

# WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

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*"Serving Those Who Served"*



# 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. 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 Uniformed Services including the National Guard, you are a spouse of a resident, widow of an eligible veteran, or are a Gold Star Parent who lost a child serving in the armed forces.



# 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 Orting

- 62 Grant & Per Diem Beds including 52 in Roosevelt Barracks and 10 beds in Betsy Ross dedicated for women veterans
- 20 Beds Contract Residential Shelter



# STATE VETERANS CEMETERY



21702 West Espanola Rd  
Medical Lake, WA

Located in Medical Lake, WA the cemetery has a committal service shelter, and provides for casketed burial, columbarium niches, and burial plots to support cremations, as well as a scatter garden.

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

## **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



# VETERANS SERVICES

## Claims Assistance through Veteran Service Officers

### WDVA contracts with 5 Veteran Service Organizations

- African American PTSD Association
- American Legion
- National Association of Black Veterans Inc
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Vietnam Veterans America

WDVA has 23 County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO) agreements with 30 (out of 39) counties being served

WDVA has 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

## 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.



Service Center – 1-800-562-2308



# 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. Sign up at [www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov)



## Brain Injury and Recovery Program

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





# 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.



# SUICIDE PREVENTION & SUPPORT PROGRAM

Includes Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Servicemembers, Veterans, and Families (SMVF)

## WA STATE LEGISLATION

- Community-Based Services Grant
- Veteran & Military Member Suicide Prevention Account
- Military & Veteran Resource Database & Web Application
- Educational Materials for Providers
- Suicide-Safer Homes Taskforce
- Prevent Veteran Suicide Emblem

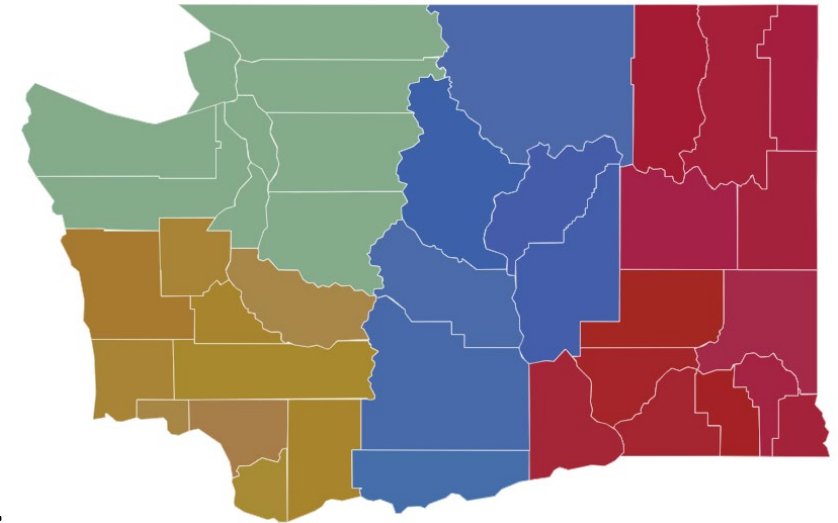
## SUICIDE PREVENTION PEER TEAM

Regionally located to provide:

- Community workshops
- Collaboration with regional agencies & organizations serving veterans
- Resource referral



[New Suicide Prevention License Plate Emblem](#)



For Non-Emergency Questions/Requests for Assistant Email: [Connect@DVA.wa.gov](mailto:Connect@DVA.wa.gov)

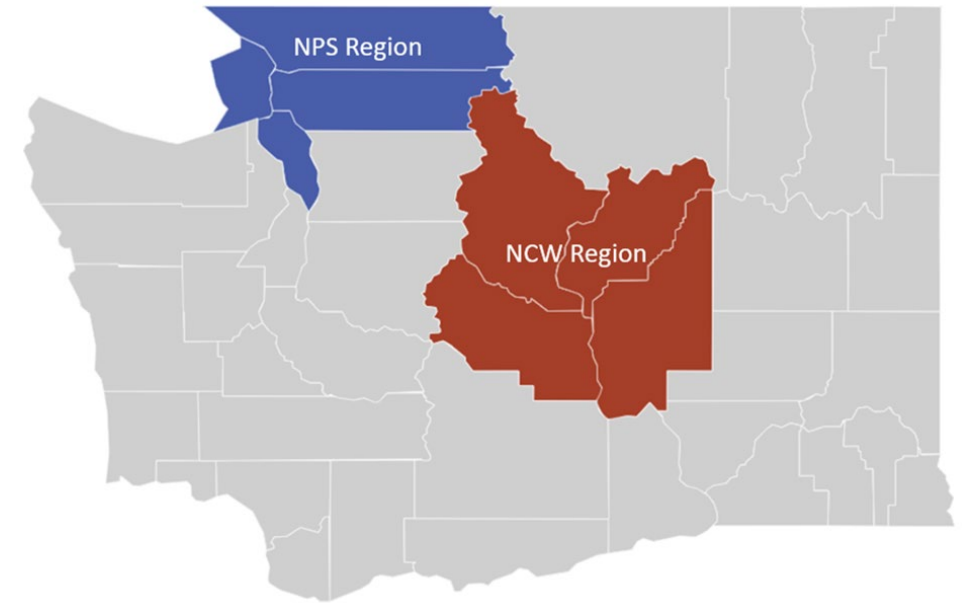
Also see <https://dva.wa.gov/SP> for more information!

# VA STAFF SERGEANT FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT

Enables the WDVA to provide resources toward community-based suicide prevention efforts to meet the needs of eligible Veterans and their families through outreach, peer support, suicide prevention services, and connection to VA and community resources.

The program seeks to aid servicemembers, Veterans, and their families through:

- Upstream suicide prevention intervention
- Outreach and education on suicide prevention, peer support, and wrap-around services available throughout the state
- Peer support case management
- The Equipment and Services fund for alternative behavioral health services
- Referrals and warm handoffs to resources



# 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.

## **Apprenticeship Program**

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.

## **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

- 60,760 Women Veterans in Washington State
- Women Veterans Advisory Committee since 2008
- Women Veterans Coordinator (Seeking FTE in 2025)
- Bimonthly educational Webinars or Brown Bags
- Annual Women Veterans Celebration around June 12<sup>th</sup>
- 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



# 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**



# OTHER STATE BENEFITS

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



# Connect to *Your* WDVA!

[www.dva.wa.gov](http://www.dva.wa.gov)

**Service Center – 1-800-562-2308**

**Veterans Homes Information**

**1-877-VETS-R-US / 1-877-838-7787**

**Veteran Services**

**Steven J. Gill – 360-789-5886**

**Counseling and Wellness**

**Keith Meyer – 360-725-2220**

**Cemetery**

**Rudy Lopez – 509-299-6280**

**Transitional Housing Program**

(M-F 8:30-4:30) [thp@dva.wa.gov](mailto:thp@dva.wa.gov)

Building 10 Port Orchard, WA **360-895-4371**

Roosevelt Barracks Orting, WA **253-263-0735**

**Follow us on Social Media!**

**Facebook (WSDVA):**

[www.facebook.com/wsdva](http://www.facebook.com/wsdva)

**Twitter (WDVA):**

<https://twitter.com/WDVA>

**LinkedIn:**

[www.linkedin.com/company/Washington-state-department-of-veterans-affairs-recruiting](http://www.linkedin.com/company/Washington-state-department-of-veterans-affairs-recruiting)

**Instagram (WSDVA):**

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

**YouTube: Washington Department of Veterans Affairs or WDVA**

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





# WHAT IS THE PACT ACT?

The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act : PL 117-168



Vietnam



Gulf War Era



Post9/11



The **PACT Act** is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances

The Act **(1)** expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and **(2)** expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances



[www.va.gov/pact](http://www.va.gov/pact)



# KEY COMPONENTS



**VA Health care staff and claims processors will receive toxic exposure-related education and training.**



**The Act expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.**



**Every enrolled Veteran will receive an initial toxic exposure screening and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.**



**The Act authorizes 31 new medical facilities across the country, providing greater access to VA health care**



# PRESUMPTIONS OF EXPOSURE

If you served in any of these locations and time periods, we've determined that you had exposure to burn pits or other toxins. We call this having a presumption of exposure.

**On or after September 11, 2001, in any of these locations:**

- **Afghanistan**
- **Djibouti**
- **Egypt**
- **Jordan**
- **Lebanon**
- **Syria**
- **Uzbekistan**
- **Yemen**

**The airspace above any of these locations**

**On or after August 2, 1990, in any of these locations:**

- **Bahrain**
- **Iraq**
- **Kuwait**
- **Oman**
- **Qatar**
- **Saudi Arabia**
- **Somalia**
- **The United Arab Emirates (UAE)**

**The airspace above any of these locations**



# PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS

**These cancers are now presumptive:**

- **Brain cancer**
- **Gastrointestinal cancer of any type**
- **Glioblastoma**
- **Head cancer of any type**
- **Kidney cancer**
- **Lymphoma of any type**
- **Melanoma**
- **Neck cancer of any type**
- **Pancreatic cancer**
- **Reproductive cancer of any type**
- **Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type**
- **These illnesses are now presumptive:**
- **Asthma that was diagnosed after service**

- **Chronic bronchitis**
- **Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**
- **Chronic rhinitis**
- **Chronic sinusitis**
- **Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis**
- **Emphysema**
- **Granulomatous disease**
- **Interstitial lung disease (ILD)**
- **Pleuritis**
- **Pulmonary fibrosis**
- **Sarcoidosis**



# FILING CLAIMS

**Veterans can file a claim for the new presumptive conditions:**

- **Get connected with a Veteran Service Officer (VSO)!**
- **New Claim – Veteran has never filed for the presumptive condition.**
- **Supplemental Claim – The presumptive condition was previously denied but is now considered to be presumptive.**

**\* Presumptive conditions do not require proof that the military service caused the condition. Veterans only need to meet the service requirements and have a current diagnosis of the presumptive condition. Veterans should submit any supporting documentation to assist with their claim.**

