

Montgomery County, MD - Veterans Network Directory

Survivor and Dependent Benefits

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This is a project of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs.

To submit an update, add or remove a listing, or request an alternative format, please contact: MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Benefit information for surviving spouses and dependents of military personnel who died while in active military service and to the survivors of veterans who died after service.

[Federal Benefits for Veterans Dependents and Survivors](#)

Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)

P.O. Box 469063
Denver, CO 80206

www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/dependents/champva/index.asp

Customer Service Call Center:
1-800-733-8387 (Toll Free)
8:05 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST

To be eligible for CHAMPVA, you cannot be eligible for TRICARE, and you must be in one of these categories:

- The spouse or child of a Veteran who has been rated permanently and totally disabled for a service-connected disability by a VA regional office.
- The surviving spouse or child of a Veteran who died from a VA-rated service-connected disability.
- The surviving spouse or child of a Veteran who was at the time death rated permanently and totally disabled from a service-connected disability.
- The surviving spouse or child of a military member who died in the line of duty, not due to misconduct (in most of these cases, these family members are eligible for TRICARE, not CHAMPVA).

CHAMPVA is always the secondary payer to Medicare. If you are eligible for Medicare, at any age and for any reason, you must enroll in Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B to keep your CHAMPVA benefits. Social Security Administration documentation of enrollment in both Part A and Part B is required by CHAMPVA. You are not required to enroll in Medicare Part D in order to become or remain CHAMPVA eligible.

Medicare with Certain Disabilities: Eligibility for CHAMPVA benefits can be impacted by approval of disability benefits. If you are approved by Social Security Administration (SSA) for disability, you may become entitled to Medicare Part A: Premium-free hospital insurance. To continue your CHAMPVA eligibility, you must enroll in, and remain enrolled in, Medicare Part B: Outpatient insurance, while you are entitled to Part A.

If you qualify for disability under End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), you must apply for Medicare benefits. Medicare coverage begins with the third (3rd) month after the month in which a course of maintenance dialysis begins. Termination of enrollment in Medicare Part B may result in loss of CHAMPVA benefits effective with the date of such termination. To determine CHAMPVA eligibility, SSA documentation of enrollment in both Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B is required. Acceptable documentation includes a copy of the beneficiary Medicare card, a letter from the SSA that provides the dates of Medicare eligibility, or any valid verification from SSA. If you do not have enough work quarters to qualify for Part A, a SSA "Notice of Disallowance" is required indicating you are not eligible for Medicare benefits under any social security number. CHAMPVA is NOT considered primary health coverage.

Death Benefit to Surviving Spouse or Estate of Maryland Resident Killed in Action – State of Maryland

Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

410-585-3728 (V)

Email: survivor.benefits@maryland.gov

<https://dpscs.maryland.gov/publicinfo/mspb.shtml>

The Secretary, under Public Safety Article, § 1-202, Annotated Code of Maryland, may award a death benefit to the surviving spouse, child, dependent parent, or estate of Maryland resident who, after January 1, 2006, was a member of the United States military serving in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict and died in the performance of duties: (a) During active military service in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict; or (b) As a result of an injury sustained during active military service in the Afghanistan or Iraq conflict. A death benefit awarded under this chapter is subject to deductions for taxes, debt or penalty owed by a decedent to a federal, state, or local government agency.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Baltimore Regional Benefit Office
31 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, MD 21201

1-800-827-1000 (Toll Free)

www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/

DIC is a tax-free benefit for the surviving spouse, dependent children or parents. A spouse's Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity is reduced by any DIC amount received. Usually an application for DIC benefits is completed by the Casualty Assistance Officer and submitted on behalf of the survivor - [VA Form 21-534a, Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for a Surviving Spouse or Child](#). Parent's DIC is a monthly benefit amount for the dependent's parents that it is based on income - [VA Form 21-535, Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parents](#), and mail to the VA Baltimore Regional Center.

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) – Montgomery County Service Center

David Skisano, Veterans Benefits Specialist II (VBS)
Email: davidj.skisano@maryland.gov
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Service Center
Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
15 Metropolitan Grove Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

301-987-8412 (V)

301-987-8413 (V)

301-987-8496 (FAX)

Contact via email or phone. Please leave a message and he will return the call as soon as possible.

By appointment only.

Phil Munley, Director of Program Services
Email: phillip.munley@va.gov
www.veterans.maryland.gov

410-230-4444 x 6457 (V)

Veterans Benefits Specialists (VBS) provide assistance to the men and women who served in the Uniformed Services of the United States, their dependents, and survivors in obtaining benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, State of Maryland and other programs for veterans and their families. Staff are authorized to represent veterans and their dependents before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as provide general information to those seeking assistance, regardless of representation.

Military OneSource – Casualty Assistance Program

www.militaryonesource.mil/casualty-assistance

Provides comprehensive resources to ill or injured service members and their families and to the families of deceased service members. This program can help you to better understand and access important benefits and can provide information and support throughout the grieving and healing process. A new interactive online survivor benefits report will be available for survivors of all service members who have died on active duty that can be accessed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) of the USA

Email: communications@purpleheart.org
www.purpleheart.org

703-642-5360 (Services)

Service Office

31 Hopkins Plaza Room 1237
Baltimore, MD 21201

410-230-4460 (V)

Mary Kelly, Regional Field Supervisor

MOPH, VA Regional Office
20 Washington Place, Room 441
Newark, NJ 07103
Email: mary.kelly5@va.gov

973-297-3389 (V)

Assist all veterans, their dependents, widows and orphans in working with the VA and filing claims for the many benefits that are available. You do not need to be a member to seek assistance. Provide veterans' benefits experts at various veterans administration regional offices, hospitals, vet centers, and state and county veteran facilities. Process veterans'

claims for compensation, pension, medical care, education, job training, employment, veterans preference, housing, death and burial benefits. Educate veterans on their benefits and entitlements. Provide quality and professional representation for veterans whose benefits have been denied at the local VA regional office.

Office of Survivors Assistance - Department of Veterans Affairs

Email: officeofsurvivors@va.gov
www.va.gov/survivors

202-461-1077 (V)
1-800-827-1000 (Call Center)

Serves as a resource regarding all benefits and services furnished by the VA to survivors and dependents of deceased veterans and members of the Armed Forces. Promote the use of VA benefits, programs and services to survivors.

Property Tax Exemption – Maryland State Department of Taxation

Montgomery County Assessments
B. Marie Green, Supervisor of Assessments
30 W. Gude Drive, Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20850

240-314-4510 (V)
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Email: sdat.mont@maryland.gov

<https://dat.maryland.gov/realproperty/Pages/Property-Tax-Exemptions.aspx>

A property tax exemption is available to the following individuals, for their primary residence located in the State of Maryland:

- surviving spouse of active duty military personnel who died in the line of duty
- surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran
- a spouse who receives the dependency and indemnity compensation

Use the links below to download the appropriate form.

- **Property Tax Exemption - Surviving Spouse of 100% Disabled Veteran**
<https://dat.maryland.gov/SDAT%20Forms/Surviving-Spouse-Veteran.pdf>
- **Property Tax Exemption - Surviving Spouse of Active Duty Military Personnel Killed in the Line of Duty**
<https://dat.maryland.gov/SDAT%20Forms/Surviving-Spouse-MilitaryCasualty.pdf>

Retired Soldier Casualty Assistance – U.S. Army

https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/static/Post/Retired_Soldier_Casualty_Assistance_Checklist.pdf

Contact the Department of the Army Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Division (CMAOD) anytime by calling 1-800-626-3317. You will be immediately referred to a local Casualty Assistance Center (CAC), who will report the death to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) to stop retired pay and initiate the survivor benefits process. If you reside overseas and the toll-free number is not available, call your Retirement Services Office (RSO) (see link below). When reporting the death, please provide as much of the following information as you have: full name; disability rating; copy of death certificate; social security number and/or service number; circumstances surrounding the death; next of kin information; retired rank; retirement date; and date and place of birth.

Servicemembers' and Veterans' Group Life Insurance – Death Benefits – Department of Veterans Affairs

Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance
Email: fcs@financialpoint.com

1-800-419-1473 (Toll Free)
1-888-243-7351 (Benefits Financial Counseling)

Beneficiaries should complete form [SGLV 8283, Claim For Death Benefits](#) and submit it to OSGLI. Offer free [Beneficiary Financial Counseling Services \(BFCS\)](#). This service provides a one-on-one counseling session, a detailed step-by-step financial plan, and access to financial counselors for one year.

Silver Spring Vet Center

Wayne Miller, Team Leader/Director
Silver Spring Vet Center
2900 Linden Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Email: Wayne.Miller3@med.va.gov
www.va.gov/silver-spring-vet-center

301-589-1073 (V)
202-273-9116 (Bereavement Counseling)

Hours: Open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays. Walk-ins are permitted during these hours, but appointments are requested. After hours appointments as needed. Veterans must show proof of service. The center provides benefits counseling and assistance with navigating the VA and paperwork, as well as employment counseling, counseling on PTSD and sub-PTSD, substance abuse counseling, family and marital counseling, psychological counseling related to readjustment, coordination and referral with doctors, employment related issues, assistance with basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing, medical and legal referrals, homeless assistance and will work with Montgomery County to find shelter placement, sexual trauma counseling, community outreach, bereavement counseling, and more. All services are provided at no cost to the veteran and their family. Veterans do not need to be enrolled with the Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Centers to use the Vet Center. Veterans do not need a disability rating or service connection for injuries from either the Department of Veteran Affairs or the Department of Defense, to use the Vet Center. View [Vet Center Eligibility Criteria](#). If you live outside of Montgomery County [view a list of other locations](#) that may be closer to you. **Directions:** The Vet Center is located near the intersection of Seminary Road/Capitol View Avenue. You can also take the #5 Ride On Bus from either the Silver Spring Metro Station or the Twinbrook Metro Station and be dropped off at the Capitol View Avenue stop.

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (DEA) - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/dependents-education-assistance

1-888-442-4551 (Toll Free)

Dependent's Educational Assistance provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits. These benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. If you are a spouse, you may take a correspondence course. If you are a son or daughter and wish to receive benefits for attending school or job training, you must be between the ages of 18 and 26. If you are a spouse, benefits end 10 years from the date VA finds you eligible or from the date of death of the veteran.

Eligibility requirements - You must be the son, daughter, or spouse of:

- A veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the Armed Forces.
- A veteran who died from any cause while such permanent and total service-connected disability was in existence.
- A servicemember missing in action or captured in line of duty by a hostile force.
- A servicemember forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.
- A servicemember who is hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability.

Obtain and complete [VA Form 22-5490, Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance](#). Send it to the VA Eastern Regional Office listed above. If you are a son or daughter, under legal age, a parent or guardian must sign the application. For more information, please read the [Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program \(Pamphlet\)](#).

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)

3033 Wilson Boulevard, Third Floor
Arlington, VA 22201
Email: info@taps.org
www.taps.org

202-588-8277 (Programs)
1-800-959-8277 (24-Hour Military Survivor Helpline)

Provide comfort and support to all who are grieving the loss of a loved one in military service. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Services include a national network of peer-based emotional support, case work assistance, crisis intervention, and grief and trauma resources. All services are provided free of charge to surviving families.

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VA Home Loan Guaranty Benefits for Surviving Spouses

VA Loan Eligibility Center
210 Franklin Road, SW
Roanoke, VA 24011

1-800-933-5499 (Toll Free)

www.vba.va.gov/bln/dependents/Spouseelgy.htm

The spouse of a Veteran can also apply for home loan eligibility under one of the following conditions:

- Unremarried spouse of a Veteran who died while in service or from a service-connected disability, or
- Spouse of a Servicemember missing in action or a prisoner of war
- Surviving spouse who remarries on or after attaining age 57, and on or after December 16, 2003
(Note: a surviving spouse who remarried before December 16, 2003, and on or after attaining age 57, must have applied no later than December 15, 2004, to establish home loan eligibility. VA must deny applications from surviving spouses who remarried before December 6, 2003 that are received after December 15, 2004.)
- Surviving Spouses of certain totally disabled veterans whose disability may not have been the cause of death

You will need to complete [VA Form 26-1817 - Request for Determination of Loan Guaranty Eligibility - Unmarried Surviving Spouse](#).

Work-Study Employment - VA GI Bill

VA Regional Processing Office
P.O. Box 4616
Buffalo, NY 14240

1-888-442-4551 (Toll Free)
Monday through Friday
7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., CST

www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/how-to-use-benefits/work-study

This program is available to eligible survivors while pursuing a program of education or training under Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA). If you're a full-time or 3/4-time student in a college degree program, or a vocational or professional program, you can "earn while you learn" with a VA work-study allowance. For forms and information, call your VA Regional Office, Vet Center, local representative, or Reserve Education and Incentive Officers. Download the [application for Work-Study Allowance](#). To obtain information on other sources of assistance, contact the financial aid office at your school.