

Kansas State Veteran's Benefits 2017



The state of Kansas provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- Veteran Housing Benefits
- Financial Assistance Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Veteran Housing Programs

Veteran Homes

Eligibility - Veterans seeking admission must have active federal service. Active service means full-time service as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard. The discharge from the period of active federal service on which the application is based must have been under conditions other

than dishonorable. On a space available basis, spouses and surviving spouses may qualify for admission. The veteran seeking admission must also be in one of the following categories:

- Veterans with service-connected disabilities.
- Veterans who are former prisoners of war.
- Veterans who were discharged or released from active military service for disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.
- Veterans who receive disability compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1151.
- Veterans whose entitlement to disability compensation is suspended because of the receipt of retired pay.
- Veterans whose entitlement to disability compensation is suspended pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 1151, but only to the extent that such veterans continuing eligibility for nursing home care is provided for in the judgment or settlement described in 38 U.S.C. 1151.
- Veterans who the VA determines are unable to defray the expenses of necessary care as specified under 38 U.S.C. 1722(a).
- Veterans of the Mexican Border Period or of World War I.
- Veterans solely seeking care for a disorder associated with exposure to a toxic substance or radiation or for a disorder associated with service in the Southwest Asia Theater or operations during the Persian Gulf War as provided in 38 U.S.C. 1710(e).
- Veterans who agree to pay to the United States the applicable co-payment determined under 38 U.S.C. 1710 (f) and 1710 (g), if they seek VA hospital nursing home or outpatient care.

Admissions - The first priority for admission shall be given to veterans who have no adequate means of support. Within this group, priority shall be based on the severity of medical care required and the ability to acquire and afford care or residency in the community. Applicants for the Home need not have been actual residents of the State of Kansas; however, Kansas residents will receive priority for acceptance in the Home. To access the admission forms click on the following as needed:

- [VA Form 10-10EZ](#)
- [VA Form 10-5345](#)
- [Receive Release Health Information](#)
- [Application Checklist](#)
- [Application for Admission](#)

Locations.

Kansas Soldiers' Home Fort Dodge

1. The Kansas Soldiers' Home at Fort Dodge, Kansas is located approximately 5 miles east of Dodge City, Kansas, on Highway 400 (formerly 154). Fort Dodge dates back to 1865 when it was ordered to be built as a supply post for people and wagon trains traveling the Santa Fe Trail. Fort Dodge was strategically located to the wet and dry routes of the Santa Fe Trail. Facilities include a library/museum, a modern nursing home, a recreation center, resident/staff fitness room, three domiciliary residence halls, and 60 cottages.



Eisenhower Hall



Custer House



Outpatient Clinic

2. Services Offered include restorative care physical therapy, occupational therapy, laundry, activities, dietary services social services, nursing, and psychological services. Also one of several VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Kansas is on grounds at the Kansas Soldiers' Home.
3. Contact Information: David Smith, Superintendent, 714 Sheridan-Unit 128, Fort Dodge, Kansas 67843, Phone: (620) 227-2121 ext. 112 Fax: (620) 225-6331 or Ron Friess, Clinical Director ext. 146 Email: Ron.Friess@ksh.state.ks.us.

Kansas Veterans' Home Winfield.

1. This community has a population of approximately 12,000 and is located 35 miles southeast of Wichita, Kansas. Friendly people are one of the community's greatest assets. Winfield has a growing business community and excellent schools, including Southwestern College.



Bleckley Hall



Bleckley Dining Room



Don Lon Hall

2. Services Offered include nutritious meals individualized to meet each residents needs; Transportation to and from local health care providers including the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center at Wichita; 24-hour security systems and grounds patrol; A trained and professional staff that receives ongoing education to meet the needs of the residents; Private and semi-private rooms; Activity rooms with internet connected computers; Affordable costs; Social opportunities with other veterans; Qualifying medications provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs at no additional charge to veteran residents; 48 bed domiciliary unit; 73 bed long-term care unit; and 18 bed special care unit for Alzheimers and related dementia.
3. Contact Information: Kafer Peele, Superintendent, 1220 World War II Memorial Drive, Winfield, Kansas 67156, Phone: (620) 221-9479 ext. 201, Fax: (620) 229-9050 kpeele@kcva.org or Dan Laffery, Clinical Director, ext. 250, Email dlaffery@kcva.org.

Home Loans

The State of Kansas can provide assistance in locating approved lenders and completing applications for loan guarantees. The VA and local banks offer a number of home loan services to eligible veterans, some military personnel, and certain spouses. VA can guarantee part of a loan from a private lender to help you buy a home, a manufactured home, a lot for a manufactured home, or certain types of condominiums. The VA also guarantees loans for building, repairing, and improving homes. VA mortgage, the VA can help you refinance your loan at a lower interest rate. You may also refinance a non-VA loan.

Visit the Kansas Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://kcva.ks.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Financial Assistance Benefits

State Income Tax

Military retirement pay is not taxed by the state.

Homestead Act

Disabled veterans can claim a homestead refund. Veterans must be Kansas residents, honorably discharged, and certified to have at least 50% permanent disability sustained through military actions. Surviving spouses of deceased disabled veterans are also eligible to claim the Homestead exemption until they remarry. An original Veterans Disability Determination Letter or Letter from a Regional V.A. that includes the disability date verifying the disability occurred prior to Jan. 1, 2009 and percentage of permanent disability must be filed with the Homestead Refund Claim (K-40H). For more in on the homestead act refer to <http://www.ksrevenue.org/faqs-taxhomestead.html>.

Disability Benefits

Disability Compensation: The KCVA can assist you in filing the forms for Disability Compensation for service connected disability determinations and in filing the necessary forms for Disability Pension.

Burial Benefits

- **Headstones and Markers:** The State of Kansas can furnish a monument to mark the unmarked grave of an eligible veteran if not covered by the federal government.
- **Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC):** The State of Kansas can complete a request to provide a PMC for eligible recipients.
- **Burial Flag:** The United States Post Office or the State of Kansas through the Kansas Veterans' Affairs Commission can provide an American flag to drape over an eligible veteran's casket.
- **Reimbursement of Burial Expenses:** The State of Kansas can assist in completing the forms necessary to receive a burial allowance of \$2,000 for veterans who die of service-related causes. For certain other veterans, the VA can pay \$300 for burial and funeral expenses and \$300 for a burial plot.

- **Burial in a National or State Veterans Cemetery:** Most veterans, spouses and some dependents can be buried in a national cemetery or one of the three state veterans cemeteries at no cost to the veteran or their family.
- **Time Limits:** There is no time limit for claiming reimbursement of burial expenses for a service-related death. In other cases, claims must be filed within 2 years of the veteran's burial.

Prescription Drug Coverage

The State of Kansas can assist in completing the application process to determine eligibility for VA provided medications for certain high priority veterans, including those with low incomes (below VA pension thresholds). Eligible veterans can receive free prescriptions or may be eligible for medications with a low co-payment.

Disability Benefits

- Basic entitlement for a veteran exists if the veteran is disabled as the result of a personal injury or disease (including aggravation of a condition existing prior to service) while in active service if the injury or the disease was incurred or aggravated in line of duty. The State of Kansas can assist survivors in completing these eligibility forms applicable to:
 - ✓ Service members who died on active duty
 - ✓ Veterans who died from service-related disabilities
 - ✓ Certain veterans who were being paid 100%
- Death Pension is payable to some surviving spouses and children of deceased wartime veterans. The benefit is based on financial need.
- Time Limits: There is no deadline for applying for disability benefits.

National Guard and Disabled Veterans Hunting/Fishing Licenses, and State Park Permits

To receive free licenses and permits, Kansas guardsmen apply to KDWP's Pratt Operations Office. Depending on the particular licenses and/or state park permits they request, they will be required to submit appropriate documentation. [Application forms for licenses and permits](#) can be downloaded from the KDWP website at www.kdwp.state.ks.us. Click "Services," "Publications," "Hunting," then "Application 2013 KS National Guard Hunting, Fishing, and Park Vehicle Permit." The forms must be signed by the National Guard member's unit commander and mailed to KDWP with photocopies of appropriate documentation.

Visit the Kansas Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://kcva.ks.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Employment Benefits

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment

The State of Kansas through the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs can assist veterans with serious service-connected disabilities in applying through the VA for services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible. Some of the services provided are:

- VA notifies you in writing that you have at least a 10 percent rating for a service-connected disability.
- Job Search: Assistance in finding and maintaining suitable employment
- Vocational Evaluation: An evaluation of abilities, skills, interests, and needs
- Career Exploration: Vocational counseling and planning
- Vocational Training: If needed, training such as on-the-job and non-paid work experience
- Education Training: If needed, education training to accomplish the rehabilitation goal
- Rehabilitation Service: Supportive rehabilitation and counseling services

Time Limits: You generally have 12 years

Employment Programs

1. KANSASWORKS at <https://www.kansasworks.com/ada/r> is your best source to post and find jobs in Kansas. Priority of service is given to qualified veterans when referring individuals to job services.
2. The KanSERVE program at assists veterans in finding available civilian jobs and training utilizing occupational specialty codes. Choose a specific occupation by selecting one of the options available at <https://klic.dol.ks.gov/vosnet/drills/occupation/occdrill.aspx?enc=yCncXIyKoz5CI73a8N4brZBRdRduIH R8fy61tRjdNCdOk+ma0qL19ESa0Le9SFD3Xa0waS30/u1z/qUuRFRZnpBuMZ/xytTnWz4Z0/ml5Us=>
3. Online Listings are available at <http://admin.ks.gov/services/state-employment-center/veterans> for employment opportunities with the State of Kansas. Qualified veterans will receive preference.
4. Make a difference in the world around you in the Army National Guard. For more information on this program refer to www.kansasarmynationalguard.com
5. Check out <https://www.goang.com> for information on the Kansas Air National Guard.

Visit the Kansas Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://kcva.ks.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Education Benefits

Education and Training

Benefits to eligible veterans, dependents, reservists, and service members while they are in an approved training program to include approved university, high school, on the job training and apprenticeship. The State of Kansas can assist you in applying for and approving your participation in these major programs:

- Montgomery GI Bill: Persons who first entered active duty after June 30, 1985, are generally eligible. Some Vietnam Era veterans and certain veterans separated under special programs are also eligible. The bill also includes a program for certain reservists and National Guard members.
- Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP): This program is for veterans who entered active duty for the first time after December 31, 1976, and before July 1, 1985, and contributed funds to this program.
- Kansas National Guard scholarships: available for people who desire a commission in the National Guard.
- Survivors' & Dependents' Educational Assistance: Some family members of disabled or deceased veterans are eligible for education benefits.

Time Limits: Generally, veterans have 10 years from the date they were last released from active duty to use their education benefits. Reservists generally have 10 years from the date they became eligible for the program unless they leave the Selected Reserves before completing their obligation. Spouses generally have 10 years from the date the VA first determines them eligible. Children are generally eligible from age 18 until age 26. These time limits can sometimes be extended.

Education Resources

1. At <http://www.kansasregents.org/students/military> you can explore education resources available in Kansas.
2. At http://kansasregents.org/universities_colleges/public_institutions you can find out which Kansas colleges and universities are near you.
3. At http://kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/program_search you can search for Higher Education Programs by your Occupation or Occupational Interests.
4. At <http://www.kansastag.gov/NGUARD.asp?PageID=491> you can learn about educational resources and support provided by the Kansas National Guard.
5. At <http://www.gibill.va.gov/apply-for-benefits> you can find out about the educational benefits available to Veterans through the GI Bill
6. At <http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weampub/searchInst.do#content-area> you can broaden your search to find all the educational opportunities in your area

Visit the Kansas Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://kcva.ks.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Other State Veteran Benefits

Health Care

1. The State of Kansas can assist you in becoming eligible for the following services:
 - Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services
 - Domiciliary, nursing home, and community-based residential care including two state veterans' homes offering both domiciliary and nursing home care available to veterans and dependents
 - Sexual trauma counseling
 - Specialized health care for women veterans
 - Health and rehabilitation programs for homeless veterans
 - Readjustment counseling
 - Alcohol and drug dependency treatment
 - Medical evaluation for military service exposure, including Gulf War, Agent Orange, radiation, or other environmental hazards

2. Filing Claims

In order for benefits of any type to be paid, appropriate claim form(s) must be filed with the VA. Assistance is provided through the KCVA in completing these forms and obtaining supporting records

and documents to include military medical records, marriage certificates, death certificates, birth certificates, etc. at no cost to the veteran.

3. Appealing Claims

Veterans and other claimants for VA benefits have the right to appeal decisions made by a VA regional office. The KCVA in partnership with national service organizations like the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and the Veteran's of Foreign Wars represent veterans throughout the appeals process.

Medals

The State of Kansas provides assistance to veterans in applying for service medals listed on their DD Form 214.

Vietnam War Medallion

Complete application at <http://kcva.ks.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/vietnam-medallion-new-email86f4e9f844d66497be6bff0000eeb478.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty)

The State of Kansas maintains DD Form 214 files on veterans released from service and showing Kansas as their home of record. Copies of DD Form 214's from 1988 to Present may be immediately available in the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs central office. The State of Kansas' Adjutant General's Department has an Archives Office, (785) 274-1099, which can provide the following records of service: From 1946 to 1991, DD Form 214's for all branches of the service are available; a Statement of Service on World War II, 1941 -1946; and Kansas National Guard records from 1946 to the present. As required by the Privacy Act and to obtain a copy of DD Form 214, a formal request must be submitted to the Kansas Army National Guard by using Standard Form 180. The State's Kansas State Historical Society, has military records which include some of the following:

- Territorial
- Civil War
- Indian Campaigns
- Spanish American War
- World War I and II

National or State Veterans Cemetery

1. Eligibility: Based on a veteran meeting military service as listed. Military service requirement for burial in a Kansas State Veterans' Cemetery must be in accordance with the eligibility standards as set by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – National Cemetery Administration and, as a minimum, must meet one of the following:

- Veteran was discharged from “active duty” under other than dishonorable conditions, or
- Veteran died while on “active duty”, or
- National Guard or Reservists members with 20 years of qualifying service, who are entitled to retired pay or would be entitled, if at least 60 years of age.

2. Kansas state residency requirement: None

3. Eligibility for Veteran Dependents:

Spouse, surviving spouse, and dependent children are eligible for interment even if the veteran is not buried in a Kansas State Veterans' Cemetery. The veteran must have met military service requirements. This includes lost or buried at sea, missing or missing in action, or a veteran whose remains have been donated to science or cremated and the ashes scattered.

4. Eligibility Includes:

- The spouse or surviving spouse of an eligible veteran is eligible for interment in a State Veterans' Cemetery even if the veteran is not buried in a State Veterans' Cemetery.
- The surviving spouse of an eligible veteran who had a subsequent remarriage to a non-veteran and whose death occurred on or after January 1, 2000, is eligible for burial in a State Veterans' Cemetery.
- Any natural or adoptive child of an eligible veteran who is under the age of 21 and unmarried and; Under 23 years of age and pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved education institution.
- An unmarried adult child of an eligible veteran if the child became permanently physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before reaching 21 years of age, or before reaching 23 years age if pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution.

5. Pre-registration:

Pre-registration for interment at one of our four State Veterans' Cemeteries is highly recommended. Pre-registration allows a veteran, spouse, and/or dependent child to establish eligibility for interment at one of the four State Veterans' Cemeteries. There is no cost for pre-registration and it does not obligate the veteran/dependent to be interred at the cemetery selected. While it does not guarantee a grave-site, it can help avoid confusion and possible delays at the time of need. Pre-registration may be done by mail, or by visiting one of our State Veterans' Cemeteries or any State Veterans' Service Office. You will need to fill out the KCVA Form 200 available at <http://kcva.ks.gov/docs/default-source/cemetery-program/kcva-200-aug-2013.pdf?sfvrsn=24> and supply the necessary documentation.

Birth/Marriage/Death Certificates

Free for Veterans when request made through the KCVA for VA purposes only)

Military Distinctive License Plates

You may make application for a Kansas distinctive military license plate by meeting the qualifications outlined in the Kansas Statutes Annotated listed below. Applications should be presented to your local [County Treasurer's office](http://www.kansastreasurers.org/vehicle/vehicle.htm) which can be located at <http://www.kansastreasurers.org/vehicle/vehicle.htm>. To determine prerequisite to order, steps to take, fees, and any related state statues click on the title of the plate name below that you are interested in. The following plates are available



Combat Wounded Purple Heart



Congressional Medal Of Honor



Disabled Veteran (See also Form TR-103)



Ex-prisoner Of War



National Guard (See also Form TR-129)



Pearl Harbor Survivor



U.S. Veteran



Vietnam Veteran



Families of the Fallen



Gold Star Mother Plate

Visit the Kansas Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://kcva.ks.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/kansas-state-veterans-benefits> May 2017 ++]

Military Discounts in Kansas

1. MVDC has a list of close to 2,700 locations in Kansas that have discounts for military personnel or veterans. Similar to businesses, the state of Illinois provides discounts for its veterans and military population. Use the search tool at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/kansas.html> if you are looking for business discounts.

2. **Veterans Designation on driver's license:** Yes

3. Discounted Fees and Taxes

- Free state parks admission for active duty and reservists
- Free hunting and fishing licenses for active duty, reservists and disabled veterans
- No state income tax on retiree's income
- Property tax deferment while on active duty and serving in a combat zone

4. Education Discounts

- Up to 100% of tuition fees paid for enlisted reservists, based on funding to attend state supported colleges
- The tuition to attend state universities, community colleges, or vocational technical colleges will be covered for dependents of Kansas residents who are killed in the line of duty, MIAs, or POWs while in the United States armed forces or the Kansas National Guard
- Residents can return to Kansas within 60 months of departing the state and qualify for in-state tuition

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/kansas.html> May 2017 ++]