

Michigan State Veteran's Benefits

May 2019



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

- Veterans Housing Programs
- Financial Assistance
- Veterans Employment Services
- Education
- Recreation Benefits
- Veteran Employment Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Veteran Housing Programs

There are 2 Michigan State Veterans Homes, the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette, and the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. There is also the Southeast Michigan Veterans Home under construction. To monitor its progress go to <https://www.michiganveterans.com/p/State-Veterans-Homes-Construction>. All members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been honorably discharged, served more than 90 days on active duty (more than 24 months if entering service after October 16, 1981), and served after December 7, 1941 may apply for admission to these homes. Michigan residency is not required, and spouses or surviving spouses may be admitted if space is available. Fees are income based. Both the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans are State of Michigan facilities operated by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency.

The homes' Board of Managers annually determines the cost of care based on operational costs. The amount of individual assessments for care can range from zero to the full cost of care. Factors considered in the assessment of care are assets, income, marital status and dependent expenses. Those residents unable to pay the maximum amounts will be assessed according to their individual circumstances. All residents with the ability to pay the full cost of care are expected to do so. If paying the full cost of care,

the monthly amount due will fluctuate based upon the number of days included within each month. Care at the homes is primarily not paid for by Medicare or other health insurance. There are a limited number of beds that are CMS certified. Long-term care insurance may reimburse the resident for the cost of assessment. It is the responsibility of the applicant to consult with their insurance agent prior to admission. The cost to individual members is determined by a monthly assessment based on each member's ability to pay. The monthly cost of care rates as of 1 JSN 2019 for each home is:

- Vets: Domiciliary Care \$2,575 month | Nursing Care \$165,27 day
- Non-Veterans Domiciliary Care \$4120 month | Nursing Care \$275 day.

The D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans is located in Marquette. The Home provides two levels of care - domiciliary and nursing. In addition, other services, such as spiritual, medical, social, recreational and educational are provided. All services are supported from individual members, Federal subsidies and appropriations by the State of Michigan. Refer to <https://www.michiganveterans.com/p/D-J-Jacobetti-Home-for-Veterans> for more info on the home.

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is located on 90 acres of land adjacent to the Grand River in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Home offers veterans a wooded area with a pond formed along Lamberton Creek, an amphitheater, nature trail, picnic pavilion and extensive picnic areas for residents. The buildings and grounds are groomed and maintained by an experienced and dedicated staff. Grounds beautification and building remodeling projects are continuously underway. GRHV has capacity for 450 nursing care beds and more than 100 domiciliary beds. The nursing care beds include 115 special needs beds, with two 35-bed nursing units for the care of Alzheimer's and dementia patients and one 45-bed nursing unit for dual diagnoses patients. Refer to <https://www.michiganveterans.com/p/Grand-Rapids-Home-for-Veterans> for more info on the home.



D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans
425 Fisher St. Marquette, MI 49855
Tel: 800-433-6760 | 906-226-3576



Grand Rapids Home for Veterans
3000 Monroe Ave. N.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49505
Tel: 844-711-7986 | 616-364-5389

For additional information policies, available services, and application procedures for each home refer to:

- D.J. Jacobetti Home: http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2362_2763---,00.html
- The Grand Rapids Home: http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362_2749---,00.html

Michigan Veterans Homeowners Assistance Program (MiVHAP)

The Michigan Attorney General targeted funds from the National Mortgage Settlement to assist Military Service Members and Veterans with issues related to the foreclosure crisis. The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund state office staff members will administer funding assistance to prevent foreclosure. Grants are subject to approval based on program criteria. The fund will provide financial grant assistance to Active military service members; Reserve, Air and Army National Guard, and honorably discharged Veterans living or having lived in a home in Michigan. The MiVHAP may assist with residual effects related to the foreclosure crisis, since 2006. Eligible surviving spouses of military service members, whose deaths have been deemed to be combat related since 2006, may also be provided financial assistance.

Financial Assistance

Income Tax

Military pay is not taxed. Military retirement benefits in Michigan may be tax-free depending on your age, filing status, other pensions, and income from other sources.

Property Tax Waiver

100 percent disabled veterans (and those rated 100 percent due to individual unemployability) may be exempt from paying taxes on their home. The veteran must have another-than-dishonorable discharge and be a Michigan resident. Unremarried surviving spouses are also eligible.

Vehicle Registration

100 percent permanently and totally disabled veterans may be eligible to register one vehicle with a disabled veteran plate for free, there is a \$5 administrative fee when the plate is first issued.

Emergency Assistance

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency offers emergency assistance to those having temporary financial issues who require assistance with utility bills, vehicle or home repairs, medical bills or other debts. There are many resources available including county Soldier & Sailor Relief Funds, the Michigan Veteran Trust Fund (below), and the National Guard Family Program.

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF)

The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) is a program used when an unforeseen situation has caused a temporary financial emergency or hardship that a grant, if approved, would resolve and the applicant can show that they will be able to meet future expenses. Eligibility requirements are:

- Honorable Discharge
- 180 days during a period of war
- 180 days of active duty with award of Armed - Forces/Navy Expeditionary Medal
- Less than 180 days of wartime service due to service-incurred disability

Note: Dependents can apply if veteran is eligible under certain circumstances

The MVTF Main Office can be reached at 517-284-5299 or by mail to P.O. Box 30104 Lansing, MI 48909. Applicants must apply in county where they reside. They should call and make appointment and insure they bring all required documents and information to complete the application. This includes:

- Military discharge document (DD214 or other)
- Proof of Residence
- Documents for Dependents

- Proof of Income and Expenses
- Other documents depending on types of assistance

For additional information refer to http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362_66822---,00.html

Veterans' Employment Services

Veterans' preference will be given to veterans and certain veteran spouses for initial employment with the state.

Michigan offers veterans a large array of employment services including disabled veterans outreach programs and the Shifting Heroes Program, a component of the Michigan Shifting Gears Program which is a career-transition program for seasoned mid- and late-career professional talent going through, or preparing to go through, a career transition scenario. Refer to the following for information on Michigan jobs:

- <http://www.uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes>
- <http://hro.minationalguard.com/vacancies>
- <http://www.mitalent.org/veteran>
- <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/michigan/default.cfm>

Education

Tuition Grant Procedure Brief

The Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG) was previously called Education of Children of Veterans, Public Act 245 of 1935 and was administered and funded by the Michigan Trust Fund. In 2005, CVTG was established under Public Act 248 to provide an undergraduate tuition program for children of certain deceased or disabled members of the armed forces of the United States.

The program is designed to provide undergraduate tuition assistance to certain children older than 16 and less than 26 years of age who have been Michigan residents for the 12 months prior to application. To be eligible, a student must be the natural or adopted child of a Michigan veteran. Stepchildren of the veteran are not eligible. The veteran must have been a legal resident of Michigan immediately before entering military service and must not have later resided outside of Michigan for more than two years; or the veteran must have established legal residency in Michigan after entering military service.

Students may receive scholarship assistance for up to four academic years for a total of up to \$11,200. Awards are for an academic year with the amount determined by the student's enrollment status. Full-time students can receive up to a maximum of \$2,800 per academic year.

State general funds are appropriated annually in the Higher Education Appropriations Act. This program is administered by the Student Scholarships and Grants Division.

Additional information and eligibility requirements are on the CVTG Fact Sheet and CVTG Application.

Visit the Michigan Department of Veterans Services website at <http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362---,00.html> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program

Public Act 259 of 2014 established the State Tuition Assistance Program (STAP) to provide tuition assistance of up to \$4,500 per academic year to members of the Michigan National Guard. It is available to members of the Michigan National Guard who (1) are active in the National Guard (including the traditional service of one weekend/month and two weeks/year; (2) are not absent without leave or under UCMJ charges; and (3) meet the additional criteria established by the TAG consistent with the guard's recruiting and retention requirements. STAP will provide assistance to students attending any public or private college, university, vocational school, technical school or trade school located in Michigan. Assistance covers students in any course of study that is intended to culminate in vocational or technical training, a certificate or the student's first associate's degree, bachelor's degree or master's degree. Current semester MING-STAP applications are now being accepted. Ensure you have submitted your degree plan and that the classes you are requesting reimbursement for are on it. Future MING-STAP deadlines will allow students to submit applications up to 60 days prior and 14 days after courses begin.

In order to receive your MING-STAP reimbursement, email, fax or mail an unofficial transcript with cumulative GPA and an itemized tuition statement or account summary. Make sure that your name is located on both documents. Two examples of acceptable itemized tuition statements or account summaries can be viewed at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/Example_1_479986_7.pdf and http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/Example_2_479987_7.pdf.

STAP Point of Contact:

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
State Operations – Budget Office
3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Lansing, MI 48906
Phone: 517-481-7640
Fax: 517-481-7782
Email: MINGSTAP@michigan.gov

Veterans Recreation

Hunting and Fishing Privileges

Michigan residents who are currently in federal active duty status may obtain hunting and fishing licenses, for which a lottery is not required, free of charge. Non-residents who are in federal active duty status and currently stationed in Michigan are eligible to receive resident pricing on hunting and fishing licenses.

Resident Veterans with Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Privilege

Permanently & totally disabled veterans can get any resident hunting or fishing license for which a lottery is not required, free of charge.

State Parks

100 percent permanently and totally disabled veterans get free entry into Michigan state parks.

Other State Veterans' Benefits

Michigan Veterans' Benefits and Services Handbook

This booklet available at <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/Publications/VeteransBenefits.pdf> has been compiled especially for veterans and their families to fulfill three important purposes:

- To provide information concerning veterans benefits and service available through federal, state, and local agencies;
- To provide veterans and their families with links to direct sources, both computer-based and professional, knowledgeable counselors, for answers to specific questions; and
- To assist veterans in communicating more effectively with their elected representatives.

Michigan Veteran Cemeteries

The Federal government has two national cemeteries in Michigan which are open for burials:

- Fort Custer National Cemetery, 15501 Dickman Road, Augusta, MI 49012 Tel: 269-731-4164 Fax: 269-731-2428
- Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Road, Holly, MI 48442 Tel: 248-328-0386 or 1-866-348-8603 Fax: 248-328-0612

There are two state cemeteries that are closed to burials located at:

- Fort Mackinac Post Cemetery, Mackinac State Park, Mackinac Island, MI 49757 Phone: 248-328-0386 FAX: 248-328-0612
- Lakeside Cemetery Soldiers' Lot, 3781 Gratiot Street, Port Huron, MI 48060 Phone: 248-328-0386 FAX: 248-328-0612

Michigan State Veterans' Burial Expenses

Under Michigan law, eligible veterans (or the wife or widow of a qualified veteran) who meet residency and asset limits may qualify for \$300 for burial expenses paid by the County Board of Commissioners or the Board of County Auditors. The Soldiers Relief Commission of each county has the responsibility for investigating each claim.

Veteran License Plates

The Department of State offers veteran and military service plates. Each plate is available in two options. The first option is with the standard plate background as shown in the images below. The second option is with the multi-color graphic background of the Spectacular Peninsulas plate shown at the end of the below list. All plate can be personalized for an additional \$30 fee.

Veteran/Military Service Plates



- [Afghanistan Conflict Veteran](#)



[Afghanistan Campaign Medal Veteran](#)



[Air Force Veteran](#)



[Army Veteran](#)



[Coast Guard Veteran](#)



[Combat Wounded Veteran \(Purple Heart\)](#)



[Cuban Missile Crisis](#)



[Disabled Veteran](#)



[Dominican Republic Veteran](#)



[Ex-Prisoner of War \(Ex-POW\)](#)



[Gold Star Family Plate](#)



[Grenada Conflict Veteran](#)



[Iraq Conflict Veteran](#)



[Iraq Campaign Medal Veteran](#)



[Korean War Veteran](#)



[Laos Conflict Veteran](#)



[Lebanon Conflict Veteran](#)



[Marine Corps Veteran](#)

[Medal of Honor](#)



• [Military Reserve Member](#)



• [National Guard Member](#)



• [Navy Veteran](#)



• [Panama Conflict Veteran](#)



• [Pearl Harbor Survivor](#)



• [Persian Gulf \(Desert Storm\) Veteran](#)



[Somalia Conflict Veteran](#)



[Vietnam War Veteran](#)



[Vietnam Service Medal Veteran](#)



[World War II Veteran](#)

Veteran/Military Service Motorcycle Plates



[Air Force Veteran](#)



[Army Veteran](#)



• [Coast Guard Veteran](#)



• [Marine Corps Veteran](#)



• [National Guard Member](#)



All of the Veteran Plates are also available in a Spectacular Peninsula version.

Requesting Military Records

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs maintains copies of DD Forms 214, Release from Active Duty, for persons who served on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces and who requested a copy of their DD Form 214 be forwarded to the State of Michigan. The individual (or next of kin for deceased veterans) may request a copy using the DD-214 Request form at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/DD-214_Request_480135_7.pdf. The next of kin must attach a copy of the veteran's death certificate with the request. Send the request to: Michigan Department of

Military and Veterans Affairs. Attn: Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, P.O. Box 30104, Lansing, MI 48909 Tel: Phone: 800621-4838 | Fax: 517-284-5297

Both the Michigan Army and Air National Guard have current military records of their members on file at State Headquarters. Current members should request their records through their unit or command. Retired members can request their records by contacting the Army National Guard at 517-481-8331 or the Air National Guard at 517-481-8277.

State Archives of Michigan has records of members of the Michigan State Troops, including rosters, lineage of units, and records of individuals for World War I and before. State the service member's name and the war in which the individual served and send your request to: State Archives of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48915 Tel: 517-373-3559

Other Michigan Veteran Services :

Helpful Links:

- Michigan Veterans Affairs website <http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2362---,00.html>
- Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim for Veterans and Blind People http://www.michigan.gov/documents/taxes/MI1040CR2book_305438_7.pdf
- Veteran License Plates http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1585_1595_1598---,00.html

Note: Michigan Veterans can find assistance through their local county veterans services offices. To locate an office near you refer to <http://macvc.net>.

Visit the [Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva) website <http://www.michigan.gov/dmva> and <https://www.michiganveterans.com> for more information on any of these programs.

[Source: <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/michigan-state-veterans-benefits.html> | May 2019 ++]