



# Ohio

## Military-Friendly Guide

*A Summary of Ohio's Programs for Active-Duty Service Members,  
National Guardsmen, Reservists, Veterans, and their Families*





# MIKE DEWINE

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## GOVERNOR OF OHIO

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[www.governor.ohio.gov](http://www.governor.ohio.gov)

To Ohio's Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, Guardians, Coast Guardsmen, Veterans, and Family Members:

On behalf of Ohio, I want to thank you for your service to our nation and welcome you and your family to the Buckeye state. We are no strangers to military service and firmly believe that whatever you need, you can find it here! Ohio is home to more than 800,000 veterans and military retirees, active-duty personnel, reservists, and National Guard members. I'm proud of the new opportunities that are constantly created and developed to make Ohio the ideal place for military members, retirees, and their families to thrive.

Taking care of our service members, veterans, and their families has always been a priority for Ohio. As Governor, I want the Department of Defense to always know that Ohio will welcome and support our military and to be confident that they can place new missions in Ohio because our policies and talented workforce will ensure success. We are making Ohio the BEST state in the nation for our military and their families.

This handy Military Friendly Guide compliments a website we recently published which further highlights Ohio's strong commitment to the military and their families. You can link this from my [governor.ohio.gov/priorities](http://governor.ohio.gov/priorities) homepage.

I hope you and your family find this guide helpful and that you will take advantage of all that Ohio has to offer. We are so glad you have chosen Ohio as your next home and are appreciative of the strength and diversity you bring to our communities across the Buckeye state.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine".

Mike DeWine  
Governor

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# Employment Opportunities



## Employment Opportunities

### 1. Ohio Means Jobs

Veterans and military spouses can access free, one-on-one personal coaching for their job search at any of the 88 county OhioMeansJobs Centers. Additional intensive services are available under the Jobs for Veterans State Grant Program, with priority given to those who are economically or educationally disadvantaged, including homeless veterans and those with barriers to employment.

**Job postings, fairs, workshops, practice interview opportunities, and other resources are available online at:**  
[www.ohiomeansjobs.com](http://www.ohiomeansjobs.com)

**If you want to find a center near you, call 1.888.296.7541 or visit:**  
[www.jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wioa/map.stm](http://www.jfs.ohio.gov/owd/wioa/map.stm)

### 2. Military Spouse Economic Empowerment Zone

Established to connect military spouses with companies committed to hiring, and in partnership with the Hiring Our Heroes program, Military Spouse Economic Empowerment Zones (MSEEZ) are collaborative efforts among the local business, civic, and military communities that establish employment networks in municipalities around the country. Working with a broad array of public and private sector supporters, MSEEZ foster collaboration among local stakeholders and work to identify opportunities as well as barriers to entry for military spouses seeking meaningful employment via the Hire, Train, and Advocate pillars.

**Learn more at:**  
[www.hiringourheroes.org/employers/mseez](http://www.hiringourheroes.org/employers/mseez)



## 3.

### License Reciprocity

To facilitate the hiring of military members and their spouses for in-demand, licensed occupations, Ohio has entered into an interstate compact regarding licensing to practice physical therapy, occupational therapy, psychology, nursing, speech pathology, and specified medical professions. Requirements to practice in the state of Ohio are unique to each career path, but can include direct reciprocity, or the recognition of existing, out-of-state qualifications, and specially tailored competency evaluation programs to expedite Ohio's licensing process.

If you'd like to learn how you can practice, please visit the Professional Licensure for the State of Ohio at: [www.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/site/jobs/resources/elicense-ohio](http://www.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/site/jobs/resources/elicense-ohio)

## 4.

### Hiring Our Heroes

Since 2011, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has helped veterans, service members, and military spouses find employment by supporting job fairs across the nation.

If you'd like to find the next opportunity near you, call 202.463.5807 or visit: [www.uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes](http://www.uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes)

## 5.

### Helmets to Hardhats

Transitioning out of the military and looking for a quality career in the construction industry? Helmets to Hardhats can connect you with three-to-five-year apprenticeship opportunities at no cost.

To learn more, call 1.866.741.6210 or visit: [www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org)



## 6.

### Feds Hire Vets

Feds Hire Vets recognizes those who have served in our Armed Forces often have the experience, skills, and dedication necessary to achieve success as members of our federal civilian workforce. and is committed to harnessing veterans' military training, special skills, unique experiences, and leadership abilities for rewarding federal careers.

To access the one-stop-shop resource and learn more, call 202.606.7304 or visit: [www.fedshirevets.gov](http://www.fedshirevets.gov)

## 7. Veteran Jobs Center

This center is a digital, dedicated employment resource that is easily accessible, costs nothing, and features employers who seek former military employees. The tool is sponsored by Stars and Stripes, the only news media inside the Department of Defense that reports independently, free of censorship and control.

To search for job postings, visit:  
[www.veteranjobs.stripes.com](http://www.veteranjobs.stripes.com)

## 8. Troops to Energy Jobs

This initiative is designed to help veterans and members of the National Guard and Reserves make a successful transition to a rewarding career in the energy industry. It offers accelerated training and access to employment opportunities throughout the United States.

Visit here to learn more:  
[www.troopstoenergyjobs.com](http://www.troopstoenergyjobs.com)



## 9. USERRA

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) ensures that individuals who serve or have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard are:

- Not disadvantaged in their civilian careers because of their service,
- Promptly re-employed upon return from duty, and are
- Not discriminated against in employment based on past, present or future military service.

If you are dealing with any of these challenges, get quick support by calling **1.866.487.2365** or visiting:  
[www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/userra](http://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/userra)

## 10. Apprenticeship

Veterans may be eligible for tax-free living expenses during an apprenticeship or on-the-job training if their company's training program is approved for GI Bill funding. These programs teach high-level skills for today's workplace. With more than 600 registered apprenticeship programs in fields as diverse as construction, energy, healthcare, manufacturing, and utility, the opportunities are vast.

To learn more, visit:  
[www.apprentice.ohio.gov/veterans](http://www.apprentice.ohio.gov/veterans)





# Housing Assistance



# Housing Assistance

## 11. Ohio Heroes Program

First-time, eligible homebuyers can secure a lower interest rate on their mortgage through the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. Eligibility requirements vary, with military, active reserve, veterans, first responders, healthcare workers, and teachers with specified incomes and limited down payments frequently served.

**Further information on eligibility requirements and additional details are available at 1.888.362.6432 or by visiting:**  
[www.myohiohome.org/ohioheroes.aspx](http://www.myohiohome.org/ohioheroes.aspx)

## 12. Ohio Veterans Homes

Ohio Veterans Homes provides housing with enhanced levels of care ranging from independent living, nursing, and memory care for veterans unable to earn a living due to disease, wounds, or other conditions.

**Complete eligibility criteria and application information can be found at:**  
[www.ohioveteranshome.gov](http://www.ohioveteranshome.gov)





### 13.

#### Preventing Foreclosure

As an official program of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), MakingHomeAffordable works to prevent foreclosure on struggling veterans. Additionally, military homeowners who are displaced by a job-related move may qualify for resources to prevent the loss of their home.

**Need help? Call 1.888.955.HOPE  
(1.888.955.4673) or visit:  
[www.makinghomeaffordable.gov](http://www.makinghomeaffordable.gov)**

### 14.

#### Home Loans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) helps servicemembers, veterans, and eligible surviving spouses become homeowners. As part of its mission to serve, it provides a home loan guaranty benefit and other housing-related opportunities to help buy, build, repair, retain, or adapt homes. Loans are provided by private lenders, such as banks and mortgage companies, while the VA guarantees a portion of the loan to secure more favorable terms. The main pillars of the VA home loan benefit are no down payment, low interest rates, limited closing costs, and no need for private mortgage insurance.

**Detailed benefit, eligibility, and application information can be found by visiting:  
[www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans](http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans)**





### 15. Homestead Property Exemption

This benefit exempts veterans from \$50,000 dollars in property taxes on the assessed value of their primary residential home instead of the \$25,000 exemption allowed 65-or-older and permanently disabled beneficiaries. Veterans may also be exempt from the \$30,000 annual income eligibility limit that applies to non-veteran applicants. Eligible candidates must have a 100 percent/full disability rating and be separated or released from active duty under honorable conditions. Application must be made through the county auditor in the county where the home is located.

**A directory of county auditors is available at:**  
[www.caao.org/auditors-directory](http://www.caao.org/auditors-directory)

### 16. Preventing Homelessness

The Ohio Department of Veterans Services (ODVS) has a host of resources available for veterans struggling to find adequate housing or at risk of becoming homeless. If you need assistance, reach out to any of the following resources:

**Veteran's Affairs National Call Center**

**Call 1.877.424.3838 or visit:**

[www.visn10.va.gov/mental\\_health\\_care\\_line.asp](http://www.visn10.va.gov/mental_health_care_line.asp)

**Ohio Department of Veterans Services**

[www.dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/resources-for-veterans/more-resources/homelessness](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/resources-for-veterans/more-resources/homelessness)





# Healthcare

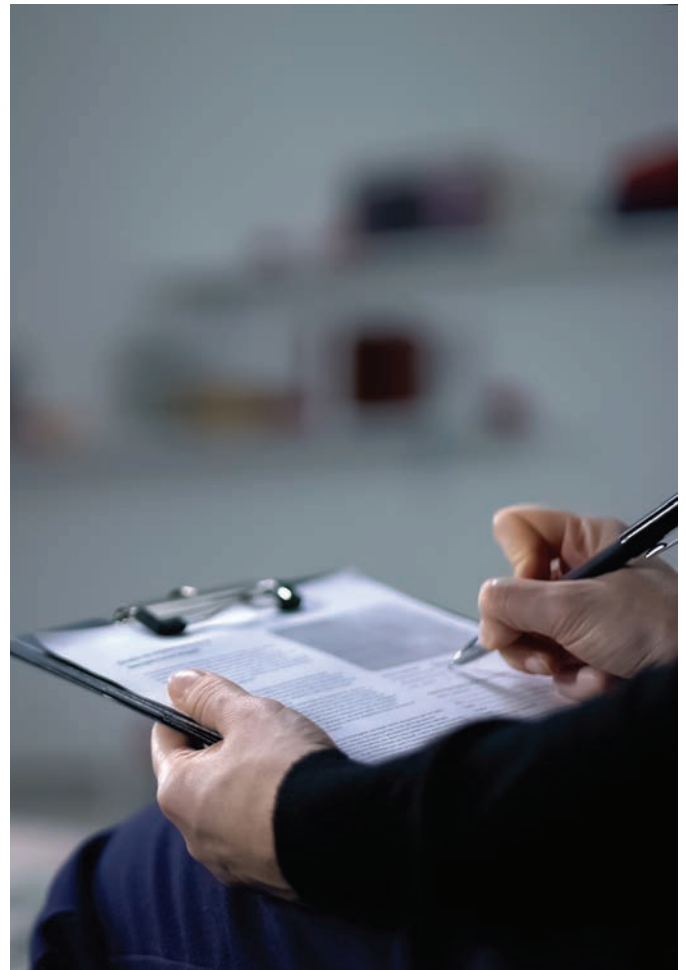
## Healthcare

### 17. Mental Health Counseling

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides mental health counseling at seven centers across Ohio. It also operates a crises hotline offering free and confidential support for veterans and their families.

If you are in a crisis, immediately call **1.800.273.8255**.

If you would like access to additional resources, treatment, and benefits call **1.877.927.8387** or visit: [www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov)



### 18. Behavioral Health

Behavioral healthcare refers to mental health and psychiatric care, marriage and family counseling, and addictions treatment, including services provided by social workers, counselors, psychiatrists, neurologists, and physicians. Star Behavioral Health Providers include health professionals who have unique military culture training and better understand military service members and their families.

Find support at : [www.starproviders.org](http://www.starproviders.org)

### 19.

#### Make The Connection

MakeTheConnection.net features 400 veterans and family members from across the country sharing their stories of strength and recovery. Find life experiences you can relate to and explore information about the signs, symptoms, and conditions that are related to mental health problems and well-being. When it's time to reach out, this program can help you find resources, programs, and facilities in your area, no matter where you are.

**To learn more, visit:**

[www.MakeTheConnection.net](http://www.MakeTheConnection.net)

### 20.

#### The Patriot Project

Back pain? This network of Ohio-based chiropractors assists eligible disabled veterans and active duty military personnel by offering free chiropractic care.

**To get connected, call 330.495.8333 or visit:**

[www.patriot-project.org](http://www.patriot-project.org)

### 21.

#### CHAMPVA

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) is a comprehensive health care program in which the VA shares the cost of covered health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. If you are currently a TRICARE beneficiary, you are not eligible for CHAMPVA.

**To find out more, call 1.800.733.8387 or visit:**

[www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/dependents/champva/index.asp](http://www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/dependents/champva/index.asp)







## 22. OHIOcares

OHIOcares strives to connect military personnel, veterans, and their families to important behavioral health services, including those services available through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Vet Centers.

**National Guard members can call the non-emergency resource information line at 1.800.761.0868 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Anyone seeking emotional support can also call the free, confidential Ohio CareLine at 1.800.720.9616, 24 hours a day to be connected with a licensed clinician.**

**If you'd like to learn more about available services, visit: <https://www.ohiocares.ohio.gov>**



# Tax & Financial Benefits

Complete spaces below (see instructions).

Foreign postal code

**4**  Head of household (with qualifying person).  
the qualifying person is a child but not your child's name here. ▶

**5**  Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child. Do not check box 6a.

**Presidential Election**  
Check here if you, or your spouse, or your joint return, want \$3 to go to a box below will not get a refund.

**Standard Deduction for—**

- People who can be claimed as a dependent, see instructions.
- All others:
  - Single or Married filing separately, \$6,300
  - Married filing jointly or Qualifying widow(er), \$12,600
  - Head of household, \$9,300

**Form 1040** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service  
**U.S. Individual Income Tax Return**

For the year Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2016, or other tax year beginning

Your first name and initial

If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial

Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions

City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, also check box 10

Foreign country name

**Filing Status**

Check only one box.

- Single
- Married filing jointly (even if you have a separate return for each of you)
- Married filing separately. Enter your full name here. ▶
- Yourself. If someone can claim you as a dependent, see instructions.
- Spouse

**Exemptions**

If more than four dependents, see instructions and check here ▶

(1) Dependents:  
Last name

(2) Dependent's social security number

# Tax & Financial Benefits

## 23.

### Ohio Veterans Bonus

Ohio thanks veterans on the Global War on Terror through this program. Ohio Veterans Bonus offers a one-time payment for military service since October 7, 2001. Once a veteran has received either a \$500 bonus for service anywhere in the world, \$1,000 for service in a designated country, or the maximum \$1,500, the recipient is not eligible for additional funds, even if they served in multiple conflicts.

**If you have questions, call 1.877.OHIOVET (1.877.644.6838) and select option 2. Online applications can be submitted here:**

[www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov](http://www.veteransbonus.ohio.gov)

## 24.

### State Tax Exemptions

Military retirement pay and survivor benefit plan (SBP) benefits are exempt from Ohio income tax and local school district income taxes. Surviving spouse benefit plans are also exempt. Additionally, for the purposes of reported state income taxes, service members may deduct military pay from their federal adjusted gross income received for active duty when stationed outside the state of Ohio for more than 30 days. Finally, disability severance payments are exempt from income taxes for honorably discharged veterans.

**If you have any questions about eligibility, please contact the Ohio Department of Taxation by calling 1.800.282.1780 or visiting:**

[www.tax.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/tax/help-center/faqs/military/military](http://www.tax.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/tax/help-center/faqs/military/military)

## 25.

### Injury Relief Fund

Veterans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces after October 7, 2001, and have either been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress or been awarded a Purple Heart, you may be eligible for a one-time, tax-exempt payment. Other eligibility requirements apply.

**To learn more about this benefit, please call 1.877.644.6838 (Option 3), or visit :**

[www.dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/veteran-benefits/benefits-resources/military-injury-relief-fund](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/veteran-benefits/benefits-resources/military-injury-relief-fund)

## 26.

### Military Consumer

Be prepared for whatever comes your way! Whether going to your first duty station, undergoing a permanent change of station (PCS) or deployment, receiving a promotion, starting a family, or transitioning to civilian life, Military Consumer has the tools to help service members succeed. Gain financial readiness by learning how to plan, spend, earn, borrow, save, and invest.

**There is help each step of the way. Visit:**

[www.militaryconsumer.gov](http://www.militaryconsumer.gov)





### 27.

#### Operation Homefront

This program provides emergency financial aid and other assistance, including emergency food, repairs, critical baby items, furniture, and local moving assistance to families of service members and wounded warriors. Assistance is paid directly to creditors and service providers.

Call **1.800.722.6098** for more information or visit: [www.operationhomefront.org](http://www.operationhomefront.org)

### 28.

#### Operation First Response

Operation First Response supports our nation's wounded heroes/disabled veterans from all branches of the service and their families with personal and financial needs. Services are provided from the onset of injuries or illness, throughout recovery, and along the journey from military life to the civilian world. Financial aid varies, as each case is based on individual needs. Support may be provided for rent, utilities, vehicle payments, groceries, clothing, and travel expenses.

To find out how we can help, call us at **1.888.289.0280** or visit: [www.operationfirstresponse.org](http://www.operationfirstresponse.org)

### 29.

#### USA Cares

USA Cares provides post-9/11 military veterans, service members, and their families with financial assistance and post-service skills training to create a foundation for long-term stability. Programs include financial assistance for essential bills when need results from a service-related incident, as well as career transition support, housing services, and financial education and empowerment.

Connect with USA Cares at **1.800.773.0387** or visit: [www.usacares.org](http://www.usacares.org)



### 30.

#### Fisher House

The Fisher House Foundation builds comfort homes where military and veteran families can stay, free of charge, while a loved one is in the hospital. These homes are located at military and VA medical centers around the world. It also operates Hero Miles program using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members.

Join the more than **400,000** families served by calling **1.888.294.8560** or visiting: [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org)

### 31.

#### American Red Cross

The American Red Cross works in partnership with military aid societies to provide quality, reliable financial assistance to eligible applicants. Assistance can include funds for emergency travel, burial of a loved one, emergency food and shelter, and more.

If you are active duty, activated Guard/ Reserve, a military retiree (or spouse/widow), or an immediate family member of a service member, call our Hero Care Center 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at 1.877.272.7337, or visit: [www.redcross.org/find-help/military-families/financial-assistance](http://www.redcross.org/find-help/military-families/financial-assistance)

### 32.

#### Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund

We serve military personnel experiencing the invisible wounds of war: traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress (PTS). When our servicemen and women return from the battlefield, we help them fight the war within by building world-class, advanced treatment centers providing the best TBI and PTS care, enabling these heroes to continue serving on active duty and enjoying a full and productive life.

Learn about Intrepid Spirit Centers at 1.800.340-HERO (1.800.340.4376) or visit: [www.fallenheroesfund.org](http://www.fallenheroesfund.org)



### 33.

#### Injury/Disability Compensation

Veterans separated or discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and who are disabled by service-connected injuries or disease may be eligible to receive monthly monetary benefits that are exempt from federal or state income tax. Amounts paid may be affected by other military retirement, severance, or separation incentive pays.

Find out more by calling 1.800.827.1000 or visiting: [www.va.gov/disability](http://www.va.gov/disability)

### 34.

#### Disability Pension

Low income, permanently disabled veterans aged 65 or older may be eligible for additional monetary benefits. Payments are made to bring a veteran's total income, including other retirement or Social Security benefits, to a level set by Congress.

To learn if you qualify, please call 1.877.OHIO.VET (1.877.644.6838) or visit: [www.dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/veteran-benefits/benefits-resources/pension](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/veteran-benefits/benefits-resources/pension)



# Small Business Support



# Small Business Support

## 35. Small Business Administration

Devoted exclusively to promoting veteran entrepreneurship, the Office of Veterans Business Development facilitates the use of all U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) programs by service members, veterans, and their dependents. These programs can provide access to capital and preparation for small business opportunities. They can also connect veteran small business owners with federal procurement and commercial supply chains.

Find out how we can help start or grow your business at: [www.sba.gov/business-guide/grow-your-business/veteran-owned-businesses](http://www.sba.gov/business-guide/grow-your-business/veteran-owned-businesses)

## 36. Procurement

Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (PTACs) help Ohio's businesses sell goods and services to local, state, and federal governments. In addition to services like marketing, one-on-one training and help with resources, the Ohio PTACs offer bid-matching services, product and procurement histories, military specifications and trade events where Ohio firms can meet government buyers. There is no cost to Ohio businesses.

Call 614.644.1637 to learn more or visit: [www.development.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/development/business/small-business-and-entrepreneurship/procurement-technical-assistance-centers](http://www.development.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/development/business/small-business-and-entrepreneurship/procurement-technical-assistance-centers)

## 37. BunkerLabs

BunkerLabs connects military veterans and military spouses locally and nationally to ask questions, share ideas, and celebrate milestones. Programs are designed to meet a range of needs, whether ideas for a business are just emerging or already bringing in revenue. Take courses to sharpen your business and entrepreneurship acumen, from defining a target market to diversifying income.

BunkerLabs can assist with your journey: [www.bunkerlabs.org](http://www.bunkerlabs.org)

## 38. Small Business Development Centers

These centers provide business counseling and assistance to individuals who are either starting or growing their business. Each center is staffed with highly trained, Certified Business Advisors® (CBA) to help small businesses and entrepreneurs with development and growth to increase sales and create jobs in their local communities.

Services include:

- Business assessment evaluation
- Cash flow analysis
- Financial projections development
- Strategic business planning
- One-on-one business counseling
- Capital sourcing
- Workshops and training programs
- Marketing strategy development
- Market feasibility and research
- Export Assistance

For assistance, call 614.466.2711, e-mail [sbdcreports@development.ohio.gov](mailto:sbdcreports@development.ohio.gov), or visit: [www.clients.ohiosbdc.ohio.gov](http://www.clients.ohiosbdc.ohio.gov)





# Legal Services



# Legal Services

## 39.

### Patriot Program

The Ohio Attorney General's Office is proud to offer protective services for active military members, veterans, and their families. These services include consumer protection for those who may have fallen victim to scams or identify theft, payment plan support for those who owe monies to state agencies, and civil rights protections for those who feel they have suffered discrimination in employment, housing, or public accommodations based on military status.

**If you have questions about any of the services that the Patriot Program provides, call 1.800.282.0515 or visit:**

[www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Military-and-Veterans/Patriot-Program](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Individuals-and-Families/Military-and-Veterans/Patriot-Program)

## 40.

### Ohio Legal Help

Ohio Legal Help seeks to improve justice and fairness for all Ohioans by removing barriers so they can understand their legal options, make informed decisions, and connect to local legal and community resources. Whether related to family, housing, finances, health, education, wills, or military-specific challenges, the program can help.

**To learn more, call 614.285-6710 or visit:**  
[www.ohiolegalhelp.org](http://www.ohiolegalhelp.org)

## 41.

### Veterans' Courts

The Supreme Court of Ohio supports the implementation of veterans' courts through the certification of veterans' treatment specialized dockets. The emphasis in these courts is on treatment and diversion rather than punishment.

**If you are facing a legal proceeding and are interested in learning more about this program, please visit:** [www.dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/resources-for-veterans/more-resources/veterans-courts](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/resources-for-veterans/more-resources/veterans-courts)

## 42.

### National Veterans' Legal Services

The Lawyers Serving Warriors® (LSW) program offers pro bono legal help with disability issues to veterans from all eras. Support services include assistance with discharge upgrades, applications for combat related special compensation, submissions to the Boards for Correction of Military Records for veterans who were wrongfully discharged, VA medical claims for support with mental and physical health conditions, and more.

**If you're in need, reach out by calling 202.265.8305 or visit:** [www.nvlsp.org/what-we-do/lawyers-serving-warriors](http://www.nvlsp.org/what-we-do/lawyers-serving-warriors)

# Permits, Registrations & Fees



# Permits, Registrations & Fees

## 43.

### Veteran IDs

Most county recorder offices in Ohio can issue veterans a state ID card in addition to the standard DD-214 designation. Not all county recorders are able to issue a veteran ID. However, you can still request an ID through another county or your local County Veterans Service Office.

**To learn about the several types of ID cards available to veterans and how to apply for them, you can also visit:**

[www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards](http://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards)

## 44.

### Fishing & Hunting Licenses

Certain eligible resident disabled veterans and former prisoners of war can receive a fishing or hunting license; fur taker, deer, or wild turkey permit; wetlands habitat stamps; or any combination thereof free of charge.

**To apply, either call**

**1.800.WILDLIFE (1.800.945.3543) or visit:**

[www.ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/hunting-resources/hunting-licenses-permits](http://www.ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/hunting-resources/hunting-licenses-permits)







### 45. Driver's License & Plates

100 percent service-connected disabled veterans are eligible for a free driver's license and vehicle plates, including a choice of over 40 different military license plate styles. Additionally, all Ohio veterans can receive a free Armed Forces stamp on their driver's license. A valid DD-214 must be presented to support all applications.

**To learn more about these benefits, setup an appointment to renew your driver's license, or apply for special plates, contact the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles by calling 1.844.OHIOBMV (1.844.644.6268) or visiting: [www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-geninfo.aspx](http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/vr-sp-geninfo.aspx)**

### 46. Watercraft Registration

Registrations are required for every recreational boat in Ohio, including powerboats, sailboats, canoes, kayaks, pedal boats, and inflatable boats. Boat registrations are good for three years and expire on March 1 of each year. 100 percent service-related disabled veterans, former prisoners of war, Medal of Honor recipients, and Veterans Car Assistance Program participants are all eligible for free registration.

**To apply, please visit the following link: [www.ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/rules-and-regulations/rules-and-regulations-by-division/state-parks-and-watercraft/boating-rules/01-register-ohio-boat](http://www.ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/rules-and-regulations/rules-and-regulations-by-division/state-parks-and-watercraft/boating-rules/01-register-ohio-boat)**



### 47.

#### State Park Discounts

Free camping is available to 100 percent service-related disabled veterans and former prisoners of war. Additionally, a 10% discount is available for camping, getaway rentals, cottages, and lodge rooms for active-duty military and veterans.

**Camping discounts are only available by calling the call center at 1.866.644.6727 or reserving online and selecting Military Discount. Other restrictions apply. Visit the following link to find out more: [www.ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-odnr/division-parks-watercraft/stay-overnight/state-parks-camping-discounts](http://www.ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-odnr/division-parks-watercraft/stay-overnight/state-parks-camping-discounts)**







# Education Benefits

# Education Benefits

## 48.

### Ohio GI Promise

This program strives to make Ohio the most veteran-friendly state in the country for higher education and to encourage veterans from across America to bring their families, leadership skills, motivation, and maturity to Ohio's colleges and universities. To that end, the State of Ohio has established criteria that allow qualified veterans and their dependents from anywhere in the country to skip the 12-month residency requirement and attend Ohio's public colleges and universities at in-state tuition rates.

**Have questions? Call 614.466.6000, or learn about program details and qualifications criteria and answer frequently asked questions here:**  
[www.ohiohighered.org/node/258](http://www.ohiohighered.org/node/258)

## 49.

### In-state Tuition

Ohio honors the service of our military men and women by allowing any active duty military member and their dependents to be eligible for in-state college tuition at Ohio's public colleges and universities. Students qualify as long as they are living in Ohio on the first day of the term of enrollment.

**Ohio was the first state in the nation to offer in-state tuition for transitioning service members and their dependents.**

## 50.

### PCS Enrollments

Ohio recognizes the challenges military families face, particularly in the midst of frequent transitions. A permanent change of station (PCS) every 2-5 years presents unique stressors for children adapting to a new school environment, and access to quality education is a top priority for parents everywhere. To make transitions easier, Ohio requires that all education agencies allow children of military families to participate in technology-based educational opportunities when those students' families receive PCS orders relocating them to or within the state.

**Other provisions of this benefit can be found at:** [www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-244](http://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-244)

## 51.

### GI Bill

As the federal government's primary educational program for veterans, the Post-9/11 and Montgomery GI Bills can help eligible candidates pay for education and training programs. Supported opportunities include traditional degree-granting programs, on-the-job training, non-college degrees, flight training, and apprenticeships. Even remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

**Call the VA at 1.888.GIBILL.1 (1.888.442.4551), or visit online to see what support you qualify for:** [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill)





### 52. **Transfer to Degree Guarantee**

For those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard, military experience may translate into college credit. Military Transfer Assurance Guides (MTAGs) provide a statewide guarantee that certain types of training, experience, and/or coursework will align with existing college and university courses and be awarded appropriate credit.

To learn more about MTAGs, you can visit: [www.ohiohighered.org/transfer/military](http://www.ohiohighered.org/transfer/military)

The complete list of MTAGs can be found here: [www.transfercredit.ohio.gov](http://www.transfercredit.ohio.gov)

### 53. **War Orphans Scholarship**

The Ohio War Orphan & Severely Disabled Veterans' Children Scholarship Program awards full-time, undergraduate tuition assistance to the children of deceased or 60-percent disabled Ohio veterans who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict. The application deadline is May 15 of every year.

Additional program information, eligibility requirements, and application guidelines can be found online at: [www.ohiohighered.org/ohio-war-orphans](http://www.ohiohighered.org/ohio-war-orphans)

### 54. **Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission**

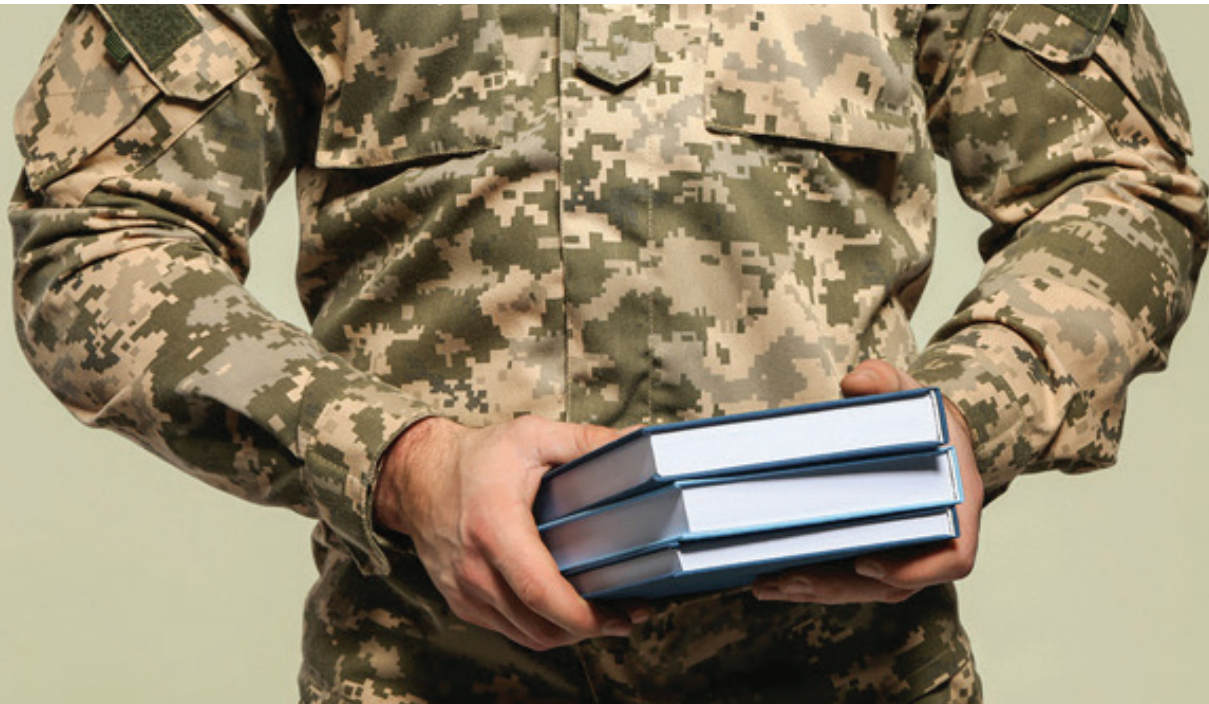
As a member of this national organization, Ohio ensures the fair and equal treatment of military children and the children of recent military retirees and service members who died on active duty. The compact provides support for children transferring between school districts and states, ensuring that their records, course placement, extracurricular participation, and graduation needs are accommodated.

To learn more about the resources available to you, call the Ohio Department of Education at 1.877.644.6338 or visit: [www.education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Ohio-Network-for-Military-Families-and-Veterans](http://www.education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Ohio-Network-for-Military-Families-and-Veterans)

### 55. **Safety Officers College Memorial Fund**

This program provides undergraduate or certificate tuition assistance to the children and spouses of a member of the armed services who has been killed in the line of duty during Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, or a combat zone designated by the President of the United States. Recipients must be enrolled in an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, or certificate program.

Learn how to apply at: [www.ohiohighered.org/safety-officers-college-fund](http://www.ohiohighered.org/safety-officers-college-fund)



### 56. National Guard Scholarship

This scholarship covers all tuition costs of Army and Air Guard members attending a two- or four-year college or university. Eligibility criteria depend on enlistment period and/or prior service, with benefits for up to 12, full-time quarters or eight, full-time semesters.

Program details are available at **1.888.400.6484** and online here: [www.ong.ohio.gov/information/education/scholarship\\_index.html](http://www.ong.ohio.gov/information/education/scholarship_index.html)

### 57. Purple Star Award

The Purple Star Award recognizes K-12 schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. Ohio also recognizes institutions of higher education through its Collegiate Purple Star Program. Schools must have a designated points-of-contact for military families and maintain dedicated pages on their websites featuring resources for military students and parents. Some optional, but encouraged, activities include providing professional development for staff regarding special considerations for military students and creating emotional development programs with the military child in mind.

Ohio is the first Purple Star State.

You can learn more about the Purple Star Award by emailing [PurpleStar@education.ohio.gov](mailto:PurpleStar@education.ohio.gov). To find out more about the Collegiate Purple Star Program, visit: [www.ohiohighered.org/purple-star](http://www.ohiohighered.org/purple-star)





# Access to Additional Benefits

# Access to Additional Benefits

## 58.

### Women Veterans

The State celebrates and honors women veterans' service to our country on Ohio's Woman Veterans Day, June 12th, which was first celebrated in 2020.

**Stay connected and learn about resources unique to women veterans through Ohio's Department of Veteran Services:**

[www.dvs.ohio.gov/resources-for-veterans/women-veterans](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov/resources-for-veterans/women-veterans)

## 59.

### Ohio Veterans' Hall of Fame

The Ohio Veterans' Hall of Fame recognizes the post-military efforts of outstanding Ohioans who contribute to their communities. The Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame Committee, comprised entirely of veterans, selects no more than 20 inductees annually from nominations submitted throughout the year. Nominations are accepted all year, but to be considered for the November Induction Ceremony, packets must be received by June 1 of each year.

**To nominate a veteran for distinguished service to their community, submit the forms here:** [www.dvs.ohio.gov/halloffame](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov/halloffame)

## 60.

### Disabled American Veterans

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) provides assistance to disabled veterans and their families and helps them obtain benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Additionally, membership in DAV includes access to a wide range of money-saving advantages. These generous partners stand by our veterans through a variety of programs, products and services.

**If you want to get connected, call 614.221.3582 or visit:** [www.ohiodav.org](http://www.ohiodav.org)

## 61.

### American Legion of Ohio

Chartered and incorporated in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization devoted to mutual helpfulness, the American Legion of Ohio is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization. It's committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome programs in communities, advocating for patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and fostering continued devotion to our fellow service-members and veterans.

**Learn more about membership, programs, events, activities, and scholarships at:** [www.ohiolegion.com](http://www.ohiolegion.com)





## 62.

### Veterans of Foreign Wars

Ohio's VFW program foundations are fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and education. It aims to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members, perpetuate the memory and history of our fallen heroes, and assist their widows and orphans. They offer research, advice, and support for veterans filing VA claims for miscellaneous benefits or appeals for denied claims.

Learn more about what it means to be a member by calling 614.224.1838, or visit VFW's website to join: [www.vfwoh.org](http://www.vfwoh.org)

## 63.

### American Veterans

With more than 250,000 members nationwide, American Veterans (AMVETS) is an inclusive, Congressionally chartered service organization representing the interests of 20 million veterans and their families. They are veterans serving veterans since 1944, striving to enhance the quality of life for all veterans, families, and survivors. The program is open to those who have served and are serving.

If looking for assistance with employment, scholarships, reintegration, healthcare, or VA claims call 614.431.6990 or visit: [www.amvets.org](http://www.amvets.org)

## 64.

### Minutes that Matter

"Cell Phones for Soldiers" is committed to connecting veterans, military personal, and military family members with cell phones, as well as domestic and international minutes to connect. The program has provided more than 400 million minutes of free talk time to service members, domestically and internationally. Support veterans by donating your phones or by becoming a monetary donor. If your phone is not serviceable, we've also recycled over 30 million devices for responsible pollution prevention and waste reduction efforts.

Help connect our heroes at 678.580.1976 or visit: [www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com](http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com)

## 65.

### Military Ready to Vote

Ohio residents stationed out-of-state or overseas can vote through the Ohio Secretary of State's a Military Ready-to-Vote (MRV) program designed to make it easier for military members to register to vote, receive polling updates, request an absentee ballot, track ballots, and get election results.

Find out how to make sure your voice is heard and get a program packet by calling 1.877.SOS.OHIO (1.877.767.6446) or visiting: [www.militaryvotes.ohio.gov](http://www.militaryvotes.ohio.gov)

### 66.

#### National Resource Directory

Offering a powerful search engine for the entire spectrum of military, veteran, and family resources, the National Resource Directory (NRD) can connect past and present military members and their families with federal, state, local government agencies, non-profit and community-based organizations, as well as academic institutions and professional associations. NRD harnesses unprecedented partnerships with the Departments of Defense, Labor, and Veterans Affairs to provide the ideal resources for recovery, education, training, employment, housing, health, transportation, and more.

For more information, visit: [www.nrd.gov](http://www.nrd.gov)

### 67.

#### Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is committed to serving communities; supporting the next generation of America's war veterans; seeking the fullest possible accounting of our POW/MIAs; creating a positive public perception of Vietnam veterans; and securing full access to quality healthcare for all veterans. VVA offers services, outreach, and advocacy for a host of programs, including claims assistance, aid for PTSD and substance abuse, homelessness, and government affairs.

Learn how you can help, or how VVA can help you, by calling 301.585.4000 or visiting: [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org)



### 68.

#### Burial and Memorial

Veterans of active federal military service, as well as their spouses and dependent minor children, are eligible for a no cost burial at a national cemetery. Burial includes a gravesite, grave liner, grave opening/closing, headstone or marker, burial flag folding ceremony with presentation of "Taps," Presidential Memorial Certificates (on request), and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. If burial in a private cemetery is preferred, the VA can provide a headstone.

Call 1.800.698.2411 to learn more or visit the National Cemetery Administration's website at: [www.cem.va.gov/burial\\_benefits](http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits)

### 69.

#### Military Records and Awards

The National Personnel Records Center can provide veterans various official documents from their military service, including DD 214s, personnel files, replacement medals/decorations, and medical/health records.

If you have questions about these or any other documents you may need, call 314.801.0800. To submit a record's request, visit: [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records)



# Additional Resources

## State-Funded Organizations



American Ex-Prisoners of War  
[www.axpow.org](http://www.axpow.org)



Marine Corps League  
[www.marinecorpsleagueohio.org](http://www.marinecorpsleagueohio.org)



37th Division Veterans' Association  
[www.37thdva.org](http://www.37thdva.org)



Save a Warrior  
[www.saveawarrior.org](http://www.saveawarrior.org)

## Other Veteran Resources

Ohio Department of Veteran Services  
[www.dvs.ohio.gov](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov)

Vet Centers ▪ 1.877.WAR.VETS (1.877.927.8387)  
[www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov)

Veterans Service Offices ▪ 1.877.OHIO.VET (1.877.644.6838)  
[www.dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/resources-for-veterans/find-a-cvso](http://www.dvs.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dvs/resources-for-veterans/find-a-cvso)

Veterans Crisis Line ▪ 1.800.273.8255; Press 1 ▪ Text 838255  
[www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

Blue Star Families  
[www.bluestarfam.org](http://www.bluestarfam.org)

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