

Health Care Aid Grant – Assistance up to the lifetime maximum of \$7,500 may be provided to qualified eligible applicants for dental care, vision care and hearing care. Approved applicants receive a Description of Benefits (DOB) that lists approved care and the dates of coverage. The applicant gives the DOB to the health care provider that he or she chooses. The health care provider bills WDVA and we pay the provider directly.

Professional/Occupational Licensure

www.WisVets.com/Ben-POLicensure.asp

Professional/Occupational Licensure Fee Waiver Program – Allows for **one initial** license fee waiver per **qualified veteran**. The waiver is **not allowed for renewals**; it is for **one initial license only**.

Wisconsin Act 209, signed into law on April 4, 2012 and effective July 1, 2012, created a program which requires that the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) establish and maintain a program under which 13 State Agencies will grant fee waivers to qualified veterans when issuing **initial licenses**. Under the Veterans Professional/Occupational Licensure Fee Waiver Program, there will be only **one initial** license fee waiver allowed per applicant.

Professional/Occupational Licensure Military Training Equivalency – Relates to applying a service member's military training towards satisfying the training for various professional licenses.

2011 Wisconsin Act 120 addresses applying a service member's military training toward satisfying the training requirements for various professional or occupational licenses. The applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the credentialing agency or board that oversees a particular license that the instruction obtained by the applicant is substantially equivalent to the instruction required for the initial credential.

Professional/Occupational Licensure Reciprocity – Allows for reciprocal credentials for the **spouses of service members** whose duty stations (while on active duty) are assigned to Wisconsin.

2011 Wisconsin Act 210, Section 10, allows for reciprocal credentials for the spouses of service members whose **duty stations (while on active duty) are assigned to Wisconsin**. A reciprocal credential granted under this law expires 180 days after the date the licensing agency or credentialing board issues the reciprocal credential unless, upon application by the holder of the reciprocal credential, the licensing agency or credentialing board extends the reciprocal credential.

Professional/Occupational Licensure Renewal – Relates to professional or occupational licensure renewal requirements for **active duty service members and their spouses**.

2011 Wisconsin Act 210 addresses professional or occupational licensure renewals for Wisconsin service members that enter active duty and their spouses. Act 210 provides that: Any license that a **service member** holds (expiring after September 11, 2001), except a license to practice law, does not expire on the expiration date of the license if, on the expiration date, the service member is on active duty. — **AND** — Any license that the **spouse of a service member** holds (expiring after September 11, 2001), except a license to practice law, does not expire on the expiration date of the license if the service member is on active duty on the expiration date of the spouse's license and the spouse does not practice under the license while the service member is on active duty **because** the service member is on active duty.

Veteran Identifier on Wisconsin Driver's License or State ID (Verify – Then Apply)

www.WisVets.com/Ben-Plates.asp#V

To be eligible for the Veteran Identifier on your Wisconsin driver's license or ID card you must meet certain requirements related to your term and characterization of military service.

Character of Service: The Character of Service field on your DD214/DD215 must show, Honorable, General under honorable conditions, or Honorable under General. (Other than Honorable conditions will not allow you to certify through this process.)

Length of Service: You must have at least one period of service that encompassed at least two continuous years of "active duty" or 90 days of "active duty" during a Statutorily-Designated Wartime Period, where the character of service meets the requirements above.

All applicants must first *Verify* eligibility for the benefit through the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs – *Then Apply* for the identifier with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles.

Eligibility

www.WisVets.com/Eligibility

To obtain benefits and services from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), veterans must meet military service requirements and state residency requirements set by the State Legislature.

Benefits and Services

Troops to Teachers
Retraining Grant
Homeless Veterans Assistance
Wisconsin Veterans Homes
Wisconsin Veterans Property Tax Credit
Federal Claims Assistance
Wisconsin Veterans Cemeteries
Military Funeral Honors
Wisconsin GI Bill
VetEd Reimbursement Grant
Assistance to Needy Veterans Grants
Professional/Occupational Licensure
Veteran Identifier

Disclaimer: When administering or determining eligibility for benefits, the WDVA does not discriminate against persons, or harass them, because of their race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation, political affiliation or beliefs, or arrest or conviction record. The WDVA is an Equal Opportunity Lender and a Fair housing Lender.

Questions? Call 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387)
or visit www.WisVets.com.

WDVA B0135 (02/14)
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Programs, Benefits and Services for Wisconsin Veterans and Their Families

Scott Walker, Governor

John A. Scocos, Secretary

For more information about state benefits, contact the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Veterans Benefits Resource Center (VBRC) at 1-800-WIS-VETS (947-8387), or visit www.WisVets.com, or contact your County Veterans Service Office www.wicvso.org/your_cvso.htm

Troops to Teachers

www.montana.edu/ttt Toll-free: 1-866-478-3224

Troops to Teachers provides information, advice and funding to assist eligible veterans, retirees, members of the Reserve and National Guard, and active duty personnel who are about to leave military service and pursue teaching as a second career.

Retraining Grant

www.WisVets.com/RetrainingGrants

Recently unemployed or underemployed veterans may receive up to \$3,000 per 12-month period (\$6,000 lifetime max) if they have a financial need while being retrained for employment. WDVA must receive a grant application within one year after an applicant is involuntarily laid off or discharged. An applicant must be employed for at least six consecutive months with the same employer or in the same or similar occupation, and at least one day of that employment must have been within that year. Eligible programs include on-the-job training and technical education.

Homeless Veterans Assistance

www.WisVets.com/HomelessVeterans

Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless can receive assistance to obtain steady jobs and affordable housing. The program provides for clean, safe and secure housing at Veterans Assistance Centers around the state along with job training, education, counseling, medical care and other services.

Wisconsin Veterans Homes

www.WisVets.com/Homes

Veterans and spouses may receive long-term care at Veterans Homes located in King (Waupaca County), Union Grove (Racine County) and Chippewa Falls (Chippewa County). The King location provides skilled nursing and some domiciliary care. The Union Grove location provides a range of services from assisted living to skilled nursing. Veterans and spouses must apply income and assets to the cost of their care. A portion of the veteran's cost is typically offset by the VA.

Wisconsin Veterans Property Tax Credit

www.WisVets.com/Taxes

The Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit provides a refundable property tax credit for the veteran's primary in-state residence on the state income tax form. Veteran must have a Service Connected Disability (SCD) rating from the Federal VA of 100% or 100% with Individual Unemployability (IU) under USC 38 1114 or 1134.

Federal Claims Assistance

www.WisVets.com/Claims

The WDVA Claims Bureau advises and assists veterans and their dependents in obtaining federal veterans benefits from the VA. The service is free to Wisconsin veterans and their families. Make an appointment through your County Veterans Service Office or call (414) 902-5757.

Wisconsin Veterans Cemeteries

www.WisVets.com/Cemeteries

Veterans, spouses, surviving spouses and eligible family members may be buried at Wisconsin Veterans Cemeteries located near Union Grove (Racine County), Spooner (Washburn County), and the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King (Waupaca County). A fee is assessed for spouses and family members at the time of interment. Veterans can establish eligibility and pre-register by contacting one of the cemeteries or your County Veterans Service Office.

Military Funeral Honors

www.WisVets.com/FuneralHonors

The Military Funeral Honors Program provides and coordinates funeral honors for veterans and former National Guard and reservists. Honors may include the presence of military members, folding and presentation of the flag, firing details and the sounding of Taps. Arrangements can be made through funeral directors or by calling 1-877-944-6667.

Wisconsin GI Bill

www.WisVets.com/WisGI Bill

Eligible veterans and dependents may receive a waiver ("remission") of tuition and fees for up to 8 semesters or 128 credits at any UW or Wisconsin Technical College for undergraduate or graduate level study. A recipient must be a state resident for tuition purposes. If eligible, the veteran, spouse and children all will receive the same benefit.

Veterans – The veteran must be a Wisconsin resident when entering active duty, or as being a resident of this state for at least five consecutive years immediately preceding the beginning of any semester or session for which the person registers at an institution. They must have served under honorable conditions and meet specific active duty requirements. This expansion does not include the spouses or children of these veterans.

Spouses – Qualifying spouses must be residents for tuition purposes. A spouse no longer has to use the benefit within ten years following the date of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' initial disability rating determination of 30% or more. An unremarried surviving spouse is eligible for ten years following the veteran's death or commencing with the date their youngest child reaches (or would have reached) age 18, whichever is later.

Beginning in January 2014, any student using the Wisconsin GI Bill, whether it be the veteran, the spouse or the child of a veteran, must maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA or higher in order to remain eligible for the Wisconsin GI Bill benefits.

Children – When the qualifying Wisconsin veteran is currently rated by the VA with a combined service-connected disability rating of 30% or more, or died in the line of duty while on active, Reserve or National Guard duty, or died as the direct result of a service-connected disability, a 100% remission is provided for each child between the ages of 17 to age 26.

Note: Spouses and Children of eligible veterans MUST be Wisconsin residents for tuition purposes to receive the benefit.

VetEd Reimbursement Grant

www.WisVets.com/VetEd

The Veterans Education (VetEd) Reimbursement Grant provides tuition and fee reimbursement, based on the character and duration of active duty, to eligible veterans who do not hold a bachelor's degree. Other eligibility criteria apply, including family income limits. Veterans must apply within 60 days after the start of the academic term and earn at least a 2.0 GPA at a UW school, technical college, or approved institution of higher learning. You may receive federal Montgomery GI Bill benefits and VetEd for the same semester (limitations apply).

Reimbursement is reduced to the extent that tuition and fees have been paid by other grants, scholarships and remissions, including the federal Post 9/11 GI Bill. VetEd cannot be used when also eligible for the Wisconsin GI Bill.

Assistance to Needy Veterans Grants

www.WisVets.com/ANVG

Applicants who demonstrate financial need and have exhausted other forms of aid may qualify. Grant awards for health care and subsistence aid combined cannot exceed the program's \$7,500 lifetime limit.

Applications for Assistance to Needy Veterans Grants must be submitted through your local County Veterans Service Office. There are strict income and asset limits for this program.

Subsistence Aid Grant – Financial aid may be provided when there is a loss of income due to illness, injury or natural disaster. Grants are awarded for subsistence aid for 30-day periods, up to a maximum of 90 days. Grant awards cannot exceed \$3,000 during any consecutive 12-month period, or the \$7,500 lifetime limit.