

Montgomery County, MD - Veterans Network Directory

Benefits and Claims Assistance

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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: DHHSWebsite@montgomerycountymd.gov, 240-777-1246 (V), MD Relay 711.

For education benefits, view [GI Bill and Education](#) and [Tuition Assistance and Scholarships](#)

For retirement benefits from the military, view [Retirement Benefits](#)

Vets.gov

www.vets.gov

Provides information on VA benefits such as disability, health care, education and training, housing assistance, careers and employment, life insurance, pension, and burials and memorials. Users can register with the site and manage their health and benefits including refill prescriptions, get VA health records, check claim and appeal status, check Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, and message their health care team.

VA Health Care Eligibility & Enrollment Financial Calculator

www.va.gov/healtheligibility/apps/enrollmentcalculator

Find out if your income level and assets may affect your eligibility for VA health benefits.

Requesting Your DD-214

Whenever a veteran requests benefits and services, a copy of the individual's discharge papers are required to verify eligibility. This includes admission to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, Maryland's five cemeteries, VA claims and a myriad of other services provided to veterans and their families. Veterans and their next of kin can request a copy of the service member's DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty from the National Archives. You can request the DD214 online via their website - www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records. Click on the link "Submit your request online". You can also make a request by sending a letter to the address listed below.

National Personnel Records Center
Military Personnel Records
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138

314-801-0800 (V)

Recording of Military Discharges (DD-214s)

Montgomery County Circuit Court License Department
50 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

240-777-9400 (V)
Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

As one of the general duties of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the License Department maintains permanent records of military discharge papers. Montgomery County military Veterans may file their military discharge papers at the Montgomery County Circuit Court License Department. Military discharge records include:

- Copy of 4, DD Form 214 issued by the United States Government;
- Any copy of DD Form 214 with a raised seal issued by the United States National Personnel Records Center; or
- United States National Archives Form 13038.

Customers must provide identification and a Social Security Number when requesting copies of their discharge papers. The service of recording the records is free, and Veterans receive one certified copy of their discharge papers free of charge. The fee is \$5.50 for each additional copy. Military discharge papers (DD 214s) are not public records, and the inspection of these records is restricted as stipulated by Maryland Code.

311VET

www.311vet.com

Text 311828

311VET will help you find general information about VA benefits anywhere and any time. Answers and alerts are always free of charge (standard message rates apply). Just text your question to 311VET (311828). The 311VET application is available for download from iPhones or Android phones. You can also sign up to receive periodic text alerts on topics of interest including news, benefits, career, health, events and tips. Anyone with an SMS-capable phone can sign up with a single text. Text 311VET (311838) with the word ALERT and the topic name (for example ALERT HEALTH).

American Legion – Benefits Claims Assistance

For Claims: Valerie Cochran, American Legion DSO
31 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, MD 21201
E-mail: valerie.cochran@va.gov

410-230-4420 (V)

For Policy: Russell W. Myers, Jr.
War Memorial Building, Room E
101 N. Gay Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
E-mail: Russell@mdregion.org

410-752-1405 (V)

www.legion.org/veteransbenefits

Accredited American Legion service officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families. While the majority of a service officer's work involves application for VA disability benefits, these professionals also provide information, referrals and resources on education, employment and business, death benefits and other important topics. **American Legion Claims Coach:** Mobile application that provides guidance to help you navigate your claims process or to identify a benefits officer. For more information about the app and how you can locate a Legion near you visit www.legion.org/mobileapps/claimscoach.

American Red Cross in the National Capitol Region

8550 Arlington Boulevard
Fairfax, VA 22031

703-584-8400 (V)

www.redcross.org/dc/washington

Provide assistance and information in preparing, developing, and obtaining sufficient evidence to support applicants' claims for veterans' benefits and also assist claimants who seek to appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA). Red Cross staff at the BVA and a network of State Work-Share Representatives who are accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs work on behalf of the Red Cross to assist claimants. Counseling, guidance, information, referrals and other social services are also available. Volunteers serve in 153 VA hospitals around the nation transporting patients to and from treatment sessions, providing companionship and personal services, and bringing magazines, books, and comfort items to patients.

AMVETS Benefits Claims Assistance

VA Regional Office
31 Hopkins Plaza #1235
Baltimore, MD 21201

410-230-4430 (V)

Joseph Thornton, Chief of Claims
E-mail: joseph.thornton2@va.gov

Tahleemah Johnson, NSO
E-mail: tahleemah.johnson@va.gov

Lanham Office
AMVETS National Service Foundation
4647 Forbes Boulevard
Lanham, MD 20706

1-800-810-7148 (Toll Free)

Denny Boller, NSD

E-mail: dboller@amvets.org

Ross Ogilvie, DNSD

E-mail: eglover@amvets.org

www.amvetsnsf.org/nsop.html

National service officers, accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs, provide free claims assistance to veterans, their dependents and spouses. Influential advocate for America's veterans on important issues such as employment and training, mandatory funding for government-provided health care and other benefits for which they are entitled.

Community OneSource – Easter Seals

E-mail: veterans@easterseals.com

1-866-423-4981 (Toll Free)

www.easterseals.com/our-programs/military-veterans/community-onesource.html

Helping Veterans and their families connect to services and resources, including veterans benefits information, caregiver resources, education benefits specialists, financial assistance resources, benefits for seniors, employment assistance services, housing options available, local child care providers, counseling services, legal aid services, healthcare options, and more. Assistance is provided at no charge and is open to all veterans, mobilized reservists and their families.

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Pete Ahearn, Transition Officer

240-281-7642 (V)

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

8901 Wisconsin Avenue - Building 62

Bethesda, MD 20889 E-mail: PAhearn@dav.org

Appointments Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Federal Building

1-800-446-4926 x 6450 (Toll Free)

Room 3020, 31 Hopkins Plaza

Baltimore, MD 21201

www.dav.org/veterans/NSOffices.aspx

DAV National Service Officers (NSOs) assist veterans and their families in filing claims for VA disability compensation and pension, vocational rehabilitation and employment, education, home loan guaranty, life insurance, death benefits, health care and much more. Also offer a Mobile Service Office so NSOs can travel to communities across the country to counsel and assist veterans with development of evidence, completion of required applications and prosecution of claims for veterans benefits administered under federal, state, and local laws.

eBenefits

www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal

1-800-983-0937 (eBenefits General Questions)

Online resource for tools and benefits-related information for Wounded Warriors, Veterans, Service Members, their families, and their caregivers. eBenefits provides two main services: a catalog of links to military and Veteran benefits on other sites, and a personalized workspace giving quick access to online tools that enable you to apply for benefits, download your DD-214, see your benefits status online, and more. View the [informational brochure](#).

Homeless Outreach at VA Gaithersburg Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) – VA Medical Center

15810 Gaither Drive

Gaithersburg, MD 20877

VAMC Homeless Outreach Staff and Veteran's Justice Outreach Staff are available for both drop in and scheduled visits. The VA will be available to assist veterans by making referrals and connecting veterans who are eligible for VA services with the VA healthcare system. Maryland's Commitment to Veterans (MCV) is also providing staff to be on-site to assist veterans and their families with coordinating behavioral health services, including mental health and substance abuse services - either with the VA or Maryland's Public Health System; facilitate transportation to behavioral health appointments; provide information and referrals related to employment, education, housing or VA benefits; and provide

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outreach to educate residents, veterans and community groups about MCV.

- Aisha Clark, VA HUD VASH Senior Social Worker
E-mail: aisha.clark@va.gov
Ken Barnum, VA Outreach Social Worker
E-mail: Kenneth.barnum@va.gov
Office Hours: Monday – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m
- Fatmata Kamara, VA Outreach Social Worker
E-mail: fatmata.kamara@va.gov, 202-253-9261
Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Homeless Persons Representation Project, Inc.

201 N. Charles Street, Suite 1104
Baltimore, MD 21201

410-685-6589 (V)
1-800-773-4340 (Toll Free)

www.hprplaw.org/get_legal_help/veterans_benefits_and_discharge_upgrades

Offers legal assistance to homeless or low-income Veterans in Maryland. Assistance includes service-connected disability benefits; non-service connection pension; and discharge upgrades. Satellite office serving Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

In Montgomery County

VA Community-Based Outpatient Center
15810 Gaither Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

Intakes are offered on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. beginning August 27, 2019. The clinic operates on an appointment basis. Please call 410-387-3126 to schedule an appointment. If you have documents related to your case, bring them. Types of documents include: any medical records (VA or private), past VA decisions on claims, and service personnel records (including DD-214).

Maryland's Commitment to Veterans

Stephanie Slowly, Chief of Staff, Office of Deputy Secretary,
Behavioral Health
Spring Grove Hospital Center, Mitchell Bldg.
55 Wade Avenue
Catonsville, MD 21228
E-mail: stephanie.slowly1@maryland.gov

1-877-770-4801 (24/7 - Toll Free)

Western Regional Resource Coordinator

David Galloway
E-mail: david.galloway1@maryland.gov
www.veterans.dhmv.maryland.gov

410-725-9971 (V)

Serving Garrett, Allegany, Frederick, Carroll, Montgomery, and Washington Counties.

Regional Resource Coordinators are available to assist veterans and their families obtain services through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other available local resources. Resource Coordinators offer knowledge and assistance in VA benefits, issues of homelessness and unemployment, crisis and emergency services, substance abuse services, and individual, family, and group therapy.

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

Montgomery College Service Center
Joseph Thornton, Veterans Benefits Specialist (VBS)
900 Hungerford Drive, Mannakee Building, Room MK251, Rockville, MD 20850
E-mail: joseph.thornton@maryland.gov

240-567-5405 (V)
240-567-4361 (FAX)

EFFECTIVE January 6th, 2020: Mr. Thornton works at the Montgomery College Service Center weekdays, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Outreach Hours:** Mr. Thornton is at the Silver Spring Vet Center (2900 Linden Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910) the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Please note:** while walk-ins are accepted at all locations, to ensure you are seen please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

Phil Munley, Director of Program Services
E-mail: pmunley@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. Contact your nearest full-time VBS to make an appointment:

Baltimore: 1-800-446-4926 x 6450 (Toll Free)	Hagerstown: 301-791-0356 (V)
Bel Air: 410-836-4900 (V)	Hurlock (Eastern Shore): 410-943-0417 (V)
Camp Springs: 301-248-0463 (V)	Laurel: 410-313-0229 (V)
Charlotte Hall: 301-884-8171 x 7155 (V)	Rockville: 240-567-5405 (V)
Cumberland: 301-759-5251 (V) / 301-759-5252 (V)	Salisbury: 410-713-3482 (V)
Frederick: 301-600-2155 (V)	

Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Program

William Jackson, National Service Officer 410-230-4460 (V)
31 Hopkins Plaza, Room 1237
Baltimore, MD 21201
E-mail: william.jackson20aa44@va.gov

Mary Kelly, Regional Field Supervisor 973-297-3389 (V)
MOPH, VA Regional Office
20 Washington Place, Room 441
Newark, NJ 07103
E-mail: mary.kelly5@va.gov

www.purpleheart.org/ServiceProgram/Default.aspx

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.

Military.com - Benefits

www.military.com/benefits

Website featuring resources and information on burial and memorial benefits, education, insurance, legal matters, life insurance, military pay, survivor benefits, TRICARE, VA home loans, veteran benefits, veteran health care, and veteran state benefits.

Mission Veteran Assistance

7361 Calhoun Place, Ste. 210 301-685-6616 (V)
Rockville, MD 20855 301-576-8597 (FAX)
E-mail: info@missionva.org
www.missionva.org

Local organization dedicated to helping Veterans and Widows of Veterans with their Long Term Care Expenses by qualifying for the VA's "Aid and Attendance Benefit". Assistance is provided at no charge. Download the [VA Aid & Attendance Questionnaire](#). When completed, you can fax or email it to one of their counselors.

National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO)

E-mail: webmaster@nacvso.org (Service Officer Referral)
<http://nacvso.org>

County Veteran Service Officers provide assistance to veterans and their families with the following State and Federal benefits: college tuition fee waiver, correction of military records, dependency indemnity compensation, disabled veteran license plates, disability compensation, disability pension, discharge upgrades, educational assistance, employment and unemployment, farm and home loans, federal tort claim assistance, fishing and hunting licenses, funeral and burial assistance, government life insurance, home loan guaranty, motor vehicle registration fees, outpatient medical and dental treatment, property tax exemptions, small business administration, social security administration, state parks and recreation passes, veterans preference in civil service exams, and vocational rehabilitation. If you need assistance or help in obtaining benefits, contact us and we will do our best to answer your questions or help you contact the County or State Veterans Service Officer nearest your place of residence. Please include the name of your city, county and state in your e-mail.

National Military Family Association

2500 North Van Dorn Street, Suite 102
Alexandria, VA 22302
E-mail: info@nmfa.org
www.militaryfamily.org

703-931-6632 (V)

Educate military families concerning their rights, benefits and services available to them regarding the issues that affect their lives. The website is a one-stop resource for military families, servicemembers, and their friends on a wide-range of topics relevant to the "military" lifestyle. Also produce a monthly newsletter and a free quarterly Military Money magazine filled with financial literacy information, lifestyle tips, and advice on every day living.

National Veterans Legal Services Program – Lawyers Serving Warriors®

P.O. Box 65762
Washington, DC 20035
E-mail: info@nvlsp.org

202-265-8305 (V)

www.nvlsp.org/what-we-do/lawyers-serving-warriors

Offer pro bono legal help with disability issues to veterans from all eras. Their current pro bono initiative is to assist veterans with two types of disability claims -- applications for [Combat Related Special Compensation \(CRSC\)](#) and [applications to the Physical Disability Board of Review](#) for an increase in the military disability rating. NVLSP is a member of the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program. The Consortium provides assistance to unrepresented veterans and family members who have filed appeals at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Network of Care for Service Members, Veterans & Their Families

<http://montgomery.md.networkofcare.org/veterans/services/index.aspx>

Comprehensive online database of services available throughout the state of Maryland for veterans. Resources include veteran benefits assistance, military transition assistance programs, drop-in centers, information and referral, and street outreach programs.

Silver Spring Vet Center

Wayne Miller, Team Leader/Director
2900 Linden Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910
E-mail: wayne.miller3@va.gov
www.vetcenter.va.gov

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

Hours: Open Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; 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,

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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 Silver Spring 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.

Social Security Administration – Disability Benefits for Wounded Warriors

www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors

1-800-772-1216 (Toll Free)
1-800-325-0778 (TTY)

The Social Security Administration offers military service members expedited processing of disability claims from Social Security. Benefits available through Social Security are different than those from the Department of Veterans Affairs and require a separate application. The expedited process is used for military service members who become disabled while on active military service on or after October 1, 2001, regardless of where the disability occurs. You may apply for disability benefits at any time while in military status or after discharge, whether you are still hospitalized, in a rehabilitation program or undergoing out-patient treatment in a military or civilian medical facility.

TRICARE Combat-Related Special Compensation Travel Benefit

TRICARE Regional Office – North

1-866-307-9749 (Toll Free)

E-mail: tronorth@tma.osd.mil

www.tricare.mil/Welcome/SpecialPrograms/CRSCTravelBenefit.aspx?sc_database=web

If you are a retiree and your Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) Board has awarded you Combat-Related Special Compensation, you may be entitled to the CRSC travel benefit. This benefit provides reimbursement for travel-related expenses when you must travel more than 100 miles from your referring provider's location to obtain medically necessary, nonemergency specialty care for a combat-related disability. Only reasonable, actual-cost travel expenses (e.g., lodging, fuel [rather than mileage], meals, parking, tolls) associated with receiving specialty care can be reimbursed.

Veterans Benefits Administration

Baltimore Regional Office
31 Hopkins Plaza
Baltimore, MD 21201

<http://benefits.va.gov/benefits>

1-800-827-1000 (VA Benefits)
1-888-442-4551 (Education/GI Bill)
1-877-222-8387 (Health Care Benefits)

Provide benefits, such as education, compensation and pension, survivors' benefits, vocational rehabilitation, and life insurance, and services to veterans and their families. Guide: [Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, and Survivors - 2012 Edition](#). Handbook: [2012 VA Health Benefits Handbook](#) - designed to provide veterans and their families with the information needed to understand VA's health-care system, including eligibility requirements, health benefits and services available to help veterans, and copays that certain veterans may be charged. VA can pay additional compensation to a veteran who, as a result of military service, incurred the loss or loss of use of specific organs and extremities. Loss, or loss of use, is described as either an amputation or having no effective remaining function of an extremity or organ. Fact Sheet: [Special Monthly Compensation \(SMC\) for Serious Disabilities](#).

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) National Veterans Service

Phillip S. Medlin, Sr., VFW Department Service Officer
Fallon Federal Building
31 Hopkins Plaza, Room 1226
Baltimore, MD 21201-2823
E-mail: phil.medlin@vba.va.gov
www.vfw.org/Assistance/National-Veterans-Service

410-230-4480 (V)

Offer research and advice to veterans who wish to handle their own claims. Assist veterans who are filing original claims for compensation and/or pension with the Department of Veterans Affairs and complete the required VA forms

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on behalf of the claimant. Assist veterans in reopening claims for service-connected disabilities and complete the required VA forms. Follow up on status of claims filed by veterans with the VA Regional Office. File Notice of Disagreement with the VA Regional Office if a veteran believes the decision made by the VA was incorrect. Review statements of the case from the VA regarding denials of claim and assist veterans with the preparation of responses. Assist veterans or surviving spouses in the preparation of appeals for denial of claims and file the appeals with the local VA Regional Office for forwarding to the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C. Complete VA Forms other than for original claims. Answer/research telephone inquiries regarding medical, death/burial and their miscellaneous benefits.

VA Benefit Blog

www.vabenefitblog.com

Maximize your VA benefits by getting the latest updates and news on GI Bill benefits, medical benefits, pay and allowances, disability benefits.

VetsFirst

www.vetsfirst.org

Network of National Service Officers provide assistance and representation in claims for benefits and services before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, other Federal and State agencies and legal representation before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Also provide individual support and counseling services, news and information across the spectrum of issues presently impacting veterans including guides on self-help, state benefits, separating from the military, exclusive feature stories on military health care, and VA funding and compensation.