

WDVA Fast Facts

Veterans Services Division

Demographics

607,000 Veterans
60,000 Active Duty
19,000 National Guard
and Reserve
2,000,000+ Family members

The WDVA Coalition of Veterans Service Officers filed **11,527** claims for compensation and pension benefits in fiscal year 2012-2013.

Impact on Veterans

\$366 million NEW federal dollars received by Washington veterans and their eligible family members from 2012-2013, bringing the total received in 2012 to \$1.4 billion. Veterans who receive service-connected disability compensation are also entitled to additional benefits such as medical care and/or prescriptions for their service-related conditions.

Impact on State

More income for veterans and their families means more money flowing into local economies. Veterans receiving VA healthcare are also not as dependent upon state health care resources.

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TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Building 9 for Veterans provides safe and stable housing for both male and female homeless veterans who are committed to returning to employment and/or independent living. The program provides structure in a clean and sober environment with individual and group chemical dependency counseling, employment services and life skills groups. Building 9 helps veterans reach personal goals and break the cycle of homelessness.

VA CLAIMS AND BENEFITS & BENEFITS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

WDVA contracts with seven Veterans Service Organizations and five independent contractors to provide claims services statewide. This network is responsible for over 80% of all claims submitted in Washington.

We collaborate with **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 allowing 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 Innovations Program** provides emergency assistance to current operations veterans including Washington National Guard/Reserve veterans who are experiencing financial hardship. It also funds innovative ideas to assist veterans beyond emergency assistance. These longer term efforts are focused on activities that help veterans or their spouses to obtain living wage employment. It also 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 Counties. Resources help create a path for homeless veterans to reintegrate into the workforce and obtain sustainable independent living.

COUNTY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES & INCARCERATED VETERANS

King County Programs and Services: **1) Homeless Services** – Address the needs of homeless veterans in King County by identifying and targeting for services, eligible veterans who are homeless or are 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 veterans, active duty members, National Guard members, Reservists and their families to receive information and assistance on state or federal veterans benefits. 1-877-904-VETS (8387) **4) Military Family Outreach** – Provides prevention and intervention strategies for those most at-risk and in need to reduce or prevent homelessness.

Veteran Courts - WDVA partners with Spokane, Clark, Pierce, King and Thurston Counties to develop Veteran Courts or Dockets to handle some veteran cases. Each County sets specific treatment and case management requirements to ensure veterans address the behavioral, substance abuse or other issues which contributed to their involvement in the criminal justice system. The goal of each program is to help the veteran reintegrate into their community through viable employment, safe shelter and reunification with families.

WDVA Fast Facts

Behavioral Health Services Division

WDVA's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and War Trauma Counseling Program

creates community-based avenues to counseling services that are less formal, offering the highest level of confidentiality. There is no cost and no visit limit. Services provided throughout the program include:

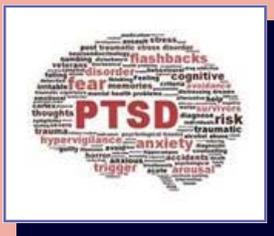
- Individual
- Couples
- Family
- Veteran group counseling
- Military Sexual Trauma

Some contractors offer group services to women veterans and spouses of veterans. Veterans may be referred to specialized inpatient or outpatient treatment offered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers or Vet Centers in WA.

Licensed mental health professional contractors offer a wide range of specialized treatment services, as well as linkage to a variety of other services.

For more information and a list of PTSD providers:

http://www.dva.wa.gov/ptsd_counseling.html



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VETERANS CONSERVATION CORPS (VCC)

The VCC helps one veteran at a time to find their own personal mission, whether that is an environmental education, a different training program or employment. Combat veterans often find healing in working in habitat restoration or other conservation efforts.

Vet Corps Navigators - Individual members are stationed at college campuses as Navigators. The Vet Corps member assists all veterans in their pursuit of secondary Education. This includes connecting with their G.I. Bill, veterans benefits, housing, training, emergency assistance, counseling, and mentoring.

Employment Specialists - Bridge the gap between an unemployed veteran and a potential employer. Employment Specialists assist with: resume building, strengths assessments, employer training, internships, setting education goals, job fairs, networking.

Transition Specialists - Work with military installations throughout the state assisting veterans in transition. A transition specialist will connect veterans separating from the military, with services that meet their post military goals, such as ACAP/Taps, college connections, job connections, resource referrals.

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 Veteran 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 institution 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/>

VETERAN FRIENDLY CAMPUSES

A partnership between Higher Education entities and WDVA helps veterans succeed in school. Behavioral Health provides training on campuses 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.

This program provides easily accessible, on-site services to veterans and also provides a support system and connection to other veterans on campus. Veterans dealing with many issues get answers and resolution and are more likely to stay in school to complete their education.

KING COUNTY VET COURT DEFERRED PROSECUTION MODEL

Veterans Treatment Court links veterans involved in the criminal justice system, suffering from war-related trauma such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), to treatment and support services. WDVA Veterans Treatment Court focuses on treatment and rehabilitation rather than incarceration.

Impact on Veterans

The creation of the State Veterans Cemetery in Medical Lake filled a significant gap in services for veterans and families living in Eastern Washington. Prior to its opening, the only other Veterans Cemetery in the state was the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent, WA, over 250 miles away.

More than 1,700 veterans and family members have been interred since the Cemetery opened in 2010.

Impact on State

Proceeds from the sale of **Armed Forces License Plates** pay for ongoing maintenance of the State Veterans Cemetery. In 2012, the license plates provided \$350,000 for Cemetery operations.



Cemetery Office
Open Monday thru Friday
8:00 am—4:30 pm
21702 W. Espanola Rd.
Medical Lake, WA 99022
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WDVA Fast Facts

State Veterans Cemetery

ELIGIBILITY



Eligibility for interment in the Washington State Veterans Cemetery mirrors National Veterans Cemetery eligibility requirements. In general:

- All U.S. Veterans discharged under conditions other than dishonorable;
- Spouses; and
- Dependent Children

The Washington State Veterans Cemetery serves veterans and their families from Washington and other States fulfilling a nation's promise to care for its Veterans.

BURIAL OPTIONS & SERVICES

The State Veterans Cemetery provides for in-ground casket burial sites and cremation interments. Both options include an inscribed granite headstone or marker.

For cremation interments the following options are available:

- A columbarium niche that includes an inscribed, granite niche cover; or
- An in-ground cremation inurnment that includes an upright inscribed, granite headstone; or
- A scattering garden with a flush-to-ground inscribed granite marker.



Services are held in the Committal Shelter, offering a safe and respectful place for remembrance, and includes Military Funeral Honors for Veterans and Military Retirees. 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

Pre-registration allows a Veteran and Spouse to establish, in advance, eligibility for interment in the State Veterans Cemetery.

Discharge documentation, such as a Form DD-214 for veterans and a marriage license for spouses, is required during the pre-registration process. Individuals who pre-register are provided with a letter confirming their eligibility and are advised to file it with their other important documents.

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 many opportunities for individuals to volunteer their time or resources at the State Veterans Cemetery, including:

- *Honor Guard Rifle Team
- *Ladies & Gentlemen of the Cemetery
- *Bugler
- *Minister
- *Photographer (community events)
- *Cortege Driver
- *Donations for Avenue of Flags, Memorials, & Benches

Impact on Veterans

Our Veterans Homes are **Medicare and Medicaid certified** facilities and offer specialized **Medicare Rehabilitative Services**.

To be eligible for admission, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Served at any time, in any branch of the United States Armed Forces including the National Guard; and
- Received an honorable discharge; and
- Reside in WA State; or
- Be the spouse or widow of an eligible veteran; or
- Be a Gold Star Parent.

Supportive Services:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Recreational Activities
- Social Services
- Volunteer Programs
- Hospice
- Nutritious Meals
- Community Involvement
- Religious Programs
- Transportation
- Laundry

Impact on State

State Veterans Homes are eligible to receive **Per Diem** payments from the Federal VA, reducing the State's Medicaid obligation and saving those dollars for individuals in non-State Veterans Homes.

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WDVA Fast Facts

State Veterans Homes

WASHINGTON SOLDIERS HOME

The Washington Soldiers Home is located on 181 acres in Orting's beautiful Puyallup Valley and serves residents needing skilled nursing care.

Established in 1891, this was the first of three homes built for Washington state veterans.

The Soldiers Home serves 100 veterans or widows/ spouses needing long term nursing care or Medicare Rehabilitative Services following a qualifying hospital stay. Each summer residents and family members enjoy the annual family picnic and a fishing derby at the pond.



For a tour or more information call (360) 893-4515.



WASHINGTON VETERANS HOME



Established in 1910, the Washington Veterans Home is located in Retsil (near Port Orchard) on a 31-acre bluff overlooking Puget Sound.

In 2005, a new nursing care building was opened, providing a "Resident Centered Care" 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) 895-4700.



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 centers 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.

