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If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?

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Washington State Veteran's Benefits

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

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

Washington Veteran Housing Programs

State Veterans Homes

The state of Washington runs three state veterans homes, they are the Veterans Home at Retsil, the Washington Soldiers Home and Colony near Orting, and the Spokane Veterans Home. All provide high-quality, long-term nursing and assisted-living care. Eligibility requirements include;

- Service at any time, in any branch of the United States Armed Forces including the National Guard;
- Honorable discharge
- Resident of Washington State
- Spouse or widow of an eligible veteran
- Gold Star parent

Homeless Veterans Program

WDVA provides outreach services for homeless veterans in Puget Sound. These services are designed to assist homeless veterans to become employable and reintegrated back into the labor market. Services include needs assessments, enrollments in appropriate programs, shelter and transitional housing placements, employment and training support services.

Eligible homeless veterans are provided with case management services and financial support to meet the needs of housing, transportation, food and clothing. The primary strategy for WDVA homeless veterans services is to promote job readiness development to improve homeless veterans competitiveness in the employment market.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP)

The HVRP offers a structured, individually designed case management plan to make veterans employable and secure by providing, housing, food, transportation, living stability and employment support services.

Washington Financial Assistance Programs

Veterans Estate Management Program

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Veterans Estate Management Program offers protective payee services for veterans and family members who are incapable of managing their own financial affairs. By assuming custody of the individual's finances, the department ensures basic needs -- such as housing, food, clothing and medical care are provided.

The WDVA director is authorized to provide protective financial services to veterans and beneficiaries deemed in need of assistance. These services may include the following:

- Fiduciary appointment by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs;
- Representative payee appointment by the Social Security Administration; or
- Act as an executor of a veteran's estate.

Other Washington State Veteran Benefits

PTSD Counseling Services

The Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program attempts to create community-based avenues to counseling service that are less formal in nature, offering the highest level of confidentiality possible. Services provided throughout the program include individual, couples, family, and veteran group counseling. Some contractors offer group services to women veterans and spouses of veterans. Veterans may be referred to specialized inpatient or outpatient treatment offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers or Vet Centers within Washington State.

Washington State offers several other benefits including special license plates, returning veterans transition assistance, reduced public transportation fees, reduced fee hunting and fishing licenses, and more.

Military Commercial Drivers License Skills Test Waiver

The Commercial Driver License (CDL) skills test waiver form may be used by service members who are currently licensed and who are or were employed within the last 90 days in a military position requiring the operation of a military motor vehicle equivalent to a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV). This waiver allows a qualified service member to apply for a CDL without skills testing. CDL knowledge (written) test(s) cannot be waived.

Commemorative License Plates

There are several commemorative license plates available recognizing veterans in special categories.

Visit the [Washington State Dept.of Veterans Affairs](#) website for more information on any of these programs.