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

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# Pennsylvania State Veteran's Benefits

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

- [Veteran Housing Benefits](#)
- [Veteran Financial Assistance Benefits](#)
- [Veteran and Dependents Education Benefits](#)
- [Other State Sponsored Veteran Benefits](#)

## Pennsylvania Veteran Housing Programs

### State Veterans Homes

The State of Pennsylvania runs six Veterans Homes:

- The Delaware Valley Veterans Home in Philadelphia
- The Gino J. Merli Veterans Center in Scranton
- The Hollidaysburg Veterans Home
- The Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Erie
- The Southeastern Veterans Center in Spring City
- The Southwestern Veterans Center in Pittsburgh

An applicant shall be an eligible veteran, spouse or surviving spouse of an eligible veteran. An "eligible veteran" is defined as an individual who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States or the Pennsylvania Military Forces and was discharged under honorable conditions. An applicant shall be a bona fide resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the eligible veteran or spouse of an eligible veteran for who the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is his/her home of record upon entry into the Armed Forces of the United States or the Pennsylvania Military Forces. Current residents have priority, however, in admission. A resident of a state veterans home shall be required to make monthly payments against maintenance fee liability in accordance with the resident's ability to pay.

## Pennsylvania Financial Assistance Benefits

### Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus Program

The Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans' Bonus pays eligible Pennsylvania residents \$75 per month served in the Persian Gulf Theatre of Operations (maximum benefit \$525) during the Persian Gulf War, August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991. The deadline for submitting applications for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans Benefit Program is August 31, 2015.

### Veterans Emergency Assistance

Provides financial aid in an emergency and temporary basis (not to exceed three months in a 12-month period) to veterans, their widows, infant children or dependents who reside in Pennsylvania for the necessities of life (food, dairy, shelter, fuel and clothing). An honorably discharged veteran must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during established war service dates or during peacetime hostile fire or terrorist attack as determined by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Upon the recent death of a veteran, his widow or orphan children are eligible provided the veteran would have qualified prior to his/her death.

### Real Estate Tax Exemption

Any honorably discharged veteran who is a resident of the Commonwealth shall be exempt from the payment of all real estate taxes levied upon any building, including the land upon which it stands, occupied by him as his principal dwelling, provided that as a result of wartime military service the veteran has a 100% service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; that such dwelling is owned by him solely or jointly with his spouse (an estate by the entirety); and that the financial need for the exemption from the payment of real estate taxes has been determined by the State Veterans' Commission. Upon the death of the qualified veteran, the exemption passes on to the unmarried surviving spouse if the financial need can be shown.

### **Blind Veterans Pension**

Provides for a pension of \$150.00 per month for a person who served in the military or naval forces of the United States, or women's organization officially connected therewith, who gave the Commonwealth as his/her place of residence when entering the military and while performing duties connected with the service, suffered an injury or incurred a disease which resulted in loss of vision so that the visual acuity with the best correcting lens is 3/60 or 10/200 or equivalent, or less normal vision in the better eye. Less normal vision than 3/60 or 10/200, or equivalent, includes circumstances where the widest diameter of the visual field of the better eye has contracted to such an extent that it subtends an angular distance of not greater than 20°. The term does not include a person separated from the military or naval forces of the United States or a women's organization officially connected therewith under other than honorable conditions.

### **Paralyzed Veterans Pension**

Provides for a pension of \$150.00 per month for any person separated under honorable conditions from the Armed Forces of the United States, who gave the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as his or her place of residence at time of entering the military or naval forces of the United States, and who currently resides in Pennsylvania. Veterans qualify for the pension if they suffered an injury or disease resulting in the loss or loss of use of two or more extremities (arms/hands or legs/feet).

## **Pennsylvania Education Benefits**

### **Educational Gratuities**

Payment of educational gratuities are for children of honorably discharged veterans who have been certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having wartime service-connected disabilities rated as totally and permanently disabled or children of veterans who die or have died of war service-connected disabilities or died in service during a period of war or armed conflict. Children must be between the ages of 16 and 23, living within the Commonwealth five years prior to application and must attend a school within the Commonwealth to be entitled to this educational gratuity. Applicants must demonstrate financial need, the maximum gratuity amount is \$500 per semester.

## **Other Pennsylvania State Veteran Benefits**

### **Free Hunting/Fishing/Fur Trapper License for Certain Disabled Veterans**

Application can be made at your county treasurer.

### **Antlerless Deer License**

Application can be made at a county treasurer of your choice, regardless of the county allocation

[Learn more about the other Pennsylvania Bureau of Veterans' Affairs Benefits.](#)