



WDVA

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

*FAST
FACTS
2018*

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Wisconsin has earned a distinguished reputation nationally for instituting programs and services that meet the needs of our residents who served in the U.S. armed forces and their families.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) excels in providing modern tools to our nation's heroes so that veterans are able to reintegrate into civilian society with housing, education, health care and meaningful jobs.

We are proud to work on behalf of Wisconsin's Veterans community — veterans, their families and their survivors — in recognition of their service and sacrifice to our state and nation.

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WDVA Locations/Number of Employees

Wisconsin Veterans Homes /1142

- Wisconsin Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls
- Wisconsin Veterans Home at King
- Wisconsin Veterans Home at Union Grove

WDVA Central Office /62

Veterans Memorial Cemeteries and Military Funeral Honors /24

Milwaukee Claims Office /12

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Veteran Outreach and Recovery Program /16

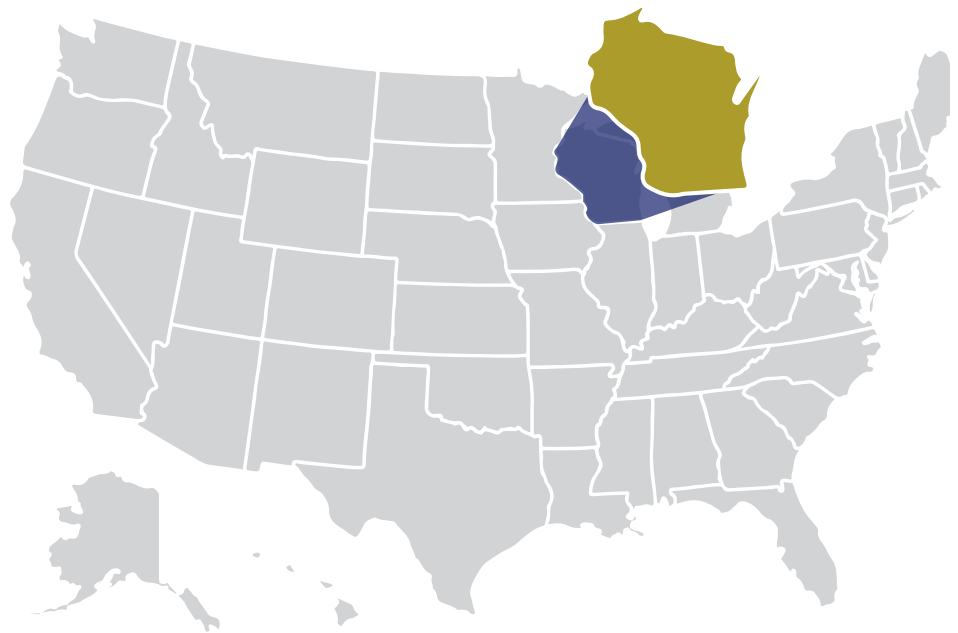


WISCONSIN LEADS IN VETERANS BENEFITS

WISCONSIN 354,266 VETERANS

What We Offer:

- ✓ Free Higher Education for Veterans
- ✓ Tuition Assistance for Families
- ✓ Fee-free Professional Licenses
- ✓ Personal Financial Grants Assistance
- ✓ Free or Reduced State Park Passes for Veterans
- ✓ Free or Reduced Recreational Licenses
- ✓ Veterans Museum
- ✓ County Veterans Service Officers
- ✓ Veterans Housing
- ✓ 6 Skilled Nursing Facilities
- ✓ 1 Assisted Living Facility
- ✓ And more!



Did You Know?

...the **WDVA Claims Office** helps Wisconsin Veterans navigate the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs system so they may obtain federal benefits and services such as disability compensation, pension and health care? Each year, WDVA claims representatives represent about **20,000 claims** and bring about **\$400 million in economic benefit** to the state.

...our **Veterans Benefits Resource Center** helps Veterans and family members with any questions or concerns they may have with regard to Veterans programs, benefits, or services? In FY 2017, our staff fielded **41,076 calls, emails, and online chats**.

...the WDVA operates **Veterans cemeteries** at King, Spooner, and Union Grove? The Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery is **the country's 5th busiest** state Veterans cemetery.

...the WDVA can help coordinate **funeral honors** for a loved one so that we may pay our final respects to our nation's heroes before they are laid to rest? We coordinate honors for about **7,200 funerals each year**.

CARING FOR WISCONSIN'S HEROES

We believe that caring for our Veterans and their families is an honor, and we work hard to provide them an enjoyable place to live with the top-notch care they deserve. The WDVA provides nearly 1,000 Veterans and family members the five-star care they deserve at one of the six skilled nursing homes we operate at Chippewa Falls, King, and Union Grove. Our Wisconsin Veterans Homes are proud to have earned a distinguished reputation nationally, with excellent safety records and the highest quality of care ratings.

Services Provided:

- Dental Appointments
- Doctor Visits
- Laboratory Test Visits
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Medical Transportation
- Mental Health
- Occupational Therapy
- Optometry
- Outpatient Services
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Podiatry
- Respiratory Therapy
- Skilled Nursing Care
- Social Services
- Special Care Units
- Speech Therapy
- X-Ray
- Barber/Beautician
- Coffee Shop
- Commissary
- Daily Activities
- Dietary
- Gift Shop
- Housekeeping
- Laundry
- Library with Computers
- Member Council
- Ministerial
- Museum
- Security/Fire Protection
- And much more!



Each of our Homes hosts dozens of special activities each week.



Members take more than 400 special activity bus trips a year.

5-STAR CARE IN A 5-STAR SETTING

The Wisconsin Veterans Homes provide 5-star medical care to our members, the highest rating possible as determined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Skilled nursing facilities with 5-star ratings are considered to provide excellent care. We are also proud of our beautiful campuses – from our scenic campus right on Rainbow Lake, to our cozy countryside home just minutes from downtown Milwaukee, to our Northwoods facility in Chippewa Falls.



Members at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King take more than 160 boat trips on Rainbow Lake each year.



Members enjoy having the historic Commandant's House on King's 130-year-old campus.



Veterans and their guests, about 100 partygoers in total, danced the night away at the black-tie Veterans Ball at the Veterans Home at Chippewa Falls.

Transforming King: Proudly Investing \$104 Million in King's Future



Over the next few years, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs will be making a historic investment - over \$104 million- at our Wisconsin Veterans Home at King.

The centerpiece of this investment will be a new, 192-bed skilled nursing facility, John R. Moses Hall. This state-of-the-art facility will be an exciting addition to our campus. It will not only have wonderful amenities that will provide a home-like setting, but it will also boast the most modern technology and nursing tools available. Construction is expected to be completed by 2021.

DELIVERING HISTORY TO RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE



Traveling Exhibits

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Traveling Exhibit program brings our state's great military history practically to your doorstep. In the past year, more than 156,000 people at 30 different venues around the state – from Balsam Lake to Brodhead – visited our exhibits to learn more about topics ranging from military mascots to the Vietnam War.



James Megellas Gallery

The James Megellas Gallery at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum at King, located at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, provides Home members and the surrounding public with an opportunity to learn about and remember the sacrifices of our Wisconsin Veterans. This completely redeveloped space incorporates oral history recordings within individual exhibits to provide an authentic experience for all of our visitors. Supported by original artifacts, this exhibit features stories from Veterans who served in every major conflict since the Civil War.

EVERY VETERAN IS A STORY

Our Wisconsin Veterans Museum consists of exhibits, living histories, informational programs, speakers, and much more, educating the public with the unique stories and history of Wisconsin's Veterans. A Smithsonian affiliate, the Museum is a unique treasure that welcomes about 100,000 visitors per year.

This year, we were excited to celebrate the grand opening of the new State Archive Preservation Facility (SAPF), a \$47 Million, 190,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility designed to preserve the historical and archival collections of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum and Wisconsin Historical Society.

Wisconsin Veterans Museum by the Numbers

100,000

Visitors each year

.....

27,000

Artifacts in the collection

.....

774

Objects on exhibit

.....

300+

School groups visit each year

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum had a record number of school groups visit during the '17-'18 school year.

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The Museum has 180 Regimental and National Civil War Battle Flags in its collection.



SUPPORTING VETERANS IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

We are committed to helping Veterans and their families experiencing homelessness or other mental health or substance abuse issues get the help they need to live successfully.

Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program staff located throughout Wisconsin connect Veterans to community services and provide case management and support, with a special focus on treatment and recovery. Working with our community partners, as well as mental health and substance abuse professionals, we assist and support Veterans with all aspects of daily living – from treatment to transportation. Since the program’s inception in 2014, we have helped about 500 veterans obtain mental health services, substance and alcohol treatment, and other supportive services.

The Veterans Housing and Recovery Program houses over 100 Veterans, assisting with job training, education, counseling and other services that help Veterans develop the tools they need to be successful in a home of their own.



Contact, Comradship, Community, Collaboration

We understand that Veterans are best supported close to home. We are proud of the many partners we have in this state who supplement the benefits and services we provide with wrap-around support and complement our efforts by covering gaps.

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Tribal Veterans Service Offices

27

Statewide Veterans Service Organizations

72

County Veterans Service Officers

100+

Non-Profit Organizations

200

Institutions of Higher Education



