

Veteran's Benefits Summary—Missouri

Application for financial and other non-medical benefits can be filed directly with a VA Regional Service Officer (<http://mvc.dps.mo.gov/service/serviceofficer>) or through the following professional advocacy organizations (it is not necessary to be a member to receive services and there is no charge for their services):

- **Missouri Veterans' Commission** (314-552-9885 or <http://mvc.dps.mo.gov>) – per their website: “The Missouri Veterans Commission is a state agency established by Missouri Statute to aid all Veterans, their dependents, and legal representatives by providing information regarding the rights of Veterans and their dependents and to assist Veterans accessing their available benefits through State and Federal Government.”
- **Disabled American Veterans** (DAV) - (314-552-9883 or <http://www.dav.org>) – per their website: “...the DAV employs a corps of approximately 260 National Service Officers (NSOs) who represent veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Department of Defense and other government agencies. Veterans need not be DAV members to take advantage of this outstanding assistance, which is provided free of charge.”
- **Veterans of Foreign Wars** (VFW) - (314-552-9886 or <http://www.vfw.org>) – per their website: “Each state has at least one VFW Department Service you may contact for assistance on your benefits. You must work with a Service Office in the state you reside in...” See the DSO list on their website or call.
- **American Legion** (314-552-9884 or 1-800-743-1759 or <http://www.legion.org>)

Other Resources for Veterans

- [Federal Benefits for Veterans Dependents & Survivors -- 2010 Edition](#)
- National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page, St. Louis, 63132 (314-801-0800), provides copies of military discharges (DD-214), other related documents and medals
- [St. Louis County Veterans Program](#), 121 S. Meramec Ave., Clayton 63105 (314-651-4413) -- Information and Referral; Exploration of Benefits and Services; Case Management; Veteran's Resource Directory
- [St. Louis City Veterans Affairs](#), 1520 Market St., 4th Floor, Room 4065, St. Louis 63103 (314-612-5900) Homeless Veterans Employment Project; Special Veterans On-the-Job Training Program; Veteran's Resource Directory

Department of Veterans Affairs is a federal cabinet-level department, divided into 3 areas:

- 1) **Veterans Health Administration**—administers all medical benefits and has 153 Medical Centers. St. Louis has 1 Medical Center and 2 Divisions:
 - A. John Cochran Division, 915 N. Grand, St. Louis, 63106, 314-652-4100; handles most admissions; generally serves all acute care needs, including medical, surgical and intensive care
 - B. Jefferson Barracks Division, 1 Jefferson Barracks Drive, 63125, 314-652-4100; serves mental health, substance abuse, spinal cord injury, rehabilitation, community living center, and domiciliary
- 2) **Veterans Benefits Administration**—administers all non-medical benefits and has 55 Regional Offices.
 - 400 South 18th Street, St. Louis, 63103, 1-800-827-1000
 - Processes applications for pension, compensation, vocational rehabilitation & employment, housing and automobile grants, home loans, life insurance, education & training benefits, etc.
- 3) **National Cemetery Administration**—primary eligibility criteria is military discharge that is other than dishonorable. Spouses and dependent children are also eligible for burial benefits. There are 125 national cemeteries. Missouri cemeteries include:
 - Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in south St. Louis County, 314-260-8720; Springfield and Jefferson City also have national cemeteries
 - Other burial and funeral benefits are available, depending on eligibility and circumstances. Call 314-845-8319 or 1-800-827-1000.

Note: For the benefits listed below, military discharge must be other than dishonorable.
Benefits will depend on eligibility.

Medical Care

- Applicants are placed in 1 of 8 priority groups based on criteria from the VA. Those in groups 1-7 are eligible to receive services that are part of a standard benefit package. Eligibility for medical care for those in group 8 is determined on an annual basis by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- There is no charge for medical care for veterans in priority groups 1-6. Veterans in group 7 must agree to a co-payment for outpatient visits, as well as a deductible and daily co-payment for inpatient care. Details are available at 314-652-4100.

Financial Benefits

- VA Compensation is for injuries, diseases or illnesses that were incurred in or aggravated by military service. Ratings made by VA Regional Office are in increments of 10, from 0% to 100%.
- VA Pension is for veterans who are permanently and totally disabled, have financial need and have served at least 90 days, 1 day of which was during a prescribed wartime period: WW II—12/7/41 to 12/31/46; Korea—6/25/50 to 1/31/55; Vietnam—8/5/64 to 5/7/75; Persian Gulf—8/2/90 to present. “Willful misconduct” will disqualify a person from pension. Rates depend on financial need, including unreimbursed medical expenses (such as nursing home care) of the veteran, as well as spouse. Higher rates are paid to veterans who are determined by the VA Regional Office as “housebound” or in need of “aid & attendance”.
- VA Surviving Spouse pension is based on criteria similar to veterans’ pension, but rates are considerably less.

Placement Options

- Missouri State Veterans' Homes—cost based on sliding scale. There is a Missouri residency requirement of 180 days, all homes have a waiting list:
- Veterans Homes within the Alzheimer's Association, St. Louis Chapter's service area:
 - Cape Girardeau—573-290-5870
 - Saint James (Phelps County)—573-265-3271
 - Saint Louis—10600 Lewis & Clark, 63136, 314-340-6389
- Other MO Veterans Homes locations:
 - Cameron (Clinton/DeKalb Counties)—816-632-6010
 - Mexico (Audrain County)—573-581-1088
 - Mount Vernon (Lawrence County)—417-466-7103
 - Warrensburg (Johnson County)—660-543-5064
- Community nursing home care for veterans with service-connected disabilities may be available at the VA's expense. The community nursing home must have a contract with the VA Medical Center (VAMC).

Other Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Programs

- Services depend on eligibility. For details call 314-652-4100.
- Respite Care available at Jefferson Barracks (JB) Division;
- HHA/C is a health aide program/chore service for eligible veterans;
- Home Based Primary Care is for veterans in need of skilled nursing in their homes, who live in a limited radius of a Medical Center;
- Home Improvement and Structural Alteration is a Medical Center grant to assist eligible veterans to modify their home or apartment to allow for wheelchair accessibility;
- Community Based Outpatient Clinics are currently located in St. Charles (636-498-1113), Belleville (618-398-2100) and St. Louis, Mo Veterans Home (314-340-0470)
- Hospice program based at JB Division;
- Adult Day Health program is a contracted program serving eligible veterans in the St. Louis area;
- Residential Care program serves veterans that are placed in community facilities that are inspected / approved by VA Medical Center. Care is monitored (not paid for);
- Vet Centers provide psychological counseling for war-related trauma, community outreach, case management, referral and supportive social services to veterans who served in a combat theatre during wartime or anywhere during a period of armed hostilities (no earlier than Vietnam). PTSD services. Located at 2901 Olive Street in St. Louis, 314- 531-5355 and in E. St. Louis, 618-397-6602

- Spinal Cord Injury Service is a 32 bed, regional center serving 4 states for specialized care and rehabilitation;
- Geropsychiatry Unit;
- Geriatric Research & Educational Clinical Center;
- Geriatric Evaluation & Management includes inpatient and outpatient specialized care of elderly veterans;
- Health Care and Domiciliary (care and living space) for Homeless Veterans;
- Women's Clinic.;
- Substance Abuse Treatment Program;
- Visually Impaired Service Team;
- Mental Health Intensive Case Management;
- Patient Advocates assigned to both Divisions