

SOUTH CAROLINA VETERANS' BENEFITS



SC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS



LEAD ★ SERVE ★ REMEMBER

 1800 St. Julian Place, STE 305
Columbia, SC 29204

 803.734.0200

 va@scdva.sc.gov

 scdva.sc.gov

**ACCESS THE RESOURCES
YOU DESERVE**

Revised April 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Dear Veterans and Military Retirees,

On behalf of the great state of South Carolina, I extend a heartfelt welcome home. Your selfless service and sacrifice have made our nation stronger, and we are eternally grateful for your contributions.

South Carolina is proud to be a military-friendly state, and we are committed to providing our Veterans and military retirees with the support, resources, and opportunities they deserve. Whether you're seeking employment, education benefits, or simply a place to call home, you'll find a warm welcome and a supportive community in our state.

We encourage you to explore the numerous benefits and incentives available to you including job opportunities, education benefits, tax benefits, and affordable housing.

As your Governor, I pledge to continue working to make South Carolina the best place for Veterans and military families to live, work, and thrive.

Thank you again for your service, and welcome home.



A handwritten signature of Governor Henry McMaster in black ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Governor Henry McMaster



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Welcome to the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs. We are committed to honoring your service and ensuring you receive the benefits, resources, and support you deserve. Our department is dedicated to helping Veterans and their families navigate the complexities of the benefits system and connect with the programs and services that can improve your quality of life.

Whether you're seeking assistance with healthcare, education, employment, or housing, we are here to guide you every step of the way. Our experienced staff is knowledgeable about the various federal and state benefits available to Veterans and can help you determine your eligibility and file the necessary claims.

We understand that transitioning from military to civilian life can be challenging. That's why we offer a wide range of programs and services designed to help Veterans successfully reintegrate into their communities. From job training and placement to mental health counseling and financial assistance, we are committed to supporting your well-being and empowering you to reach your full potential.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. We are honored to serve you and your family.



Secretary Todd B. McCaffrey

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SC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS



The Department's Purpose

The South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs exists to serve our state's Veterans, service members, and their families and to promote the value Veterans bring to their communities and their fellow citizens.

Revised January 2025



South Carolina Veterans Affairs Offices

Abbeville

903 W. Greenwood Street
Ste 1600
Abbeville, SC 29620
864.366.2608

Aiken

1930 University Parkway
Suite 2305
Aiken, SC 29801
803.642.1545

Allendale

184 Barnwell Highway
P.O. Box 521
Allendale, SC 29810
803.584.4226

Anderson

Ronald P. Townsend
Government Bldg
2404 North Main Street
Anderson, SC 29621
864.260.4036

Bamberg

50 Dickinson Street Ext.
Bamberg, SC 29003
803.245.3266

Barnwell

34 Pechman Street
Barnwell, SC 29812
Mailing Address
57 Wall St.
Barnwell, SC 29812
803.541.1057

Beaufort

100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
P.O. Drawer 1228
Beaufort, SC 29901-1228
843.255.6880

Berkeley

212 Oakley Plantation Drive
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
Mailing address:
Post Office Box 6122
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
843.377.8506

Calhoun

102 Courthouse Drive
Suite 113
St. Matthews, SC 29135
803.874.3816

Charleston

4045 Bridge View Drive
North Charleston, SC 29405
843.974.6360

Cherokee

110 Railroad Avenue
Gaffney, SC 29340
864.487.2579

Chester

154 Main Street
Memorial Building
P.O. Drawer 580
Chester, SC 29706
803.385.6157

Chesterfield

200 West Main Street
Chesterfield, SC 29709
843.623.2482

Clarendon

P.O. Drawer 548
411 Sunset Drive
Suite 1608
Manning, SC 29102
803.435.2527

Colleton

219 S. Lemacks Street,
Room 124
P.O. Box 637
Walterboro, SC 29488
843.549.1412

Darlington

1 Public Square, Room 310
Darlington County
Courthouse
Darlington, SC 29532
843.944.8325/8324 (new)

Dillon

City-County Complex Bldg.,
Room 302
401 W. Main Street
P.O. Box 493
Dillon, SC 29536
843.774.1427

Dorchester

500 N. Main Street
Suite 11
Summerville, SC 29483
843.832.0050

Edgefield

304 Gray Street
Edgefield, SC 29824
803.637.4012

Fairfield

96 US Hwy 321 South
P.O. Box 456
Winnsboro, SC 29180
803.635.4131

Florence

707 East National
Cemetery Road
Florence, SC 29506
843.665.3045

Georgetown

537 Lafayette Circle
Georgetown, SC 29440
843.545.3330

Greenville

301 University Ridge,
N-T300
Greenville, SC 29601
864.467.7230

Greenwood

106 Main Street North
Greenwood, SC 29646
Mailing address:
Post Office Box 1024
Greenwood, SC 29648
864.450.9268



South Carolina Veterans Affairs Offices

Hampton

201 Jackson Avenue West
Hampton, SC 29924
803.914.2085/2087

Horry

1949 Industrial Park Road,
Suite 101
Conway, SC 29526
P.O. Box 1236
Conway, SC 29527
843.915.5480

Jasper

651 Grays Highway
P.O. Box 1536
Ridgeland, SC 29936
843.726.7727
843.368.5970 (CVAO cell)

Kershaw

Kershaw County
Government Center
515 Walnut Street, Room
150
Camden, SC 29020
803.425.1521 or
803.425.1500 ext 5318

Lancaster

1033 West Meeting Street
P.O. Box 1809
Lancaster, SC 29721
803.283.2469

Laurens

200 Public Square
105 Bolt Drive
Laurens, SC 29360
864.984.4041

Lee

129 W. Cedar Lane
P.O. Box 461
Bishopville, SC 29010
803.484.5129

Lexington

605 West Main Street,
Suite B
Lexington, SC 29072
803.785.8400

Marion

2523 East Highway 76
P.O. Box 519
Marion, SC 29571
843.423.8255

Marlboro

300 West Main Street
P.O. Box 401
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843.479.5622

McCormick

610 South Mine Street
McCormick, SC 29835
864.852.2212

Newberry

1856 Wilson Road
P.O. Box 217
Newberry, SC 29108
803.321.2161

Oconee

223-C Kenneth Street
Walhalla, SC 29691
864.638.4231

Orangeburg

1437 Amelia Street, Room
203
P.O. Box 9000
Orangeburg, SC 29116-
9000
803.533.6156

Pickens

222 McDaniel Avenue, B13
Pickens, SC 29671
864.898.5243

Richland

1701 Main Street,
Suite 409
P.O. Box 192
Columbia, SC 29202
803.576.1908

Saluda

108 South Rudolph Street
Saluda, SC 29138
864.445.4500 ext. 2268

Spartanburg

Beaumont Plaza
610 Chesnee Highway
Spartanburg, SC 29303
864.598.7089

Sumter

141 North Main Street,
Room 100
Sumter, SC 29150
803.436.2302 / 2303

Union

320 East Main Street
Union, SC 29379
864.429.1605

Williamsburg

147 West Main Street
P.O. Box 565
Kingstree, SC 29556
843.355.8919

York

1070 Heckle Boulevard
Suite 1300
Rock Hill, SC 29732-3412
803.909.7525
or
6 S. Congress Street
P.O. Box 41
York, SC 29745
803.684.8529

State Benefits & Resources



Property Tax Exemption (SCDOR)

Disabled veterans can now obtain a South Carolina Property Tax exemption on real estate from the year in which they became disabled. The exemption was expanded by legislation signed by the governor in March and retroactive to 2022.

Under the new legislation

- A South Carolina military veteran who is totally and permanently disabled may immediately claim a Property Tax exemption on real estate the veteran owns beginning with the year in which the disability occurs.
- The exemption is retroactive to 2022 and is based on the date that the veteran acquires the property.
- Surviving spouses of totally and permanently disabled Veterans, if eligible, can immediately claim the exemption in the same manner as the veteran, regardless of whether the disabled Veteran applied for or claimed the exemption (applicable on a primary residence and up to five (5) adjoining acres).
- The change does not apply to Medal of Honor recipients or former prisoners of war.
- If a Veteran or a surviving spouse owns real estate for less than a year, any other owner not a disabled Veteran or otherwise entitled to an exemption is responsible for the Property Tax for the time they owned the property.

The new law also provides for new benefits involving disabled Veterans' vehicles

- Surviving spouses who move to South Carolina after the totally and permanently disabled Veteran has passed away now qualify for a Property Tax exemption on one vehicle, if eligible.
- Vehicles can qualify if titled to a trustee, but only if the Veteran or the surviving spouse is the income beneficiary of the trust, satisfies all other criteria, and uses the vehicle.
- Vehicles solely in the spouse's name can qualify if...
 - The spouse resides with the disabled Veteran
 - The vehicle is registered at the same address
 - Vehicles will count toward the limit of two vehicles allowed per disabled Veteran.



For more information visit the [DOR website](#).

Income Tax Exemption (SCDOR)

All military retirement pay is exempt from South Carolina Individual Income Tax beginning in tax year 2022, one of many tax breaks offered to veterans and military in South Carolina.

Tax Deductions & Exclusions

- Governor Henry McMaster signed the [Workforce Enhancement and Military Recognition Act](#), which exempts all military retirement pay that is included in South Carolina taxable income from the state's Income Tax, no matter the taxpayer's age.
- Can be claimed by a surviving spouse receiving military retirement income from their deceased spouse.
- Retirees can start, stop or change State Income Tax Withholding (SITW) by using [myPay](#), filling out a [DD Form 2866 Retiree Change of Address/State Tax Withholding Request](#), or sending a written request that includes all of the necessary information.
- If you choose to send a DD Form 2866 or a written request, mail it to: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, U.S. Military Retirement Pay, 8899 E 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200. Do not send either document to the SCDOR.

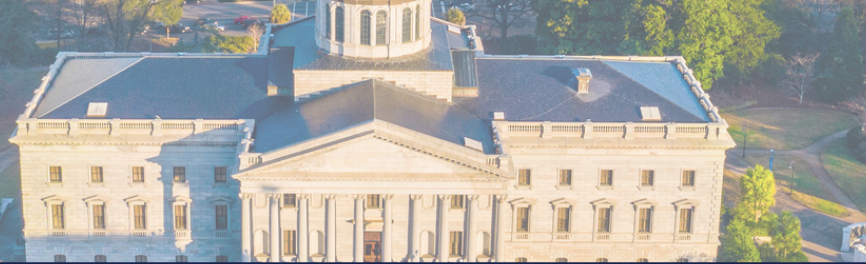
Other Income Tax Exclusions

- Any federal tax-exempt pension or compensation provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Combat pay and certain benefits not included in federal taxable income
- Retirement income paid by the U.S. government for service in the Reserves or National Guard
- Income received for service in the National Guard or the Reserves for customary annual training, weekend drills, and other inactive duty training is generally exempt
- Service pay for non-resident military personnel on active duty in South Carolina who are legal residents of other states

For more information visit the [DOR website](#).



State Benefits & Resources



Hunting and Fishing Licenses (SCDNR)



Provides for free hunting/fishing license to disabled Veterans. License must be applied for directly from SC Department of Natural Resources showing proof of disability. Licenses must be renewed every three (3) years.

For more information, call SC DNR at 803.734.3838 or visit the [DNR website](#).

Special License Plates (SCDMV)

Upon establishing proof of eligibility to entitlement, the S.C. Department of Public Safety, 803.737.4000, may issue special motor vehicle license plates to the following:

- National Guard
- National Guard Retirees
- Purple Heart Recipients
- Disabled Veterans
- U.S. Armed Forces Retirees
- Ex-Prisoners of War
- Medal of Honor Recipients
- Pearl Harbor Survivors
- Normandy Invasion Survivors
- Marine Corps League



Contact the DMV to inquire about more specialty plates. *Certain registration fees may apply. For more information, visit the [Department of Motor Vehicles website](#) or call 803.896.5000.

State Employment (ADMIN)



The State of South Carolina offers careers with a purpose in more than 70 state agencies.

Join the nearly 60,000 state employees who strive daily to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians.

South Carolina state employees enjoy meaningful careers that allow them to use what they are passionate about to give back to their community and provide for them and their families. For more information visit the [SC Careers website](#).

State Park Benefit for Totally Disabled Persons (SCPRT)

Provides that any South Carolina resident who is a permanently and totally disabled Veteran may enter any state park at a reduced rate upon presentation of supporting disability documentation. The veteran may also apply for a reduced fee "Palmetto Passport". Certain services may require an additional fee.

For more information, call South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism at 803.734.0156 or visit the [PRT website](#).



State Benefits & Resources

Palmetto Pathfinder Program (SCDVA)

The Palmetto Pathfinder Program is the State Veteran mentorship program designed to connect transitioning servicemembers from the military and Veterans in the community with a mentor. Pathfinders help transitioning servicemembers navigate the process when leaving the military and help Veterans in their community connect with resources based on the Veterans request for assistance.



For more information on the Palmetto Pathfinder Program or how to get connected with a Pathfinder, visit the [SC Department of Veterans' Affairs website](#).

South Carolina Veteran Coalition (SCDVA)



The South Carolina Veteran Coalition (powered by Combined Arms) is comprised of SCDVA leaders, Veteran Service Organizations and County Veterans Affairs' Officers joining together to help improve care, connect Veterans, Veteran Spouses, and their family members to resources in the state of South Carolina.

For more information on the South Carolina Veteran Coalition and how to get connected with resources across the state, visit the [SC Department of Veterans' Affairs website](#).

M.J. Dolly Cooper Veterans' Cemetery (SCDVA)

The M.J. "Dolly" Cooper Veterans Cemetery, located on 57 acres, opened in December 2007. As of 30 June 2017, 2,722 Veterans, spouses and dependents, have been buried with another 5,718 registered (pre-certified) with the cemetery for burials in the future.

"Pre-certified" means the cemetery has determined eligibility after receiving, reviewing and keeping on file copies of a veteran's DD-214 or discharge document and marriage certificate so when a need arises, scheduling a burial can be done without delay.



For more information on M.J. Dolly Cooper Veterans' Cemetery, eligibility requirements, and other frequently asked questions, visit the [SC Department of Veterans' Affairs website](#).

SC Tuition & Wavier Assistance (SCDVA)

Provides a tuition waiver for qualified children of certain military Veterans applying to or enrolled in a South Carolina state supported college, university or post high school technical education school; or acceptance into a dual enrollment/early college credit program prior to graduating high school. Qualifying Veterans and students must meet certain residency requirements.

- **Do not mail or fax paper applications.**
- **Do not submit duplicate applications; doing so hinders processing time.**
- Once applications are submitted, applicants will receive an automated response immediately. Please note, applicants will not receive status updates during processing.
- Approval letters will be emailed (to institution of choice), and denial letters will be sent to students electronically via email.
- Processing times may vary based on the volume of applications received.



For a list of Veteran eligibility requirements, state-supported institutions, the online application, resources for National Guard Members, and more information visit the [Education page](#) on SCDVA's website.

Please call (803) 647-2434 for any questions regarding the program.

Military Spouse Licensure



In an effort to assist military spouses who hold an active professional or occupational license in another state who are relocating to South Carolina, our state allows for an expedited licensure process as long as their license is in good standing.

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (LLR) prioritizes military spouse applications to ensure they are processed as quickly as possible.

If you are interested in applying for licensure, please complete the [Military Spouse Expedited Licensure Request Form](#), and a member of LLR will contact you directly to provide you with guidance on the additional information the state needs to grant licensure.

If you have questions that you would like answered before you complete the expedited licensure form, then please email those questions to militaryspouseinfo@llr.sc.gov

NOTE: Please be prepared to provide your military orders to South Carolina, your marriage license, and verification of licensure in every jurisdiction that issued you a license (active or not).

Federal Benefits & Resources

Pre-Discharge Claims Assistance

If you have a service-connected condition, you can file a claim for disability benefits 180 to 90 days before you leave the military. This may help speed up the claim decision process so you can get your benefits sooner. To find out how to file a claim through the Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) program. And learn what to do if you have less than 90 days left on active duty visit the [USDVA website](#).

Note: Veterans should first visit their local County Veterans Affairs Office for assistance with all their benefit needs.

Pre-Discharge Claims Assistance Locations in South Carolina

Intake Site at Navy Weapons Station

Fleet and Family Support Center
1005 Jefferson Ave., Bldg. 775
Goose Creek, SC 29445
(843) 794-7480
Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Intake Site at Parris Island

Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Bldg. 923, CRMC
Parris Island, SC 29905
(843) 228-4574
Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Intake Site at Shaw Air Force Base

C20th Medical Group
420 Pulifka Ave.
Bldg. 1042, TOPA Rm A017
Shaw AFB 29154
(803) 895-6748
Hours: 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Intake Site Beaufort Naval Hospital

1 Pinckney Blvd
Beaufort, SC 29902
(843) 288-5600
Hours: 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Intake Site Marine Corps Air Station

Building 807, Career Resource Management
Center, Marine Corps Air Station
Beaufort, SC 29904
(843) 228-7701
Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Intake Site at Charleston Air Force Base

Airman and Family Readiness Center, Bldg. #500
Charleston, SC 29904
(843) 963-8883
Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Intake Site at Fort Jackson

VA Predischarge Program, Bldg. #4600,
Education Center
Strom Thurmond Blvd.
Fort Jackson, SC 29907
(803) 751-6071
Hours: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Federal Benefits & Resources

Federal Employment

Veterans seeking employment within the federal government can access a range of opportunities and programs designed to assist them in navigating the hiring process and obtaining jobs that align with their skills and experience.

The primary platform for applying to federal jobs is [USAJOBS.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov). Veterans can use this platform to search for positions, create profiles, and apply for jobs.

The site allows Veterans to:

- Self-identify as a Veteran
- Search for Veteran-specific opportunities
- Access to federal resume guides

Disability Compensation –SCDVA Website

Disability compensation is a monthly benefit paid to veterans for any injury, condition, or illness that started in or was exacerbated by active service in the military. This benefit is tax free and also can be paid to veterans disabled from treatment in a USDVA healthcare facility. Veterans may be eligible for disability compensation if they have a service-connected disability, often referred to as "S/C", and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions. A service-connected disability does not have to be a combat injury; any injury or illness suffered or aggravated while in uniform can be considered. See the USDVA [Disability Compensation Rates for Veterans](#) page for actual payment amounts.

GI Bill – USDVA

GI Bill benefits help you pay for school and cover expenses while you're training for a job. Since 1944, the GI Bill has helped qualifying Veterans and their family members get money to cover all or some of the costs for school or training. Learn more about GI Bill benefits on this page—and how to apply for them. If you applied for and were awarded Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits, your GI Bill Statement of Benefits will show you how much of your benefits you've used and how much you have left to use. [Review your GI Bill Statement of Benefits on the USDVA website.](#)

- **Post-9/11 GI Bill** Benefits
- If you need help paying for school or covering expenses while you're training for a job and you've served on active duty after September 10, 2001, find out if you can get education benefits through the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- **Transfer your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to your spouse and dependents**
- If you have unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, find out if you can transfer your benefits to your spouse or dependent children.

Federal Benefits & Resources

VA Grant-Funded Cemeteries in South Carolina

Many states, territories and tribes have established VA Grant-Funded Veterans Cemeteries. Eligibility is similar to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries, but may include residency requirements. Even though they may have been established or improved with Government funds through VA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program, state, territory and tribal veterans cemeteries are operated and maintained by the states, territories or tribes. VA cannot answer your questions or comments about any of these state, territory or tribal veterans cemeteries.

- [M.J. Dolly Cooper Veterans Cemetery - 140 Inway Dr Anderson, SC 29621](#)
 - Phone: 864-332-8022
 - Fax: 864-332-8021
 - Burial Space: Open

BASIC ELIGIBILITY

- The Veteran must have an honorable discharge from the Armed Forces and provide a copy of the DD-214 or Military Discharge showing character of discharge and dates of active service.
- The Veteran must have been a resident of South Carolina:
 - when the Veteran entered the Armed Forces; or
 - when the Veteran or eligible family member, died; or
 - for five years, unless for a reason that the South Carolina Division of Veterans' Affairs finds compelling, and South Carolina Division of Veterans' Affairs waives the time period.

For other frequently asked questions visit the [SCDVA website](#).

National Cemeteries in South Carolina

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Cemetery Administration maintains 155 national cemeteries in 42 states and Puerto Rico as well as 34 soldier's lots and monument sites. There are four cemeteries located in South Carolina.

- [Beaufort National Cemetery](#) - 1601 Boundary St Beaufort, SC 29902
 - Phone: [843-524-3925](#)
 - Fax: 843-524-8538
 - Burial Space: Open
- [Florence National Cemetery Annex](#) - 850 Stockade Dr Florence, SC 29506
 - Phone: [843-669-8783](#)
 - Fax: [843-524-3925](#)
 - Burial Space: Open
- [Florence National Cemetery](#) - 803 E National Cemetery Rd Florence, SC 29506
 - Phone: [843-669-8783](#)
 - Fax: 843-662-8318
 - Burial Space: Closed
- [Fort Jackson National Cemetery](#) - 4170 Percival Rd Columbia, SC 29229
 - Phone: [866-577-5248](#)
 - Fax: 803-699-3086
 - Burial Space: Open

Federal Benefits & Resources

Housing

VA housing assistance can help Veterans, service members, and their surviving spouses to buy a home or refinance a loan. We also offer benefits and services to help you build, improve, or keep your current home. You can find out how to apply for and manage the Veterans housing assistance benefits you've earned on the [USDVA website](#).

VA home loan types

VA offers home loan programs to help you buy, build, or improve a home or refinance your current home loan—including a VA direct loan and 3 VA-backed loans including:

[Purchase loan](#)

[Native American Direct Loan \(NADL\) program](#)

[Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan \(IRRRL\)](#)

[Cash-out refinance loan](#)

Explore details of your home loan options on the [USDVA website](#).

Pension

VA pension benefits are available to some wartime Veterans and their survivors. To find out if you're eligible to apply visit the [USDVA website](#).

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

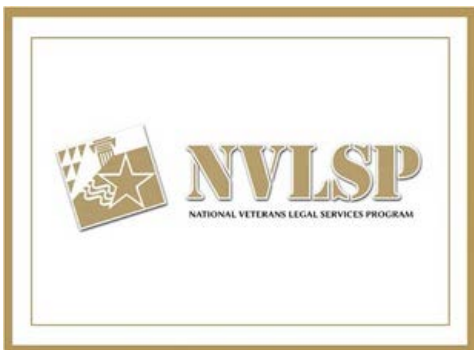
Legal Assistance

National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP)

The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) is an independent nonprofit organization that has worked since 1981 to ensure that the government delivers to our nation's Veterans and active-duty personnel the benefits to which they are entitled because of disabilities resulting from their military service to our country.

NVLSP recruits, trains, and assists thousands of lawyers and non-lawyer advocates who provide free legal representation to veterans and active-duty military personnel. NVLSP's [Veterans Benefits Manual](#), the comprehensive treatise on Veterans' law, empowers Veterans, current service members, their families, and their advocates to obtain the benefits they're entitled to by clearly outlining their rights under the law. NVLSP provides free representation through its [Lawyers Serving Warriors®](#) (LSW) pro bono program. LSW offers free legal help to veterans and service members on a number of benefits issues; cases are placed with volunteer attorneys from law firms and corporate legal departments nationwide.

To receive more information regarding this program, please visit the [NVLSP website](#).



Legal Assistance

Lawyers Serving Warriors® (LSW) Program

NVLSP's Lawyers Serving Warriors® program offers pro bono (that is, free) legal help with disability issues to veterans from all eras. Our current pro bono initiatives are to assist veterans with the following types of disability claims:

- Assistance with Discharge Upgrades for Veterans from All Eras
- Applications for Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC)
- Applications to Boards for Correction of Military Records (BCMRs) for veterans who were wrongfully discharged for personality disorder or adjustment disorder
- Applications to Boards for Correction of Military Records (BCMRs) for veterans who wish to obtain disability retirement
- Assistance with VA claims for Mental Health and/or Physical Condition(s) including PTSD due to military sexual trauma (MST)
- Applications to the Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR) for an increase in the military disability rating to attain a permanent disability retirement
- Representation to service members being processed through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

To learn more about NVLSP's Lawyers Serving Warriors® program, go to the [NVLSP website](#).

Healthcare

Basic Eligibility

A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for VA healthcare benefits. Reservists and National Guard members may also qualify for VA healthcare benefits if they were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty may be eligible for VA healthcare.

Minimum Duty Requirements

To be eligible, Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty. This minimum-duty requirement may not apply to veterans discharged for hardship, early out or a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Certain VA benefits require service during wartime. Under these laws, the VA recognizes the following war periods:

- **WORLD WAR II**
December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946, inclusive. If the veteran was in service on December 31, 1946, continuous service before July 26, 1947 is considered World War II service.
- **KOREAN WAR**
June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955, inclusive.
- **VIETNAM WAR**
February 28, 1961 through May 7, 1975, inclusive, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period. August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975 is inclusive in all other cases.
- **GULF WAR**
August 2, 1990 through a date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation.

Enrollment

Note: Enrollment in the VA Healthcare System does not necessarily mean that a Veteran has a service-connected disability.

- To apply, complete VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits. This form can be obtained from any VA healthcare facility or regional benefits office, downloaded at www.va.gov/vaforms, or requested by contacting the Columbia VA Regional Office at (803) 647-2434 or contacting your local County Veterans' Affairs Office.
- Once enrolled, Veterans can receive treatment at a VA healthcare facility anywhere in the country. Veterans enrolled in the VA healthcare system are afforded privacy rights under federal law.

The following four categories of Veterans are not required to enroll, but are urged to do so to permit better planning of health resources:

- Veterans with a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more;
- Veterans seeking care for a disability the military determined was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, but which VA has not yet rated, within 12 months of discharge;
- Veterans seeking care for a service-connected disability only;
- Veterans seeking registry examinations (Depleted Uranium, Ionizing Radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War/Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans).

Note: Eligible Veterans enrolled in VA Health Care can obtain a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) to use to check into VA health care appointments. To obtain your VHIC, contact your nearest VA Medical Center or [apply online](#).



VA Clinics & Community Based Outpatient Centers

Upstate Facilities

[Anderson CBOC](#)

3030 North Highway 81,
Anderson, SC 29621

[Greenville CBOC](#)

41 Park Creek Drive,
Greenville, SC 29605

[Greenville Vet Center](#)

3 Caledon Court, Suite B,
Greenville, SC 29615

[Spartanburg CBOC](#)

279 North Grove Medical
Park Drive, Spartanburg,
SC 29303

Midlands Facilities

[Columbia VA Health Care System](#)

6439 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia,
SC 29209

[Columbia Vet Center](#)

1710 Richland Street, Suite A,
Columbia, SC 29201

[Aiken CBOC](#)

951 Millbrook Avenue, Aiken, SC
29803

[Rock Hill CBOC](#)

2670 Mills Park Drive, Rock Hill, SC
29732

Pee Dee Facilities

[Florence CBOC](#)

1822 Sally Hill Farms Road,
Florence, SC 29501

[Myrtle Beach CBOC](#)

1800 Airpark Drive, Myrtle Beach,
SC 29577

[Myrtle Beach Vet Center](#)

1101 Johnson Ave, Suite 201,
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

[Sumter CBOC](#)

245 North Bultman Drive, Sumter,
SC 29150

Lowcountry Facilities

[Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center](#)

109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC 29401

[Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center](#)

950 15th Street, Augusta, GA 30904

[Charleston Vet Center](#)

3625 West Montague Ave, North Charleston, SC 29418

[Beaufort CBOC](#)

1 Pinckney Blvd, Beaufort, SC 29902

[Goose Creek CBOC](#)

2418 NNPTC Circle, Goose Creek, SC 29445

[North Charleston VA CBOC](#)

6450 Rivers Ave, North Charleston, SC 29406

[Orangeburg CBOC](#)

151 Magnolia Village Parkway, Orangeburg, SC 29118



The PACT Act and your VA Benefits

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures
- If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

Eligibility

- You're eligible to enroll now—without needing to apply for disability benefits first—if you meet the basic service and discharge requirements and any of these descriptions are true for you:
- You served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11, or
- You deployed in support of the Global War on Terror, or
- You were exposed to toxins or other hazards during military service at home or abroad
- Specific toxins and hazards include burn pits, sand and dust, particulates, oil well or sulfur fires, chemicals, radiation, warfare agents, depleted uranium, herbicides, and other occupational hazards. [Find more military exposure categories on USDVA's Public Health website](#)
- Note: Even if none of these descriptions are true for you, you may still be eligible for VA health care based on your service. [Check the full health care eligibility requirements](#)

Presumptive Conditions for Toxic Exposure

To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition.

But for some conditions, we automatically assume (or “presume”) that your service caused your condition. We call these “presumptive conditions.”

We consider a condition presumptive when it's established by law or regulation.

If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.



South Carolina Governors Challenge– SCDVA

In September 2021, the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs (SCDVA) assumed responsibilities for the South Carolina Governor's Challenge, which had been previously headed by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH).

[The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) has partnered with the [United States Department of Veterans' Affairs \(VA\)](#) to bring the [Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families](#) to states and communities across the Nation.

The VA's National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide provides a framework for integrating and coordinating suicide prevention activities across multiple sectors. The Governor's Challenge advances the principles of the National Strategy by facilitating policy-to-practice implementation plans. These plans will serve as instruments of change, providing a best-practice public health model that demonstrates meaningful results in suicide prevention. The Governor's Challenge is a coalition of Veterans, state agencies/leaders and mental health professionals committed to raising awareness and implementing programs aimed at Veteran suicide prevention.

Visit the [SC Governor's challenge page](#) on SCDVA's website for more information.

Women Veteran Health Services

The Palmetto State is home to more than 45,000 women veterans. Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing populations. According to the National Center for Veterans Analysis & Statistics, the women Veteran population in South Carolina will continue to increase by 1% yearly for the next three years.

Veterans Affairs' Medical Centers (Women's Services)

Rose Hutson

Women Veterans Program Manager
803-776-4000 ext. 2157
rose.hutson@va.gov

Dorothy Gouedy (Acting)

Women Veterans Program Manager
843-557-5011 ext. 6461
dorothy.gouedy2@va.gov

Tabitha Copeland

Women Veterans Program Manager
706-733-0188 ext. 5802
tabitha.copeland@va.gov

[Columbia VA Healthcare System](#)

6439 Garners Ferry Road
Columbia, SC 29209

[Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center](#)

109 Bee Street
Charleston, SC 29401

[Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center](#)

905 15th Street
Augusta, GA 30904

To learn more about Women Veteran health services and resources visit the [Women Veterans page](#) on SCDVA's website.

Housing



SC Resources For Homeless Veterans

- [Transitions Homeless Center](#)
2025 Main St, Columbia, SC 29201
803-708-4861
- [One80 Place](#)
3710 Landmark Dr, Ste 301, Columbia, SC 29204
35 Walnut St, Charleston, SC 29403
3875 Faber Place, Ste 200, North Charleston, SC 29405
843-723-9477
- [Affordable Housing Coalition of South Carolina](#)
P.O. Box 1623, Columbia, SC 29202
803-808-2980
- [Alston Wilkes Society](#)
3519 Medical Dr, Columbia, SC 29203
803-799-2490
- [Fast Forward](#)
3223 Devine Street, Ste 3, Columbia, SC 29205
803-343-2577
- [Providence Home](#)
3421 N. Main St, Columbia, SC 29203
803-779-2927
- [ECHO \(Eastern Carolina Housing Organization\)](#)
407 Broadway St, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
2625 Hardee Ct Unit A, Sumter, SC 29150
843-213-1798 (General)
843-492-2594 (Veteran Outreach)

Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs)

- [American Legion](#)
803-647-2434
- [Disabled American Veterans](#)
803-647-2422
- [Paralyzed Veterans of America](#)
803-647-2432
- [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#)
803-647-2443
- National Association for Black Veterans
803-647-2444

To find more VA accredited representatives or VSOs visit [USDVA's website](#)

Veterans' Homelessness & Transition Grant (SCDVA)

The Veterans' Homelessness and Transition Grant was established on October 16, 2023, to provide funding to organizations that serve homeless Veterans or Veterans at imminent risk of being homeless with resources to obtain permanent housing.

- The Veterans Homelessness and Transition Grant Program is funded through an appropriation by the South Carolina General Assembly and managed by the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs (SCDVA).
- Aims to enhance nonprofit organizations and state agencies' housing assistance programs for Veterans.
- The South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs will award a grant (\$50K-\$250K) per cycle to nonprofit groups and state governmental agencies that assist eligible South Carolina Veterans with housing assistance, utility or rental assistance, drug addiction treatment and transitional housing programs.

For more information visit the Veterans' [Homelessness and Transition Grant page](#) on SCDVA's website.

Housing



South Carolina Veterans Homes

Admission to state-run Veteran home facilities is limited to Veterans who have been separated from the U.S. Armed Forces under general or honorable conditions and qualify as South Carolina citizens who are in need of skilled or intermediate Veteran home care.

To obtain additional information, or to apply for admission, contact your local county Veterans' affairs officer, the Veteran home, or visit the [State Veterans Home page](#) on SCDVA's website.



E. Roy Stone Veterans Pavillion

2200 Harden Street
Columbia, SC 29203
(803) 737-5301



Veterans' Victory House

2461 Sidneys Road
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 358-3000



Richard M. Campbell Veterans Home

4605 Belton Highway
Anderson, SC 29621
(864) 261-6734



Veteran Village

1200 E. National Cemetery Road
Florence, SC 29488
(843) 358-3000



Palmetto Patriots Home

120 Hampshire Drive
Gaffney, SC 29341
(864) 649-2000



Patriot's Village

915 North Wise Drive
Sumter, SC 29153
(801) 671-4583

Housing



Home Improvements (USDVA)

This benefit provides medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to Veterans/Service members' primary residence for the following purposes:



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

- Allowing entrance to or exit from the primary residence
- Use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities (e.g. roll in showers)
- Allowing accessibility to kitchen or bathroom sinks or counters (e.g. lowering counters/sinks)
- Improving entrance paths or driveways in immediate area of the home to facilitate access to the home through construction of permanent ramping
- Improving plumbing or electrical systems made necessary due to installation of home medical equipment

HISA will not pay for:

- Walkways to exterior buildings
- Spa, hot tub, or Jacuzzi
- Exterior decking
- New construction

For more information on HISA Benefit Amounts, exclusions and application process visit the [Home Improvements & Structural Alterations page](#) on SCDVA's website.

VA Housing Assistance (USDVA)

The United States Department of Veteran Affairs (USDVA) housing assistance can help Veterans, service members, and their surviving spouses to buy a home or refinance a loan. The USDVA also offers benefits and services to help you build, improve, or keep your current home. Find out how to apply for and manage the Veterans housing assistance benefits you've earned by visiting the [USDVA's VA Housing assistance](#) webpage.

Specially Adapted Housing (SCDOR)

- Provides for the exemption of state, county, and municipal taxes on the residence of Veterans who have lost the use of their lower extremities or who have paralysis of one lateral half of the body resulting from injury to the motor centers of the brain.
- For more information, contact your county and municipal tax offices. You can also visit the [Department of Revenue's website](#) or call 803.898.5700.

MCEC Purple Star Schools



[The South Carolina Department of Education](#) provides support to military families in South Carolina by awarding Purple Star designation to schools and school districts that show a significant commitment to supporting military families and students of servicemen and women.

Designated schools/districts will have met specific requirements, targeted training (provided by the Military Child Education Coalition), and implemented programs and resources designed to support the unique situations facing military students and families.

[Military Child Education Coalition \(MCEC\)](#) is the national advocate for Purple Star Schools, a program that supports military-connected children as they relocate to new schools due to a parent's change in duty station.



Military children move every two to three years. The Purple Star School program is designed to help schools respond to the educational and social-emotional challenges military-connected children face during their transition to a new school and keep them on track to be college, workforce, and life-ready. Military-connected refers to children of service members on active duty, and in the National Guard and Reserves.

MCEC is the nation's most complete resource for states seeking to start a Purple Star School program.

Visit the [Purple Star Schools and Districts page](#) on SCDVA's website to learn more.

In-State Tuition Benefits

SC Tuition Assistance for Certain War Veterans' Children

Provides a tuition waiver for qualified children of certain military Veterans applying to or enrolled in a South Carolina state supported college, university or post high school technical education school; or acceptance into a dual enrollment/early college credit program prior to graduating high school. Qualifying Veterans and students must meet certain residency requirements.

- **Do not mail or fax paper applications.**
- **Do not submit duplicate applications; doing so hinders processing time.**
- Once applications are submitted, applicants will receive an automated response immediately. Please note, applicants will not receive status updates during processing.
- Approval letters will be emailed (to institution of choice), and denial letters will be sent to students electronically via email.
- Processing times may vary based on the volume of applications received.

Please call (803) 647-2434 for any questions regarding the program.



For a list of Veteran eligibility requirements, state-supported institutions, the online application, resources for National Guard Members, and more information visit the [Education page](#) on SCDVA's website.

Employment

Veteran Readiness & Employment Program (VR&E)

You may receive Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) (Formerly known as Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment) services to help with job training, education, employment accommodations, resume development, and job seeking skills coaching. Other services may be provided to assist Veterans and Service members in starting their own businesses or independent living services for those who are severely disabled and unable to work in traditional employment. To learn more about the VR&E program, review the [VR&E Process page](#), and the tabs and links on this page. Click on the "How to Apply" tab to apply for VR&E services.

DOD Skillbridge

The DOD SkillBridge program is an opportunity for service members to gain valuable civilian work experience through specific industry training, apprenticeships, or internships during the last 180 days of service. DOD SkillBridge connects transitioning service members with industry partners in real-world job experiences. For a list of current DOD SkillBridge apprenticeships across South Carolina visit the [DOD SkillBridge Opportunity locator site](#).

Employment Programs on SCDVA Website

SCDVA lists resources directly linked to South Carolina government agencies, the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs, Veteran Benefits Administration (VBA), or SCDVA partner agencies and SC Veteran service organizations. [Visit the SCDVA website to learn more about these employment resources.](#)

SC DEW

SC Works representatives are available in centers throughout the state to help veterans transition into the workforce. Veterans receive priority service in all [SC Works centers](#).

Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) staff and Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists are trained to provide intensive, priority employment services to all veterans, including group and individual career coaching, job referrals, résumé preparation help, career fairs and job search workshops, job training programs, and referrals to training services. Visit the Veterans Portal at: <https://veterans.scworks.org/vosnet/Default.aspx>

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

ESGR, a Department of Defense office, was established to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

Learn more about ESGR and how employers can support their military connected employees by [visiting their website](#).

There are many Recognized Veteran Friendly Employers across the state that support ESGR you can find them by visiting the [South Carolina Veteran-Friendly Employer Recognition Program](#) page on SCDVA's website.



WHAT IS LOCK IT SC?

Lock It South Carolina is a suicide prevention initiative with the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs and the South Carolina Governor's Challenge Team. The initiative aims to promote safe and responsible care of Lethal Means, including firearms and medication and providing information to address and increase public understanding of Veteran Suicide.

WHAT IS LETHAL MEANS?

Lethal means is an intentional and voluntary practice to increase time and space between an individual and a lethal mean (firearm, medication, asphyxiation device), therefore reducing the risk of intentional harm (suicide, domestic violence) and accidental harm (injury or death).

Increasing the time and distance between someone in a suicide crisis and access to lethal means can reduce suicide risks and save lives.

FRAMING THE CONVERSATION



Having a conversation with a Veteran about firearm safety can be challenging. As someone who likely had some level of firearm training during their military service, the Veteran may not be receptive to talking about best practices for gun storage and security. It can be helpful to frame your conversation around the safety of others — family, friends, or children who may not know how to properly handle a firearm or understand its dangers, which could result in accidental injury or death.

KEY PRINCIPLES



- ✓ Limiting access to lethal means for a person in crisis helps prevent suicide
- ✓ Helping to educate personnel that take a gun lock on why it matters
- ✓ Safe handling and secure storage of lethal means at home is encouraged
- ✓ Proper disposal of unwanted medications and keeping medications away from children

MEDICATION SAFETY



Proper storage of medications and disposal of medications are important to reduce the risks of self-harm and unintentional accidents.

- ✓ Take medication only prescribed to you and only as prescribed
- ✓ Never share medications with others
- ✓ Store all medication in an inaccessible, secure place, or a locked container
- ✓ Keep track of each type and amount of your medications
- ✓ Dispose of unneeded and outdated medications by using your community's medicine drop box



SOUTH CAROLINA VETERAN OF THE YEAR



1SG (Ret.) Alvin King
2023-2024



CSM (Ret.) Robert Clark
2024-2025

The South Carolina Veteran of the Year is a program created by the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs to recognize South Carolina Veterans who have honorably served and continue to make meaningful contributions to their communities. Through a selection process, top candidates compete for the title of **South Carolina Veteran of the Year**.

Know a deserving Veteran? Nominate them today! Help shine a spotlight on their service, inspire others, and ensure their legacy is celebrated across South Carolina.

**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO
NOMINATE A VETERAN](#)**

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SC DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS



**ACCESS THE RESOURCES
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