

Demographics

552,291 Veterans
60,972 Active Duty
18,228 National Guard
and Reserve
2,000,000+ Family members

The WDVA Coalition of Veterans Service Officers filed **11,733** claims for compensation and pension benefits in fiscal year 2017-2018.

Impact on Veterans

\$155 million NEW federal dollars received by Washington veterans and their eligible family members from 2017-2018, bringing the total received since Fiscal Year 2008-2009 to over \$2.6 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.

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

WDVA Director
Lourdes E. Alvarado Ramos

WDVA Deputy Director
Gary Condra

Mary Forbes, Assistant Director
360-725-2210
maryf@dva.wa.gov

Steve Gill, Administrator
360-725-2235
steveg@dva.wa.gov

WDVA Fast Facts

Veterans Services Division

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Transitional Housing provides stable housing for male and female veterans committed to returning to employment and/or independent living. The clean and sober program offers individual and group counseling, employment services and life skills. These programs help veterans reach personal goals and break the cycle of homelessness. The **Building 9 Service Center** offers claims assistance and connection to veterans benefits for residents, as well as veterans and their families in the surrounding community.

VA CLAIMS AND BENEFITS & BENEFITS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

WDVA contracts with seven Veterans Service Organizations, two independent contractors, eleven County Veteran's Offices, and one tribe 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 Administration 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.

VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

WDVA certifies Washington State Veteran Owned Businesses so that state agencies have access to a list of certified businesses. In addition, businesses may be eligible for the Linked Deposit Program which reduces interest rates on business loans.

FINANCIAL & HOMELESS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The **Veterans Innovations Program** provides emergency assistance to current operations veterans including WA National Guard/Reserve veterans facing 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 resulting in employment.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project – Provides services to homeless veterans in King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, Yakima, Spokane, Stevens, Pend O'reille, Ferry, Grant, Adams, Lincoln, and Whitman Counties. Resources help create a path for veterans to reintegrate into the workforce and obtain sustainable independent living.

COUNTY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES & INCARCERATED VETERANS

King County: 1) **Homeless Services** – Address the needs of homeless veterans by serving 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) **Service Officer** offers claims assistance and connection to veterans benefits 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 Counties operate **Veterans Courts** connecting veterans to treatment and case management and reducing the likelihood of the veteran re-offending.

WDVA Fast Facts

Counseling and Wellness

WDVA's 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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1-800-562-2308

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Lourdes E. Alvarado Ramos

WDVA Deputy Director

Gary Condra

Mary Forbes, Assistant Director

360-725-2210

maryf@dva.wa.gov

Dr. Peter Schmidt, Director of

Counseling and Wellness

360-725-2220

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, employment, 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. Fifty individuals help veterans and their family members navigate Washington's higher education and training programs as veterans adjust from military to college life. VetCorps is funded by an AmeriCorps Grant.

VETERANS PEER CORPS

Many veterans have a need for support services, including peer-to-peer interaction and connections. The Veterans Peer Corps gives veterans places to gather, share experiences and stories, heal together, and ultimately create a sense of a Veteran Community within their own community. The Veterans Peer Corps is a statewide, all volunteer program.

VETERAN FRIENDLY CAMPUSES

A partnership between Higher Education entities and WDVA helps veterans succeed in school by providing 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.

Participating schools provide easily accessible, on-site services to veterans, support systems, 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 (VTSC)

WDVA's Veterans Training Support Center provides continuing education and professional development to those who provide direct service to veterans and their families. The trainings increase cultural competency and raise awareness on veteran-related topics such as military culture, invisible wounds like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury, and promising best practices to empower this population in their reintegration and pursuit of personal, academic and career goals. Trainings customized for organizations or on a wide range of topics can be found at veterantrainingsupportcenter.org. For further information please contact VTSC@DVA.WA.Gov or call 206-375-0784.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)

Tens of thousands of veterans in Washington 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, and access to current research and resources. They have produced a mobile application specifically created and designed to serve those with TBI called MaxImpact.

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.

"Serving Those Who Served"

Impact on Veterans

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

More than 5,000 veterans and family members have been interred in this national shrine since opening in 2010.

Impact on State

Proceeds from the sales of Armed Forces License Plates support ongoing maintenance of the State Veterans Cemetery. In FY18, these license plates generated \$536,000 to directly support operations.



Administrative Office
Open Monday thru Friday
8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Closed Weekends & Holidays

21702 W. Espanola Rd.
Medical Lake, WA 99022
Office Phone 509-299-6280
Office Fax 509-299-6286
Email: cemetery@dva.wa.gov

*Note: Pets & tobacco use are not allowed out of respect to families.

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

WDVA Director
Lourdes E. Alvarado Ramos
WDVA Deputy Director
Gary Condra

Rudy Lopez, Cemetery Director
509-299-6280
rudyl@dva.wa.gov

WDVA Fast Facts

State Veterans Cemetery

ELIGIBILITY



Interment 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

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 inurnment 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.

National Veterans Cemetery Gravesite Locator: <http://www.cem.va.gov/>

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
- *Cortege Drivers
- *Photographers (community events)
- *Ministers
- *Financial Donations - Special Projects, Public Events or Flags for display on holidays

Impact on Veterans

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

Admission Criteria:

- Require nursing home level care
- Served at any time in the U.S. Armed Forces;
- Served in the National Guard and was activated for 180 days or fulfilled the initial service obligation; and
- Received an honorable discharge; and
- Reside in WA State; or
- Be the spouse of a veteran who is a resident or widow of an eligible veteran; or
- Be a Gold Star Parent.

Supportive Services:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Recreational Activities
- Volunteer Programs
- Hospice
- Community Involvement
- Religious Programs
- Transportation

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.

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

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WDVA Deputy Director
Gary Condra

State Veterans Homes

Serving residents needing long term skilled nursing care or Medicare Rehabilitative Services following a qualifying hospital stay.

WASHINGTON SOLDIERS HOME

The Washington Soldiers Home is located on 181 acres in Orting's beautiful Puyallup Valley.

Established in 1891, this was the first of four homes established to serve Washington State Veterans.

The Soldiers Home serves 97 residents. 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 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 and offers a 40 bed secured Memory Care neighborhood.

For a tour or more information call (360) 895-4700.

SPOKANE VETERANS HOME

Opened in 2002, the Spokane Veterans Home serves 100 residents.

The Spokane Veterans Home is located in the heart of Spokane's medical centers.

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 co-located on the campus of the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center and opened in 2016.



This 80 bed nursing care facility was designed using a small house model and provides care in 8 individual homes. All residents enjoy a private room with a private bathroom. 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.

A memory care house provides a home-like environment to address the needs of veterans requiring nursing home level care in a secure setting.

In addition, the Homes are equipped with shared services such as laundry and a state of the art bathing suite.

For a tour or more information call (509) 394-6800.