VETERANS

GUIDEBOOK FOR INCARCERATED VETERANS IN MICHIGAN

REVISED APRIL 15, 2014
Denise Treesh, LMSW

DEAR VETERAN

THANK YOU

Thank you for Your Service…

It is indeed a pleasure to serve veterans who gave so much of themselves to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. Your sacrifices have given us the security of peace in our homeland and abroad, as well as preserved and protected our constitutional right of self-government, for which we are very grateful.

This guidebook has been compiled through federal, state, and local agencies especially for veterans to:

- Provide information about benefits and services
- Provide links to direct sources – computer-based and professional – for answers to specific questions
- Educate concerning state, nonprofit, and community providers about benefits and services available through other agencies or service providers
- Assist in a successful reentry

Eligibility for most Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits is based upon a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for VA health care benefits. Reservists and National Guard members may also qualify for VA health care benefits if they were called to active duty (other than for training only) by a Federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty.

Minimum Duty Requirements: Veterans who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to Veterans discharged for hardship, early out or a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Any Michigan Veteran, or dependent of a Veteran, can request the assistance of a Veterans Service Officer or a County Counselor. The County Veterans Counselors in Michigan and the listing of our Veterans Service Organizations are in this guidebook.

The VA wants to ensure that every eligible incarcerated veteran receive assistance from the VA Reentry Specialist. If you are an eligible veteran who will be paroling or maxing out of prison you may use the contact information below or request that the MDOC staff, who may be assisting you in a needs assessment or discharge planning, make contact with the VA Reentry specialist on your behalf .

To Veterans and their families, Thank you for your service.

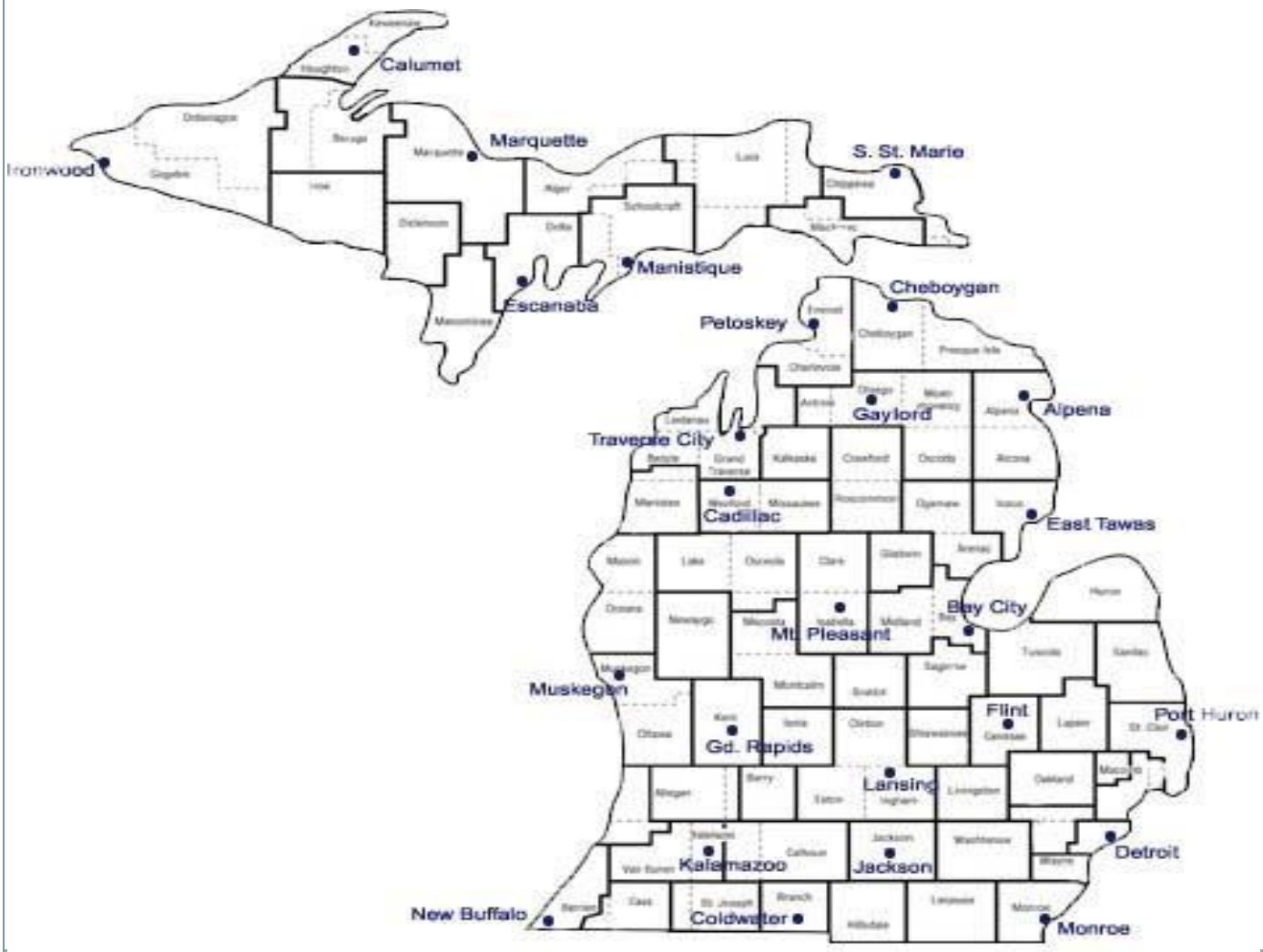
Denise Treesh, LMSW
Health Care Reentry Veteran Specialist (HCRV)
US Department of Veteran Affairs
Veteran's Health Administration
5000 Hakes Drive Suite 515GA
Norton Shores, MI 49441
VA Cell phone: (734) 645-2505
Fax: (231) 798-4462
Email: Denise.Treesh@va.gov

Some Quotes taken From:
Veterans Benefits And Services For Michigan Veterans Who Served In The Military

TABLE OF CONTENT

- **Section I: Introduction**.....4
- **Section II: Preparing for Your Release**.....7
- **Section III: Veteran Resources Available in the Community**.....17
- **Section IV: Seeking Federal Benefits**.....29
- **Section V: The State of Michigan Veteran Benefits and Resources**.....38
- **Section VI: VA and Community Resources**.....49
- **Section X: Forms and Instructions**.....51

SECTION I
Introduction



FORWARD

- This Guidebook is for Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces confined in either a state or federal correctional facility in the state of Michigan. Almost all who served the U.S. Armed Forces have resources available when released from custody.

- Knowledge about eligibility and access are frequently misunderstood. The contents of this Guidebook explain what you need to know. Often Veterans hear rumors and conclude they are ineligible based on what they heard. Learning the resources that will be available to you at your release begins by taking your time with this publication.

- VA and many other Veteran support organizations are listed within these pages. For example Section V offers a wealth of information about the resources available through the Michigan Department of Veteran Affairs.

- The primary objective of this document is to assist Veterans in preparation for release. Section II focuses on what you can do while incarcerated with later sections focus on information you may need after release. Some of the resources you seek after release provide phone numbers or web addresses. These resources are mostly unavailable while incarcerated so prepare to make contact once you arrive to the community.

- This is your book. Take notes as you look through it to highlight important details to reference later. When you are released **bring this book with you.** Many of your immediate needs can be addressed from the resources and services listed within these pages. Supports are available in your community you just need to know where to find them.

- Information listed in the Guidebook is current as of March 2014. Due to the continuous changes within the community, resources may change at any time. To promote the most accurate detail of resources and services available to you VA has established the VA Reentry Specialist position. Continue to read to learn more about VA Reentry Specialists and the many other supports available to Veterans.

AT A GLANCE RESOURCES/ CRISIS/TOLL FREE NUMBERS

TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

Crisis and other toll-free numbers are often listed in the front cover or first few pages of the phone book. You may also want to check under "Social Services" in the blue or yellow pages for hotlines and local numbers OR call 211 for local resources

- The State of Michigan's Veterans Hotline is 1-800-455-5228 or visit the web site at www.michigan.gov/veterans.
- The Federal Regional VA Michigan Office Hotline is 1-800-827-1000.
- The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.
  - **Their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.**

- **US Department of Veterans Affairs** — www.va.gov
- **Benefits**: 1-800-827-1000,
- **Medical Centers**: 1-877-222-8387,
- **Persian Gulf War Helpline**: 1-800-749-8387
- **Focus On Recovery Helpline** - A 24-hour national alcohol and drug abuse addiction and treatment hotline: 1-800-888-9383
- **National AIDS Hotline -** Talk to someone who knows about HIV / AIDS and can tell you about AIDS services in your city or state: 1-800-822-7422
- **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans** — www.nchv.org, 1-800-838-4357
- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline -** 1-888-273-TALK (8255)
- **Military Resources** - http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0,13964,30991-mil_status_veteran-1 ,00.html
- **"Michigan Works!" Service Centers** - 1-800-285-9675

SECTION II
Preparing for Your Release

7



NEEDS ASSESMENT

Once eligibility is determined you and the HCRV Specialist will go over these needs during your HOMES assessment (VA Homeless Operations Management and Evaluations System). This assessment will go into the National Data base and in your health care record and can be accessed by your VA health care staff.

Please refer to the contact information for your HCRV Specialist (see page 2 of this guidebook), who will be available to you 6 months prior to leaving prison and for 3-4 months after your release to assist you in accessing resources that are available to you.

There are 8 “needs” domains that we will evaluate together during the HOMES assessment. In this guide book there are names, addresses and phone numbers to VA and community resources specific your geographical area that will assist you in connecting to services in your identified needs:

Housing	Physical Health	Mental Health	Employment
Legal	Substance Abuse	Historical Entitlements	Family Relationships

Using The Guide To Help You GET ORGANIZED

9

Making A List To Help You Get Organized

Making Lists
Examples

Needs upon release:

- ❑ I need a place to live
- ❑ I need help with a security deposit
- ❑ I need a job
- ❑ I need medical care
- ❑ I need clothes to wear to work
- ❑ I need addictions treatment
- ❑ I owe child support
- ❑ I need help getting (or getting on) SSI/SSD
- ❑ I need help getting (or getting back) my VA benefits
- ❑ I need help with finances
- ❑ I need help with legal issues
- ❑ I need to write letters

Knowing who Can Help Address Your needs

Resources
Examples

Match Needs with Contact Information In Your Area:

- ❑ Health Care for Homeless Veterans Outreach Worker (pgs. 21-22)
- ❑ VA Hospitals (pg. 18)
- ❑ Community Based Outpatient Clinics CBOC (pgs. 19-20)
- ❑ SSVF Program (p. 50)
- ❑ Service Officer (pgs. 39-44)
- ❑ CWT Program (pgs. 25-26)
- ❑ State of Michigan Veterans Employment (pg. 46)
- ❑ Walk-in Clinics (VA Hospitals pg.18)

Identifying Your Personal NEEDS AND RESOURCES

10

Need	Plan Identified and Providers
Housing: ❑ Family ❑ Residential ❑ Commercial	
Physical Health: ❑ Medical ❑ Dental ❑ Optical	
Mental Health: ❑ PTSD ❑ Psychiatrist/Medications ❑ Individual Counseling/Therapy	
Substance Abuse: ❑ Alcohol ❑ Illegal Substances ❑ AA/NA ❑ Group Therapy	
Historical Entitlements: ❑ SSD/SSI ❑ Medicaid/Medicare	
Employment: ❑ Employable ❑ Not Employable ❑ Educational/Vocational needs ❑ Financial	
Legal: ❑ Child Support ❑ Other	
Other: ❑ State ID/Driver's license ❑ Social Security Card ❑ Birth Certificate	
Other: ❑ Transportation	

SECTION II

VA Reentry Specialist

- Each region of the U.S. has an assigned Reentry Specialist. They are charged with offering assistance to individuals with a history of U.S. Military service and now preparing for release from state and federal custody. They can assist you in determining your eligibility for resources and assist your access to VA Healthcare. They can assist you with VA Enrollment, restarting your disability benefits, securing your DD-214, provide you with resource points of contact and linkages to the services for which you are eligible.

- An individual meeting with the Reentry Specialist occurs as a VA eligible Veteran nears their release date. VA works in collaboration with the state and federal correctional facilities to identify individuals with a history of U.S. Military Service preparing for release from custody.

- When time is available the Reentry Specialist will also arrange a group meeting for any interested Veterans wishing to learn about any recent Veteran specific updates or have general questions. Please take advantage of the group meetings when they are offered as this opportunity is not available at every visit. Due to their ongoing travel in the field VA Reentry Specialists are unable to address needs by mail.

Steps To Enroll With VA

- VA Enrollment opens doors to Veteran healthcare, supports and resources. Learning your eligibility for VA is accomplished by completing VA Form 10-10EZ. To acquire VA Application by mail write to the VA located closest to your location of release. Use the mailing address near the end of this section to have your request addressed by the Enrollment Department of your VA. VA Healthcare System locations are also listed in Section V of this book. Indicate on the envelope VA enrollment. Another avenue to enroll with VA is with the VA Reentry Specialist when they visit your location. Visits are scheduled to occur at least yearly. If you are within 6 months of your release date and have not met with the Reentry Specialist consider enrolling by mail to ensure VA resources will be available when you arrive to the community.

SECTION II continued

VA Application for Health Benefits, VA Form 10-10 EZ

You are encouraged to complete the 10-10EZ if any of the following applies to you:

- You don't know if you are eligible for VA Healthcare
- You are enrolled with VA but need to update the financial information requested each year
- You were previously ineligible for VA due to income (income limits have adjusted)
- You were told you weren't eligible for VA but don't understand why

Eligibility is based on many factors including when you served, length of active duty, and military discharge type and only VA can provide you with your eligibility and VA Enrollment. Completing VA Form 10-10EZ prior to release ensures problems with enrollment can be sorted out and VA Healthcare and services can start immediately upon release. VA is often able to verify your military service through information provided by the Dept. of Defense. If unable to verify military service VA may require a copy of your DD-214. This document can be requested by mail and you can either mail it to VA or present it when you are released to VA.

Take care to fully complete VA Form 10-10EZ. If not properly and fully completed VA is unable to finalize your enrollment registration. All blanks on the application must be answered. Unless your eligibility is based on a Service Connected Disability, Purple Heart award or Prisoner of War status, questions asking for financial information must be completed; if your answer is zero please indicate 0 in the spaces provided. N/A or a line cannot be accepted when asking for a dollar figure. Questions not answered could prevent processing of the application and delay your eligibility for VA services. Income information is for the previous calendar year. Most Veterans while incarcerated will meet financial requirements for VA Health services. The results of your VA application for Healthcare Services will be sent to the location you indicated was your permanent address on the 10-10EZ. If you have an extra copy of your DD-214 (Military Discharge Papers and Separation Documents) submitting it with your VA application will assure your military service is verified.

SECTION II continued

Report of Separation DD-214

Report of Separation from your branch of military service is an important document to have in your possession once released. Employment opportunities and community resources are offered to individuals with proof of their military service. This document can also be needed to confirm your eligibility for VA Healthcare. You can write to the National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, MO 63138 to request your DD-214. If you do not have the form SF – 180 request a copy of this form and return to the location indicated for your branch of service. Many Veterans have requested their DD-214 while incarcerated and received it within a month of their request.

Loss of Military Service Records due to 1973 fire at National Personnel Records Center
On July 12, 1973, a disastrous fire at NPRC (MPR) destroyed approximately 16-18 million Official Military Personnel Files. The affected record collections are described below.

BRANCH	PERSONNEL AND PERIOD AFFECTED	ESITMATED LOSS
ARMY	Personnel discharged November 1, 1912, to January 1, 1960	80%
AIRFORCE	Personnel discharged, September 25, 1947, to January 1, 1964 (with names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.)	75%

The National Archives and Records Administration has developed NA Form 13055, Request for Information needed to Reconstruct Medical Data for those records destroyed in the 1973 fire. You may inquire about use of that form by writing directly to the National Archives:

National Personnel Records Center
(Military Personnel Records)
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Already VA Enrolled?
If you have a Veteran Identification Card (VIC) and will be returning to the same VA facility where you previously received Health Services you are not required to complete the 10-10EZ.

You may be asked to update your Means Test (financial income for the previous year) If your VA Enrollment was not based on a Purple Heart, Prisoner of War status or you don't have a Service Connected Disability Benefit. If you will be utilizing a different VA facility, it will expedite receiving VA services by sending the VA 10-10EZ to VA nearest to your destination

Preparing for Parole Board Hearing
Access to Veteran resources and enrollment with VA offers many valuable resources in preparing your plan for release. VA is currently with a national commitment to end Veteran homelessness. This message has helped to raise awareness of VA's resources and ability to help Veterans in need of housing and the tools to address your establishing yourself in the community. Please be advised few resources are able to make an open ended commitment as availability of a resource is dependent on the number of Veterans in need of the resource at that time.

Correction of Military Record and Upgrade of Discharge
If results of your VA application indicate you are ineligible for VA Healthcare your letter will explain the reason. If ineligibility was based on your military discharge type it's possible to pursue an upgrade through your branch of military service. If separated from the military within the past fifteen years use DD Form 293, Application for the Review of Discharge or Dismissal from the Armed Forces of the United States. This document can be requested by writing to your branch of military service.

VA Service Connected Disability Compensation and VA Pension

If you have been awarded a Service Connected Disability or VA Pension the amount may have been suspended or reduced to the 10% payment level while you are in custody. If your Disability Compensation is at the 10% level your benefit while incarcerated in half of what you received prior to incarceration.

To reactivate the benefit submit completed VA Form 21-4193 to the Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office found in Section IV of this Guidebook. You will need a counselor or other MDOC official to complete item #6 - #16 of this form. The Veterans Benefits Administration will allow this form to be submitted up to thirty days prior to your release to help with expediting reactivation of your VA Disability Compensation.

In the event you have incurred an overpayment which means payments of your benefit while incarcerated, you will be required to repay the overpayment or receive an approved re-payment plan with the Veterans Benefits Administration before your benefits will restarts. Arrangements for addressing overpayments must be addressed with the Veterans Benefits Administration at the Regional Office or by calling at 1-800-827-1000.

WHERE TO FIND VA AND COMMUINITY RESOURCES

16

HOUSING NEEDS	• Health Care For Homeless Veterans • Volunteers of America SSVF program • Section III for more information
PHYSICAL HEALTH	• VA Medical facility (p. 18) • Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC)(pgs. 19-20)
MENTAL HEALTH	• VA Medical facility (p. 18) : Services: Inpatient/Outpatient, Substance Abuse Residential Treatment Programs, Domiciliary • Community Based Outpatient Clinic (pgs. 19-20) Primary Care and Mental Health
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	• VA Medical facility (p. 18) : Services: Inpatient/Outpatient, Substance Abuse Residential Treatment Programs, Domiciliary • Community Based Outpatient Clinic (pgs. 19-20) Primary Care and Mental Health
HISTORICAL ENTITLEMENTS	• VBA (See VBA manual or p. 29-37) Complete VBA manual provided to all MDOC reentry staff • SOAR program can help with SSI/SSD benefits
FAMILY RELEATIONSHIPS	• CBOC or • VA Hospital Mental Health Program
EMPLOYMENT	• VHA Health Care Homeless Veterans • SSVF Program (requires a referral from HCHV/HUD VASH P. 50)
LEGAL	• See HCHV Coordinator to locate your area's Homeless Program or walk-in Clinic who can advise you as to where to connect to veteran specific legal assistance in your community • www.statesidelegal.org/findinghelp

For specific questions please write or as to speak with your VA HCRV SPEICALIST (page 2)

SECTION III
Veteran Resources Available in the Community



SECTION III
VA Medical Centers
IN MICHIGAN

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
2215 Fuller Rd
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
800-361-8387 | 734-769-7100

Saginaw VA Medical Center
1500 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-497-2500

Battle Creek VA Medical Center
5500 Armstrong Road
Battle Creek, MI 49037
269-966-5600 | 888-214-1247

John D. Dingell VA Medical Center
4646 John R Street
Detroit, MI 48201
313-576-1000

Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center
325 East H Street
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
906-774-3300

SECTION III
VA – MICHIGAN
COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINICS

Alpena CBOC
180 North State Avenue
Alpena, MI 49707
Phone: 989-356-8720
Fax: 989-356-8707

Bad Axe CBOC
1142 S. Van Dyke RD, Suite 100
Bad Axe, MI 48413
Phone: 989-269-7445 Or 989-269-7445
Fax: 989-269-7490

Cheboygan County CBOC
14540 Mackinaw Hwy
Mackinaw City, MI 49701
Phone: 231-436-5176 Or 231-436-5176
Fax: 231-436-5364

Flint Community Based Outpatient Clinic
2360 South Linden Road
Flint, MI 48532
Phone: 810-720-2913
Fax: 810-720-3296

Benton Harbor VA Outpatient Clinic
115 West Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
Phone: 269-934-9123
Fax: 269-934-9347

Cadillac CBOC
1909 North Mitchell St
Cadillac, MI 49601
Phone: 231-775-4401 Or 231-775-4401
Fax: 231-775-4546

Clare CBOC
11775 N Isabella Rd
Clare, MI 48617
Phone: 989-386-8113
Fax: 989-386-8139

Gaylord CBOC
806 South Otsego
Gaylord, MI 49732
Phone: 989-732-7525
Fax: 989-732-6577

SECTION III
VA - MICHIGAN
COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINICS

Grand Rapids VA Outpatient Clinic
3019 Coit Street Northeast
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
Phone: 616-365-9575
Fax: 616-365-7509

Lansing VA Outpatient Clinic
2025 South Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910
Phone: 517-267-3925
Fax: 517-267-3593

Oscoda CBOC
5671 Skeel Avenue, Suite 4
Oscoda, MI 48750
Phone: 989-747-0026 Or 989-747-0026
Fax: 989-747-0029

Traverse City CBOC
3271 Racquet Club Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684
Phone: 231-932-9720
Fax: 231-995-9302

Grayling CBOC
1680 Hartwick Pines Road
Grayling, MI 49738
Phone: 989-344-2002 Or 989-344-2002
Fax: 989-344-2005

Jackson Community Based Outpatient Clinic
4328 Page Avenue
Michigan Center, MI 49254
Phone: 517-764-3609
Fax: 517-764-3659

Muskegon VA Outpatient Clinic
5000 Hakes Dr.
Muskegon, MI 49441
Phone: 231-798-4445
Fax: 231-798-4462

Pontiac VA Outpatient Clinic
44200 Woodward Avenue, Suite 208
Pontiac, MI 48341
Phone: 248-332-4540
Fax: 248-332-4576

SECTION III
Veteran Resources Available in the Community

VA Housing

If you met with the Reentry Specialist and received instructions for housing proceed with those arrangements. If starting fresh each VA has a Health Care for Homeless Veteran program ready to help you. They have knowledge about housing choices near your location.

Depending on circumstances housing may be available the day you arrive. If the VA Medical Center is a distance from you call the toll free phone number found in Section V or the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans hotline available 24/7 at 1-877-424-3838. There you will find a VA counselor available to help you.

VA offers a variety of housing supported programs for Veterans designed to support your individual needs. A counselor will speak with you about your goals to best determine the resources available to best meet your needs. Housing options include:

- **Grant & Per Diem (GPD) housing:** GPD housing promotes the development and provision of supportive housing and/or supportive services with the goal of helping homeless Veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-determination.

SECTION III
Veteran Resources Available in the Community

- **Health Care for Homeless Veterans Contracts (HCHV):** Provides emergency housing, shelter and treatment through local community providers. Local VA facilities contract with community agencies for beds which are available to Veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare.

- **Supportive Services for Veteran Families Grants (SSVF**): VA grants provided to non-profit organizations to assist homeless and at-risk of homeless Veterans and their families to maintain or return to permanent housing.

- **VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program**; is a joint effort between HUD and VA to move Veterans and their families out of homelessness and into permanent housing. HUD provides housing assistance through its Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) that allows homeless Veterans to rent privately owned housing. VA offers eligible homeless Veterans clinical and supportive services through its health care system.

Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs (MH RRTPs): MH RRTPs provide state-of-the-art, high-quality residential rehabilitation and treatment services for Veterans with multiple and severe medical conditions, mental illness, addiction, or psychosocial deficits. The MH RRTP identifies and addresses goals of rehabilitation, recovery, health maintenance, improved quality of life, and community integration in addition to specific treatment of medical conditions, mental illnesses, addictive disorders, and homelessness. The residential component emphasizes incorporation of clinical treatment gains into a lifestyle of self-care and personal responsibility.

Homeless Veteran Dental Program

Veterans receiving at least sixty days of VA residential services addressing their homelessness may be eligible for a one time dental service. Inquiry to this onetime benefit should be addressed with the VA case manager assigned to you in the residential program.

Completing VA Enrollment

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides eligible Veterans a Veterans Identification Card (VIC) for use at VA Medical Facilities. The VIC protects the privacy of Veterans' sensitive information, as it no longer displays the Social Security Number or Date of Birth on the front of the card. The VIC will only display the Veteran's name, picture, and special eligibility indicators - Service Connected, Purple Heart and Former POW, if applicable, on the front of the card. Only Veterans who are eligible for VA medical benefits will receive the card.

Each VA has an Enrollment Office sometimes called the Patient Business Office. If you do not have your VA identification card (VIC Card) you can obtain this important ID there. Bring identification to present your identity. VA personnel will look-up your enrollment information in the VA database and complete your VA Enrollment by taking your picture for your VIC Identification Card. The card can be mailed to you in approximately five business days or you can return to pick-up your card.

Scheduling a Medical Appointment

VA is committed to providing high-quality, clinically appropriate health care - when you want and need it. This commitment includes the ability to make appointments that meet your needs, with no undue waits or delays. We monitor the wait times for scheduled appointments, and give you the opportunity to complete a survey to tell us whether you received an appointment when you wanted one. To schedule a medical appointment call your assigned Primary Care Clinic.

SECTION III
Veteran Resources Available in the Community

Medical Care if not eligible for VA Healthcare

National Health Care for the Homeless Council includes thousands of providers and consumers of health care targeted to people without homes, working together to end homelessness by improving health care access and quality. Within their provider network are thousands of community clinics offering care and services to individuals without a healthcare provider. Learn more about resources available in your local area by calling Michigan's 211 information and referral service, dial 211 on your phone.

Addictions Treatment and Mental Health Services

VA offers a wide variety of supports and treatment services to Veterans needing to address their concerns related to addictions and mental health. Also if you are under the supervision of Parole or Probation with a requirement to participate in treatment VA may be an acceptable path to your supervising authority. If you are interested in addressing addictions issues contact the treatment clinic directly or consult with your Primary Care Clinic.

Finding & Keeping a Job

Seeking employment after incarceration can be challenging but there is help. Many incentive programs are available to support Veterans get a job. Incentives are made available to employers in the form of tax deductions for a hiring a Veteran. Training Veterans to be job ready is another approach in use. Each community also sponsors Veteran Job Fairs and other locally sponsored activities to support the hiring of Veterans. Continue to read to learn about other employment support resources targeting Veterans. (See more resources under **Section V: The State of Michigan Veteran Benefits and Resources)**

VA's **Compensated Work Therapy Program** (CWT) is a therapeutic vocational service available to some Veterans. CWT offers structured work opportunities and supervised therapeutic housing for at-risk and homeless Veterans with physical, mental health and addictions problems. VA contracts with private industry and the public sector for work by these Veterans, who learn job skills, re-learn successful work habits, and regain a sense of self-esteem. Veterans are paid for their work and given assistance with employment in the community. Check with your VA about other employment support options.

CWT Program Location

Ann Arbor, MI

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
2215 Fuller Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

CWT Program Coordinator
Therapy and Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program Team Leader
Psychologist
(734) 769-7100, extension 53211 or 53420

Services Provided:
CWT/Supported Employment
Post-Employment Supports
CWT/Transitional Work
Incentive Therapy

Days and Hours of Operation
Monday through Friday
8:00 am to 5:00 pm

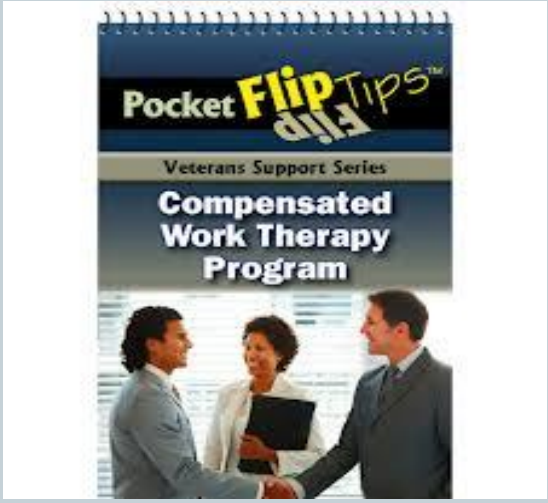
Battle Creek

Battle Creek VA Medical Center
5600 Armstrong Road
Battle Creek, Michigan 49037

CWT Program Coordinator
269-966-5600 x31818 or 269-579-3003

Services Provided
CWT/Supported Employment:
Post-Employment Supports:
CWT/Transitional Work:
CWT/Vocational Assistance:
CWT/Sheltered Workshop:
Incentive Therapy:

Days and Hours of Operation
Monday through Friday
7:00 am to 4:30 pm



CWT Program Location

Detroit

John D. Dingell VA Medical Center
4646 John R. Street
Detroit, MI 48201

CWT Program Coordinator
Phone Number: 313-576-1000 x 65205

Services Provided
CWT/Supported Employment
Post-Employment Supports
CWT/Transitional Work

Days and Hours of Operation
Monday through Friday
7:00 am to 3:30 pm
.

Iron Mountain

Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center
325 East H Street
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
Chief Mental Health Service
(906) 774-3300, ext. 32558
(906) 774-3300. ext. 32771

Services Provided:
CWT/Supported Employment:
Post-Employment Supports:
CWT/Transitional Work:
CWT/ Vocational Assistance:

Days and Hours of Operation
Monday through Friday
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM CST

Saginaw, Michigan

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center
1500 Weiss St
Saginaw, MI 48602-5298

Contact
CWT Program Coordinator
Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist
Phone Number: 989-497-2500 ext. 11793 or 11895

Services Provided
CWT/Supported Employment:
Post-Employment Supports:
CWT/Transitional Work:

Days and Hours of Operation
Monday through Friday
8:00 am to 4:30 pm

JUSTICE FOR VETS

At Justice For Vets, we understand that the vast majority of veterans return home strengthened by their military service. But we also know that some veterans struggle to cope with the trauma of war. Many return to their families and communities suffering from PTSD (often undiagnosed), Traumatic Brain Injury, substance abuse, and a myriad of other issues that can manifest into criminal behavior.

Justice For Vets is the only national organization exclusively committed and uniquely qualified to ensure veterans in the justice system get the treatment, benefits and services they have earned. With the help of the American people, we will expand Veterans Treatment Courts to every veteran in need and free veterans from addiction, mental illness, incarceration, homelessness, and unemployment.



MICHIGAN'S VETERANS JUSTICE OUTREACH INITIATIVE

The purpose of the Veteran's Justice Outreach Initiative (VJO) is to avoid the unnecessary criminalization and extended incarceration among Veterans with mental health problems. The goal of the Justice Outreach Program is to provide treatment and support to Veterans who find themselves involved in the criminal justice system.

With the help of the community, the Veteran's Health Administration (VHA) has a plan to help eligible justice-involved Veterans have timely access to VHA mental health and substance abuse services in order to avoid incarceration.

Please note that VA cannot provide legal service. If you need legal assistance , please see www.statesidelegal.org/findinghelp or contact your VJO who may know community resources for legal assistance

ALPENA
Arthur Olrich, LMSW
Alpena CBOC
115 Main St.
Alpena, MI 49707
Phone: 989-356-8720

ANN ARBOR
Melody Powers, LMSW
Ann Arbor VA Healthcare System
VJO Coordinator
734-645-7950

BATTLE CREEK
April Coleman, LMSW
Battle Creek VA Healthcare System
5500 Armstrong Rd.
Battle Creek, MI 49037
Phone: 269-966-5600

DETROIT
Nanette Colling, ACSW, DCSW
John D. Dingell VA Healthcare System
4646 John R St. MH-11
Detroit, MI 48201
Phone: 313-576-1000, ext. 65537

Tracy Golliday-Champagne, LMSW
John D. Dingell VA Healthcare System
4646 John R St. MH-11
Detroit, MI 48201
Phone: 313-576-1000, ext. 64727

GRAND RAPIDS
LMSW - Vacant
HCHV Center
620 Century Ave., Suite 120
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: 616-356-1746

LANSING
Karen D. Hinderliter, LMSW, BCD, CAADC
Battle Creek VA Healthcare System
5500 Armstrong Rd.
Battle Creek, MI 49037
Phone: 269-966-5600 ext. 32008

SAGINAW
Terry Troxell, LMSW
Saginaw VA Healthcare System
1500 Weiss St.
Saginaw, MI 48602
Phone: 989-497-2500

FOR MORE INFORMATION and PROGRAM VIDEOS : http://www.va.gov/services/VJO.asp

SECTION IV
Seeking Federal Benefits

29



INFORMATION ON ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE BENEFITS IS AVAILABLE FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFARIS OR YOUR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE.

SECTION IV
SEEKING FEDERAL BENEFITS

SEEKING FEDERAL BENEFITS

The Department of Veterans Affairs is divided into three administrations: Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Veteran's Benefits Administration (VBA) and National Cemetery Administration.

This section of the Guidebook offers information about the Veterans Benefits Administration programs, to include: Disability Compensation and Pension programs, Education Programs, Loan Guaranty (Home Loans), and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment. Benefits offered through these programs are managed by the Regional Office closest to your residence. The two offices in Michigan are:

Eastern Area Office

Ann Arbor Regional Benefits Office
P.O. Box 303
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Phone: 800-827-1000

Detroit Regional Benefits Office
477 Michigan Ave.
Detroit, MI 48226

The programs and resources listed in this section are under the authority of the VBA. Submit your request in writing to VBA and include identifying information such as your File # for a casein process as well as your Social Security Number. Once you have access to a phone you may also speak to VBA by phone, 1-800-827-1000.

Disability Compensation (Service Connected Disability) is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to Veterans with disabilities that are the result of a disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service. Compensation may also be paid for post-service disabilities that are considered related or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

SECTION IV
SEEKING FEDERAL BENEFITS

VA Pension

VA helps Veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income through the Veterans Pension benefit. Veterans Pension is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to low-income wartime Veterans.

Eligibility

Generally, a Veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a wartime period to qualify for a VA Pension. If you entered active duty after September 7, 1980, generally you must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during a wartime period.

In addition to meeting minimum service requirements, the Veteran must be:

- Age 65 or older, **OR**
- Totally and permanently disabled, **OR**
- A patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, **OR**
- Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance, **OR**
- Receiving Supplemental Security Income

Service Connected Disability Compensation and Veterans Pension During Incarceration

Service Connected Disability Compensation and Veterans Pension During Incarceration

Veterans incarcerated and incarcerated dependents may apply for the same compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) – service-connected death benefits – and pension benefits as Veterans who are not incarcerated. However, Congress restricts the amount of benefits that may be paid to a Veteran or dependent while he or she is incarcerated. These benefits are institutionalized as part of law: *38 U.S.C Sec 5313 (a), 38 C.F.R., Sec. 3.665 (a), (d)*, which reads as follows:

> ***If a Veteran is incarcerated as the result of a "felony" conviction as defined by law: "Any offense punishable by death or imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, unless specifically categorized as a misdemeanor under the law of the prosecuting jurisdiction."***
>
> ***Then, the amount paid to a Veteran incarcerated for a service-connected disability is generally limited by law to the 10 percent disability rate, or half the amount of the ten percent rate if the Veteran's disability rating is 10 percent. (If the Veteran is rated before incarceration as 20 percent disabled or higher, he will receive only the amount payable to a 10 percent disabled Veteran.) Incarcerated DIC recipients will receive one-half the amount paid to a Veteran receiving compensation payments for a 10 percent-rated disability.***
>
> ***A Veteran may not receive non-service connected VA pension benefits, or any portion of these benefits, while incarcerated for a felony or misdemeanor. However, his family may receive an apportionment of such benefits under the procedure described above. (See 38 C.F.R. Sec.3.666)***

There is a 60-day "grace period" following a conviction when you may still receive full benefits. To avoid an overpayment, it is important that you notify VARO immediately when you go to prison if you are receiving payments. If you do not notify the VA and receive overpayment, you and your family will lose all financial payments until the debt is paid.

For example, Joe/Jane is a Veteran who receives a VA pension. He/she is convicted of a crime and is incarcerated, but doesn't tell the VA right away and keeps getting paid for 6 months. After serving his/her sentence of 18 months, he/she is released and applies to the VA to have his pension restarted. He/she will have an overpayment which must be recovered from the restarted benefits. Until the overpayment is recovered, Joe/Jane will have to go without that income.

Your award for compensation or pension benefits should resume from the date you are released, as long as the VA receives notice of release within one year. Form 21-4193, Notice to Department of Veterans Affairs of Veteran or Beneficiary Incarcerated in Penal Institution, available through your counselors, should be completed before release, signed by a prison official and submitted to VA Benefits Administration.

Service Connected Disability Compensation and Veterans Pension During Incarceration

Apportionment

The Veteran can only receive a portion of the full amount payable for his or her disability rating; the remaining balance may be "apportioned to the individual's dependent family." To apply for apportionment, the Veteran must send a letter that identifies the Veteran and the apportionment claimant and makes it clear they are requesting an apportionment of his/her VA benefits to the VA Regional Office (VARO) that has jurisdiction over the Veteran's case. VA regulations clearly specify this apportionment amount will only go to family members if they can show financial need for such amount. This applies to the spouse, children, or dependent parents who are involved in the application.

In deciding whether any apportionment is appropriate, the amount of the apportionment, and to whom it will go, the following factors are considered:

- The family member's income and living expenses;
- The amount of compensation available to be apportioned;
- The needs and living expenses of other family members; and
- Special needs of any of the family members.

For example: a Veteran incarcerated rated as 80 percent disability can only receive the amount he or she would get if he or she were 10 percent disabled. However, his or her family may be apportioned up to 70 percent, the difference of the 80 percent rating. (DIC may also be apportioned with similar restrictions.) There is a 60-day "grace period" following conviction where the Veteran, or Dependency or Indemnity Compensation (DIC) recipient, may still receive full benefits. If the Veteran continues to receive benefits after the 60-day period, it will result in an "overpayment". The VA considers it to be the recipient's responsibility and fault if this occurs because the recipient failed to notify the VA of his or her incarceration. Attempts to obtain a waiver in these situations of overpayment are often unsuccessful. As a rule, the Veteran loses most, if not all, financial benefits until the VA recovers the entire overpayment. It has also been a standard procedure that the family will not be entitled to receive an apportionment until the debt is completely recovered.

For more information concerning VA debt collection rules that may affect the incarcerated Veteran, telephone: 1-800-827-1000 and request a Veterans Service Organization representative or, write to a Veterans Service Organization.

One other relevant restriction on Veteran's incarcerated eligibility for service-connected disability compensation is that: "No total disability rating based on un-employability, may be assigned to an incarcerated Veteran".

It is important to remember that most VA decisions, including those on apportionment, can be appealed to the Board of Veterans Appeals and, if need be, to the Court of Appeal for Veterans Affairs.

Ways To Apply For VA Benefits Depending On The Type Of Benefit You Are Seeking

Benefits	How to Apply
Before Leaving Military Service – Pre-Discharge Program for Service members	**If you are a member of the armed forces serving on either active duty or full-time National Guard duty, you should apply through the VA Pre-Discharge Program before leaving service.**
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Benefits for Service members and Veterans	The best way to file for vocational rehabilitation and employment services is to apply online at eBenefits.va.gov. If you don't have an eBenefits account, register today. In eBenefits, apply using the Veterans On-line Application (VONAPP) to complete and submit your application online. The form to use is called VA Form 28-1900, "Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation." **Download VA Form 28-1900** You can also mail the VA Form 28-1900, "Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation" to your local regional benefit office. You can locate your local regional benefit office using the VA Facility Locator. You may also visit your local regional benefit office and turn in your application for processing. For more information on vocational rehabilitation and employment services, visit the Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment web page.
Disability Compensation Benefits for Veterans	The best way to file for disability compensation is to apply online at eBenefits.va.gov. If you don't have an eBenefits account, register today. Once you log into your eBenefits account, use Apply for Disability Compensation. VA recommends you appoint an accredited Veterans Service Officer to help you initiate your claim, gather the required medical records and evidence, and submit your claim. You can appoint a Veteran Service Officer while you apply online. If you prefer to file your claim by paper, complete VA Form 21-526EZ, "Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits" and mail the application to your local regional benefit office. You can find your local regional benefit office in the VA Facility Locator. You can also visit your local regional office and turn in your application for processing. While there, you can appoint an accredited Veterans Service Officer to help you prepare and submit your claim. You can find an accredited Veteran Service Officer using eBenefits. **Download VA Form 21-526EZ**

Ways To Apply For VA Benefits Depending On The Type Of Benefit You Are Seeking

35

BENIFITS	How To Apply
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Benefits for Survivors and Dependents	Download and complete VA Form 21-534EZ, "Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits" and mail it to your local regional benefit office. You can locate your local regional benefit office using the VA Facility Locator. You may also visit your local regional benefit office and turn in your application for processing. We recommend that you appoint an accredited Veterans Service Officer to help you initiate your claim and gather any required medical records or evidence. You can find an accredited Veteran Service Officer using eBenefits. **Download VA Form 21-534EZ** If the death was in service, your Military Casualty Assistance Officer will assist you in completing VA Form 21-534a, "Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child" and in mailing the application to the Philadelphia Regional Benefit Office. **Download VA Form 21-534a** For more information on compensation benefits for survivors and dependents, visit the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation web page.
Pension Benefits for Veterans	Download and complete VA Form 21-527EZ, "Application for Pension." You can mail your application to your local regional benefit office. You can locate your local regional benefit office using the VA Facility Locator. You may also visit your local regional benefit office and turn in your application for processing. **Download VA Form 21-527EZ** VA recommends you appoint an accredited Veterans Service Officer to help you initiate your claim and gather any required medical records or evidence. You can find an accredited Veteran Service Officer using eBenefits. For more information on Veterans Pension benefits, visit the Veterans Pension web page.
Pension Benefits for Survivors	Download and complete VA Form 21-534EZ, "Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits" and mail it to your local regional benefit office. You can locate your local regional benefit office using the VA Facility Locator. You may also visit your local regional benefit office and turn in your application for processing. **Download VA Form 21-534EZ** VA recommends you appoint an accredited Veterans Service Officer to help you initiate your claim and gather any required medical records or evidence. You can find an accredited Veteran Service Officer using eBenefits. For more information on Survivors Pension benefits, visit the Survivors Pension web page.

FOR MORE INFORMATION : http://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/Applying.asp

Ways To Apply For VA Benefits Depending On The Type Of Benefit You Are Seeking

Benefits	How To Apply
Education Benefits for Veterans	You can apply for your education benefits using eBenefits.va.gov. If you don't have an eBenefits account, register today. In eBenefits, apply using the Veterans On-line Application (VONAPP) to complete and submit your application online. You can also submit a paper application. To do this, download and complete VA Form 22-1990, "Application for VA Education Benefits" and mail it to a VA Regional Processing Office. You can mail the form to the region of your home address or to the VA Regional Processing Office for the region of your school's physical address, if you know what school you want to attend. Also, you can call a VA Education Case Manager (1-888-GIBill1) to ask for help. **Download VA Form 22-1990** For more information on how to apply online, visit the Education Apply for Benefits web page.
Home Loan Benefits for Service members and Veterans	You can apply for a home loan certificate of eligibility online using ebenefits.va.gov. You may also apply for a home loan certificate of eligibility through your lender. To apply by mail, use VA Form 26-1880, "Request for Certificate of Eligibility." **Download VA Form 26-1880** You can mail the application to: VA Loan Eligibility Center Attn: COE (262) PO Box 100034 Decatur, GA 30031 For more information on eligibility, evidence, and how to apply, visit the Certificate of Eligibility web page.
Home Loan Benefits for Survivors	The surviving spouse of a Service member or Veteran must apply by mail. The form to complete is the VA Form 26-1817, "Request for Determination of Loan Guaranty Eligibility - Unmarried Surviving Spouses." Or, you can call 1-888-768-2132 and follow the prompts for Eligibility and we will mail the form to you. **Download VA Form 26-1817** Mail your application to this address: VA Loan Eligibility Center Attn: COE (262) PO Box 100034 Decatur, GA 30031 For more information on eligibility, evidence, and how to apply, visit the Certificate of Eligibility web page.

Ways To Apply For VA Benefits Depending On The Type Of Benefit You Are Seeking

Benefits	How To Apply
Life Insurance Benefits for Service members, Veterans, and Survivors	**Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI):** SGLI coverage is automatic. You do not need to apply. To designate beneficiaries, or reduce, decline or restore SGLI coverage, complete and submit SGLV 8286, "Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate" to your branch of service personnel clerk. **Download Form SGLV 8286** For more information on Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, visit the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance web page.
	Veterans' Group Life Insurance(VGLI): To file for VGLI, you can apply online using eBenefits.va.gov. If you don't have an eBenefits account, register today. You may also download and complete SGLV 8714, "Application for Veterans' Group Life Insurance." **Download Form SGLV 8714** Mail your application to this address: OSGLI PO Box 41618 Philadelphia, PA 19176-9913 For more information on Veterans' Group Life Insurance, visit the Veterans' Group Life Insurance web page.
	Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI): To decline, reduce, or restore FSGLI coverage, complete and file form SGLV 8286A, "Spouse Coverage Election and Certificate" with your branch of service. **Download Form SGLV 8286A** For more information on Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, visit the Family Servicemembers' Life Group Insurance web page.
	Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection Program (TSGLI): To file a claim for TSGLI, complete and file SGLV 8600, "Application for TSGLI Benefits" with your branch of service. Coverage for this benefit is automatic for all Servicemembers covered by SGLI. **Download Form SGLV 8600** For more information on the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection Program, visit the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection Program web page.
	Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI): To file for S-DVI, apply online using the AutoForm application system or complete VA Form 29-4364, "Application for Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance." **Download VA Form 29-4364** Mail your application to this address: Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office and Insurance Center (RH) P.O. Box 7208 Philadelphia, PA 19101 For more information on Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance, visit the Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance web page.
	Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI): To file for VMLI, complete and submit VA Form 29-8636, "Application for Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance" to your Specially Adapted Housing Agent. The agent will help you complete your application. Also, you must provide information about your current mortgage. **Download VA Form 29-8636** For more information on Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance, visit the Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance web page.

SECTION V
The State of Michigan Veteran Benefits and Resources



INFORMATION ON ELIGIBILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE BENEFITS IS AVAILABLE FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFARIS OR YOUR COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE.

Veterans Service Organizations

Emergency Grant Program

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

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
Dependents can apply if veteran is eligible under certain circumstances

How to Apply

Must apply in county where you reside
Call and make appointment and insure you bring all required documents and information to complete the application

What is Needed

Military discharge document (DD214 or other)
Proof of residence
Documents for dependents
Proof of income and expenses
Other documents depending on types of assistance

MVTF Main Office
P.O. Box 30104
Lansing, MI 48909
517-284-5299



Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Representatives Contact Information by County

Alcona County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor
P.O. Box 308
Harrisville, MI 48740
989-724-9510
alvets@alconacountymi.com
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
150 B N. State Street
Alpena, MI 49707
989-354-9671
coxd@alpenacounty.org

Alger County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
101 Court Street
Munsing, MI 49862
906-387-1635
algervets@algercourthouse.com

Allegan County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
3255 122nd Avenue, Suite 103
Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-0501
jking@allegancounty.org

Antrim County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent

Antrim County Bldg - Room 205
P.O. Box 1049
Bellaire, MI 49615
231-533-8499
petersd@antrimcounty.org

Arenac County Contact Information
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent

517-284-5299

Baraga County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent

115 N. Front Street
L'Anse, MI 49946
906-524-5454
clssliger@jamad.com

Barry County Contact Information
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
Vacant - please call 517-284-5299

Bay County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor
515 Center Ave
Room 212
Bay City, MI 48708
989-895-4190
w.schupback@hotmail.com

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
515 Center Ave Room 212
Bay City, MI 48708
989-895-4189

Benzie County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
2650 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6070
veterans@co.grand-traverse.mi.us

Berrien County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor
701 Main Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
269-983-7111 ext. 8118
llull@berriencounty.org

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
701 Main Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
269-983-7111 ext. 8510

Branch County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
570 Marshall Road, Suite F
Coldwater, MI 49036
517-279-4322
cscott@countyofbranch.com

Calhoun County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor
190 E. Michigan Avenue, Room 397B
Battle Creek, MI 49014
269-969-6737
slosey@calhouncountymi.gov

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
190 E. Michigan Avenue, Room 397B
Battle Creek, MI 49014
269-969-6734
mivettrustfund@calhouncountymi.gov

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Representatives Contact Information by County

Cass County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor
120 N. Broadway, Suite 215
Cassopolis, MI 49031
269-445-4472 ext. 3295
tomg@cassco.org
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
120 N. Broadway, Suite 215
Cassopolis, MI 49031
269-445-4472 ext. 3311

Charlevoix County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
Charlevoix County Bldg
301 State Street
Charleviox, MI 49720
231-547-7220
hessj@charlevoixcounty.org

Cheboygan County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
870 S. Main St., Room 122
Cheboygan, MI 49721
231-627-8803
veterans@cheboygancounty.net

Chippewa County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
319 Court Street, 3rd Floor
Sault Ste Marie, MI 49783
906-635-6370
veteran@chippewacountymi.gov

Clare County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
P.O. Box 438
Harrison, MI 48625
989-539-3273
haleyr@clareco.net

Clinton County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
5303 S. Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48911
517-887-4395
rmarwede@ingham.org

Crawford County Contact Information
VACANT - Please call 517-284-5299

Delta County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
3300 Airport Rd., Suite 3
Escanaba, MI 49829
906-786-7228
escanabadeltacovetsoffice@gmail.com

Dickinson County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
800 Crystal Lake Blvd.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
906-774-2820
clantz@ovadickinsoncounty.com

Eaton County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund
1045 Independence Blvd.
Charlotte, MI 48813
517-543-7500 ext 3740
tlewis@eatoncounty.org

Emmet County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
3434 M-119, Suite D
Harbor Springs, MI 49740
231-348-1780
jalton@emmetcounty.org

Genesee County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
1101 Beach Street
Flint, MI 48502
810-257-3068
MKannai@co.genesee.mi.us

Gladwin County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
555 West Cedar Avenue
Gladwin, MI 48624
989-426-4891
coveterans@gladwinco.com

Gogebic County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
200 N. Moore Street
Bessemer, MI 49911
906-667-1110
veterans@gogebic.org

Grand Traverse County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
2650 LaFranier Road
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-995-6070
veterans@co.grand-traverse.mi.us

Gratiot County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
125 E. Newark
Ithaca, MI 48847
989-875-5258
veterans@co.gratiot.mi.us

Hillsdale County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
61 McCollum
Courthouse Annex, Room 200
Hillsdale, MI 49242
517-437-3630
k.benge@co.hillsdale.mi.us

Houghton County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
23810 Airpark Blvd., Suite 130
Calumet, MI 49913
906-482-0102
Houghtoncovets@charterinternet.com

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Representatives Contact Information by County

Mackinac County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent

100 N. Marley
St. Ignace, MI 49781
906-643-9411
mackcovet@lighthouse.net

Macomb County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
21885 Dunham Road, Suite 3
Clinton Twp, MI 48036
586-469-5315
laura.rios@macombgov.org

Manistee County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
415 Third Street
Manistee, MI 49660
231-398-3587
jhstringham@manisteecountymi.gov

Marquette County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor

425 Fisher St.
Marquette, MI 49855
906-226-3576 ext 318

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
425 Fisher St.
Marquette, MI 49855
906-226-3576 ext 395

Mason County Contact Information
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
916 Diana St.
Ludington, MI 49431
231-843-1966

Mecosta County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
14485 Northland Dr.
Big Rapids, MI 49307
231-592-0124

Menominee County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
839 Tenth Avenue
Menominee, MI 49858
906-863-5691
mdellisse@menomineeco.com

Midland County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
220 West Ellsworth
Midland, MI 48640-5194
989-832-6843
rahlich@co.midland.mi.us

Missaukee County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
105 S. Canal St.
P.O. Box 627
Lake City, MI 49652
231-839-4752
rmm825@centurytel.net

Monroe County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor
29 Washington St. 3rd Floor
Monroe, MI 48161
734-240-7362
Kathy_vanderbush@monroemi.org

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
29 Washington St. 3rd Floor
Monroe, MI 48161
734-240-7359

Montcalm County Contact Information
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent

209 W. Washington
Sheridan, MI 48884
989-291-9680
mc1donrule@gmail.com

Montmorency County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
12265 M-32
Atlanta, MI 49709
989-785-8043
felix@provide.net

You can also locate this information at:
http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2362_43719---,00.html

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Representatives Contact Information by County

Oceana County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
314 S. State St.
Hart, MI 49420
231-873-6836

Ogemaw County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
County Building, Room 111
205 S. Eighth Street
West Branch, MI 48661
989-345-5170
jnichols@ogemawcountymi.gov

Ontonagon County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
725 Greenland Road
Ontonagon, MI 49953
906-884-6204

Osceola County Contact Information
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
P.O. Box 456
Marion, MI 49665
231-743-6217

Oscoda County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
105 S. Court Street
Mio, MI 48647
989-826-1647

Otsego County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor
225 West Main, Room 213
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-731-7575
mhopp@otsegocountymi.gov
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
225 West Main, Room 106
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-731-7576

Ottawa County Contact Information
County Veterans Counelor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent

12251 James St.
Holland, MI 49424
616-393-8387
ottawacountydva@gmail.com

Presque Isle Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
151 E. Huron, 3rd Floor
Rogers City, MI 49779
989-734-0302
veterans@picounty.org

Roscommon County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent

500 Lake Street
Roscommon, MI 48653
989-275-6047
veterans@roscommoncounty.net

Saginaw County Contact Information
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent

111 S. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-793-9560
gingermcinnis@yahoo.com

Sanilac County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
171 Dawson Street
Sandusky, MI 48471
810-648-0212
skreger@sanilaccountyva.org

Schoolcraft County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
300 Walnut Street, Room 206
Manistique, MI 49854
906-341-3669
veterans@schoolcraftcounty.us

Shiawassee County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
201 North Shiawassee St., 3rd Floor
Corunna, MI 48817
989-743-2231
jstrein@shiawassee.net

St. Clair County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent

200 Grand River, Suite 104
Port Huron, MI 48060
810-989-6945
veteransaffairs@stclaircounty.org

St. Joseph County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
612 E. Main
Centreville, MI 49032
269-467-5557
riskor@stjosephcountymi.org

You can also locate this information at:
http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2362_43719---,00.html

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Representatives Contact Information by County

Tuscola County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
1309 Cleaver Rd.
Caro, MI 48723
989-673-8148
ramend@tchd.us

Van Buren County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
219 Paw Paw St.
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-8200

Washtenaw County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent

2155 Hogsback Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48107
734-973-4540
smithmg@ewashtenaw.org

Muskegon County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
165 E. Apple Ave., Suite 201
Muskegon, MI 49442
231-724-7143
davereling@yahoo.com

Newaygo County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
P.O. Box 243
White Cloud, MI 49349
231-689-7030
marilyn@co.newaygo.mi.us

Oakland County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor
1200 N. Telegraph Road, Bldg. 26 E
Pontiac, MI 48341
248-858-0785
wootteng@oakgov.com

1151 Crooks Road
Troy, MI 48084
248-655-1250
dugganb@oakgov.com

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent
1151 Crooks Road
Troy, MI 48084
248-655-1265

Wayne County Contact Information
County Veterans Counselor &
Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Agent

28 W Adams, Suite # 1710
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 224-5045
tschielein@waynecounty.com

Wexford County Contact Information
Vacant - please call 517-284-5299

You can also locate this information at:
http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2362_43719---,00.html

Veterans Service Organizations

American Legion
1210 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: 313-964-6640

AMVETS
1227 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: 313-964-6920

Disabled American Veterans
1200 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: 313-964-6595

Marine Corps League
1232 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: 313-964-6830

Military Order of
the Purple Heart
1226 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: 313-964-6888

Non-Commissioned Officer
Association of America
John D. Dingell VA Medical
Center
4646 John R Street
Room A-1010
Detroit, MI 48201
Phone: 313-576-3382

Paralyzed Veterans of
America
1233 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: 313-471-3996

Veterans of Foreign Wars
1215 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: 313-964-6510

Vietnam Veterans of
America
1231 McNamara Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226-2584
Phone: 313-961-9568

Note: Local veterans organizations may have a service officer who can help fill out forms or advise on benefits

PURE MICHIGAN

Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan

Michigan Veterans



The Workforce Development Agency's **Veterans' Services Division** works with employers to find and match appropriately skilled and trained veterans for employment opportunities. Veterans assist veterans in making successful transitions to civilian employment, in addition to certifying post-secondary education and training programs and facilities for veterans' educational benefits.

For Veteran Job Seekers, information is available to help you **find a job** and find **education and training** opportunities, as well as other valuable **resources**.

For Employers, find out about the great qualities and benefits that veterans can bring to your organization, as well as programs that are available for **hiring veterans**.

If you are a veteran looking for information concerning education, health, pension, survivor, and burial benefits, please visit the **Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency** for more information.

For additional information on training and employment services available to veterans, please call the State of Michigan Veterans Hotline at 1-517-284-5298 or email **veteransservices@michigan.gov**.

MICHIGAN WORKS!

Michigan Works! Service Centers also have Veterans Employment Service representatives, who provide additional employment services to veterans and disabled veterans. For more information: www.michigan.org.

Programs - State Of Michigan

Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program

Financial assistance may be available to certain Michigan veterans serving at least 180 days of active duty in a wartime period who were discharged under honorable conditions.

The program assists with an unforeseen situation that causes a temporary or short-term financial emergency or hardship that a grant will resolve. Examples of such needs include delay
in unemployment benefits or other income or unexpected hospitalizations that cause reductions in income to meet household needs.

The grants may assist with housing, utilities, car payments or insurance or medical assistive devices. Coordination is made with other agencies that may also assist with these types of needs.

For more information contact your County Veterans Affairs Office (see pages 23-28) at 517-373-3130 or visit the web site at www.michigan.gov/veterans.

Soldiers Relief Commission

In some counties, emergency relief grants are available to Michigan veterans who do not meet Michigan Veterans Trust Fund criteria.

Funds are limited, so the commission makes an effort to refer veterans who are eligible to other sources of financial assistance. Contact your county V.A. office.

Contact a **County Veterans Counselor** at **www.macvc.net** for assistance. See page 35 for phone numbers of county counselors.

You may also consult your local phonebook for county government. Usually this is handled by the office of Veteran Affairs.

The **Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors (MACVC)** may be able to assist veterans and their families in obtaining county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled. See page 35 for phone numbers of County Counselors. Visit the MACVC web site at **www.macvc.net** which contains links to the county counselors and other information.

HEALTH CARE

The State Of Michigan Operates Two Veterans Homes At The Following Locations:

Grand Rapids Home For Veterans
3000 Monroe Avenue, N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
(616) 364-5300 - 1 (800) 642-4838

D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans
425 Fisher
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 226-3576 – 1 (800) 433-6760

SECTION VI
VA and Community Resources



VHA's Partnership With

Volunteers of America

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

SSVF Program

50

Volunteers Of America Michigan Is Proud To Announce New Services In Your Area For Veterans And Veteran Families:

Supportive services for veterans families is a homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program. It compliments VA's current tools to serve homeless veterans, including the grant and per diem (GPD) transitional housing model and permanent supportive housing through the joint department of housing and urban development and VA supportive housing (HUD-VASH) program. SSVF is crucial in serving those veterans families who may only need minor, one-time assistance to prevent or end their homelessness.

- SSVF is intended to be a short-term intervention that will help veterans and/or veteran families keep, or rapidly transition to, permanent housing.
- Provide low-income families with case management services and direct supportive services, including rental assistance, utilities assistance, child care costs, moving costs, transportation expenses, emergency supplies, and security deposits
- SSVF targets families who are in transitional housing, or at risk of being homeless through eviction, or are currently homeless.

Contact Volunteers of America Michigan for more information
TOLL-FREE: 1-877-509-VETS
Volunteers of America SSVF Program
430 N. Larch St., Lansing, MI 48912
www.voami.org
www.facebook.com/voami

Requires a referral from Health Care for Homeless Veterans Program (HCHV): either the HCHV Outreach Coordinator or a HUD VASH case manager

SECTION X

FORMS



VA FORMS

52

- VA Form 21-526 - Application for Compensation or Pension- must be filed to apply for compensation or pension. Mail your DD-214 and the following forms to the VARO nearest your release destination 30 to 45 days before your release.

- VA Form 21-4138 - Statement in Support of Claim - lets you explain why you deserve the benefits you are asking for because of your disability or disorder. It is best to have an experienced service representative help you complete the form.

- VA Form 21-4142 - Authorization for Release of Information - If you have received medical or mental health care, that may be relevant to your claim, from anyone other than a VA Medical Facility, you need to fill out a VAF 21-4142 giving permission for release of medical records to the VA.

- VA Form 10-10EZ - Enrollment for Medical Benefits - is used by the VA to determine if you can receive medical benefits. Complete the form and bring it with you to the VA medical facility where you will seek evaluation for treatment.

- VA Form 28-1900 - Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans - is needed to apply for the vocational rehabilitation program to help veterans who were disabled during their service reach maximum independence in daily living, to learn the skills needed to get a job, and to find and keep a job. Send Form 28-1900 to the VARO in your area 10 to 15 days before your release.

- VA Form 70-3288 - Request for and Consent to Release of Information from Claimant's Records – is used to get records relevant to your claim from VA facilities (regional offices, medical centers, outpatient clinics, and vet centers). Request a fee waiver under section 38 C.F.R. Sec.1.526 (h), which requires the VARO to provide a veteran with one set of his or her records free of charge.

FOR MORE INFORAMTION ON HOW TO OBTAIN NEEDED FORMS: http://www.va.gov/vaforms/