

Washington State Veterans Homes Frequently Asked Questions



Who is eligible for care in a State Veterans Home?

Honorably discharged Veterans, who currently live in Washington State, their spouses and surviving spouses, and Gold Star Parents.

Is a State Veterans Home similar to a Retirement Community?

State Veterans Homes provide nursing-level 24 hour care. They do not provide Assisted Living or Independent Living options.

What services are provided at the State Veterans Homes?

- Short-term Medicare A rehabilitative care
- Long-term nursing care
- End-of-life care, including hospice

What kind of rehabilitation is available?

Our Veterans Homes employ and contract with physicians, nurse practitioners, occupational, physical and speech therapy professionals.

Is there a waiting list to become a State Veterans Home resident?

Not always. Admissions are made on a space available basis. Information on waiting lists is available from the Admissions Coordinator who will contact you during the screening process.

How much does it cost to live in a State Veterans Home?

Residents are charged a daily room rate. The Admissions Coordinator or Veterans Benefit Specialist can help you determine the cost.

I am a disabled Veteran, won't the Federal VA pay for my care?

In some cases, yes. Veterans who are rated at 70% to 100% Service Connected disabled, are eligible for nursing home care at no cost. Veterans with a service connected disability, if the service connected disability is the reason they need care, may also have their nursing home care provided at no cost.

Who pays for the cost of living at a State Veterans Home?

If they do not fall into a category described in the previous question, residents use the same payment sources they would in other nursing home facilities, including: Medicare, Medicaid, Private Pay and Long-Term Care Insurance.

Is there financial assistance to help me pay for the cost of living at a State Veterans Home?

Yes, residents unable to pay the daily room rate must agree to apply for Medicaid, and any other appropriate benefits, insurance or entitlements and comply with all requirements of these programs.

Residents may also pay the daily room rate until their resources are spent to the level of Medicaid eligibility. Once a resident qualifies for Medicaid, they continue to pay all income in excess of their \$160 personal needs allowance to the State Veterans Home to help cover the cost of their care. Medicaid rules may allow a spouse living in the community to retain a spousal allowance.

How does Medicare work?

Medicare Part A covers a semiprivate room, meals, skilled nursing and rehabilitative services after a related 3-day hospital stay.

Medicare Part B helps cover physician services, outpatient hospital care and some other medical services that Part A does not cover.

How does Medicaid work?

Medicaid is a government assistance program that pays for medical services including nursing home care. To receive Medicaid payment for nursing home care, you must meet financial requirements and need nursing home care. For more information on Medicaid, call 1-800-562-3022.

I have Long Term Care Insurance, how will that be used at the State Veterans Home?

Most long term care insurance pays benefits by the day or month and set a benefit length such as 2, 3 or 5 years. Check with your provider to determine how your policy works. Costs not covered by long term care insurance are paid by residents, often through private payment or Medicaid.

Can I continue to be seen by my own Doctor?

Yes, you may be seen by your own doctor, or by one of the State Veterans Homes physicians.

I’m a smoker, can I smoke at a State Veterans Home?

The Walla Walla Veterans Home is a completely smoke free campus, residents are not permitted to smoke either inside or outside.

The Veterans Homes at Orting, Retsil and Spokane may allow residents to smoke outside in designated areas if they can do so independently and safely. All residents are assessed for smoking safety during admission.

How are the State Veterans Homes different than other nursing homes?

Washington State has over 100 years of experience caring for Veterans and their families. Staff members are dedicated and skilled in providing care and services to Veterans. Veterans are also evaluated during the admission process to determine eligibility for additional Veterans’ benefits. State Veterans Homes are surveyed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs each year.

The participation of Veteran Service Organizations within the State Veterans Homes fosters camaraderie and a sense of belonging unique to Veterans. Volunteers routinely visit with individual residents, and provide emotional and financial support for many special programs throughout the year.

Because Washington State is dedicated to *“Serving Those Who Served”*, staff members take extra care to ensure that Veterans, spouses and Gold Star Parents are treated with the dignity and respect they’ve earned.

Where are the State Veterans Homes located?

Washington Soldiers Home 1301 Orting-Kapowsin Hwy Orting, WA 98360	Washington Veterans Home 1141 Beach Drive E Retsil, WA 98378	Spokane Veterans Home 222 East 5 th Ave Spokane, WA 99202	Walla Walla Veterans Home 92 Wainwright Drive Walla Walla, WA 99362
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How do I contact the Admissions Team?

Call 1-877-838-7787 or email us directly at:

- Orting: sophiep@dva.wa.gov
- Retsil: robinw@dva.wa.gov or melissaj@dva.wa.gov
- Spokane: becky@dva.wa.gov
- Walla Walla: lonnal@dva.wa.gov

Find out more about *your* Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs by visiting www.dva.wa.gov.