

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



"Serving Those Who Served"

Leland Cooper, Outreach Program Coordinator
LelandC@dva.wa.gov



MAJOR PROGRAMS

- State Veterans Homes
- Transitional Housing Program
- State Veterans Cemetery
- Veterans Services
- Counseling and Wellness



STATE VETERANS HOMES



Spokane Veterans Home
100 Residents



WA Soldiers Home
Orting
97 Residents



WA Veterans Home
Port Orchard
240 Residents
Memory Care Provided



Walla Walla Veterans Home
80 Residents
Memory Care Provided

Veterans rated 70%-100% Service Connected, or whose service-connected disability is the reason nursing care is needed, may have their nursing home care paid by the Federal VA. Our residents benefit from:

- Medicaid & Medicare Certified
- Physical & Occupational Therapy
- Recreational Activities
- Social Services
- Volunteer Programs
- 24-hour Nursing Care
- Hospice
- Nutritious Meals
- Community Involvement
- Religious Programs
- Medical care & Pharmacy
- Transportation
- Laundry
- Beauty & Barber Shops
- Fishing Pond (Orting)

You may be eligible if you served at any time, in any branch of the United States Armed Forces including the National Guard, you are a spouse of a resident or widow of an eligible veteran, or you are a Gold Star Parent who lost a child serving in the armed forces. Contact WDVA for eligibility.



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROGRAM (THP)

Transitional housing facilities in **Port Orchard** and **Orting** help veterans in need with stable housing, vocational rehabilitation, and employment.

Veterans are surrounded with supportive staff and wrap-around services that lead to successful program completion and their return to the community.



Program Goals

- Increased residential stability
- Greater self-determination
- Increased skill level and income potential

Building 10 in Port Orchard

- **48 Beds**
- **5 Beds** for Medical Recuperative Care

Roosevelt Barracks / Betsy Ross in Orting

- **52 Beds** in Roosevelt Barracks
- **10 Beds** in Betsy Ross which are dedicated for women veterans
- **20 Beds** Contract Residential Shelter



ARMED FORCES LICENSE PLATES



**21702 West Espanola Rd
Medical Lake, WA**

Armed Forces License Plates help support the State Veterans Cemetery

\$28 from the sale or renewal of each Armed Forces License Plate are directed to operating and maintaining the state veteran's cemetery, and to providing programs, and services for veterans without homes, and other activities that benefit veterans



The Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake provides for casketed burial, columbarium niches, and burial plots to support cremations, as well as a scatter garden. It has a committal service shelter.

Eligibility mirrors that of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Cemeteries.



VETERANS SERVICES

Claims Assistance through Veteran Service Officers

- WDVA contracts with 6 Veteran Service Organizations
 - African American PTSD Association
 - American Legion
 - National Association of Black Veterans Inc
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars
 - Vietnam Veterans America
- 23 County Veteran Service Officer (VSO) agreements with 30 (out of 39) counties being served
- WDVA has memorandums of agreement (MOAs) with the 7 out of the 29 federally recognized Indian tribes to provide VSO training and accreditation to their Tribal VSOs



VETERANS SERVICES CONTINUED

Veterans Innovations Program (VIP)

Assists Post 9/11 veterans facing financial hardships.

Transitioning Warrior Program (JBLM)

Provides information about all available benefits to separating personnel from Joint Base Lewis McChord

Statewide Apprenticeship Coordinator

Assists veterans in connecting with registered apprenticeships and other career-connected learning. Convenes cross-sector apprenticeship workgroup. Veterans gain marketable skills, make a livable wage, and can use Veterans Education Benefits as part of their apprenticeship.

Veterans Estate Management Program (VEMP)

VEMP offers protective payee services for veterans and family members who are incapable of managing their own financial affairs.

LGBTQ+ Veterans Outreach Coordinator

Connects LGBTQ+ veterans to benefits and assists with the upgrade of discharge status.



VETERANS SERVICES CONTINUED

WDVA Programs, Call Centers, and Service Hubs

- 1-800-562-2308
- Olympia Service Center
- Building 10 at Port Orchard
- Spokane Regional Veterans Service Center
- VA Regional Office in Seattle



COUNSELING AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS

WDVA Counseling Program

Contracted Licensed Mental Health Providers serve veterans and families experiencing Post-Traumatic Stress, Military Sexual Trauma, or other military related issues.

Veterans Training Support Center

No-cost training provided each month on a variety of topics, thanks to a grant from King County Veterans Services. Sign up at www.dva.wa.gov

Brain Injury and Recovery Program

Supports and represents every veteran in WA that has incurred a Brain Injury.



LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

WDVA Counselor Robert Holt, LMHC Pacific County/Grays Harbor

(360) 532-4201 / 1210 Madison St. Aberdeen, WA 98520

WDVA Counselor Brenda Larson, M.A., LMHC, CMHS Oasis Counseling

(360) 751-7213 / 1339 Commerce Ave #316 Longview, WA 98632

**VA Puget Sound Healthcare System Tomi Dominguez, Suicide Prevention
Program Coordinator**

(253) 583-1110



COUNSELING AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS CONTINUED

Vet Corps

Through training and peer-to-peer support, Vet Corps Member's support student veterans, veterans in the community, and military families by building on shared experiences and creating supportive relationships.



Veterans Peer Corps

Provides training to community members interested in serving as Peer Mentors.

Veterans Conservation Corps

Provides opportunities for veterans to connect with nature in their own way while restoring and cultivating Washington's natural resources.

Veterans Farm at Orting

Offers a place where veterans can lease fertile farmland, attend classes, volunteer and generally support a growing community.

Tobacco Cessation Program

Helps connect veterans and military families to resources that help decrease tobacco dependence, increase cessation efforts, and support for staying stopped.



TRANSITION, READINESS & FAMILY SERVICES

WA State Military Transition and Readiness Council (WSMTRC)

Partnership that supports service members and families to successfully transition into civilian careers.

Military Spouse Initiatives

Policy and program advocacy for military spouses (employment, credential portability, childcare, etc.). Convenes cross-sector workgroups. Shares resources and provides individual consultation.

Veteran-Owned Business (VOB) Program

Recruits and enrolls Veteran and service members in VOB Certification and Linked Deposit programs. Convenes cross-sector entrepreneur business development workgroup.



WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM

- 70,000 Women Veterans in Washington State
- Women Veterans Advisory Committee since 2008
- Bimonthly educational Webinars and Brown Bags
- Annual Women Veterans Celebration around June 12th
- Incarcerated Women Veterans Program at state institutions
- Welcome Home sponsorship for women in the Transitional Housing Program
- Use of a donation to support Women Veterans Regional Events
- Dedicated budget to support activities, travel, etc.
- Close relationships with federal VA partners for outreach and support



STATE BENEFITS

- Reduced Fishing/Hunting License (DV 30%+)
- State Park Passes (DV 30%+)
- Federal Park Passes (all veterans)
- Reduced Public Transportation Fees (DV 40%+)
- WA Cares Exemption (DV 70%+)
- Reduced Tuition at Public Colleges and Universities
- Reduced Property Taxes (DV 80%+)
 - Income restrictions apply, contact the county assessor for more information
- Free License Plates for 100% disabled veterans and Gold Star spouses and parents.
- Recording of Discharges
 - DD 214 Database
 - Governor's Welcome Home Letters
- County Veterans Assistance Funds



DEFINITION OF A VETERAN

FOR THE PURPOSE OF STATE VETERANS BENEFITS

SSHB 2014 – RCW 41.04.005, RCW 41.04.007

- State definition of “veteran,” expanding state veterans’ benefits to any veteran who is already eligible for federal Department of Veterans Affairs monetary benefits
- Creates eligibility for state benefits for veterans who were separated with less than honorable characterizations of service due solely to sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression or actions or statements related to sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, regardless of characterization of service



“Serving Those Who Served”

Connect to *Your* WDVA!

1-800-562-2308

www.dva.wa.gov

benefits@dva.wa.gov

State Veterans Homes

1-877-838-7787

State Veterans Cemetery

509-299-6286

Employment at WDVA

(360) 725-2200

www.careers.wa.gov

Twitter (WDVA)

<https://twitter.com/WDVA>

LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com/company/Washington-state-department-of-veterans-affairs-recruiting

Facebook (WSDVA)

www.facebook.com/wsdva

Instagram (WSDVA)

<https://www.instagram.com/wsdva>

YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WAVeteransAffairs/video>

