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***If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?***

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# Nebraska State Veteran's Benefits

The state of Nebraska provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- [Veterans Homes](#)
- [Financial Assistance Benefits](#)
- [Education Benefits](#)
- [Other State Veteran Benefits](#)

## Nebraska Veterans Homes

Nebraska has four veterans homes located in Bellevue, Norfolk, Grand Island, and Scottsbluff that are part of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The objective of these homes is to provide domiciliary care and both intermediate and skilled nursing care. Veterans who served on active duty in the armed forces of the United States may be eligible for admission to one of the Nebraska veterans homes; eligibility may extend to the spouse, widow(er), and Gold Star parent.

## Nebraska Financial Assistance Benefits

### Nebraska Veterans' Aid Fund

The NVA Fund was established in 1921. This temporary emergency aid fund assists veterans, their spouses, and dependents when an unforeseen emergency occurs disrupting their normal method of living and when other resources are not immediately available.

All income from the Fund is used for aid and not for administrative expenses of the fund. Aid can only be used for food, fuel, shelter, wearing apparel, funeral, medical, and surgical items. Application must be made through the County Service Officer or post Service Officer of any recognized veterans' organization in the county nearest the applicant's place of residence and submitted to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

## Nebraska Education Benefits

### Waiver of Tuition

The University of Nebraska, the state colleges, and community colleges on behalf of any eligible child, spouse, widow or widower that meets the following requirements may waive tuition. He or she is a resident of this state and meets the appropriate institutions requirements for paying in-state tuition. He or she has a parent, stepparent or spouse who was a member of the armed forces of the United States and who: (1) Died of a service connected disability; (2) Died subsequent to discharge as a result of injury or illness sustained while in service; (3) Is permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service; (4) Is classified as missing in action or as a prisoner of war during armed hostilities after August 4, 1964. The waiver shall be valid for one degree, diploma, or certificate from a community college and one baccalaureate degree. Applications are submitted to the Department of Veterans' Affairs by contacting the County Veterans Service Officer nearest the applicant's place of residence.

### Reservist Tuition Credit

Nebraska residents who are enlisted members of a Nebraska-based unit of the Active Selected Reserve may be eligible for a 50% tuition credit to the University of Nebraska campuses, Nebraska state colleges and Nebraska community colleges. This program is allowed 200 new applicants each calendar year.

## Other Nebraska State Veteran Benefits

### Game & Parks Commission

Nebraska residents who are veterans may receive a fee exempt hunting or fishing permit if they are 50 percent disabled as a result of injuries incurred in the line of duty while in the Military or receives a pension from the Veterans Administration as a result of a total permanent disability not incurred in the line of duty in the Military Service. These permits are fee exempt and good for the life of the veteran.

Nebraska residents who are veterans may qualify for a Veteran's Hunting/Fishing Permit for a fee of \$5 if they are 64 years of age or older and a veteran that has served active duty service other than basic training.

### **Nebraska Veterans' Service Office**

The function of the State Service Office is to interview military veterans, their spouses, and dependents to establish tentative eligibility for veterans' benefits provided by federal and state laws; to advise applicants with claims before the US Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA); and to assist them in the accurate completion of application forms and transmit them to the proper federal or state agency for processing. State Service Officers are recognized representatives for the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, American Ex-POWs, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Retired Enlisted Association and the National Association of County Service Officers and are authorized to accept Power of Attorneys from claimants on behalf of the organizations. State Service Officers are located at the VA Regional Office, Lincoln.

### **Discharges**

The Department has approximately 700,000 discharges of Nebraska veterans on microfilm. If a veteran entered from and returned to Nebraska upon separation from military service, a copy of the discharge may be on file in the Department. Documents previously filed with the Selective Service System and National Guard were referred to the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Since October 1, 1979, if requested by the service-member, Military Separation Centers have sent a copy of the Certificate of Release or Discharge from active duty (DD214) to the Department.

### **Grave Registration**

The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall preserve a permanent registry of the graves of all persons who shall have served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. in time of war and whose mortal remains rest in Nebraska. Information concerning the registry can be obtained from the Department of Veterans' Affairs or a County Service Officer.

Visit the [Nebraska Department of Veterans Affairs](#) website for more information about any of these programs.