215) 823-4590

Philadelphia Vet Center NE
101 E. Olney Avenue, Suite C-7
Philadelphia, PA 19120
(215) 924-4670

Philadelphia Vet Center
801 Arch Street, Suite 502
Philadelphia, PA 19107
(215) 627-0238

NEW YORK

Middletown Vet Center
726 E. Main Street, Suite 203
Middletown, NY 10940
(845) 342-9917

Staten Island Vet Center
60 Bay Street
Staten Island, NY 10301
(718) 816-4499

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

The State of New Jersey offers a program that addresses the readjustment concerns of Veterans and offers treatment to combat Veterans of all war periods.

Treatment is extended to the family members affected by the Veteran's condition. State Veteran Service Officers can assist with scheduling counseling and filing of any applicable VA claims. Contracted clinicians, experienced in PTSD counseling, can determine the best course of treatment for the Veteran and the Veteran's family.

For more information contact a local Veteran Service Officer or call **(888) 865-8387**.

NJ VET TO VET HELPLINE

NJ Vet to Vet is operated by Rutgers University and funded by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. It is a peer-counseling program for assessing a Veteran's mental health needs. The toll-free help line is available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, for Veterans and their families.

Services include: Veteran peer support, family support, clinical assessment, case management, referrals to a network of mental health providers, web-based peer support, and live chat. Call **(866) 838-7654** or visit <http://ubhc.rutgers.edu/vet2vet/>.



COMPASSIONATE CONTACT CORPS

Veterans can benefit from this tele-support program if they are lonely, socially isolated or would simply like to talk to someone regularly. Trained volunteers provide support by making periodic phone calls or video calls. Volunteers and Veterans are typically matched based on mutual interests. Visit <https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/81831/vas-compassionate-contact-corps/>

PTSD COACH

PTSD Coach is a free, easy-to-use mobile application developed by the VA. Research studies have shown that PTSD Coach can reduce PTSD symptoms, especially when used as part of therapy. PTSD Coach is not meant to replace professional care. Visit www.ptsd.va.gov/appvid/mobile.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

(800) 273-8255

Recognizing 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.
- Hopelessness, anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

Pick up the phone if you are experiencing an emotional crisis and need to talk to a trained VA professional. (800) 273-8255.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Vet Centers and VA Medical Facilities have substance abuse treatment programs. See page 2 for a list of locations. You may also contact Alcoholics Anonymous at: *(800) 245-1377*.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families

Soldier On

(866) 406-8449, www.wesoldieron.org/

Provides homeless veterans with safe, sustainable, affordable housing, transitioning them from homelessness to home ownership.

Community Hope

(973) 463-9600, www.communityhope-nj.org/

Helps veterans and their families overcome mental illness, addiction, homelessness and poverty.

Volunteers of America

(856) 854-4660, www.voadv.org/

Provides housing, employment training, emergency shelter and more.

Coaching Into Care

(888) 823-7458

National telephone service of the VA which aims to educate, support, and empower family members and friends who are seeking care or services for a veteran.

Operation Red Shield – The Salvation Army

(888) 302-6100, <https://easternusa.salvationarmy.org/new-jerey/help-our-veterans/>

Provides information, referrals, advocacy, pastoral counseling, needs-based financial assistance and spiritual support.

Homeless Veterans

(877) 424-3838

Committed to ending homelessness, connecting Veterans with housing solutions, health care, community employment services and other required support.

Veterans Caregivers Support Line

(855) 260-3274, www.caregiver.va.gov/

Provides resources, education and support to caregivers of Veterans.

Community Justice Center (Trenton)

(609) 218-5120, www.nj-communityjusticecenter.org/

Non-profit legal services serving the low-income homeless/disabled and returning disabled veterans and their families with legal assistance.

Catholic Charities

(855) 767-8387, www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/

Provides services to people in need and advocates for justice in social structures.

Jewish Family Services

(609) 822-1108

Offers a range of programs and services to assist with challenges; counseling, group services, financial assistance and community workshops.

Red Cross

<https://www.redcross.org/local/new-jersey.html>

Supplies members of the Armed Forces and their families with support and comfort whenever needed.

Red Cross Hero Care Network

1-877-272-7337

Provides peer support and mentoring for caregivers of veterans of all eras, all relations, across all locations.

Wounded Warrior Project

(877) 832-6997, www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Serves Veterans, and service members who sustained a physical or mental injury, illness or wound. Programs and services are offered to Veterans, service members and their families, free of charge.

USO (United Service Organizations)

(888) 484-3876, www.uso.org

Provides wide range of programs to support military members, Veterans and their families.

Veterans Crisis Line

(800) 273-8255 (Press "1"), text **838255**, <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>

A free, anonymous, confidential resource providing caring, qualified VA responders available 24/7.

Rally Point

www.Rallypoint.com

Social network by, for, and about service members and Veterans, peer counseling, job placement, and mentorship.

VA Women Veterans Health Care

Call or text (855) 829-6636

Services include reproductive health care, and refilling prescriptions.

Together We Served

www.Togetherweserved.com

Reconnect with former brothers and sisters-in-arms, share camaraderie of other Veterans, preserve a record of your military service that will live on for future generations.

Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers

Rosalynncarter.org

Provides caregivers of all ages, all backgrounds, at every stage of their caregiving journey, with free, personalized one-on-one coaching and support that is anchored in the latest research and monitored for effectiveness.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs**

(888) 865-8387

<https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/>

US Department of Veterans Affairs

(800) 827-1000, www.va.gov

VA Affordable Care Act

(877) 222-8387, www.va.gov/health/aca/

GI Bill

(888) 442-4551, www.benefits.va.gov/gibill

VA Life Insurance

(800) 669-8477, www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/

CHAMPVA

Medical care for Veterans' dependents and survivors call (800) 733-8387
<https://www.va.gov/health-care/family-caregiver-benefits/champva/>

Helpline (Agent Orange & Gulf War)

(800) 749-8387

Direct Deposit

(877) 838-2778

Headstone (status of claims only)

(800) 697-6947

New Jersey State Family Programs Office

<https://www.nj.gov/military/support/>

Volunteer Lawyers for Justice

(973) 645-1955, www.vljinj.org/

Legal Services: Military Assistance Project

(267) 449-6067 www.militaryassistanceproject.org

VETERANS DIVERSION PROGRAM

Active and former Service Members charged with certain criminal offenses may be eligible for diversion to mental health and rehabilitative treatment rather than face traditional criminal prosecution. Veteran mentors assist Veterans to navigate the justice system and get the help they need. The program offers access to counseling services for drugs or alcohol dependency, job placement assistance, medical services, and VA benefits. The preferred method to apply as a mentor is online through the NJDMAVA website at: <https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/services/diversion-program/>.

HOUSING

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Veteran Resource Center (HUDVET) provides housing for homeless, disabled, and low-to-moderate income Veterans, and general home ownership assistance. For more information, call (202) 708-1112; Email: hudvet@hud.gov, or visit: www.hud.gov/hudvet.

HOME LOANS

Veterans can apply for a VA home loan with any mortgage lender that participates in the VA home loan program. For more information, call (800) 884-5560, or visit: www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans.

HOMELESS

The National Coalition of Homeless Veterans provides help for homeless Veterans nationwide. Call to find a local shelter at **(800) 838-4357**.

For information about the VA New Jersey Health Care System Program for Homeless Veterans, call **(908) 647-0180 ext. 1-4217**, **(973) 645-3769**.

HOME KEEPER PROGRAM

New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA)

(800) 223-6527, www.njhousing.gov

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMS

NJDMAVA Veterans Haven-North and Veterans Haven-South

NJDMAVA's two transitional housing facilities, Veterans Haven-North in Glen Gardner, Hunterdon County, and Veterans Haven-South in Winslow Township, Camden County, provide effective, long-term rehabilitation services and employment training for their residents. Veterans Haven North can be reached at **(908) 537-1999** and Veterans Haven South can be contacted at **(609) 561-0269**, or by email: VBB@dmava.nj.gov.

Hope House for Women with Children

(201) 420-1070

Homeless Multipurpose Center, Philadelphia

(215) 923-2600

STAND DOWN

Assists New Jersey's homeless Veterans' "combat" life on the streets by providing necessities ranging from food and clothing to medical, legal and mental health services. The committees are always looking for volunteers. If you need assistance or would like to volunteer, call **(888) 865-8387**.

NEW JERSEY TAX BENEFITS

Income Tax Exemption for Veterans

You are eligible for a \$6,000 exemption on your income tax return if you are a military Veteran who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States on or any time before the last day of the tax year. Your spouse (or civil union partner) is also eligible for an exemption if he/she is a Veteran who was honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances and you are filing a joint return. This exemption is in addition to any other exemptions you are entitled to claim and is available on both the resident and nonresident returns. You cannot claim this exemption for a domestic partner or for your dependents. This exemption can only be claimed by qualifying Veterans; it does not pass through to a surviving spouse. <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/military/vetexemption.shtml>.

Property Tax Exemption / Deduction for Veterans

If you are certified by the VA as a 100% permanent and total disabled veteran based on active duty service, you may qualify for an annual property tax exemption. Disabled Veteran Exemption requires a 100 percent VA Certificate of Disability, DD-214 or equivalent, proof of ownership and legal residency. The exemption must be permanent and total. The property must be owned and occupied by the claimant, and must be their legal residence in this state.

An annual Veterans Property Tax Deduction up to \$250 requires citizenship, state residency, active service in the U.S. Armed Forces during any of the

statutory periods listed on the DVSSE application form, honorable discharge, property ownership, and the timely completion of an application. If living, the Veteran must own the property in whole or in part to qualify for the deduction. Under certain conditions, surviving spouses may also qualify for the exemption or deduction if all criteria are met. The surviving spouse qualifies if all criteria are met. Eligibility for the deduction is established as of October 1 of the pre-tax year. The application can be filed at the local tax assessor's office with appropriate documentation.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs provides advocacy for Veterans, benefits counseling and a variety of other services. For more information, call (888) 865-8387, or visit www.nj.gov/military.

GRANTS AVAILABLE IN SUPPORT OF VETERANS

Fund for the Support of NJ Nonprofit Veterans Organizations

The fund for the Support of NJ Nonprofit Veterans Organizations for the annual distribution of grants to private nonprofit veteran organizations for programs and services supporting New Jersey veterans.

New Jersey's Governor "We Value Our Veterans Award"

Valuing our Veterans: The New Governor's "We Value Our Veterans" Award gives your municipality, business, or academic institution the opportunity to value and honor the sacrifice, patriotism, and bravery displayed by our men and women who have worn the military uniform. Your town, enterprise, or institution may already recognize Veterans in numerous ways. This award provides an additional avenue to honor New Jerseyans who have answered the call to arms in defense of American Values. Our Veterans' service represent an important part of New Jersey Heritage, and receiving this award will serve as a conspicuous representation of your support of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen.

For more information, visit: <https://www.nj.gov/military/community/award-grant-charitable-programs/wvov/>

Homeless Veterans Grant Program

This program's purpose is to award grants to organizations that assist homeless veterans from Funds from the "Homeless Veterans Grant Fund". For more information, email: VBB@dmava.nj.gov.

To apply for a grant, the application can be found here: <https://www.nj.gov/military/community/award-grant-charitable-programs/veterans-nonprofit-organizations/documents/nonprofit-veteran-organization-grant-application.pdf>.

Please submit the application to:

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

ATTN: DVS – Veterans Benefits Bureau

PO Box 340

Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

These organizations assist Veterans through the VA system and advocate for Veterans' rights. They are not affiliated with the government.

American Legion

(609) 695-5418, www.njamericanlegion.org (973) 297-3226, www.legion.org

AMVETS

(609) 526-4356, www.amvets-nj.org (877) 726-8387, www.amvets.org

Catholic War Veterans

(609) 392-2303, www.ddeptnj.cwv.org (703) 549-3622, www.cwv.org

Disabled American Veterans

(609) 396-2885, www.davnj.org (877) 426-2838, www.dav.org

Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America

(212) 982-9699, <https://iava.org>

Jewish War Veterans

(609) 396-2508, www.jwv-nj.org (202) 265-6280, www.jwv.org

Korean War Veterans of America

(217) 345-4414, www.kwva.us

Marine Corps League

www.dnjmcl.org, www.mclnational.org

Military Order of the Purple Heart

(973) 297-3389, www.purpleheart.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars

(609) 393-1929, www.vfw-nj.org (816) 756-3390, www.vfw.org

Vietnam Veterans of America

(973) 663-3008, www.vvanjsc.org (301) 585-4000, www.vva.org

New Jersey Association of Veteran Service Officers (NJAVSO)

(732) 929-2096, <http://njavso.org>

EMPLOYMENT

The Department of Labor Veterans Program provides counseling, testing, placement and other assistance through local offices.

New Jersey Department of Labor-One-Stop Career Centers

Visit: <https://nj.gov/labor/career-services/>.

New Jersey Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) and Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists provide services to Veterans at One-Stop-Career Centers throughout the state.

For the One Stop Career Center near you, call (877) 872-5627 or visit: <https://www.nj.gov/labor/>.

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP)

The DVOP provides job and training opportunities, with emphasis on Veterans with service-connected disabilities. DVOP specialists provide outreach and offer assistance by promoting community and employer support for employment and training opportunities, including apprenticeship and on-the-job training.

LVERs are state employees located at the state's local employment service offices who provide assistance to Veterans by supervising the provision of all services, including counseling, testing and identifying training and employment opportunities.

US Department of Labor Veterans-Employment and Training Services

www.dol.gov/vets

RE-EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

New Jersey Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NJ ESGR)

Returning to pre-military job, call: (609) 562-5550

VETERANS AND DISABLED VETERANS PREFERENCE

To be eligible for Veterans Preference under New Jersey Law, Veterans must have served on active duty during one of the following periods.

1. World War II: 90 days active duty on or after September 16, 1940 and must have begun on or before December 31, 1946.
2. Korean Conflict: 90 days active duty on or after June 23, 1950 and must have begun on or before January 31, 1955.
3. Vietnam Conflict: 90 days active duty on or after December 31, 1960 and must have begun on or before May 7, 1975.

Proper documentation is required: WD Form 53-55, DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and VA Disability Award Letter (if applicable).

To be eligible for Veterans Preference under New Jersey law for the following peacekeeping missions, one must have served in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Haiti, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or on board any ship actively engaged in patrolling the territorial waters of that nation for a period of at least 14 days beginning on or before the date of termination of that mission or operation.

1. Lebanon Crisis: 14 days on or after July 1, 1958, commencing on or before November 1, 1958.
2. Lebanon: 14 days on or after September 26, 1982 and must have begun on or before December 1, 1987.
3. Grenada: 14 days on or after October 23, 1983 and must have begun on or before November 21, 1983.
4. Panama: 14 days on or after December 20, 1989 and must have begun on or before January 31, 1990.
5. Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm: 14 days on or after August 2, 1990 to February 28, 1991.
6. Somalia: 14 days on or after December 5, 1992 and must have begun on or before March 31, 1994.
7. Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation Joint Endeavor/Operation Joint Guard): 14 days on or after November 20, 1995 and on or before June 20, 1998.
8. Haiti (Operation Uphold Democracy): 14 days on or after September 19, 1994 and on or before March 31, 1995.
9. Operation's Southern and Northern Watch: 14 days on or after August 27, 1992.
10. Operation Enduring Freedom: 14 days on or after September 11, 2001.
11. Operation Iraqi Freedom: 14 days on or after March 19, 2003.
12. Operation New Dawn: 14 days on or after September 1, 2010.

To be eligible for disabled Veterans Preference, one must be a "Veteran" as described above and must have incurred a disability for which the Veteran is receiving 10 percent or greater disability compensation from the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Spouses of disabled Veterans, surviving spouses of disabled Veterans, or Veterans and parents of Veterans who died in service are eligible for Preference, if the Veteran would have been eligible for Veterans Preference. Proper documentation is required (DD Form 214, Honorable Discharge Certificate, and

VA Disability Award Letter (if applicable)).

NOTE: Individuals whose only active service was for training (basic training, advanced training, officer candidate school, weekend drills, or annual training) in connection with a Reserve or National Guard obligation are not eligible for Veterans Preference.

New Jersey values the contributions that our Veterans have made and continue to make for our country's freedom and for other nations around the world. As such, New Jersey's merit system provides absolute Veterans preference in employee selection. This means that qualified Veterans are placed at the top of an open competitive employment list ahead of non-Veterans, regardless of their scores. Disabled Veterans and Veterans are placed on promotional lists according to their scores, but are given preference over non-Veterans when a disabled Veteran or Veteran is at the top of a certification of the list to an appointing authority.

To obtain Veterans preference on CSC examinations, you must complete the Civil Service Veterans preference claim form. For more information, visit <https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/services/status-for-pensions/>, or call (888) 865-8387, or email: VBB@dmava.nj.gov.

NEW JERSEY CIVIL SERVICE FOR PENSION PURPOSES

Veteran Status for pension purposes does not always meet the same criteria as Veteran's preference for exams. For more information, visit <https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/services/civil-service-preference/>, or call (888) 865-8387, or email: VBB@dmava.nj.gov.

HELMETS TO HARDHATS

This program places men and women from the Armed Forces into building and construction careers. For more information, call (866) 741-6210, or visit <https://helmetstohardhats.org/>.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS

This program assists military personnel transitioning to a new career as a public school teacher. A network of state offices provides participants assistance with certification requirements, routes to state certification, and employment leads. For more information, call (800) 680-0884.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Small Business Administration (SBA)

The SBA provides services to Veterans thinking of starting a small business.

New Jersey: (973) 645-2434

New York: (212) 264-4354

Pennsylvania: (610) 382-3062

Delaware: (302) 573-6294, ext. 227

National: (800) 827-5722

<https://www.sba.gov/>

Veterans Online Business Registry (VETBIZ)

Enables Veterans to post information online about their business, to inform government and corporate buyers about their capacity to perform and inform agencies, contracting officers, and businesses about their products and services. This also links to Veterans Business Outreach Centers. For more information, call

(866) 584-2344, or visit <https://www.vetbiz.va.gov/>.

EDUCATION

New Jersey State Approving Agency (SAA)

The SAA operates under contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, maintaining the State's authority to supervise programs at traditional colleges. The agency also approves and supervises programs at non-traditional "for profit" schools, including non-degree programs, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training, flight, and correspondence schools. The SAA has its foundation in federal law, under Title 38, United States Code. To find out if your program of study is approved call (609) 530-6849.

For program-specific information, contact the Veterans' Assistance Office at the educational institution.

To find schools with approved programs use the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs WEAMS Institution Search tool at: inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub.

POW – MIA Tuition Benefit Program

Free undergraduate college tuition is available to any child born or adopted before, during, or after the period of time his or her parent was officially declared a prisoner of war (POW) or person missing in action (MIA) after January 1, 1960. The POW – MIA must have been a New Jersey resident at the time he or she entered the service, or whose official residence is in New Jersey. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at (888) 865-8387, or email: VBB@dmava.nj.gov.

War Orphan Tuition Assistance

Children of those service personnel who die while in the military or due to service-connected disabilities, or who are officially listed as MIA by the U.S. Department of Defense may claim \$500 per year for four years of college or equivalent training. To qualify, the Veteran must have been a state resident and the child must be a resident. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at (888) 865-8387, or email: VBB@dmava.nj.gov.

Veterans Tuition Credit Program

Provides additional education benefits to Veterans eligible for "federally funded" education programs who served on active duty from December 31, 1960 to May 7, 1975 and were legal residents of New Jersey at the time of induction into the Armed Forces or for a period not less than one year prior to applying. The amount of the award is \$400 annually or \$200 per semester for full-time and for part-time \$100 per semester. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at (888) 865-8387, or email: VBB@dmava.nj.gov.

Financial Aid

Veterans are advised to file Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms as well as apply for the GI Bill. Lists of scholarships, grants, and financial aid available to Veterans and their dependents can be found at <https://finaid.org/military/>. Be sure to contact the financial aid office at your institution.

OTHER BENEFITS

Operation Recognition

This program will award a state-endorsed high school diploma to any New Jersey Veteran who left a New Jersey high school to enter military service during World War II. This program has been extended to cover Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam era as well. Call **(888) 865-8387**, or email: VBB@dmava.nj.gov.

Who qualifies:

- Current New Jersey Veterans who left a New Jersey High School to join the military between the dates of September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946, June 23, 1950 and January 31, 1955, or December 31, 1960 through May 7, 1975.
- Honorably discharged.
- All branches of service including Merchant Marine and Coast Guard are eligible.
- Diplomas may also be issued posthumously. Surviving family members of eligible Veterans are urged to apply.

Required information:

- A copy of your DD-214 or discharge papers
- The name and address of the high school you attended
- The year you would have graduated
- Your name, address, and daytime phone number

Send your request to:

- Operation Recognition–DVS-VBB
- New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
- 101 Eggert Crossing Road
- Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

NEW JERSEY CATASTROPHIC ENTITLEMENT

Eligible Veterans/surviving spouses receive a monthly entitlement of \$62.50.

Criteria: A Veteran must be a New Jersey resident in receipt of a permanent service-connected disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that resulted from wartime service resulting in one of the following catastrophic disabilities: loss of sight; amputation of both hands, both feet or one hand and one foot; hemiplegia and permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm on either side of the body; paraplegia and permanent paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body; osteochondritis and permanent loss of use of both legs; multiple sclerosis and the loss of use of both feet or both legs; quadriplegia.

For more information call the Veterans Benefits Bureau call **(888) 865-8387**, or email: VBB@dmava.nj.gov, or visit <https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/benefits-resources/documents/catastrophic-entitlement-application.pdf>.

NEW JERSEY STATE SERVICE MEDALS

New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal (NJDSM)

Criteria: Any New Jersey resident or former resident who was a resident of this State at the time of entry into active military service, or who has been a resident of this State for at least 20 years in the aggregate, honorably discharged and served in the organized militia, or in federal military service on active duty in a combat theater of operation during a time of war.

Recipients whose service was recognized either by the award of a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal, or equivalent will receive the NJDSM with a Silver

Oak Leaf Cluster. Posthumous awards are authorized.

New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal (NJMSM)

Criteria: Must be an honorably discharged Veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States; and, was a resident upon entry into service, or if the veteran has been a resident of this State for a least five years in the aggregate. Posthumous awards are authorized.

New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal (NJVSM)

Criteria: Must meet the same criteria as the NJDSM. In addition, it requires military service in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after December 31, 1960 and on or before May 7, 1975. Posthumous awards are authorized.

New Jersey Korean Service Medal (NJKSM)

Criteria: Must meet the same criteria as the NJDSM. In addition, it requires military service in Korea, Japan, or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after June 23, 1950 and on or before January 31, 1955. Posthumous awards are authorized.

New Jersey POW/MIA Service Medal (NJPOW/MIA)

Criteria: Must meet the same criteria as the NJDSM and was officially listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action by the Department of Defense. Posthumous awards are authorized. Individuals applying for an award must forward a completed NJDMAVA Application for Award/Program form, or a similar request in writing along with a copy of the Service Member's DD 214 form (Separation from Active Duty) verifying an Honorable Discharge. Eligible recipients may be presented the medals during an NJDMAVA medal ceremony.

New Jersey Desert Storm Service Medal (NJDSM)

Criteria: Must have been a resident of the State of New Jersey at time of entry into active duty or assigned to other service components of the U.S. Armed Forces. Must have served in theater from the period 1 August 1990 to 1 October 1991 and have been honorably discharged. Finally, the Kuwait Liberation Medal & Southwest Asia Service Medal must appear on the DD214.

New Jersey Global War on Terrorism Medal (NJGWOT)

Criteria: Must have been a resident of this State upon entry into service or has been a resident for at least 20 years in the aggregate. Must have been awarded an honorable discharge and according to the Federal DD214 served in at least one of the following Operations: Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom, Nomad Shadow, New Dawn, Inherent Resolve, Freedom' Sentinel, Odyssey Lightning.

For more information on New Jersey State Service Medals, visit: <https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/services/awards/index.shtml> call (888) 865-8387, or email: VBB@dmava.nj.gov.

VETERANS HEALTHCARE

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs manages three state-of-the-art long-term nursing facilities. For more information visit: <https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/memorial-homes/>

Memorial Home at Paramus

Veterans Drive, PO Box 608
Paramus, NJ 07653-0608
(201) 634-8525



Memorial Home at Menlo Park

132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013
Edison, NJ 08818-3013
(732) 452-4102



Memorial Home at Vineland

524 North West Blvd
Vineland, NJ 08360-2895
(856) 405-4200



DEATH, BURIAL AND RELATED BENEFITS

Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Free interment and perpetual care is available to Veteran residents of New Jersey, their spouses, and dependent children. Pre-registration is encouraged. For eligibility for Federal VA burial and death benefits, call your local Veteran Service Office or contact the VA at **(800) 827-1000**. For more information visit: <https://www.nj.gov/military/veterans/services/cemetery/index.shtml>.

Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery
350 Province Line Road
Wrightstown, NJ 08562
(609) 738-2400

DEATH CERTIFICATES

A Veteran’s legal representative, executor, estate administrator, or family member are authorized to obtain a free copy of the Veteran’s death certificate. No more than one copy of a Veteran’s death certificate may be provided without fee; all other copies of the death certificate shall be subject to the \$25 fee.

NEW JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

This program assists Veterans in need of transportation. Free transportation is offered to VA medical centers and clinics, other hospitals, private physicians, VA Regional Office and local Veteran Service Offices. Contact your local Veterans Service Officer to make arrangements. Contact the Veterans Benefits Bureau at **(888) 865-8387**, or email: VBB@dmava.nj.gov.

HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

The New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife will annually issue hunting and fishing licenses free to each qualified Disabled Veteran. New Jersey residents must be honorably discharged and declared by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected disability. For more information, call **(908) 637-4125**.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Certain Disabled Veterans may be entitled to exemptions from registration and plate fees. Contact New Jersey Motor Vehicle Services at **(609) 292-6500**.

VETERANS DESIGNATION

The Motor Vehicle Commission issues Veteran designation on driver licenses and non-driver ID cards. You may request your Veteran designation driver license or non-driver ID card by following the instructions at: <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/drivertopics/vetdesignation.htm>.

DISABLED VETERAN AND PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT PLACARDS

New Jersey Disabled Veterans and Purple Heart recipients are eligible for motor vehicle placards that exempt them from payment of municipal parking meter fees, for up to 24 hours. These placards are available at any Motor Vehicle Commission agency or by mail, and are subject to renewal/recertification every three years. The holder of a Disabled Veteran or Purple Heart recipient placard can also be issued a Person with a Disability (PWAD) placard, if eligible. For more information, visit: <https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/drivertopics/vetdesignat.htm>.

NJDMAVA VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES (VSO)

Through our network of regional Veteran Service Offices, Veteran Service Officers provide the State’s more than 325,000 Veterans and their dependents with information and guidance in filing claims, assist with issues pertaining to employment, education, burial, counseling, housing, social and medical services, and other areas of concern to Veterans and their families. Please make every effort to use these valuable services.

State Supervisors
(609) 530-6830 / 6863

Newark Liaison Office
20 Washington Place, Room 439
Newark, NJ 07102-3174
(973) 297-3230 / Fax: (973) 648-2356

Atlantic/Cape May Veterans Service Office
Atlantic City National Guard Armory
1008 Absecon Boulevard
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
(609) 441-3060 / 3061 / Fax: (609) 441-3899

Bergen/Passaic Veterans Service Office
125 State Street, Suite #109,
Hackensack, NJ 07601-5435
(201) 996-8050 / 8051 / Fax: (201) 996-8009

Burlington Veterans Service Office
555 High Street, Suite #6A
Mt Holly, NJ 08060
(609) 518-2273 / 2274 / Fax: (609) 518-2275

Camden/Gloucester Veterans Service Office
Woodbury National Guard Armory
658 N Evergreen Avenue
Woodbury, NJ 08096
(856) 853-4184 / 4185 / 4186 / Fax: (856) 384-3772

Essex/Union Veterans Service Office
20 Washington Place, Room #431
Newark, NJ 07102
(973) 297-3336/ Fax: (973) 642-0830
East Orange VA Medical Center

385 Tremont Ave., Room 3-214
East Orange, NJ 07018
(973) 676-100, Ext. 202377

Hudson Veterans Service Office

Jersey City National Guard Armory
678 Montgomery Street, 2nd Floor, Room 6
Jersey City, NJ 07306
(201) 536-3401 / Fax: (201) 536-3404

Mercer Veterans Service Office

Lawrenceville National Guard Armory
151 Eggerts Crossing Road, Room #136
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
(609) 671-6696 / 6697 / Fax: (609) 671-6698

Middlesex/Somerset Veterans Service Office

Somerset National Guard Armory
1060 Hamilton Street
Somerset, NJ 08873
(732) 937-6347 / 6348 / Fax: (732) 937-6417

Monmouth Veterans Service Office

630 Bangs Avenue, Suite #320
Asbury Park, NJ 07712
(732) 775-7009 / 7005 / Fax: (732) 775-3612

Ocean Veterans Service Office

James J. Howard Outpatient Clinic
970 Route 70
Brick, NJ 08724
(732) 840-3033 / 3034 / Fax: (732) 840-0399

Salem/Cumberland Veterans Service Office

524 Northwest Boulevard
Vineland, NJ 08360
(856) 405-4388 / 4389 / 4390 / Fax: (856) 696-6499

Sussex/Morris Veterans Service Office

Dover National Guard Armory (Monday-Wednesday)
479 W Clinton Street
Dover, NJ 07801
(973) 366-0245 / 8347 / Fax: (973) 366-0360
Catholic Family & Community Services (Thursday and Friday)
48 Wyker Road
Franklin, NJ 07416
(609) 922-2400

Warren/Hunterdon Veterans Service Office

Veterans Haven North
200 Sanatorium Road
Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
(908) 537-0831 / 0832 / Fax: (908) 537-0833