

# A GUIDEBOOK FOR INCARCERATED VETERANS IN WISCONSIN



## WISCONSIN MULTI-AGENCY TASKFORCE ON INCARCERATED VETERANS

United States Department of Veterans Affairs  
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs  
Wisconsin Department of Corrections  
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

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## Forward

**T***his booklet is a tool for Incarcerated Veterans and their families who may want access to support services that promote a better and new manner of living. Review all of the programs thoroughly to understand the available opportunities. When these programs are used properly, the benefits may help to minimize the outside pressures incarcerated veterans experience when released. This guidebook addresses the process of economics, social acceptance and reestablishment for incarcerated veterans as they return to society. Be aware, this book is designed to assist incarcerated veterans and their families in the State of Wisconsin; laws vary from state to state. Check your state laws and regulations against the contents of this guide.*

*We would like to thank all the partnering agencies for providing state-specific information for this “WI Guidebook for Incarcerated Veterans.”*

Thank you.

We would like to acknowledge and thank: 1) the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans which provided basic concepts and core information for this guide through its “Planning for Your Release” guide funded by the U.S. Department of Labor; 2) the Veterans Incarcerated Workgroup of Walla Walla, Washington, for the concept of state-specific information in its “Guidebook for Incarcerated Veterans” and for allowing the use of its guide as a template for this publication; 3) Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. for developing the first incarcerated veterans guidebook, which has inspired and informed subsequent efforts; and 4) any public domain and agency resources included in the guidebook.

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# SECTION I

## USING THIS GUIDE AND SEEKING HELP

This guide is for you to plan for your release and to keep as a reference after your release. It includes addresses, phone numbers and websites that you can use to find out about programs and other help available after your release. You may want to ask a friend or family member to help you find the information you need if you do not have phone or internet access. Keep in mind that **this guide does not include all of the services available**. What is available in one area may be different from what is available in another, so be sure to check with local resources to learn about services in your area.

While you are in prison, find out which unit in your facility can help you plan for your release (often the education or transfer unit). Classes may be offered so you can work on skills development and prepare for life after release. You do not want to risk homelessness once you are released, so take advantage of the opportunities available to you.

Begin to think about what specifically you will need upon your release. Ask yourself these types of questions: Will I need housing? Will I need medical, substance abuse or mental health care? Do I need to learn a new job skill? Do I have any other legal issues, such as child support? How do I restart my VA checks or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)?

Make a list of your needs. Remember that this is just a tool to help you get organized. A sample list might look like this:

- I need a place to live.
- I need a job.
- I need clothing to wear to work.
- I need to find out what benefits I can get as a veteran.
- I want to get addictions treatment.
- I owe child support.

Think about your list as you read through this guide. Who do you think can help you with each of your needs? Is there one organization that may be able to work with you, on many different things or do you need to contact several agencies? Keep track of the steps you take, including the dates and names of the people you contact for information or assistance. Although this guide provides national and state addresses for many organizations, we recommend you **check your phone book for local, county and state agencies that know what help is available in your area.**

When writing a letter to request information, be clear. Keep your letter short, to the point and write legibly. Include the following information:

- Your name and contact information.
- A brief statement about your current situation.
- Your specific request.
- What you have done (e.g. I have written to \_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_ organization & they suggested to contact you).
- Any mailing restrictions (e.g. my prison facility does not accept mail with staples or paper clips).

When contacting an agency for help via mail, email or phone it is important to be persistent and polite to get results. Ask questions if information is not clear to you. Remember that many organizations are staffed by volunteers who are eager to help but may not have the answers you are looking for. If **someone cannot help you, ask about who can.**

The internet can also be helpful to find information about VA benefits and community resources in your area. This guide includes web addresses; if a computer is not available in your facility, visit the public library or local job center after release.

## SECTION II

### HELP FOR VETERANS

This section includes resources that can help you get back on your feet. Remember to check the phone book for local, county, and state agencies that know what services are available in the area to assist you. Some organizations may have waiting lists, require an interview, or have specific rules about whom they serve. It is best if you **start asking about services and requirements now**, so that you will be prepared when you are released. You may start this process by meeting with the DWD or WDVA Veteran Representative, or CVSO providing veteran services available at the facilities. You may even ask if your name can be put on a waiting list when you get closer to your release date.

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

Crisis and other toll-free numbers are often listed in the front cover or first few pages of the phone book. You may also want to check under "Social Services" in the blue or yellow pages for hotlines and local numbers.

***\*Always call 911 for medical and psychiatric emergencies.\****

- US Department of Veterans Affairs — [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)
  - ✓ Benefits: 1-800-827-1000
  - ✓ Medical Centers: 1-877-222-8387 or [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)
  - ✓ Persian Gulf War Helpline: 1-800-749-8387
- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans 1-800-838-4357 or [www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org)
- National Suicide Support Number: 1-888- 784-2433 (1-888-SUICIDE)  
OR 1-800-263-TALK
- Vet Center: [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov)
  - ✓ Vet center staff are available toll free during normal business hours at 1-800-905-4675

### WHERE TO START

Check the local phone book yellow pages under Veteran's Hospitals, Veteran's Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC), and Vet Centers. Also look under "Homeless" or "Social Service Organizations" for a list of many local organizations that

offer different services, which may include clothing, public transportation tokens, emergency shelter, and more.

You may need to contact several agencies to find all the services you need. Check with your local Public Assistance Office, Department of Corrections Probation & Parole Agent, and Department of Human Services to find out what programs are available and their guidelines. We have included some guidance below, but your local organizations are your best resources. **Remember, it never hurts to ask!**

- Every **VA Medical Center** has a **Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Coordinator** who is responsible for helping homeless veterans access VA and community-based care to end homelessness among veterans. The HCHV program provides outreach, clinical assessments and referrals for medical and mental health care, long-term transitional residential assistance, case management and employment assistance with linkage to permanent housing. To locate your nearest HCHV Coordinator call 1-877-222-8387 or go to <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=21>. Homeless Veteran services are available at the following VA Medical Centers:
  - **Madison VA Medical Center, Madison 53705**  
1-608-256-1901
  - **Milwaukee VA Medical Center, Milwaukee 53295**  
1-414-384-2000
  - **Tomah VA Medical Center, Tomah 54660**  
1-608-372-3971
  
- For **combat theater veterans** or veterans who were **sexually assaulted** on active duty there are additional services available through the Vet Centers nationwide. Counselors and therapists are available to assist you at:
  - Madison Vet Center, 706 Williams St., Ste 4, Madison, WI 53703  
1-608-264-5342 or 1-800-842-6355
  - Milwaukee Vet Center, 5401 N. 76<sup>th</sup> St., Milwaukee, WI 53218  
1-414-536-1301

- **Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA)** The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs provides services to veterans who are currently incarcerated within the State of Wisconsin, or are under community supervision by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Our program to aid incarcerated veterans provides services in the following categories:

*Information.* We provide information as to eligibility, qualification and entitlement to both Federal and Wisconsin benefits upon any inquiry from an incarcerated veteran.

Additionally, we provide information as to the types of benefit programs available.

*Access.* We may provide applications, or other appropriate forms or documentation, such as a Certified Report of Separation to any veteran relative to any claim for a Wisconsin or Federal benefit. Additionally, we may provide a veteran with a less than Honorable separation assistance in appealing the separation before the service discharge review or corrections board to gain a more favorable characterization of service to enable access to Federal and Wisconsin benefits programs.

*Assistance.* We may assist any veteran in claiming any benefit. In the case of a claim for service connected disability before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, this assistance may include helping the veteran in developing a claim through accessing pertinent military medical and personnel records, as well as civilian records of care to support an application for compensation.

*Advocacy.* The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Claim's Bureau may assist any incarcerated veteran in advocacy on any claim, or in appealing an unfavorable decision on a claim. Service to incarcerated veterans may be provided by postal response to written inquiries and by face to face contact during institutional visits. Additionally, the Wisconsin Veterans Assistance Program provides housing, training and counseling to homeless veterans in Wisconsin. Part of our services involves assisting veterans with homeless issues in admittance to the program following release to the community from incarceration, or during community supervision. Call 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387) or go to [www.WisVets.com](http://www.WisVets.com).

- **County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)** The function of the CVSO is to provide aid to indigent veterans and their families who qualify for and need assistance that may not be available from other agencies. In addition, the CVSO works closely with other service

agencies who, at times, will share cost of assistance to veterans. CVSOs are generally located with other County Service Offices. For the CVSO in your area, check your local phone book or contact your local HCHV Program/HCHV Homeless Coordinator.

- **National Coalition for the Homeless** has a directory of shelters and homeless assistance programs online ([www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)). This does not list every program in the country, so be sure to check your phone book for local programs.

### **Directory of Local Homeless Service Organizations**

- **Salvation Army** - provides services, including shelter and transitional housing, for homeless individuals and families. To locate your local Salvation Army visit [www.salvationarmyusa.org](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org).
- **United Way** - provides a variety of services through local organizations. Check the phone book for a local post or locate local organizations online at [www.unitedway.org](http://www.unitedway.org).
- **Local churches and faith-based organizations**, such as Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, and Volunteers of America, may have a variety of programs to assist you. Find these organizations by calling your county or city Department of Social Services. Check the blue pages of the phone book for the number.

## **HOUSING**

VA offers a wide array of special programs and initiatives specifically designed to help homeless veterans live as self-sufficiently and independently as possible. In fact, VA is the only Federal agency that provides substantial hands-on assistance directly to homeless persons. Although limited to veterans and their dependents, VA's major homeless-specific programs constitute the largest integrated network of homeless treatment and assistance services in the country.

VA's specialized homeless veterans treatment programs have grown and developed since they were first authorized in 1987. The programs strive to offer a continuum of services that include:

- aggressive outreach to those veterans living on streets and in shelters who otherwise would not seek assistance;
- clinical assessment and referral to needed medical treatment for physical and psychiatric disorders, including substance abuse;

- long-term sheltered transitional assistance, case management, and rehabilitation;
- employment assistance and linkage with available income supports; and
- supported permanent housing.

It is important to know that you have a place to go when released. The first step in returning to the community is finding a place to stay. This section includes ways to locate emergency shelter, transitional programs, and permanent housing assistance. Transitional or temporary housing can serve as a step toward full independence upon your release. However, there are often waiting lists for housing assistance programs, so you should ask about applying as soon as possible. If you are released and find yourself homeless, emergency assistance is available.

### **Emergency and Transitional Housing**

Many shelters are seasonal. Make sure you call the shelter for availability and locations or other requirements. To find out if there are homeless shelters or transitional housing in your area:

- Call 1-800-838-4357, or go to [www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org)
- Visit <http://www.hud.gov/homeless/hmlsagen.cfm>

Look in the phone book **yellow pages** under "Social Service Organizations" for local shelters or organizations that may be able to help.

Look in the phone book **blue pages** under local, city, or county government Department of Social Services or "Human Services" or call the County Commissioner's Office for information about local low-income housing coalitions or homeless advocacy groups who may know what is available.

For housing from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs see the section entitled Veterans Assistance Program (Housing for Homeless).

## **Long-term or Permanent Housing**

Public housing waiting lists can be long, but the length of time can vary from place to place. Even if you are not sure where you want to live yet, apply to get on the waiting list so that you have as many options as possible. To learn how to apply, contact the local housing authority listed in the phone book blue pages under "Local Government, Public Housing Authority."

## **FINDING & KEEPING A JOB**

Finding a job can seem overwhelming. The WI Department of Workforce Development, Division of Employment and Training's Office of Veteran Services, have staff that visit prison sites to provide employment and training assistance to incarcerated veterans. Incarcerated veterans will meet with the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) specialist or Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) to determine eligibility. The veteran staff will assist the incarcerated veteran in obtaining and retaining employment. This includes providing career guidance, labor market information, job development, job search assistance, case management, and other employment and training related services. Eligible incarcerated veterans will obtain Re-entry resources for their local area of release. To locate the phone number and address of your nearest Wisconsin Job Center and/or Outreach location visit our website at: [www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory](http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org/directory). If you need help finding a job you can also visit our virtual job center website at [www.jobcenterofwisconsin.com](http://www.jobcenterofwisconsin.com).

VA's **Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment** services help veterans with service-connected disabilities by providing job training and counseling to those who have an employment handicap. Services include help finding a job, on-the-job training, job development and vocational training. If you are not eligible for these services, a VA counselor may help you find other options, goals, or programs. Contact your VA Regional Office in Milwaukee (VARO) at 1-800-827-1000, or go to [www.vba.va.gov/ro/ro\\_inter.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/ro/ro_inter.htm).

VA's **Veterans Industries and Compensated Work Therapy programs**, offer structured work opportunities and supervised therapeutic housing for at-risk and

homeless veterans with physical, mental health and addiction problems. VA contracts with private industry and the public sector for work by these veterans, who learn job skills, re-learn successful work habits, and regain a sense of self-esteem. Veterans are paid for their work and given assistance with employment in the community. In Wisconsin, Veterans Industries Programs are located at Madison VA, Milwaukee VA, and Tomah VA Medical Centers. For further information go to <http://www1.va.gov/vetind>.

## **MYTHS AND REALITIES ABOUT HIRING INDIVIDUALS WITH A CRIMINAL RECORD**

Working to employ job seekers takes time, patience and an understanding of both their circumstances and the concerns of employers. Job developers need to know what information employers have and how to educate them about this population.

Relationship building with employers is critical for eliminating employment barriers for individuals with a criminal record. Below is a list of common statements from employers and some informative responses you can share with them. Job developers should have a clear understanding of how to read a criminal record as well as the resources they can offer to employers.

### **MYTH # 1: Employers do not hire job seekers with a criminal record.**

#### **REALITY:**

Many employers have and are willing to hire job seekers with a criminal record. Most employers have concerns about a range of workplace issues. Employers need additional information and resources from you to feel comfortable. Be prepared to answer their questions with **factual, current and reliable information**. If you do not know the answer to a question, get back to the employer as soon as possible. You should be prepared to answer the following questions:

1. What type of crime was committed? (i.e. non-violent, violent, misdemeanor or felony)
  - a. Be honest, the truth will set you free and assist you in shaping a positive and productive future.
  - b. Keep it short and mention your Probation/Parole Agent as a contact.
  - c. Take responsibility.
  - d. Note what you have completed while in prison to better yourself.
2. How long was the conviction?

3. Will the job seeker test negative for drugs?
4. Why would the employer want to hire you?
5. Do you have a resume?
  - a. More and more employers are requesting a resume.
  - b. You will need a resume when attending job fairs.
  - c. Your resume is your 'calling card' to employment.

**MYTH #2: People with a record cannot be trusted as good employees; they do not have a good work ethic. These employees are lazy, never learned how to work, have issues controlling their temper and have to be closely supervised.**

**REALITY:**

We have all experienced co-workers that have time management issues, do not pull their fair share of the load or are difficult to get along with. These issues are universal, could be related to anyone.

**MYTH # 3: If they have committed one crime, they will commit another.**

**REALITY:**

Research shows that employment actually reduces recidivism for job seekers with a criminal record. Additionally, we know many offenses often result from substance (drugs/alcohol) abuse. If a job seeker continues to address his/her barriers such as transportation, housing, substance abuse, etc. to securing employment, they are less likely to commit another offense.

**MYTH #4: No one will hire me because I am a felon.**

**REALITY:**

In the State of Wisconsin, know what you are charged with. An employer can not deny employment based on being a convicted felon. If applying for positions directly related to a felony conviction, an employer may deny hire.

## **HEALTHCARE**

**If eligible for veteran's benefits:**

- We encourage you to enroll in the VA Health Care System as soon as you are released.

To find the VA Medical Center nearest you, call 1-877-222-8387 or go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). There are three VA Medical Centers in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin VA Medical Centers:

- **Madison VA Medical Center, Madison 53705**  
2500 Overlook Terrace: 608-256-1901
  - **Milwaukee VA Medical Center, Milwaukee 53295**  
5000 W. National Avenue: 414-384-2000
  - **Tomah VA Medical Center, Tomah 54660**  
500 E. Veterans Street: 608-372-3971
- There are also a number of VA Clinics in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin VA Clinics:

- **Appleton 59414**  
10 Tri-Park Way: 920-831-0070
  - **Baraboo 53913**  
626 14<sup>th</sup> St: 608-280-7038
  - **Beaver Dam 53916**  
208 LaCrosse St: 608-356-9318
  - **Chippewa Falls 54729**  
2503 County Hwy. I: 715-356-9415
- Freeport**  
**1301 Kiwanis Dr., Freeport, IL 61032: 815-235-4881**
- **Green Bay 54303**  
141 Siegler St: 920-497-3126
  - **Janesville 53545**  
111 N. Main St.: 608-758-9300
  - **Kenosha 53140**  
800 55<sup>th</sup> St.: 262-653-9286
  - **LaCrosse 54601**  
2600 State Rd: 608-784-3886
  - **Loyal 54446**  
PO Box 26, 141 N. Main St.: 715-255-9799
  - **Rhineland 54501**  
639 W. Kemp St.: 715-362-4080

- **Rockford, IL 61108**  
4940 E. State St: 815-227-0081
- **Superior 54880**  
3520 Tower Ave.: 715-392-9711
- **Union Grove 53182**  
21425 Spring St.: 262-878-7000
- **Wausau 54401**  
515 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave.: 715-842-2834
- **Wisconsin Rapids 54494**  
710 E. Grand Ave.: 715-424-3844

**Free medical clinics** are run by many local organizations and communities. Look in the phone book blue pages under “Public Health” to contact local government office for clinics in your area.

**Special Health Information:** If you think you may be at risk for AIDS and HIV infection after your release, contact the nearest VA Medical Center to get tested and seek counseling. Those at highest risk for AIDS and HIV infection are:

- People who share needles or syringes to inject drugs or steroids
- Men who have sex with other men
- Those born to mothers who have HIV
- People who received blood transfusions before 1985
- Anyone who has sex with anyone who is at risk for HIV / AIDS

Many veterans, homeless individuals and incarcerated individuals are at high risk for **Hepatitis C (HCV)**, a serious disease that can cause cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) and liver cancer. If you think you are at risk after your release, contact the nearest VA Medical Center to get tested and seek HCV counseling. You are at risk if:

- You ever used a needle to inject drugs
- You had a blood transfusion or organ transplant before 1982
- You were a health care worker and had contact with blood
- You were on long-term kidney dialysis
- Your mother had Hepatitis C when she gave birth to you

The Veterans Health Administration also recommends testing if:

- You are a Vietnam-era veteran
- You had exposure to blood on your skin
- You had multiple sex partners
- You have tattoos or body piercing
- You ever snorted cocaine
- You have liver disease
- You have a history of drinking a lot of alcohol
- You had an abnormal liver function test

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT**

### **If eligible for veteran's benefits:**

VA Medical Centers and Vet Centers offer Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment. Phone 1-877-222-8387 or go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) to find the VA Medical Center or Vet Center nearest you.

### **Wisconsin Vet Centers:**

Madison Vet Center  
706 Williamson Street, Ste. 4  
Madison, WI 53703  
Ph: 608-264-5342

Milwaukee Vet Center  
5401 N. 76<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53218  
Ph: 414-536-1301

### **If ineligible for veterans' benefits, the following may be able to assist you with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment:**

- The Department of Health and Human Services **Drug and Alcohol Treatment Referral Routing Service** can refer you to local programs. Call 1-800-662-4357.
- **The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill** lists community mental health services providers at: [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org). or call 1-800-950-6264.
- **The National Mental Health Association** offers support groups, rehabilitation, socialization, and housing services. Call 1-800-969-NMHA or go online at [www.nmha.org](http://www.nmha.org).

## **FINANCIAL HELP**

The American Legion provides **Temporary Financial Assistance**, (TFA) from its national headquarters to help maintain a stable environment for children of veterans. To obtain an application or receive further information, look in the phone book to contact a local post.

If you are unemployed with little or no income, you may be able to receive **food stamps (LINK card)**. Call toll-free at 1-800-221-5689. You can also contact the local Department of Human Services, many drop-in shelters, or legal aid services to ask for an application.

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** benefits can be applied for before your release, even though you will not receive the benefits until after you are released. Food stamps can be applied for together with SSI. Normally, it takes about three months to review an application; so apply well before your release date. It is best to get help filling out the application, see your institution social worker. When released, for detailed information or assistance, call 1-800-772-1213 or contact your local Social Security office.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** has a program called the Emergency Food and Shelter Program to help prevent homelessness. Contact the local Office of the Mayor or United Way to ask who awards this money in your area and about the procedure for application.

## LEGAL HELP

### **Veteran status issues:**

You should talk to a **Veterans Advocate Service Officer** for help with discharge upgrades, seeking benefits, and filing a VA claim. Contact the Regional Office of Veteran Affairs in Milwaukee at 1-800-827-1000. Please note, these are not lawyers and they assist you with the paperwork for filing for benefits with the federal VA.

### **Other legal issues:**

Many laws are state-specific. Many common legal problems are governed by state law of residence or where the problem occurred. When looking for legal help, make sure that information found applies to your state or that a lawyer or another service provider is qualified to work in your state.

- **The American Bar Association** has a web site with guidelines about free legal services and links to directories of legal aid offices and pro-bono programs. Go to [www.abanet.org](http://www.abanet.org).
- **Legal Services or Legal Aid offices** have staff lawyers to provide free legal help to needy clients. The lawyers are usually experts in the types of problems that needy clients often experience. Look in the yellow pages for a local Legal Aid office.

Lawyers in private practice sometimes volunteer a “pro-bono” program to take cases for needy clients free of charge. Check the phone book to contact the Chicago area District Courts located in Chicago, Rolling Meadows, Maywood, Bridgeview, Markham and Skokie.

## WOMEN VETERANS

Most **VA Medical Centers** and **Vet Centers** have a designated Women Veterans Program Manager to assist women veterans in accessing VA benefit programs and healthcare services. Phone 1-877-222-8387 or go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) to locate the medical center near you.

- Women Veterans Coordinator at Madison VA Medical Center: 608-256-1901

- Women Veterans Coordinator at Milwaukee VA Medical Center: 414-384-2000
- Women Veterans Coordinator at Tomah VA Medical Center: 608-372-3971

Many women in prison had similar histories, problems, and personal issues before their arrest and conviction. Mentors with **Women in Community Service (WICS)** help women preparing to leave prison and those who are just getting back into society. WICS' prison programs help women think about their behavior, gain job skills, and build self-esteem. Make a contact with a WICS representative prior to your release.

### **OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF)/ OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF)**

VA offers a wide range of benefits for returning veterans. Returning Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve service members of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom should go to [www.seamlesstransition.va.gov](http://www.seamlesstransition.va.gov) to learn about benefits information and assistance to eligible veterans who honorably fought and served in our Nation's armed forces.

## SECTION III

### SEEKING FEDERAL BENEFITS

The Department of Veterans Affairs publishes a booklet called "**Federal Benefits for Veterans and Their Dependents**" which describes the types of benefits available and lists the addresses and phone numbers for VA facilities nationwide. Write the VA Regional Office (VARO) to request a copy.

#### **U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs – Milwaukee Regional Office**

5400 W. National Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53214

Call 1-800-827-1000 or find information about benefits at [www.vba.va.gov](http://www.vba.va.gov).

**Benefits for people who are homeless**) – FirstStep is a web-based interactive tool for helping individuals who are homeless access Federal benefit programs. To access FirstStep visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services homelessness website at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/homeless/index.shtml> or <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/firststep/index.html>.

**VA Medical Care** is not provided to veterans in prison, but VA health facilities may provide care to you after your release. Contact 1-877-222-8387 or go to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov), to find the medical center nearest you.

#### **Eligibility for VA Benefits during Incarceration**

Veterans incarcerated and incarcerated dependents may apply for the same compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) – service connected death benefits – and pension benefits as veterans who are not incarcerated. However, Congress restricts the amount of benefits that may be paid to a veteran or dependent while he or she is incarcerated. These benefits are institutionalized as part of law: 38 U.S.C Sec 5313 (a), 38 C.F.R., Sec. 3.665 (a), (d), which reads as follows:

***If a veteran is incarcerated as the result of a “felony” conviction as defined by law: “Any offense punishable by death or imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, unless specifically categorized as a misdemeanor under the law of the prosecuting jurisdiction.”***

***Then, the amount paid to a veteran incarcerated for a service-connected disability is generally limited by law to the 10 percent disability rate or half the amount of the ten***

***percent rate if the veteran's disability rating is 10 percent. (If the veteran is rated before incarceration as 20 percent disabled or higher, he will receive only the amount payable to a 10 percent disabled veteran.) Incarcerated DIC recipients will receive one-half the amount paid to a veteran receiving compensation payments for a 10 percent-rated disability.***

***A veteran may not receive non-service connected VA pension benefits, or any portion of these benefits, while incarcerated for a felony or misdemeanor. However, his family may receive an apportionment of such benefits under the procedure described above. (See 38 C.F.R. Sec.3.666)***

One important requirement for eligibility for VA benefits is that the veteran has to have been issued either an honorable or general discharge, or would have received one if not for re-enlisting. If a veteran had two periods of service, one honorable and the other less than honorable, he may still be eligible for VA benefits based on the honorable period of service.

*VA Medical Care can not be provided to veterans in prison, but VA health facilities may provide care to you after your release. Contact 1-877-222-8387 to find the medical center nearest you.*

### **Benefits Payments While Incarcerated**

There is a 60-day "grace period" following a conviction when you may still receive full benefits. To avoid an overpayment, it is important that you notify the VARO immediately when you go to prison if you are receiving payments. If you do not notify the VA and receive overpayment, you and your family will lose all financial payments until the debt is paid.

*For example, Joe is a veteran who receives a VA pension. He commits a crime, is convicted, and is incarcerated, but doesn't tell the VA right away and keeps getting paid for 6 months. After serving his sentence of 18 months, he is released and applies to the VA to have his pension restarted. He will have an overpayment which must be recovered from the restarted benefits. Until the overpayment is recovered, Joe will have to go without that income.*

Your award for compensation or pension benefits should resume from the date you are released, as long as the VA receives notice of release within one year. Form 21-4193, Notice to Department of Veterans Affairs of Veteran or Beneficiary Incarcerated in Penal Institution, available through your counselors should be completed before release, signed by a prison official and submitted to VA Benefits Administration. (Form cannot be downloaded from VA, WDVA has copies.)

### **Apportionment**

To apply for apportionment, the claimant must send a letter that identifies the veteran and the apportionment claimant and makes it clear they are requesting an apportionment of his VA benefits to the VA Regional Office (VARO) that has jurisdiction over the veteran's case. VA regulations clearly specify this apportionment amount will only go to family members if they can show financial need for such amount. This applies to the spouse, children, or dependent parents who are involved in the application.

In deciding whether any apportionment is appropriate, the amount of the apportionment, and to whom it will go, the following factors are considered:

- The family member's income and living expenses;

- The amount of compensation available to be apportioned;
- The needs and living expenses of other family members; and
- Special needs of any of the family members.

*For example: a veteran incarcerated rated as 80 percent disability can only receive the amount he or she would get if he or she were 10 percent disabled. However, his or her family may be apportioned up to 70 percent, the difference of the 80 percent rating. (DIC may also be apportioned with similar restrictions.)*

There is a 60-day “grace period” following conviction where the veteran, or Dependency or Indemnity Compensation (DIC) recipient, may still receive full benefits. If the veteran continues to receive benefits after the 60-day period, it will result in an “overpayment”. The VA considers it to be the recipient’s responsibility and fault if this occurs because the recipient failed to notify the VA of his or her incarceration. Attempts to obtain a waiver in these situations of overpayment are often unsuccessful. As a rule, the veteran loses most, if not all, financial benefits until the VA recovers the entire overpayment. It has also been a standard procedure that the family will not be entitled to receive an apportionment until the debt is completely recovered.

For more information concerning VA debt collection rules that may affect the veteran incarcerated, telephone: 1-800-827-1000 and request a Veterans Service Organization representative or, write to a Veterans Service Organization.

One other relevant restriction on veteran’s incarcerated eligibility for service connected disability compensation is that: “No total disability rating based on un-employability, may be assigned to an incarcerated veteran”.

It is important to remember that most VA decisions, including those on apportionment, can be appealed to the Board of Veterans Appeals and, if need be, to the Court of Appeal for Veterans Affairs.

### **Re-starting Benefits at Release**

It is important that each disabled veteran receiving compensation or DIC payments promptly notify the VARO. Regular full benefit payments should begin upon release, providing the VA is notified of the veteran’s release, including placement within a community treatment center or halfway house in the community, within one year of release. VARO needs formal notification from the prison of your release in order to re-start benefits: The sooner that document is provided to VARO, the sooner VARO can begin to process your request.

### **Seeking Help After Release**

If you would like to get benefits or think you have a pending claim before the VA, it is best to get professional help to assist you.

Many Veterans Service Organizations (VSO’s) have trained staff who can help you with your VA claim, and can legally represent your claim before the VA. Some also help homeless and at-risk

veterans find the support services they need. You can contact any VSO listed in the Guidebook to learn an office near you.

## Seeking Benefits On Your Own

Although we encourage you to seek the aid of a service representative, you may choose to apply for VA benefits on your own. Write your local VA Regional Office or find the forms online at: [www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms1.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms1.htm). You can also apply for certain benefits online at: <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.

## HELP SEEKING BENEFITS

If you would like to get benefits or think you have a pending claim before the VA, it is best to get professional help to assist you. Many **Veterans Service Organizations (VSO)** have trained staff who can help you with your VA claim and can legally represent your claim before the VA. Some help homeless and “at-risk” veterans find the support services they need. Call the VA hospital nearest you to contact any VSO. You can also find VSOs by contacting the County Veterans Service Offices which are listed at the back of this handbook. Although we encourage you to seek the aid of a service representative, you may choose to apply for VA benefits on your own. Write the VARO or find the forms online at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>. You can also apply for certain benefits online at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp>.

Below are brief descriptions of forms needed to file for certain VA benefits. Be sure you use a return address where mail will get to you as quickly as possible. Make photocopies of all forms for your records before sending your packet to the VARO nearest you.

- VA Form 21-526 - Application for Compensation or Pension - must be filed to apply for compensation -or pension. Mail your DD-214 and the following forms to the VARO nearest your release destination 30 to 45 days before our release.
- VA Form 21-4138 - Statement in Support of Claim - lets you explain why you deserve the benefits you are asking for because of your disability or disorder. It is best to have an experienced service representative help you complete' the form.
- VA Form 21-4142 - Authorization for Release of Information - If you have received medical or mental health care, that may be relevant to your claim, from anyone other than a VA Medical Facility, you need to fill out a VAF 21-4142 giving permission for release of medical records to the VA.
- VA Form 10-10EZ - Enrollment for Medical Benefits - is used by the VA to determine if you can receive medical benefits. Complete the form and bring it with you to the VA medical facility where you will seek evaluation for treatment.

- VA Form 28-1900 - Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans - is needed to apply for the vocational rehabilitation program to help veterans who were disabled during their service reach maximum independence in daily living, to learn the skills needed to get a job, and to find and keep a job. Send Form 28-1900 to the VARO in your area 10 to 15 day's before your release.
- VA Form 70-3288 - Request for and Consent to Release of Information from Claimant's Records - is used to get records relevant to your claim from VA facilities (regional offices, medical centers, outpatient clinics, and vet centers). Request a fee waiver under section 38 C.F.R. Sec.1.526 (h), which requires the VARO to provide a veteran with one set of his or her records free of charge.

## **SECTION IV**

### **SEEKING STATE VETERANS BENEFITS**

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs has a variety of benefits for veterans who are residents of the state. The benefits are published in a brochure that can be downloaded at [www.WisVets.com](http://www.WisVets.com).

#### **ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE BENEFITS**

Generally, Wisconsin veterans must have served a specified period of “active duty” (other than active duty for training) in the armed forces of the United States, or in forces incorporated as armed forces of the United States (i.e., Merchant Marines during WWII, etc.) in order to be eligible for state veterans' programs and services. **State residency requirements must also be satisfied for the majority of the state benefit programs.**

**For the purposes of this section, “active duty” means active duty (other than active duty for training) military service in the armed forces of the United States, or in forces incorporated as part of the armed forces of the United States. (Full-time National Guard duty does not qualify as “active duty” under federal law. Active federal military service performed by National Guard members under Title 10 of the U.S. Code may qualify as “active duty.”)**

#### ***I. Military Service Requirements: Character of Service***

In order to be eligible for Wisconsin state veterans' benefits, programs, and services, a veteran's service, as characterized on the military discharge certificate (i.e., DD Form 214) must have been honorable, under honorable conditions, general or general under honorable conditions. Veterans with characterizations of uncharacterized, bad conduct, other than honorable or dishonorable can seek to have their discharge upgraded through the military appeals process or request the federal VA adjudicate their case. Most veterans who follow this process and become eligible for general federal VA benefits will also be granted eligibility for Wisconsin state benefits. If the veteran had more than one qualifying term of service, at least one term of service must have met the criteria above for the purpose of establishing eligibility.

## ***II. Military Service Requirements: Term of Service***

In order to fulfill the military active duty service requirements for most Wisconsin state veterans' benefits, programs and services, a veteran must have served for **two (2) continuous years of "active duty"** as defined above. Benefits and services with special military service requirements are listed under "Eligibility requirements for special benefits and services."

**Exceptions** to the two-year "active duty" requirement are as follows. A veteran need only satisfy one of the following in order to meet general state eligibility requirements for military service:

**Short Initial Service Term.** Veterans who have completed their full initial "active duty" service obligation that was less than two years-regardless of when they served.

**90 Days "active duty" Service During a Statutorily-Designated Wartime Period.**

Veterans who accumulate 90 days or more of "active duty" service (other than for training) during one of the statutorily-designated Wartime Periods.

**Qualifying Early Discharge.** Veterans who were discharged from "active duty" due to: A service-connected disability (or during a wartime period, a disability subsequently adjudicated to have been service-connected), or Hardship, or A reduction of forces (RIF).

### ***Wisconsin Residency for Eligibility***

In general, to be eligible for Wisconsin state veterans' benefits, programs, and services, a veteran must meet at least one of the following:

Wisconsin Resident Before Entering "Active Duty." Was a resident of Wisconsin at the time of entry or reentry into active duty; or, his or her selective service local board, if any, and home of record at the time of entry or reentry into active service as shown on the veteran's report of separation from the U.S. armed forces for a qualifying period were in Wisconsin, or moved to Wisconsin. Has been a resident of this state for any consecutive 12-month period after entry or reentry into service and before the date of his or her application or death.

If the person had more than one qualifying term of service, at least one term of service must have met the residency requirements for the purpose of establishing eligibility.

Veterans who are otherwise eligible and who are serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces need not be living in this state on the date of application in order to qualify for state veterans' benefits, programs, or services.

**Exceptions to the above rules:**

**Additional exception for the Primary Mortgage Home Loan Program.** Veterans who would not otherwise be eligible but who served for more than six consecutive months but less than two years on "active duty" (as defined above) between the dates of February 1, 1955, and August 4, 1964, are specially eligible for the WDVA Primary Mortgage Home Loan and the Home Improvement Loan Program if they meet all other program eligibility requirements.

**Additional Exception for National Guard and Reserve Burial in a State Veterans Cemetery.** Veterans who served in the National Guard or Reserves who are eligible for burial in a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery are eligible for burial in a state veteran's cemetery. However, that service does not make them eligible for other WDVA benefits for which they had not already qualified.

**Additional Exception for Membership in a Wisconsin Veterans Home.** In addition to veterans otherwise eligible, veterans with only one or more days of "active duty" service (as defined above) during a designated wartime period are specially eligible for Membership in a Wisconsin Veterans Home provided they have a total of at least 90 days of "active duty" service (as defined above).

If you have a question about eligibility in a certain benefit or program, you can contact your County Veterans Service Office (CVSO), to find out if you are eligible for that benefit or you can write to Incarcerated Veterans Program, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, P. O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843.

## **Wisconsin Veterans Benefits**

This following is a list of benefits available to veterans who are Wisconsin residents.

### 1. Loans

- A. Home Loan - Wisconsin offers a state veterans' home loan program, entitled the Primary Mortgage Loan (PML), which is different from the USDVA Home Loan Guaranty Program and must be used for the veteran's primary residency.
- B. Home Improvement Loan - The Home Improvement Loan Program (HILP) may be used for additions, garage construction, repairs and remodeling (i.e., replace a roof, install new windows, a new furnace or a central air conditioning system) of a veteran's residence.
- C. Personal Loan - Veterans may qualify for low interest rate personal loans with up to 10 years to repay. The Personal Loan Program (PLP) may be used for the education of veterans, their spouses, and children. The veteran's spouse must be a co-applicant, and all loans require security of either a mortgage or a guarantor.

### 2. Grants

- A. Veterans Education Grant Program - The Veterans Education (VetEd) grant program provides a reimbursement grant based on a credit-bank system that is based on length of active duty military service to eligible veterans who have not yet been awarded a bachelor's degree. The reimbursement of tuition and fees is awarded based on successful course completion at an eligible UW, technical college, or approved private institution of higher learning.
- B. Retraining Grant - Recently unemployed or underemployed veterans may receive up to \$3,000 per year, for a maximum of two years, if they have a financial need while being retrained for employment. The amount of the grant is determined by the applicant's financial need as calculated by the WDVA. The veteran must have lost their job through no fault of their own.
- C. Assistance to Needy Veterans - The Assistance to Needy Veterans and Family Members grant program provides limited financial assistance to those in need and those who have exhausted all other sources of aid. The grants may be used for specified health care and subsistence needs or economic emergency assistance for spouses and dependents of activated or deployed service members, up to maximum grant limits.

### 3. Other

- A. Federal Benefits Claims Assistance - The WDVA Claims Assistance Office assists and advocates for Wisconsin veterans and their families through the development of claims to the VA for compensation and pension.

- B. Review of Military Discharges - In some cases, military discharges may contain inaccuracies or lack information that should have been included. In other cases, veterans who receive a military discharge with a character of service under other than honorable conditions may experience difficulty in gaining certain types of employment, accessing veterans' benefits, or other challenges.
- C. Veterans Homes - The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) operates the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King and the recently opened Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove. In addition to providing outstanding care for veterans and their spouses, both homes also offer numerous employment opportunities.
- D. Veterans Assistance Program - The Veterans Assistance Program (VAP) helps homeless veterans and those at-risk of becoming homeless receive the job training, education, counseling and rehabilitative services (such as alcohol and drug abuse treatment) they need to obtain steady employment, affordable housing and the skills to sustain a productive lifestyle.
- E. State Veterans Cemeteries - Burial for Veterans and dependents. Cemeteries are located near Spooner – Northern Wisconsin, Union Grove – Southern Wisconsin, and King – Central Wisconsin.
- F. Military Funeral Honors Program - The Military Funeral Honors Program (MFHP) in Wisconsin provides a final tribute to the men and women who served our state and nation honorably as members of the U.S. armed forces, National Guard and Reserves. Upon request by a family or funeral director honors will be coordinated with the military and local veteran's organizations to provide the final tribute to a veteran.
- G. Wisconsin "GI" Bill - Effective for the Fall 2007 semester, the Wisconsin G.I. Bill provides a waiver ("remission") of tuition for eligible veterans and their dependents for up to 8 full-time semesters or 128 credits at any University of Wisconsin System or Wisconsin Technical College System institution. Qualifying veterans receive 100% remission. A 100% remission is provided to the qualifying spouse and children of a veteran with substantial service-connected disabilities (combined VA service-connected disability rating of 30% or greater). For qualifying spouses, the benefit must be used within 10 years of the date of death or the initial disability rating of 30% or greater. For qualifying children, the benefit is available from ages 17 through 25. For the Wisconsin G.I. Bill, the veteran must have entered service as a Wisconsin resident. The benefit recipient must reside in Wisconsin.
- H. Hunting & Fishing Licenses for Wisconsin Veterans - Wisconsin disabled veterans with a combined service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) of 70% or greater who are not otherwise eligible for free hunting and fishing are eligible for a disabled veteran reduced-fee fishing license. The fishing license must be renewed

annually, and does not exempt the holder from the need to purchase required fishing stamps. When purchasing the license at a DNR or County Clerk's office, the applicant must provide a copy of a letter from the VA that indicates receipt of VA disability benefits and specifies the percentage of disability.

- I. Veterans & Military License Plates, Driver Licensing, & Vehicle Registration - Special license plates are available to veterans, retired military service members, medal recipients, and members of the active or reserve military.

### **Wisconsin Veterans Benefits affected by Incarceration**

1. Incarcerated veterans won't qualify for need-based benefits unless we receive a letter from the institution indicating why they can't meet those needs.
2. The veteran may qualify for Veterans Education Grant (VetEd) Program. Number of credits a veteran is eligible for is based on length of service. If you have been out of service over 10 years, you only get 60 credits for use as a part-time student. The final application must be submitted within 60 days of the completion of course or courses. UW Extension correspondences courses may not be eligible for this program. The VetEd Program cannot be used beyond a bachelor's degree.
3. Loans to inmates are prohibited under the WI Admin Code Sections 303.32, 303.45(1) and 309.49.
4. The Wisconsin Veterans Home may bar admission (membership) on the basis of "...good moral character."
5. The Veterans Assistance Program (for homeless veterans) may bar admission if convicted of a felony that caused bodily harm or sex offenses until all required treatment is completed. Incarcerated veterans are not considered homeless under Section 61 of 38 CFR until after they are released from prison.

### **Veterans Assistance Program (VAP)**

The goal of the VAP is to help military veterans who are **homeless or at risk of becoming homeless** obtain steady employment and affordable housing to reintegrate into the community.

**Eligibility for Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs VAP** – You must be a Wisconsin resident at the time you entered service or served one day during war time period if a non-resident. You must also be eligible to use the VA health care system. The veteran should have an other than dishonorable discharge.

The VAP offers stable, secure and safe shelter to male and female homeless veterans while they get the training and other services necessary to become self-supporting. The VAP operates Veterans Assistance Centers where eligible veterans can access a wide array of services, in an atmosphere of dignity and mutual concern:

- Housing
- Job Training
- Education
- Counseling
- Health care, including treatment of PTSD
- Treatment for alcohol or drug abuse problems
- Benefits and entitlements

Applicants with drug or alcohol problems must successfully complete a treatment program before they continue the VAP process. Veterans need to be clean and/or sober the day they enter the program.

Each assistance center offers clean, safe and secure housing. All veterans will work hard and put in long days at the assistance center. Veterans will work together to maintain the center. The discipline and hard work serves to bring back each veteran's pride, confidence and self-esteem.

Veterans may earn money while in the VAP that will be placed in a savings account. This money will be used to obtain housing after a veteran completes the program. Veterans may be assessed a program fee for up to 30% of their gross income.

To find out if you are eligible for the VAP, write to the Veterans Assistance Program,

P. O. Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843. Each homeless program site has final approval for any individual entering the program. If approved for admission to the program, the department will send a letter with pertinent information.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs homeless program locations are at King, Union Grove, Chippewa Falls, and Fort McCoy. The King, Union Grove, and Chippewa Falls sites are intake sites and work with veterans from Phases 1 thru 4. The Fort McCoy site is for veterans who have successfully completed Phases 1 and 2 and are now either working or seeking employment.

There are three private homeless organizations that also have a Veterans Assistance Program located in Milwaukee and Tomah. To find out if you qualify for their programs write to Vets Place Central, 3330 W. Wells, Milwaukee, WI 53208, Veterans Assistance Foundation, P. O. Box 610, Tomah, WI 54660, or Janet Wattles Center, 526 West State Street, Rockford, IL 61101.

## **THE DISCHARGE REVIEW PROCESS**

### 1. What is "Discharge Review?"

Congress created the discharge review and corrections boards to review and reclassify unfavorable separations from the military. Each service secretary has a discharge review and military corrections board.

### 2. Who is eligible?

Veterans having unfavorable discharges can apply for discharge review at any time within 15 years of the date of separation (see #6 below). The exception is if you received a discharge on the sentence of a general court-martial in which case you are automatically **ineligible** for the discharge review board.

### 3. How do I appeal?

You can request review on **EQUITY** grounds, meaning that you feel the discharge is unfair, **CLEMENCY**, based on post service conduct, or you can request review on

**PROPRIETY** grounds, meaning that the military violated regulations in discharging you.

4. How long does it take?

Applications generally take from 6 to 36 months before the Board publishes its decision. The time depends on the number of applications pending at the time the board receives yours.

5. What are the chances?

Overall, the national statistics indicate that the Boards change about 10%. For WDVA about 4 out of every 10 cases are reclassified favorably.

Although many veterans fall victim to persistent rumors, be advised that **NO BAD DISCHARGE AUTOMATICALLY CHANGES TO HONORABLE AFTER SIX MONTHS.**

Keep in mind that application to the Board means that you will receive a review. It does **NOT** mean you will receive an upgrade.

6. What are the military corrections boards?

Each service secretary has a corrections board that can recommend correction of any error that may have occurred during your service period. The board can review your discharge only if you are ineligible for any other form of review (i.e. over the 15 year delimiting date for the DRB, or have a dishonorable discharge). Unlike the discharge review boards, the corrections boards can require proof of error before change can occur.

# CHECKLIST

## Using This Guide

- Ask about classes or resources to help you plan for your release.
- Make a list of your needs.
- Make a list of who may be able to help you.
- Write letters and/or contact organizations.
- Write down the steps you take so that you do not repeat them.
- Know where to call toll-free for help.
- Contact organizations about what services they have to offer.
- Think about housing needs and gather information about what is available locally.
- Learn about job resources and create a plan to find a job.
- Learn about health issues, and what services are available.
- Learn about the resources available for substance abuse and mental health treatment in your area.
- Learn about your options to get financial help.
- Begin to take care of other legal issues.
- Learn about homeless veterans services.
- Learn about resources for women veterans
- If you are not currently receiving benefits, find out if you can or should be.
- If you are receiving benefits in prison, notify the VA to avoid an overpayment.
- Contact a veteran service representative to represent you and help you file a claim.
- Apply for apportionment so some of the money withheld may be given to eligible family members.

## RESOURCE ADDRESS SITES & PHONE NUMBERS

- US Dept of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) – [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)
- Veterans Health Administration (Benefits and Services) – [www1.va.gov/health\\_benefits](http://www1.va.gov/health_benefits)
- Vet Center – [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov)
- Wisconsin Dept of Veterans Affairs 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387) – [www.WisVets.com](http://www.WisVets.com)
- Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development – [www.dwd.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dwd.wisconsin.gov)
- Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development – Virtual Job Center – [www.wisconsinjobcenter.org](http://www.wisconsinjobcenter.org)
- Disabled American Veterans (National) – [www.dav.org/](http://www.dav.org/)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (Dept of WI) – [www.vfwofwi.com](http://www.vfwofwi.com)
- Vietnam Veterans of America (National) – [www.vva.org/](http://www.vva.org/)
- Social Security Administration – [www.ssa.gov/](http://www.ssa.gov/)
- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans – [www.nchv.org](http://www.nchv.org)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness – [www.endhomelessness.org](http://www.endhomelessness.org)
- AMVETS 1-877-726-8387 – [www.amvets.org](http://www.amvets.org)
- Blinded Veterans Association 1-800-669-7079 – [www.bva.org](http://www.bva.org)
- Military Order of the Purple Heart 1-414-902-5742 – [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org)
- Paralyzed Veterans of America 1-800-424-8200 – [www.pva.org](http://www.pva.org)
- Disabled American Veterans Service Officer 1-414-902-5736 – [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)
- The American Legion Service Officer 1-414-902-5722 – [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)
- Ho-Chunk Nation VSO 1-800-294-9343
- Oneida National Veterans Service Officer 1-920-490-3921
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Service Officer 1-414-902-5748 – [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

An electronic version of this document is also available at [www.WisVets.com/Publications](http://www.WisVets.com/Publications).

<b>ROSTER OF COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS</b>
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<u>COUNTY/CVSO/STAFF</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>TELEPHONE/FAX/E-MAIL</u>
<b>ADAMS</b>	BOX 474, 108 E NORTH ST FRIENDSHIP WI 53934 8-4:30 M-F	608-339-4221 608-339-4585 FAX
<b>ASHLAND</b>	201 W. MAIN ST ROOM 105 ASHLAND WI 54806	715-682-7011 715-382-7931
<b>BARRON</b>	VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE 335 E MONROE AVE, ROOM 103 BARRON WI 54812	715-537-6290 715-537-6237 FAX
<b>BAYFIELD</b>	COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX PO BOX 367 WASHBURN WI 54891	715-373-6137 715-373-6183 FAX
<b>BROWN</b>	PO BOX 23600 305 E WALNUT, ROOM 300 GREEN BAY WI 54305-3600	920-448-4450 920-448-4322 FAX
<b>BUFFALO</b>	COURTHOUSE, PO BOX 492 407 S. SECOND STREET ALMA WI 54610	608-685-6219 608-685-6283 608-685-6242 FAX
<b>BURNETT</b>	7410 COUNTY ROAD K, #128 SIREN WI 54872	715-349-2179 715-349-2102 FAX
<b>CALUMET</b>	COURTHOUSE 206 COURT ST CHILTON WI 53014-1198	920-849-1452 920-849-1469 FAX
<b>CHIPPEWA</b>	COURTHOUSE 711 N. BRIDGE ST CHIPPEWA FALLS WI 54729	715-726-7990 715-726-7991 715-726-7987 FAX
<b>CLARK</b>	COURTHOUSE, RM 304 517 COURT STREET NEILLSVILLE WI 54456-1971	715-743-5160 715-743-5154 FAX

<u>COUNTY/CVSO/STAFF</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>TELEPHONE/FAX/E-MAIL</u>
<b>COLUMBIA</b>	COUNTY ADMIN BLDG PO BOX 232, 400 DEWITT ST PORTAGE WI 53901-0232	608-742-9618 608-742-9602 FAX
<b>CRAWFORD</b>	225 N. BEAUMONT RD SUITE 137 PRAIRIE DU CHIEN WI 53821	608-326-0204 608-326-0292 FAX
<b>DANE</b>	210 MARTIN L KING BLVD RM 108 MADISON WI 53703	608-266-4158 608-266-4156 FAX
<b>DODGE</b>	127 EAST OAK ST JUNEAU WI 53039	920-386-3799 920-386-3271 FAX
<b>DOOR</b>	GOVERNMENT CENTER VETERANS SERVICE OFF 421 NEBRASKA ST, Ste 8 STURGEON BAY WI 54235	920-746-2225 920-746-2226 920-746-2519 FAX
<b>DOUGLAS</b>	COURTHOUSE 1316 N 14TH ST ROOM 347 SUPERIOR WI 54880	715-395-1331 715-395-1373 FAX
<b>DUNN</b>	GOVERNMENT CENTER 800 WILSON AVE MENOMONIE WI 54751	715-232-1646 715-231-6579 FAX
<b>EAU CLAIRE</b>	COURTHOUSE 721 OXFORD AVE SUITE 1015 EAU CLAIRE WI 54703-5490	715-839-4744 715-839-6238 FAX
<b>FLORENCE</b>	N2434 COUNTY ROAD N FLORENCE WI 54121	715-696-6770 715-696-6771 FAX
<b>FOND DU LAC</b>	50 N PORTLAND ST FOND DU LAC WI 54935	920-929-3117 920-929-7079 FAX
<b>FOREST</b>	COURTHOUSE 200 E MADISON ST CRANDON WI 54520	715-478-3722 715-478-5175 FAX
<b>GRANT</b>	111 S JEFFERSON, RM 142 LANCASTER WI 53813-1666	608-723-2756 608-723-4048 FAX

<u>COUNTY/CVSO/STAFF</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>TELEPHONE/FAX/E-MAIL</u>
<b>GREEN</b>	MAILING ADDRESS ONLY COURTHOUSE, 1016 16TH AVE MONROE WI 53566-1703	608-328-9415 608-328-9414 FAX
<b>GREEN LAKE</b>	VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE PO BOX 588 GREEN LAKE WI 54941-3188	920-294-4123 920-294-4124 920-294-4139 FAX
<b>IOWA</b>	COURTHOUSE 303 CHAPEL SUITE 1300 DODGEVILLE WI 53533	608-930-9865 608-935-3024 FAX
<b>IRON</b>	CO VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE 300 TACONITE ST SUITE 106 HURLEY WI 54534	715-561-2190 715-561-2928 FAX
<b>JACKSON</b>	COURTHOUSE 307 MAIN ST BLACK RIVER FALLS WI 54615	715-561-2190 715-284-0223 FAX
<b>JEFFERSON</b>	COURTHOUSE 320 S MAIN ST JEFFERSON WI 53549	920-674-7240 920-674-9123 FAX
<b>JUNEAU</b>	211 HICKORY ST, RM 201 MAUSTON WI 53948	608-847-9385 608-847-9417 FAX
<b>KENOSHA</b>	8600 Sherican Rd, Suite 700 DIV OF VETERANS SERVICES KENOSHA WI 53143-6516	262-605-6690 262-605-6692 262-605-6691 262-605-6695 FAX
<b>KEWAUNEE</b>	810 LINCOLN ST. KEWAUNEE WI 54216	920-388-7198 920-388-7139 FAX

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<b>LACROSSE</b>	COURTHOUSE ROOM 204 400 4TH STREET, N LACROSSE WI 54601-3228	608-785-9719 608-785-9718 FAX
<b>LAFAYETTE</b>	PO BOX 67 627 MAIN ST DARLINGTON WI 53530	608-776-4886 608-776-4873 FAX
<b>LANGLADE</b>	1225 LANGLADE ROAD ANTIGO WI 54409-2795	715-627-6545 715-627-6278 FAX
<b>LINCOLN</b>	VETERANS SERVICES 801 N. SALES ST., STE 104 MERRILL WI 54452	715-536-1083 715-536-8324FAX
<b>MANITOWOC</b>	COUNTY ADMIN BLDG. 4319 Expo Dr, P O Box 935 MANITOWOC WI 54220	920-683-4055 920-683-4056 920-683-5135 FAX
<b>MARATHON</b>	212 RIVER DRIVE SUITE 1 WAUSAU WI 54403	715-261-1141 715-261-1146 FAX
<b>MARINETTE</b>	1926 HALL AVE MARINETTE WI 54143-1717	715-732-7650—Office 715-732-7651—CVSO 715-732-7447 FAX
<b>MARQUETTE</b>	VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE PO BOX 214, 480 UNDERWOOD AV MONTELLO WI 53949	608-297-3182 608-297-9161 FAX
<b>MENOMINEE</b>	COURTHOUSE W3191 FREDENBERG DR. KESHENA WI 54135-0279	715-799-3729 715-799-4957 FAX
<b>MILWAUKEE</b>	COUNTY VETERANS OFFICE 6419 W GREENFIELD AVE MILWAUKEE WI 53295-0002	414-266-1235 414-266-1233 FAX
<b>MONROE</b>	VETERANS SERCICES 202 S K STREET #5 SPARTA WI 54656-4509	608-269-8726 608-269-8727 608-269-8893 FAX

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<b>OCONTO</b>	COURTHOUSE 301 WASHINGTON ST OCONTO WI 54153-1621	920-834-6817 920-834-6818 920-834-6819 FAX
<b>ONEIDA</b>	COURTHOUSE PO BOX 400, 1 ONEIDA AVE RHINELANDER WI 54501	715-369-6127 715-369-6267 FAX
<b>OUTAGAMIE</b>	227 S. WALNUT ST APPLETON WI 54911	920-832-5697 920-832-2473 FAX
<b>OZAUKEE</b>	COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER RM 232 PO BOX 994 PORT WASHINGTON WI 53074-0994	262-238-8326 262-238-8333 FAX
<b>PEPIN</b>	740 7TH AVE, W PO BOX 39 DURAND WI 54736-0039	715-672-8887 715-672-8039 FAX
<b>PIERCE</b>	412 W. KINNE ST; Box 146 ELLSWORTH WI 54011	715-273-6753 715-273-6754 FAX
<b>POLK</b>	100 POLK COUNTY PLAZA SUITE 70 BALSAM LAKE WI 54810	715-485-9243 715-485-9190 FAX
<b>PORTAGE</b>	CITY COUNTY BLDG 1516 CHURCH ST STEVENS POINT WI 54481- 3598	715-346-1310 715-346-1311 715-346-1410 FAX
<b>PRICE</b>	COURTHOUSE 126 CHERRY ST PHILLIPS WI 54555	715-339-2545 715-339-5116 FAX
<b>RACINE</b>	VETERANS SERVICES WFDC, 3 NORTH 1717 TAYLOR AVE RACINE WI 53404-9996	262-638-6702 262-638-7052 FAX

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<b>RICHLAND</b>	COURTHOUSE 181 W SEMINARY RICHLAND CENTER WI 53581	608-647-6101 608-647-3940 FAX
<b>ROCK</b>	VETERAN SERVICES 62 BELOIT MALL BELOIT WI 53511	608-363-6280 608-363-6286 FAX
<b>RUSK</b>	COURTHOUSE, SUITE C230 311 MINER AVE., E LADYSMITH WI 54848	715-532-2299 715-532-2126 FAX
<b>ST. CROIX</b>	COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER 1101 CARMICHAEL ROAD HUDSON WI 54016	715-386-4759 715-386-4758 715-386-4757 715-386-4756 FAX
<b>SAUK</b>	SAUK COUNTY WEST SQUARE 505 BROADWAY, ROOM 205 BARABOO WI 53913	608-355-3260 608-355-3261 608-355-3262 608-355-3263 FAX
<b>SAWYER</b>	PO BOX 717, 15872 5 <sup>th</sup> ST HAYWARD WI 54843	715-634-2770 715-638-3213 FAX
<b>SHAWANO</b>	COURTHOUSE, RM 201 311 N MAIN STREET SHAWANO WI 54166	715-526-9183 715-526-4622 FAX
<b>SHEBOYGAN</b>	COURTHOUSE  615 N 6TH ST SHEBOYGAN WI 53081-4692	920-459-3053 (secretary) 920-459-3054 (cvso) 920-459-3055 FAX
<b>TAYLOR</b>	224 S 2ND ST (140) MEDFORD WI 54451-1899	715-748-1488 715-748-1415 FAX

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<b>TREMPEALEAU</b>	COURTHOUSE 36245 MAIN STREET PO BOX 67 WHITEHALL WI 54773	715-538-2311 EXT 217 715-538-4210 FAX
<b>VERNON</b>	COUNTY OFFICE BLDG 318 FAIRLANE DR. VIROQUA WI 54665-6131	608-637-5274 608-637-5273 608-637-5512 FAX
<b>VILAS</b>	COURTHOUSE 330 COURT ST EAGLE RIVER WI 54521	715-479-3631 715-479-3629 715-479-3778 FAX
<b>WALWORTH</b>	COURTHOUSE PO BOX 1001, 100 W WALWORTH ELKHORN WI 53121	262-741-4222 262-741-4386 FAX
<b>WASHBURN</b>	1600 COUNTY HWY H SPOONER WI 54801	715-635-4470 715-635-4471 FAX
<b>WASHINGTON</b>	COURTHOUSE 432 E WASHINGTON ST PO BOX 1986 WEST BEND WI 53095	262-335-4457 262-335-6882 FAX
<b>WAUKESHA</b>	HUMAN SERVICES CENTER 500 RIVERVIEW AVENUE, RM G138 WAUKESHA WI 53188-3680	262-548-7732 262-896-8588 FAX
<b>WAUPACA</b>	COURTHOUSE 811 Harding St WAUPACA WI 54981	715-258-6475 715-258-6476 715-258-6477 715-258-6266 FAX
<b>WAUSHARA</b>	230 W PARK ST PO BOX 159 WAUTOMA WI 54982	920-787-0446 920-787-0423 FAX

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