

# Ohio State Veteran's Benefits

December 2017



## Ohio State Veteran's Benefits

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

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## Veteran Housing Programs

### Ohio Veterans Home

The Ohio Veterans Home Agency is a State of Ohio establishment comprised of two facilities, a home located in Sandusky, Ohio (approximately 60 miles west of Cleveland) and a home located in Georgetown, Ohio (approximately 45 miles east of Cincinnati). You must be an Honorably discharged wartime veteran and have been a resident of the State of Ohio for one year anytime during lifetime (does not have to be consecutive) and are disabled and unable to earn a living. The financial assessment is based on the resident's monthly income and assets. Maximum cost is approximately 1/3 the cost of private care.

#### Georgetown

The Ohio Veterans Home in Georgetown offers 168 beds for nursing home care. Two levels of care are offered: standard care for veterans in need of any intermediate level of care, and special care for veterans with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia. The home opened in 2003, and is located in the scenic countryside of Brown County, offering a tranquil setting where veterans can feel at home. Those

who wish to visit with residents can enjoy a small park on the grounds, which includes a pavilion, walking trail and playground. It is located at 2003 Veterans Blvd., Georgetown, OH 45121 Tel: (937) 378-2900 E-Mail: [ruth.gelter@dvs.ohio.gov](mailto:ruth.gelter@dvs.ohio.gov).



For additional info on admission to this facility refer to <http://dvs.ohio.gov/main/ovh-georgetown-home.html>

### **Sandusky**

The Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky is a 427-bed nursing home facility. Two levels of care are offered: standard care for those veterans in need of any intermediate level of care, and special care for veterans with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia. The home opened in 1888 to care for veterans of the Civil War, and has been in continuous operation since. It is located near Lake Erie, in the heart of Ohio's family-friendly lakeshore attractions and recreational hub. It is located at 3416 Columbus Ave. Sandusky, OH 44870 Tel: (419) 625-2454 E-Mail: [christina.hansen@dvs.ohio.gov](mailto:christina.hansen@dvs.ohio.gov)

Eligible veterans who need medical care but are capable of living independently have the option of living in the "Dom" at the Ohio Veterans Home Sandusky. The "Dom," short for "Domiciliary," offers 293 beds, a dining facility and necessary medical care to eligible veterans. Dom residents each have their own room, with cable access, and a shared bath. The wing features two reading lounges, a computer lounge, recreational facilities, clubs and regular and special activities. For more information on the "Dom" refer to <http://dvs.ohio.gov/main/ovh-independent-living.html>



For additional info on admission to this facility refer to <http://dvs.ohio.gov/main/ovh-sandusky-home.html>

## **Financial Assistance Benefits**

### **Ohio Veterans Bonus Program**

Generally, anyone who served honorably, anywhere in the world for more than 90 days (not for training) on or after October 7, 2001 is eligible. Applicants must have been Ohio residents at the time of entry onto active duty, and be current Ohio residents. It pays \$100 per month for service in Afghanistan, and \$50 per month for service elsewhere, up to a maximum of \$1,500.

Eligible Veterans are encouraged to begin the process by completing the online bonus application. Applications are available at [https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs\\_web](https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs_web) or at any of Ohio's 88 County Veterans Services Offices. Or call 1 - 877 - OHIO VET to get a paper application. In most cases, applying on-line is the simplest and fastest option. However, the application is not complete until they print, sign and mail the application along with required supporting documentation through the U.S. Postal Service. The signed application must be "notarized" or "acknowledged" and mailed to: Ohio Veterans Bonus, P.O. Box 373 Sandusky, OH 44871

### **Financial Assistance**

Financial assistance is available through your County Veterans Service Office on a short term basis to eligible veterans and their dependents.

### **Ohio Heroes Home Loans**

The Ohio Housing Finance Agency's Ohio Heroes program rewards Ohio residents who serve the public with a discounted mortgage interest rate, available for first-time homebuyers with a credit score of 640 or higher.

### **Military Injury Relief Fund**

Ohio grants money to individuals injured while in active service as a member of the armed forces of the United States and while serving under operation Iraqi freedom or operation enduring freedom. Effective August 21, 2008 MIRF is exempt from State Taxation.

### **State Tax Exemptions**

Retired military pay is exempt from Ohio state taxes. Ohio residents who are stationed outside the state do not pay Ohio state income taxes on any income received out-of-state.

### **Homestead Exemption**

Veterans rated by the VA as 100 percent disabled due to a service-connected disability and surviving spouses who occupy the same home are eligible for the expanded Homestead Exemption, the rate varies by location.

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### **Compensation and VA Claims**

County Veterans Service Officers are extensively trained to assist with the preparation and submission of VA claims, compensation and appeals.

## **Veteran Employment Benefits**

### **State Employment**

Veterans are entitled to 20% added credit on Ohio civil service exam. Current service members of a Reserve Component (including the Ohio National Guard) who successfully complete initial entry-level training receive a 15% added credit.

### **Ohio Educator License Fee Elimination**

The Ohio Department of Education is eliminating fees for educator licenses for any initial (or a renewal of an) Ohio educator license, permit, or certificate for Veterans or current Armed Forces Service members, including the National Guard or Reserve. Spouses of active-duty Service members also may receive a license free of charge.

## **Education Benefits**

### **Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program**

Eligible Ohio National Guard members may receive up to 96 educational credits (12 full-time quarters or 8 full-time semesters) of tuition assistance toward an undergraduate degree at a participating Ohio school during their enlistment. ONG members who possess a Bachelor's degree are not eligible; however, possessing prior college credits or possession of an Associate's degree does not affect eligibility.

### **Ohio War Orphans Scholarship**

- What is it? The Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Program awards tuition assistance to the children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict.
- Who is eligible? To receive War Orphans Scholarship benefits, a student must be enrolled for full-time undergraduate study and pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree at an eligible Ohio college or university. Ohio residency is required. Applicants must be under the age of 25.
- How much aid is available? Scholarship benefits cover a portion of instructional and general fee charges at two and four-year public institutions and a portion of these charges at eligible private colleges and universities.
- How do I apply? Application is made to the Ohio Board of Regents/State Grants and Scholarships Department.

### **Troops-To-Teachers**

Troops to Teachers is a U.S. Department of Education and Department of Defense program that helps eligible military personnel begin a new career as teachers in public and public charter schools where their skills, knowledge and experience are most needed. The goal of this legislation is to help improve American education by providing motivated, experienced, and dedicated personnel for the nation's classrooms. The three main objectives of the program are to:

- 1) Help relieve teacher shortages.
- 2) Provide positive role models for the nation's public school students.
- 3) Assist military personnel in the successful transition to teaching as a second career. Federal funding may be provided to eligible individuals through stipends up to \$5,000 to help pay for teacher certification costs, or as bonuses up to \$10,000 to teach in a high-needs school.

The Troops to Teachers Program is not a certification/licensing program. To teach in Ohio, you must be licensed by the Ohio Department of Education. Eligible veterans may complete a traditional teacher education program or may meet the requirements through a non-traditional route via Ohio's Alternative Educator License. Go to <http://dvs.ohio.gov/main/troops-to-teachers.html> for more information on this program.

## Ohio GI Promise

In an effort to help veterans, servicemembers and their families achieve college degrees, the University System of Ohio has taken proactive steps to better serve those who have served our country. Refer to the following for information on what is available to vets under this program:

- **Ohio Values Veterans**: A state initiative to **award credit toward college & professional licenses for military experience**
- **Education Opportunities for Veterans** (PDF)
- **Veteran Services on Ohio Campuses**
- **Financial Aid for Veterans**
- **Transform Military Training, Experience, and Coursework into College Credit | Ohio Transfer to Degree Guarantee**
- **Ohio Means Veteran Jobs**
- **Military Veterans Wanted! Scholarship Funds Available** (PDF) - Are you a military veteran interested starting a career in Ohio's growing oil and gas industry?

For additional info on the Ohio GI Promise refer to <https://www.ohiohighered.org/veterans>

### **College Credit For Military Training And Experience.**

The public colleges and universities of Ohio are committed to the acceptance and awarding of college credit for military training, experience, and coursework. The Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education signed a directive providing a baseline set of standards and procedures for the application of military credit. Having one set of standards and procedures serves to provide uniformity and consistency to the process, makes it easier to communicate with and reach a wider audience, and highlights the priority the higher education community places on assisting veterans and active duty service members with their educational and career goals

### **In-State Tuition For Qualified Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, And Dependents.**

Upon moving to Ohio, active duty, guard, reserve service members, and their spouse/dependents are eligible for in-state residency for the purposes of tuition, state educational subsidies and financial aid if one of the following options is met.

- **GI Promise option**
  - ✓ The service member or veteran served at least one year on active duty and was honorably discharged (or received a medical discharge related to military service), 'OR' The service member or veteran was killed in action, declared missing in action, or served as a prisoner of war.
  - ✓ The service member or veteran must establish domicile in Ohio as of the first day of a term of enrollment in an institution of higher education. If the service member or veteran is deceased, missing in action, or a prisoner of war, the spouse or dependent must establish domicile in Ohio as of the first day of a term of enrollment in an institution of higher education.
  - ✓ "Domicile" can be documented with a copy of a lease for a rental property or closing statement for residential property verifying the parent or spouse has established residency at the location, or a letter from the owner of a property verifying the parent or spouse resides at that residence.
- **New option (702 Compliance)**
  - ✓ The service member or veteran must be using VA education benefits under Chapter 30 or Chapter 33 (Post 9/11 GI Bill), served at least 90 days on active duty, is enrolled in a state

institution of higher education, and lives in Ohio as of the first day of a term of enrollment in an institution of higher education. Once VA benefits expire, the service member or veteran must apply under the GI Promise option and if not eligible will revert to out of state tuition rates.

- ✓ A spouse or dependent is eligible, only while using benefits, if they are the recipient of the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry scholarship or Chapter 33 transfer of entitlement if the person is enrolled in a state institution of higher education, lives in Ohio as of the first day of a term of enrollment in an institution of higher education, and the veteran's period of active duty was at least 90 days or the servicemember who transferred such benefits is on active duty. Once VA benefits expire, the spouse or dependent must apply under the GI Promise option and if not eligible will revert to out of state tuition rates.

### **Veterans Upward Bound**

The Veterans Upward Bound program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, is designed to motivate and assist veterans in the development of academic and other requisite skills necessary for acceptance and success in a program of postsecondary education. The program provides assessment and enhancement of basic skills through counseling, mentoring, tutoring and academic instruction in the core subject areas. The primary goal of the program is to increase the rate at which participants enroll in and complete postsecondary education programs. Currently, Ohio is home to two Veteran Upward Bound Programs:

- [Cuyahoga Community College - Veterans Upward Bound Program](#)
- [Cincinnati State Technical and Community College - Veterans Upward Bound Program](#)

### **Scholarship Opportunities For Veterans And Their Families**

The Ohio Department of Higher Education promotes scholarship opportunities such as the [Ohio War Orphans Scholarship](#), [Ohio Safety Officers Memorial Fund](#) and Ohio National Guard Scholarship. It also helps connect students with financial aid resources through the Federal GI Bill or state-based initiatives like the [Ohio College Opportunity Grant](#).

### **Contact A Campus Veterans Affairs Office**

Veterans Affairs offices supplement the recruitment and retention of veterans to the campuses across the state. Go to <https://www.ohiohighered.org/veterans/campus-services> for a phone list of campus veterans affairs officers in Ohio.

## **Recreational Benefits**

### **Recreational Benefits**

Ohio offers the following recreation benefits for totally disabled veterans, Medal of Honor recipients, and former POWs:

- Free Hunting & Fishing Licenses. For information call 1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543)
- Free Boating Licenses & Registration. For information call 877-426-2837
- Free Camping at Ohio State Parks. For information call 877-426-2837

### **Hunting and Fishing License Exemptions**

Ohio resident service members on active duty, while on leave or furlough are not required to purchase a fishing license, hunting license, Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp, or fur taker permit. All other licenses and

permits are required. Non-resident Service members on active duty stationed in Ohio, but NOT on leave can purchase a resident Ohio hunting license for hunting deer, turkey, or hunting/trapping furbearers and an Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp for waterfowl.

**Camping Discounts at Ohio State Parks**

Active military and Veterans are entitled to 10% discount. The discount may be used for only ONE campsite, getaway rental unit, cottage, or lodge room per visit. Military ID or Veteran identification must be presented to receive discount.

**Free Camping at Ohio State Parks**

Free camping for Ohio residents who are former POWs or who are honorably discharged with a permanent and total disability as determined by the VA. Not applicable to getaway rentals.

**Other State Veteran Benefits**

**Burial Benefits**

Burial Benefits are available for eligible veterans. (Contact your County Veteran Service Officer). Ohio has the following cemeteries designated for veterans:

<b>Ohio Federal Cemetery</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b><u>Burial Space</u></b>
<a href="#"><u>Dayton National Cemetery</u></a>	4400 West Third Street Dayton, OH 45428	Phone: 937-262-2115 FAX: 937-262-2187	Open
<a href="#"><u>Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery</u></a>	10175 Rawiga Road Rittman, OH 44270	Phone: 330-335-3069 FAX: 330-335-5087	Open
<a href="#"><u>Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery</u></a>	2900 Sullivant Avenue Columbus, OH 43204	Phone: 937-262-2115 FAX: 937-262-2187	Closed
<a href="#"><u>Confederate Stockade Cemetery</u></a>	Johnson's Island Sandusky, OH 44870	Phone: 330-335-3069 FAX: 330-335-5087	Closed
<a href="#"><u>Woodland Cemetery Soldiers' Lot</u></a>	6901 Woodland Avenue Cleveland, OH 44104	Phone: 330-335-3069 FAX: 330-335-5087	Closed

<b>Ohio State Cemetery</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b><u>Funded</u></b>
<a href="#"><u>Ohio Veterans Home Cemetery</u></a>	3416 Columbus Avenue Sandusky, OH 44870	Richard Hatcher, Superintendent Phone: 419-625-2454 x200 FAX: 419-625-3207	YES

**Transportation to Medical Appointments**

Many of the organizations and County Veterans Service Offices across Ohio free transportation to local VA facilities. (Contact your County Veteran Service Officer)

**Medals/Awards and Decorations**

Your County Veterans Service Office has forms available and can assist veterans and their families in search of Medals and awards. (Contact your County Veteran Service Officer)

**Military Records**

Your County Veterans Service Office has forms available and can assist veterans and their families in search of military records and discharges. Also please review links to the left for 'Request for Records'. (Contact your County Veteran Service Officer)

### **Veteran Driver License**

100 percent service-connected disabled veterans are eligible for a free driver's license. When renewing a driver's license, Ohio veterans with a valid DD-214 can get a free "Armed Forces" stamp, qualifying them for retail discounts. BMV locations can be located at <http://www.bmv.ohio.gov/locations.aspx>.

### **Military/Veteran License Plates**

Ohio has over 40 varieties of military license plates including Active duty plates, Reservist plates, Ohio National Guard plates, combat plates and Gold Star Family plates. Veterans must present their DD-214 at their local BMV in order to obtain a special plate. License Plate Application Resources

- Go to <https://www.oplates.com/VR/Availability> for application for license plates and other general information.
- Go to <http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/bmv4507.pdf> for application for special plates.

Ohio's Bureau of Motor Vehicles at <http://bmv.ohio.gov> has the below military/veteran license plates shown on link [http://bmv.ohio.gov/special\\_plates\\_military\\_plates.stm](http://bmv.ohio.gov/special_plates_military_plates.stm) available to eligible veterans:

## **ODPS Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles**

### **Types of Military License Plates**



[Air National Guard Retired](#)



[Army National Guard Retired](#)



[Bronze Star Medal](#)



[Combat Battle Star Expeditionary Force](#)



[Combat Battle Star Korea](#)



[Combat Battle Star National Defense](#)



[Combat Battle Star Persian Gulf](#)



[Combat Battle Star Vietnam](#)



[Combat Infantryman Badge](#)



[Medal of Honor](#)



[Disabled Veteran](#)



[Expeditionary Medal](#)



[Former Prisoner of War](#)



[Global War on Terrorism  
Afghanistan Medal](#)



[Global War on Terrorism  
Expeditionary Medal](#)



[Global War on Terrorism  
Iraqi Medal](#)



[Global War on Terrorism  
Service Medal](#)



[Grenada](#)



[Honorable Discharged Veteran](#)



[Korea](#)



[Korea Vet During Conflict](#)



[Lebanon](#)



[National Defense](#)



[National Guard](#)



[Panama](#)



[Pearl Harbor](#)



[Persian Gulf](#)



[Purple Heart](#)



[Silver Star Medal](#)



[U.S. Armed Forces Active Duty](#)



[U.S. Armed Forces Paratrooper](#)



[U.S. Armed Forces Reserve](#)



[U.S. Armed Forces Retired](#)



[Veteran Motorcycle Plate](#)



[Vietnam Veteran During Conflict](#)



[Vietnam](#)



[World War I](#)



[World War II](#)

### **Updating your Discharge**

Your County Veterans Service office has the forms available to request updates to your discharges and can assist you in submitting the form properly. (Contact your County Veteran Service Officer)

**Note:** Go to [http://dvs.ohio.gov/home/county\\_veterans\\_service\\_officers.aspx](http://dvs.ohio.gov/home/county_veterans_service_officers.aspx) to locate Your County Veteran Service Officer)

Visit the Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services website <http://dvs.ohio.gov> for contact information and benefits assistance.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/ohio-state-veterans-benefits.html>  
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## **Military Discounts in Ohio**

1. MVDC has close to 8500 business locations in Ohio that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of Ohio also provides discounts for those that have served. To find business discounts, enter your zipcode and category in the search box at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/ohio.html>

2. **Veterans Designation on drivers license:** yes

3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes**

- Free hunting and fishing licenses for 100% disabled veterans and former POWs.
- Free registration of watercraft for 100% disabled veterans, former POWs, and Medal of Honor Recipients.
- Free camping at Ohio State Parks for 100% disabled veterans and former POWs

#### 4. **Property tax and Financial Benefits**

- Military members that are Ohio residents who are stationed outside of Ohio are exempt from Ohio state tax for the period of deployment
- Military retirement pay is exempt from State of Ohio tax and local school district income tax
- Surviving Spouse benefit plans are exempt from State of Ohio tax
- Homestead Exemption for totally disabled veterans allowing \$25,000 property tax exemption
- Veterans receive preference through the Ohio Treasurer's Office which provides a reduced rate for small business loans

#### 5. **Education Discounts**

- In-state tuition status for qualified veterans .
- Tuition assistance to children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio veterans who served in the armed forces during a period of declared war or conflict through The Ohio War Orphans Scholarship.
- Tuition waiver for children of United States Armed Forces members that were killed in the line of duty during OEF or OIF. The waiver is also available to certain qualified spouses or former spouses.

6. To find businesses that provide military discounts refer to <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com>.

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/ohio.html> December 2017 ++]