

# Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services

A consolidated listing of programs, benefits and services for Veterans  
and their Families in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



[www.veterans.pa.gov](http://www.veterans.pa.gov)



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Community  
& Economic Development**

[www.dced.pa.gov](http://www.dced.pa.gov)

- Resources for Veteran-Owned Businesses:
  - Veteran-Owned Business Fee Exemption
  - Small Business Development Center (SBDC) resources
- Veteran Business Enterprise Resource handout
- Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) program
- Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVETP) contracts



Pennsylvania  
**Department of State**

[www.dos.pa.gov](http://www.dos.pa.gov)

- Special ballot delivery options for hospitalized or bedridden veterans: 1-877-VOTESPA
- Military Occupational Crosswalk / Act 35 (Licensure Act for Veterans & Military Spouses)
- Act 135 of 2016- Business fee exemption for veteran-owned and reservist-owned small business and certain license types



Pennsylvania  
**State Police**

[www.psp.pa.gov](http://www.psp.pa.gov)

- Partnership for Your Success (PaYS Program) Military Veteran Job Recruitment Program partner
- Targeted Veteran Recruitment-attendance at Yellow Ribbon Military Events throughout the Country
- Partnership with the Pennsylvania National Guard to host Annual Youth and Law Enforcement Programs



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Health**

[www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov)

- Free certified copies of birth and death certificates for veterans



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Transportation**

[www.dmv.pa.gov](http://www.dmv.pa.gov)

- “Honoring Our Veterans” license plates
- Veterans designation on PA Driver’s Licenses/ID Card
- Free IDs for homeless individuals (number of homeless veterans identified)
- Commercial driver license skills test waiver for those with qualifying military experience
- Commercial driver license knowledge test waiver for those with qualifying military experience
- U.S. Military Veteran license plates
- Military and Veterans Organization specialty license plates
- Veterans Trust Fund donation option through vehicle registration and driver’s license/ID card renewal
- CDL knowledge test waiver for qualifying military experience
- Severely disabled veteran plates and placard
- One (1) free titling and registration for the vehicle of a veteran who is totally disabled; who lost a limb, eye, or became partially paralyzed; who was captured; who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor or the Purple Heart



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Aging**

[www.aging.pa.gov](http://www.aging.pa.gov)

- Veterans Directed Home and Community-Based Service Program (Philadelphia)
- SHARE program, which tracks the veterans in the program



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Human Services**

[www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)

- CompeerCORPS in Butler County and Suburban Philadelphia
- Veterans Certified Peer Support Enhancement Curriculum Training
- Military Cultural Competence Training
- Veteran-Centric Fairweather Lodges
- PA Family & Behavioral Health Coalition
- Behavioral Health Veteran Forum
- Military Suicide Prevention Symposium
- Suicide Prevention Plan
- Veterans Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Labor & Industry**

[www.dli.pa.gov](http://www.dli.pa.gov)

- Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists and Local Veteran Employment Representatives (LVER) available at CareerLink® locations around the commonwealth.
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
  - Specialized counselors serving veterans with disabilities. Veterans' coordinator in each of the 15 OVR District Offices.
- Special veteran designation on PA CareerLink® accounts and military-to-civilian occupational assistance



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Military  
and Veterans Affairs**

[www.dmva.pa.gov](http://www.dmva.pa.gov)

- Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services
- Six Pennsylvania Veterans Homes
- Veterans Trust Fund (VTF) grant program
- Veterans Temporary Assistance Program (VTA)
- Military Records Request Program
- Veterans Services Officer Accreditation Program
- PA VETConnect
- Two mobile outreach vans
- Disabled Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption Program
- Blind Veterans' Pension Program
- Amputee and Paralyzed Veterans' Pension Program
- Burial Detail Program
- Pennsylvania Veterans' Memorial Trust Fund
- Military Family Relief Assistance Program (MFRAP)
- State Veterans' Commission
- Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Transportation Program
- Educational Gratuity for Children of Deceased and Disabled Veterans
- Military Family Educational Assistance Program
- Pennsylvania National Guard Survivors' Pension
- Pennsylvania National Guard Survivors' Tuition Waiver



Pennsylvania  
**Council on the Arts**

[www.arts.pa.gov](http://www.arts.pa.gov)

- Arts in Residency program offered to the six PA state veteran homes
- Pilot for music therapy at one PA state veteran home



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Drug and  
Alcohol Programs**

[www.ddap.pa.gov](http://www.ddap.pa.gov)

- State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant funding, filtering through DMVA to assist with substance abuse prevention and treatment.



Pennsylvania  
**Office of Administration**

[www.oa.pa.gov](http://www.oa.pa.gov)

- Veterans' Preference Act



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Education**

[www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov)

- The Division of Veterans & Military Education serves as the Pennsylvania State Approving Agency for veterans and their beneficiaries to use their G.I. Bill® Benefits at:
  - Institutions of Higher Education
  - Trade Schools/Vocational Training Pathways
  - On-the-Job Training Programs
  - Apprenticeships (Registered and Non-Registered)
  - Vocational Flight Schools
  - License & Certifications
  - Test Preparation Programs
- Purple Star Schools Award Designation, which supports military-connected children as they relocate to new schools due to a parent's change in duty station
- Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) authorizes Pennsylvania to join the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, enforce the MIC3, and establishes the State Council on Interstate Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- Honorary High School Diplomas for Veterans – Operation Recognition can assist honorably discharged WWII, Korean War, or Vietnam War veterans who did not graduate from high school due to military service
- Veterans Preference for Teacher Certification: active-duty military members, veterans, and spouses or surviving spouses of active-duty military members or veterans to receive preferential application handling and a reduced application fee when applying for any educator certification.



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Corrections**

[www.cor.pa.gov](http://www.cor.pa.gov)

- DOC Statewide Veteran Coordinator
- Early identification of veterans
- Veteran Service Units, each with a Veteran Coordinator as a manager
- Staff education on veteran's issues and resources
- Veterans outreach events for veteran inmates and employees
- Veterans Reentry Program
- Army PAYS Program
- GI BILL OJT Program for Correctional Officers



Pennsylvania  
**Department of General Services**

[www.dgs.pa.gov](http://www.dgs.pa.gov)

- Small Business Program
- Small Diverse Business (SDB) Program
- Online Self-Certification and SDB Third Party Verification
- Veterans & Service-Disabled Veteran prime and subcontracting opportunities
- Veteran & Service-Disabled Veterans Business Outreach and Training



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Agriculture**

[www.agriculture.pa.gov](http://www.agriculture.pa.gov)

- Pennsylvania Veteran Grant Program- Funding for veteran organizations to provide min grants for veterans in ag
- Trees for Troops – donates local Christmas trees to deployed troops and their families
- PA Preferred Homegrown by Heroes
- Penn State Extension- Free Educational Services for Military and Veterans in PA- sponsored by PDA Extension Serves Our Military Community
- Rodale Institute Veteran Farmer Training Program – (Offered by PA Dept. of Agriculture partners)
- Farmer Veteran Coalition – (Offered by PA Dept. of Agriculture partners)



Pennsylvania  
**State Civil Service  
Commission**

[www.scsc.pa.gov](http://www.scsc.pa.gov)

- Reviews and resolves disputed civil service employment appeals involving the application of veterans' preference, eligibility, discrimination, etc. Appeals are filed by job seekers and current classified service employees at the state and applicably covered local government levels



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources**

[www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov)

- Accessibility improvements for veterans and other visitors with physical disabilities
- Opportunities for veterans with physical disabilities to obtain mobility device permits to travel behind State Forest gates for enhanced recreational experiences
- Focused recreational events for veterans and mobility accessible trails
- Active-duty discounts at the Nature Inn at Bald Eagle State Park (10% on weekdays)
- Outreach efforts to encourage veterans to connect with fellow veterans outdoors to support mental and emotional well-being



Pennsylvania  
**Department of Revenue**

[www.revenue.pa.gov](http://www.revenue.pa.gov)

- Taxpayers can donate all or a portion of their state income tax refund to the Military Family Relief Assistance Program (MFRAP)



Pennsylvania  
**Fish and Boat Commission**

[www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)


- Reduced Disabled Veterans Fishing License
- Disabled Veteran Free Lifetime Fishing License (under age 65)
- Disabled Veteran Free Senior Lifetime Fishing License (age 65 or older)
- Disabled Veteran Free Resident Annual Fishing License
- National Guard/Armed Forces Reserve (Resident Annual) Fishing License
- Prisoner of War (POW) Lifetime Fishing License (age 65 or older)
- Prisoner of War (POW) Resident Annual Fishing License



Pennsylvania  
**Department of  
Banking and Securities**

[www.dobs.pa.gov](http://www.dobs.pa.gov)

- Veteran \$cam Jam events
- Military Guide to Money and Investing
- Helpline for financial questions: 1-800-PA-BANKS



The Governor's Advisory Council on Veterans Services was established on Veterans Day 2013. The council is Pennsylvania's first interagency cooperative approach to veteran services and offers a collaborative platform to increase information sharing and make meaningful enhancements in service accessibility.

Current committees include:

- Aging
  - Education, Employment, Workforce Development
  - Homeless
  - Health Promotions
  - Judiciary
  - Women Veterans
  - Veterans in Public Service
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