

THE CAREGIVER TOOLBOX

PLANNING AHEAD SERIES: IF YOU ARE A VETERAN



Services & Benefits for US Veterans

The Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides a wide range of benefits including:

- Service Related Disability Income & Care
- Education and Training
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
- Home Loan Guaranty
- Dependent and Survivor Benefits
- Medical Treatment
- Life Insurance
- Burial Benefits

Eligibility for VA Benefits

You MAY be eligible for VA benefits if you are a:

- Veteran of any branch of the US Armed Services or a veteran's dependent
- Surviving spouse, child or parent of a deceased veteran
- Uniformed service member
- Present or former reservist or National Guard member

How to Apply for VA Benefits

The VA has several ways to apply for benefits depending on the veteran's category and status.

First you need a Military Report of Separation (also known as a DD214).

- The best way to receive a copy of the DD 214 is via an eBenefits account. Go to www.ebenefits.va.gov and register.
- Once you have a premium account, click on the "Manage Benefits" tab, and go to the Military Personnel File (DPRIS) link to request a copy of the DD 214. If you served before records were scanned into the system, try <https://www.archives.gov/veterans> and click on the "Request Military Records Online" tab.
- Apply at Local & Regional Offices: VA regional offices can assist veterans in filing the appropriate VA forms. Contact the Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services at www.dvs.ohio.gov or call at 614-644-0898.
- In addition, many VSOs (Veteran Service Organizations) can assist veterans as well by answering general questions and even petitioning on their behalf for services they believe the veteran is qualified to receive. See www.vetsfirst.org and www.veteranaid.org.

VA Income, Pensions & Benefits

Many different categories including:

- Veteran's Disability Pension
- Housebound Veteran's Benefits
- Veteran's Aid and Attendance Benefits
- Surviving Spouse and/or Unmarried children Benefits
- Veteran's Disability Compensation Benefits
- Adapted Housing Grants for Disabled Veterans
- Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE) for Disabled Veterans



VA Healthcare—How to Apply for Benefits

- Online: <https://www.va.gov/healthcare/apply/application/introduction>
- Phone: toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387
- Mail: Fill out an Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ).
- Apply in Person: Go to your nearest VA medical center or clinic. Bring a signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ) with you.

VA Health Care Benefits

- *ALL* enrolled Veterans receive the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA's) comprehensive Medical Benefits Package which includes preventive, primary and specialty care, diagnostic, inpatient and outpatient care services.
- Veterans may receive additional benefits, such as dental care depending on their unique qualifications. When you apply for VA healthcare, you'll be assigned to one of 8 priority groups.
- 8 Priority groups are based on:
 - Income level
 - Disability rating from VA
 - Military service history
 - Whether or not you qualify for Medicaid
 - Other benefits you may be receiving (like VA pension benefits).

VA Geriatrics & Extended Care Services in Central Ohio

- Geriatric Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT)/Primary Care Team
- Home Based Primary Care Program (HBPC)
- Palliative Care Clinic
- Community Hospice Care
- Community Nursing Home Care
- Adult Day Health Care (ADHC)
- Homemaker/Home Health Aid Program (H/HHA)
- The Care Coordination/Home Tele-Health Program (CCHT)
- The Spinal Cord Injury and Disorders Clinic (SCI&D)
- Geriatric Evaluation Clinic
- Community Health Nurse
- Respite for Family Caregivers



VA Healthcare Centers in Central Ohio

- **Chalmer's P. Wylie Veteran Outpatient Clinic,**
Columbus, Ohio
Phone: 614-257-5200
- **Grove City VA Clinic**
Phone: 614-257-5800
- **Columbus, OH Veterans Center**
Phone: 614-257-5550
- **Daniel L. Kinnard VA Clinic**
Newark, OH 43055
Phone: 740-788-8329
- **Marion VA Clinic**
Phone: 740-223-8809
- **Zanesville VA Clinic**
Phone: 740-453-7725

VA Caregiver Support Program

- A series of support groups, educational opportunities and other opportunities for caregivers of a veteran and veterans who are caring for family members.
- Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers(PC AFC) –NEW expansion of benefits to veterans and their families who incurred a serious injury in the line of duty.
- Call the Caregiver Support line at 855-260-3274
- Locate and find a Caregiver Support Social worker at www.caregiver.va.gov or in Central Ohio call, 614-388-7482.

VA Death Benefits

- Service-Related Death: VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths
- Non-Service-Related Death: The VA will pay a limited amount towards both burial and funeral expenses for veterans who die of not service connected circumstances. The amount is higher if the person dies in a VA connected facility. VA burial allowances are flat-rate monetary benefits that are generally paid at the maximum amount authorized by law for an eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs
- To Apply: You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits. You should attach a copy of the veteran's military discharge document (DD 214 or equivalent), death certificate, funeral and burial bills. They should show that you have paid them in full.

VA Cemetery Benefits

- All veterans are entitled to a free burial in a national cemetery and a grave marker. This eligibility also extends to some civilians who have provided military-related service and some public health service personnel, spouses and dependent children.
- There are no charges for opening or closing the grave, for a vault or liner, or for setting the marker in a national cemetery. The family generally IS responsible for other expenses, including transportation to the cemetery.
- For more information, visit the Department of Veterans Affairs' website at www.cem.va.gov.

VA Grave Marker Benefits

- Memorials are available to all veterans, spouses, and dependent children buried in a national cemetery and will be set without charge.
- For veterans who died before September 11, 2001, markers are available to them, not to the spouse or dependents, for use in other cemeteries unless the grave has already been marked by a private memorial
- A flag is provided on request for the burial of any veteran. Apply through the VA and pick up at a U.S. Post Office. Family members may wish to purchase a flag case for later display, available through private sources.



This information is provided by: The National Family Caregiver Support Program



This is a nationally funded program operated in Central Ohio by the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging (COAAA). It offers caregiver workshops and funds services designed to assist caregivers on a short term basis. The services include: information and assistance, counseling, respite, and other supplemental services.

Request a copy or download our other guide from our website www.coaaa.org:

- Central Ohio Older Adults Resource Guide
- The Caregiver Toolbox
- Central Ohio Long Term Care & Hospice Guide
- Central Ohio Housing & Home Repair Guide
- Central Ohio Private Homecare Guide
- Central Ohio Utility Guide
- Central Ohio Prescription Guide
- Central Ohio Transportation Guide
- Central Ohio Support Group Guide
- Central Ohio Respite Guide
- Central Ohio Moving & Transitions Guide
- Books, Videos, and Websites for Family Caregivers.
- Central Ohio Kinship Care Guide
- Central Ohio Hiring Guide for In Home Caregivers
- Central Ohio Pet Care Guide

The COAAA also provides monthly Caregiver Support Groups & Information Sessions. For more information, call 1-800-589-7277 or visit our website.

Or in your county, call one of these agencies:

- **Delaware**-SourcePoint 740-363-6677
- **Fairfield**-Meals on Wheels Older of Fairfield County 740-681-5050
- **Fayette**-Community Action Commission of Fayette Co. 740-335-7282
- **Franklin**-Franklin Co. Office on Aging 614-525-6200
- **Licking**-Licking Co. Aging Program 740-345-0821 or 1-800-452-0097
- **Madison**-Madison Co. Senior Center 740-852-3001
- **Pickaway**-Pickaway County Senior Center 740-474-8831
- **Union**-Union County Senior Services 937-644-1010