WDVA Fast Facts

State Veterans Homes

WASHINGTON SOLDIERS HOME

Established in 1910, the Washington Veterans Home is located in Port Orchard on a 31-acre bluff overlooking Puget Sound. In 2005, a new nursing care building was opened, providing a “Resident Centered Concept” that focuses resources around the individual resident. All primary services for a resident are available within a forty-bed “neighborhood.” The Veterans Home serves 240 residents needing long term nursing care or Medicare Rehabilitative Services following a qualifying hospital stay. For a tour or more information call (360) 893-4515.

SPokane VETERANS HOME

Opened in 2002, the Spokane Veterans Home serves 100 residents needing skilled nursing care. The Spokane Veterans Home is located in the heart of Spokane’s medical center and offers skilled Medicare Rehabilitative Services following a qualifying hospital stay. We also coordinate frequent outings to keep veterans connected with annual activities such as the Spokane Lilac Festival. For a tour or more information call (509) 344-5770.

Walla WALLA VETERANS HOME

The Walla Walla Veterans Home is located on the campus of the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center. This 80-bed nursing care facility was designed using a small house model and will provide care in 8 individual homes. All residents will enjoy a private room with a private bathroom and be cared for by a dedicated team of providers. Each house has an open kitchen, dining and living area much like any traditional home does, providing opportunities for residents to be involved in activities such as meal preparation. In addition, the Homes are equipped with shared services such as laundry and a state of the art bathing room. For a tour or more information call (509) 394-6806.

VA CLAIMS AND BENEFITS & BENEFITS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

WDVA contracts with seven Veterans Service Organizations, two independent contractors, and six County Veteran’s Offices to provide claims services statewide. This network is responsible for over 80% of all claims submitted in Washington. We collaborate with the Health Care Authority and DSHS Economic Services Admin Division of Child Support to identify veterans and spouses on Medicaid and other social services programs. We apply for all benefits for which they may be eligible including HCA and DSHS to serve other Washingtonians not eligible for veterans benefits.

VETERANS ESTATE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WDVA manages the financial affairs of veterans when they have been declared incompetent to manage their own finances by the VA or Social Security Administration.

FINANCIAL & HOMELESS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The Veterans Innovation Program provides emergency assistance to current operations veterans including Washington National Guard/Reserve veterans who are experiencing financial hardship. It funds innovative ideas to assist veterans beyond emergency assistance and pays for training (before VA benefits kick in), and licenses or certifications that result in employment.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project — Provides services to homeless veterans in King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston VA health-care facilities help create a path for veterans to reintegrate into the workforce and obtain sustainable independent living.

COUNTY PROGRammS AND SERVICES & INCARCERATED VETERANS

King County: 1) Homeless Services – Address the needs of homeless veterans by serving eligible veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and not currently using available services. 2) Financial and Housing Support Services – Determine eligibility for housing, financial assistance, and supportive service needs of eligible veterans. Provide referrals to other crisis intervention services, e.g. alcohol/drug counseling, low-income housing, family counseling, and job training. 3) Call Center – Provides a toll free number for information and assistance on state or federal veterans benefits. 1-877-904-VETS (8387) 4) Military Family Outreach – Providing National Guard and Reservist families with information, assistance, and advocacy with the goal of achieving stability. Spokane County Regional Veterans Service Center: Partnership with the County to provide emergency financial assistance as well as connection to state, federal and county veterans benefits, education and employment assistance. 509-477-3690 Several Countys operate Veterans Courts connecting veterans to treatment and case management and reducing the likelihood of the veteran re-offending.
WDVA Fast Facts
Behavioral Health Services Division

**VETERANS CONSERVATION CORPS (VCC)**

What began as a small program driven by volunteers has grown into a statewide effort connecting veterans to their environment and to each other. The VCC fosters job creation and has helped employ hundreds of veterans in environmental sectors. The VCC focuses on Eco-therapy and successfully blends experiential and behavioral wellness opportunities with community engagement, education, recreation, and volunteerism through Internships with Natural Resource Partners, Agricultural Training, Internships with Agricultural partners, and the Veterans Farm at Orting.

**VET CORPS**

Vet Corps members serve as peer mentors to those in transition at colleges and universities across the state. 50 individuals help veterans and their family members navigate Washington's higher education and training programs as veterans adjut from military to college life. Vet Corps is funded by an AmeriCorps Grant.

**VETERAN FRIENDLY CAMPUSES**

A partnership between Higher Education entities and WDVA helps veterans succeed in school. Behavioral Health provides training on campus to work with veterans, educators, and administrators. After successfully completing the training, a college may provide information on how it serves veterans on campus and request its own Partners Certificate signed by the WDVA director and the college president/chancellor. Participating schools provide easily accessible, on-site services to veterans, support connections, and connection to other veterans on campus. Veterans, who may be dealing with many issues, get answers and resolution and are more likely to stay in school to complete their education.

**VETERAN TRAINING SUPPORT CENTER**

Funded by the King County Veterans and Human Services Levy and the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs PTSD & War Trauma Counseling Program, the purpose of the Veterans Training Support Center is to provide continuing educational opportunities and professional development to those who provide direct service to veterans and their family members. The Center's goals are to raise awareness and understanding on issues specific to veterans such as invisible wounds like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury, and to encourage agency and institutional staff to establish promising best practices that will empower this population in their reintegration and pursuit of personal, academic, and career goals. http://www.veterantrainingsupportcenter.org/

**TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)**

Tens of thousands of veterans in Washington State have a history of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and more occur each day. This program is funded by a grant from the Washington State Traumatic Brain Injury Council. The program offers help to veterans, their family members, employers and educators through one on one education, advocacy, case management, trainings, providing up-to-date research/resources, and producing a mobile application specifically created and designed to serve the Washington State Veteran with TBI.

The program offers services to ALL veterans in Washington State regardless of service connection to TBI. If you know of anyone that may be helped by these services please visit www.dva.wa.gov or call (360) 725-2223 to be connected with a local resource.

**IMPACT ON VETERANS**

The creation of the State Veterans Cemetery, Medical Lake fills a significant service gap for veterans and families in Eastern Washington & North Idaho via $10.9 million in federal grants.

More than 4,000 veterans and family members have been interred in this national shrine since opening in 2010.

**IMPACT ON STATE**

Proceeds from the sale of Armed Forces License Plates support ongoing maintenance of the State Veterans Cemetery. In FY16, these license plates generated $477,400 to directly support operations.

**BURIAL OPTIONS & SERVICES**

The State Veterans Cemetery provides for traditional in-ground casketed burials. Traditional burials include ground plot, cement liner & an upright inscribed granite marker. The following options are available for cremation inurnment:

- Columbarium niche includes inscribed granite niche cover
- In-ground cremation marker includes ground plot & upright inscribed granite marker
- Scattering Garden with inscribed granite marker

Traditional graveside services are not permitted. All services are held in the Committal Shelter offering a safe and respectful place for remembrance. Services may include Military Funeral Honors for Veterans and Military Retirees in accordance with Public Law 106-65. Families have the option of using a variety of volunteer-supported functions to personalize their loved one's committal service.

An information kiosk, located in the Administration Building foyer contains an electronic grave locator allowing family and friends to easily locate the gravesite of their loved one.

**PRE-REGISTRATION & COSTS**

Handling end-of-life affairs can be stressful on families. Pre-need applications allow you to determine interment eligibility to accommodate your families’ pre-needs plans, and makes sure your wishes are known. For these reasons pre-need planning is encouraged. Military discharge documentation, such as a DD-214 (veteran) and a marriage certificate (married couples), are required to pre-register. Upon verification you will receive a confirmation letter determining eligibility which should be kept with other important records.

Interment costs for eligible Veterans are paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs, $300 is collected at the time of interment for eligible spouses and dependent children.

**VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS**

There are numerous opportunities for individuals to donate their time or resources at the Washington State Veterans Cemetery, including:

- Honor Guard Rifle Teams
- Cemetery Ambassadors
- Buglers
- Cartage Drivers
- Photographers (community events)
- Ministers
- Financial Donations - Special Projects, Public Events or Flags for display on holidays

www.dva.wa.gov
1-800-562-2308

WDVA Fast Facts
State Veterans Cemetery

**ELIGIBILITY**

Current eligibility mirrors National Veterans Cemetery eligibility requirements which follows 38 CFR 38.620. In general:

- All honorably discharged U.S. Veterans
- Spouses
- In limited cases Dependent Children

The Washington State Veterans Cemetery serves veterans and their families, fulfilling a nation's promise to care for its veterans. Washington State residency is not a pre-requisite for burial. Refer to the following link for specific eligibility criteria:

http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/eligible.asp