

CHAPTER 1: BENEFITS

APPLYING FOR VA BENEFITS

BENEFITS

VA benefits and services are offered in these major categories:

- Burial
- Compensation
- Dependent & Survivors
- Education & Training
- Health Care
- Home Loans
- Life Insurance
- Pension
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment

ELIGIBILITY

You may be eligible for VA benefits if you are:

- A veteran
- A veteran's dependent
- A surviving spouse, child or parent of a deceased veteran
- An active duty military service member
- A member of the Reserve or National Guard

BURIAL-RELATED SERVICES

The VA offers certain benefits and services to honor our Nation's deceased veterans:

- **Burial Flag:** VA can provide an American flag to drape a veteran's casket.
- **Burial in a VA National Cemetery:** Most veterans and some dependents can be buried in a VA national cemetery.
- **Headstones and Markers:** VA can furnish a monument to mark the unmarked grave of an eligible veteran.
- **Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC):** VA can provide a PMC for eligible recipients. A Presidential Memorial Certificate is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans.
- **Reimbursement of Burial Expenses:** Generally, VA can pay a burial allowance of \$2,000 for veterans who die of service-related causes. For certain other veterans, VA can pay \$300 for burial and funeral expenses and \$300 for a burial plot.

Time Limits for burial expenses: There is no time limit to claim reimbursement of burial expenses for a service-related death. In other cases, claims must be filled within two years of the veteran's burial.

COMPENSATION

VA can pay you monthly compensation if you are determined to be at least 10% disabled as a result of your military service.

DEPENDENT & SURVIVORS

- **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)** is payable to certain survivors:
 - Service members who died on active duty
 - Veterans who died from service-related disabilities
 - Certain veterans who were paid 100% VA disability at time of death.
- **Dependent & Survivors Education & Training:** Some family members of disabled or deceased veterans are eligible for education and training benefits.
- **Death Pension** is payable to some surviving spouses and children of deceased wartime veterans. The benefit is based on financial need.
- **Home Loans:** Certain surviving spouses may be eligible for this benefit.
- **Parents' DIC** is payable to some surviving parents. The benefit is based on financial need.
- **VA Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA)** shares the cost of medical services for eligible dependents and survivors of certain veterans.

Time Limits: For education and training benefits, spouses and surviving spouses have 10 years from the date the VA first finds them eligible. Surviving spouses of service members who died while on active duty have 20 years. Children are eligible from ages 18 to 26. These time limits can sometimes be extended. There are no time limits to apply for the other benefits described above.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

VA pays benefits to eligible veterans, reservists and active duty service members while they are in an approved education or training program. Based on the type of military service, benefit programs are:

- **Active Duty Service:** Persons who first entered active duty after June 30, 1985, are generally eligible under the Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30). Those who entered active duty for the first time after December 31, 1976 and before July 1, 1985, are generally eligible under the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP).
- **Reserve/Guard Service:** Benefits are available to Reserve and National Guard members under (a) the Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 1606); those who signed a six-year commitment with a reserve until after June 30, 1985, and remain actively drilling and in good standing with their unit, and (b) the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607) who were activated under Federal authority for a contingency operation and served 90 continuous days or more after September 11, 2001.

HEALTH CARE

VA provides a number of health care services.

- Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services
- Domiciliary, nursing home and community-based residential care
- Sexual trauma counseling

- Specialized health care for women veterans
- Health and rehabilitation programs for homeless veterans
- Readjustment counseling

Time Limits: There is no time limit for a VA home loan.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION & EMPLOYMENT

VA can help veterans with service-connected disabilities prepare for, find, and keep suitable employment. For veterans with serious service-connected disabilities, VA also offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible. Some of the services VA provides are as follows:

- **Job Search:** Assistance in finding and maintaining suitable employment.
- **Vocational Evaluation:** An evaluation of abilities, skills, interests, and needs.
- **Career Exploration:** Vocational counseling and planning.
- **Vocational Training:** If needed, training such as on-the-job and non-paid work experience.
- **Education Training:** If needed, education training to accomplish the rehabilitation goal.
- **Rehabilitation Service:** Supportive rehabilitation and counseling services.

Time Limits: You generally have 12 years from the date VA informs you in writing that you have a service-connected disability.

FOR BENEFICIARY TRAVEL BENEFITS, Visit

<http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/Library/pubs/BeneficiaryTravel/BeneficiaryTravel.pdf>

TOLL-FREE SERVICE

BENEFITS INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE:

There are VA Regional Offices where you can apply for VA benefits. All of the listed offices can be reached by calling the VA Benefits number at 1-800-827-1000. Local VA offices include:

1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburg, PA 15222

5000 Wissahickon Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19101

20 Washington Place
Newark, NJ 07102

31 Hopkins Plaza
Federal Building
Baltimore, MD 21201

1601 Kirkwood Highway
Wilmington, DE 19805

SPECIAL TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

National Suicide Prevention Line	(800) 273-8255
VA Benefits	(800) 827-1000
CHAMPVA	(800) 733-8387
Direct deposit	(877) 838-2778
Education & Training	(888) 442-4551
Eligibility & Means Testing; Health Eligibility Center	(404) 235-1257
Headstones (status of claims only)	(800) 697-6947
Health Care	(877) 222-8387
Helpline (Agent Orange & Gulf War)	(800) 749-8387
Income Verification	(800) 929-8387
Office of SGLI	(800) 419-1473
Mammography Helpline	(888) 492-7844
Telecommunication Device for Deaf (TDD)	(800) 829-4833
VA Life Insurance	(800) 669-8477

FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS - A LISTING OF ALL VA BENEFITS.

The [2008 edition](#) booklet lists the variety of federal benefits available to veterans and their dependents. Selecting the link below will take you to a PDF version of the booklet. VA's Office of Public Affairs (OPA) maintains copies of these booklets. To review benefits, go to <http://www1.va.gov/opa/>

INTERNET

For detailed information about all VA benefits and services, visit:

- www.va.gov;
- <http://www.vba.va.gov/>
- http://www.vba.va.gov/benefit_facts/index.htm
- <http://vbrs.vba.va.gov/vbrs/doLink.do?path=root>
(Veterans Benefits Reference System)
- Applications: Apply for Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Education or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Benefits by selecting "Apply Online".

*Above Source: Directly from

http://www.vba.va.gov/benefit_facts/index.htm;

http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/benefits.htm#FEDBEN

Locally, there are two large VA Departments: Philadelphia and Pittsburgh:

PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL OFFICE

5000 Wissahickon Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19101
Phone: 1-800-827-1000

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has several programs and offices on Wissahickon Avenue. Located together under one roof are a Regional Office and Insurance Center (ROIC), an Information Technology Center (ITC), and the Memorial Service Network Region 1 area office of the National Cemetery Administration.

* Above Source: from <http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=699&dnum=3>)

PITTSBURGH REGIONAL OFFICE

1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: 1-800-827-1000

The Pittsburgh VA Regional Office (VARO) is located in the William S. Moorhead Federal Building in downtown Pittsburgh. The regional office provides veterans benefits to over 500,000 veterans and dependents in 27 counties of Western Pennsylvania and four counties in the panhandle of northern West Virginia.

VARO staff conducts extensive outreach in the community. A field person provides full-time service at the Erie VA Medical Center. In addition, a full-time field person is dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless veterans.

*Above Source from <http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=315&dnum=3>

VA HEALTH CARE COMBAT VETERAN ELIGIBILITY

Enhanced Eligibility for Health Care Benefits: On January 26, 2008, Public Law 110-181 titled the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 was signed into law. Section 1707 amended Title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 1710(e)(3), extending the period of eligibility for health care for veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, (commonly referred to as combat veterans or OEF/OIF veterans).

Under the Combat Veteran authority, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides cost-free health care services and nursing home care for conditions possibly related to military service and enrollment in Priority Group 6, unless eligible for enrollment in a higher priority to:

- **Currently enrolled veterans and new enrollees who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003**, are eligible for the enhanced benefits, for 5 years post discharge.
- **Veterans discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, who apply for enrollment on or after January 28, 2008**, are eligible for the enhanced benefit until January 27, 2011.

Combat veterans, while not required to disclose their income information, may do so to determine their eligibility for a higher priority status, beneficiary travel benefits and exemption of co-pays for care unrelated to their military service.

Who's eligible: Veterans, including activated Reservists and members of the National Guard, are eligible if they served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and have been discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Documentation used to determine service in a theater of combat operations:

- Military service documentation that reflects service in a combat theater, or
- Receipt of combat service medals and/or,
- Receipt of imminent danger or hostile fire pay or tax benefits

Health benefits under the "Combat Veteran" authority:

- Cost-free care and medications provided for conditions potentially related to combat service.
- Enrollment in Priority Group 6 unless eligible for enrollment in a higher priority group.
- Full access to VA's Medical Benefits Package.

What happens after the enhanced eligibility period expires: Veterans who enroll with VA under this authority will continue to be enrolled even after their enhanced eligibility period ends. At the end of their enhanced eligibility period, veterans enrolled in Priority Group 6 may be shifted to Priority Group 7 or 8, depending on their income level, and required to make applicable co-pays.

What about combat veterans who do not enroll during their enhanced eligibility period: For those veterans who do not enroll during their enhanced eligibility period, eligibility for enrollment and subsequent care is based on other factors such as:

- A compensable service-connected disability
- VA pension status
- Catastrophic disability determination
- The veteran's financial circumstances.

For this reason, combat veterans are strongly encouraged to apply for enrollment within their enhanced eligibility period, even if no medical care is currently needed.

Co-pays: Veterans who qualify under this special eligibility are not subject to co-pays for conditions potentially related to their combat service. However, unless otherwise exempted, combat veterans must either disclose their prior year gross household income OR decline to provide their financial information and agree to make applicable co-pays for care or services that the VA determines are clearly unrelated to their military service.

Note: *While income disclosure by a recently discharged combat veteran is not a requirement, this disclosure may provide additional benefits such as eligibility for travel reimbursement, cost-free medication and/or medical care for services unrelated to combat.*

Dental Care: Eligibility for VA dental benefits is based on very specific guidelines and differs significantly from eligibility requirements for medical care. Combat veterans may be authorized dental treatment as reasonably necessary for the one-time correction of dental conditions if:

- Application for VA dental treatment is made within 180 days of discharge or release

Additional information: is available at the nearest VA medical facility. VA facilities listing and telephone numbers can be found on the internet at www.va.gov/directory or in the local telephone directory under the U.S. Government listings. Veterans can also call the Health Benefits Service Center toll free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit the VA health eligibility website at www.va.gov/healtheligibility .

*Above source directly from <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/Library/pubs/CombatVet/CombatVet.pdf>;

[Global War on Terrorism/ Operation Enduring Freedom /Operation Iraqi Freedom Initiative info/
GWOT/OEF/OIF Coordinator. 061908]

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION
OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Mission: The mission of the VA's Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) Programs is to provide a supportive, stable, structured environment; it utilizes work based individualized rehabilitation treatment to facilitate and strengthen vocational identity to maximize a veteran's potential based on skills, abilities and rehabilitation needs. These programs assist participating veterans by improving their overall quality of life.

History: Under the Office of Mental Health Services (116) of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Psychosocial Rehabilitation offers a variety of vocational programs authorized by 38 U.S.C. 1718 and are designed to return handicapped veterans to the highest level of functioning living and working as productive members of the community. To that end, we offer a continuum of work for pay transitional employment services and direct job placement efforts.

PSR Vocational Programs:

Incentive Therapy Program: PSR Incentive Therapy (IT) is a pre-employment program that provides a diversified real life work experience in the VA medical center for veterans who exhibit exceptional severe mental illness and/or physical disabilities. IT services extend for an indefinite period of time, as is clinically appropriate, and may consist of full or part time work. Each participant in the IT program has an individual treatment or service plan, case manager and treatment team to monitor clinical services and work.

CWT/Transitional Work Program: Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Work (CWT/TW) is a pre-employment vocational assessment program that operates in the VA medical center and community. CWT/TW participants are screened by vocational rehabilitation staff and matched to a work assignment for a limited time as is clinically appropriate. CWT/TW functions like a real job, is supervised by work site staff, and places the same job expectations and demands on the veteran that are experienced by other non-CWT workers in the company. Every CWT/TW participant has an Individual Treatment or Service Plan and is case managed by a VA Vocational Specialist. Each participating veteran must be physician referred to PSR vocational services and should have some type of mental or physical disability. As such, veterans enrolled in PSR vocational programs are not considered employees of the VA or participating company and receive none of the traditional employee benefits. There are no direct government entitlements that subsidize the veteran's earnings in CWT/TW programs.

CWT/Supported Employment Program: The Compensated Work Therapy/Supported Employment (CWT/SE) program consists of competitive employment with therapeutic supports. The focus of CWT/SE is to assist veterans with psychosis and other serious mental illness gain access to meaningful gainful employment. Veterans unable to participate in CWT/SE due to complex treatment demands may engage at a full and part time level utilizing various adaptations to customized employment and/or community-based transitional work as the primary model. CWT/SE may continue indefinitely but generally participation and supports are phased out after the veteran is able to function independently and it is deemed clinically appropriate.

The implementation of Public Law 108-170, the *Veterans Health Care, Capital Asset, and Business Improvement Act of 2003*, section 104, "Enhancement of Rehabilitative Services," expands rehabilitation services provided by the CWT program as authorized under 38 U.S.C. 1718. This law allows CWT to provide job development, job placement, supported employment, and community services to veterans. These services commonly describe a clinical model of vocational rehabilitation termed Supported Employment that helps individuals with serious mental illness engage in competitive employment in the community.

CWT and VA Benefits: Participation in the Incentive Therapy, or CWT Transitional or Support Employment programs cannot be used to reduce, deny, or discontinue VA compensation or pension. Pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 1718(g), a veteran's participation in or receipt of a distribution as a result of participation in an activity carried out under 38 U.S.C. 1718 may not be considered as a basis for denial or discontinuance of a rating of total disability for the purposes of compensation or pension based on the veterans inability to secure or follow a substantially gainful occupation as a result of disability. Pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 1718(g) (1) and (g) (2), 38 CFR 342(b) (4) (ii), 38 CFR 3.343(c) (1), and 38 C.F.R. 4.16(a) neither participation in, nor the receipt of remuneration as a result of participation in, a therapeutic or rehabilitation activity under 38 U.S.C. 1718 shall be considered evidence of employability. Pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 1718(g) (3) and 38 CFR 3.272(l), for the purposes of 38 U.S.C. chapter 15, Pension For Non-Service-Connected Disability, a distribution of funds and a payment made to a veteran under a program of rehabilitative services authorized by 38 U.S.C. 1718, are considered to be a donation from a public or private relief or welfare organization, and are not included in determining annual income.

Non-Service Connected Pension: For some veterans receiving a non-service connected pension, an Eligibility Verification Report (EVR) must be completed annually. The EVR Instructions (VA Form 21-0510) details the process for reporting income. Incentive Therapy and/or CWT income should be specifically reported.

Service-Connected Disability Compensation and Individual Un-employability: There are two ways for a veteran to achieve a total disability rating. The first possibility is to qualify for a 100 percent rating under the rating schedule set forth in part 4 of 38 C.F.R. The second possibility is to meet the standards of the regulations governing "individual unemployability" (IU). IU exists as a concept to cover the situation in which a service-connected disability makes the veteran unemployable, even though an average person with a similar impairment could secure and retain substantial gainful employment. Since the rating schedule focuses on the average person, the concept of IU is necessary to take into account circumstances such as education and past employment history that are peculiar to the claimant and to implement "the established policy of the Department of Veterans' Affairs that all veterans who are unable to secure and follow a substantially gainful occupation by reason of service-connected disabilities shall be rated totally disabled.

For some veterans receiving service-connected compensation at the 100 percent level based Individual Unemployability, an Employment Questionnaire (VA Form 21-4140-1) must be completed annually (see website). Incentive Therapy and/or CWT employment should be reported on the Employment Questionnaire, and the type of employment should be specified.

IT/CWT Letter to VBA: Attached is a template letter to be completed by IT or CWT staff on behalf of participating veterans documenting participation in a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) vocational program operated under the auspices of 38 U.S.C. 1718 which may be entered into patient's medical record and sent to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) if veteran requests and signs a Release of Information to VBA.

For IU recipients: If the veteran is an IU recipient, send the letter to the veteran's regional office; go to <http://www1.va.gov/OPA/feature/> or for the Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents Pamphlet for the facilities addresses or go to map to determine correct regional office at http://vaww1.va.gov/directory/guide/division_flsh.asp?dnum=3.

**For More Information on VHA's Psychosocial Rehabilitation Programs
Call Toll Free 1-800-355-8262 or www.va.gov/vetind**

Source directly from following Attachments:

CWT/VBA Template Letter

VA Form 21-4140-1 Employment Questionnaire (IU)

VA Form 21-0510 EVR Instructions (Pension)

VA Form 21-0516-1 EVR (for veterans with no children)

VA Form 21-0517-1 EVR (for veterans with children)

VA AND SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS SUMMARY

How working affects Veterans financial benefits?

Service Connected (SC) Compensation: A service-connected disability is an entitlement program that once received is guaranteed for life REGARDLESS OF EMPLOYMENT STATUS. The only exception to this employment status rule involves an individual who has IU (Individual Unemployability) who is paid at 100%, but in actuality is NOT 100% SC. A vet sometimes receives IU after an exhaustive investigation and verification of their inability to work as a result of their high SC plus environmental and/or burden on community resources (high uses of public funding such as section 8 or other state/local resources).

If a Veteran with IU works in the community (outside CWT/SE), the difference in their 100% and their actual SC% money will be reduced. The math is complicated, but a vet can find out exactly how much money they will lose by working, either by contacting the VA at 1 (800) 827- 1000 or else hear this directly by Veteran Service representatives (VSR) at VARO.

Non-Service Connected (NSC) Pension: NSC is an eligibility (unlike entitlement) program based on both needs of individual vets, as well as their year(s) in service. They must either have served during a wartime era, or have a severe disability which renders them unemployable based on medical records to that affect. Sometimes a veteran will choose to take the Non-Service Connected Pension (NSC) if it pays them more than a low SC compensation (10-30%) will pay.

If a vet chooses to receive the NSC pension (as opposed to a low SC disability compensation such as 10-20%), then working in the community (taking a real job) their NSC pension will be reduced dollar for dollar, but their SC% check will automatically be reinstated.

There are currently no incentives to return to work in the community with the NSC Pension. If a veteran works more than 20 hours per week, even at minimum wage, they would earn more than they would by maintaining the pension. VACO has recently acquiesced to allow vets to work in the community if they are participating in our new supported employment programs, but vets must be involved in CWT/SE in order to remain exempt. Therefore, the same protection will apply for these vets that the CWT/IT programs offer. See website for the applicable law: <http://vaww1.va.gov/vitraining>

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

To be eligible for SSDI, a person must:

- Have worked and paid Social Security taxes (F.I.C.A.) for enough years to be covered under Social Security. Some of the taxes must have been paid in recent years;
- Be considered medically disabled; and not be working or working but earning less than the substantial gainful activity (SGA) level.

Work incentives provide support over a period of years to allow the disability beneficiary to test their ability to work and gradually become self-supporting and independent. In general, a person has at least 4 years to test their ability to work. The person continues to have Medicare coverage during this time.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

To be eligible for SSI based on a medical condition, a person must:

- Have little or no income or resources (refer to the Glossary on website below for definitions of income and resources);
- Be considered medically disabled; and initially not be working or working but earning less than the SGA level.

Once on the rolls, work activity does not affect a person's continuing eligibility. Work activity does not affect initial or continuing eligibility for a person who is blind.

Once a person begins to receive SSI, work activity will not cause SSI to stop as long as the person is still disabled. Even if the person cannot receive SSI checks because of the amount of earnings, eligibility for Medicaid may continue indefinitely. In many cases, if a person loses his/her job or is unable to continue working, he/she can begin receiving checks again without filing a new application. Over 4.4 million Americans receive SSI because of a disability.

Many of these people would like to work but are afraid that if they do, they will lose their SSI checks and Medicaid coverage. The SSI work incentives offer these people ways to continue receiving their SSI checks and/or Medicaid coverage while they work. Some of the incentives can increase their net income to help cover special expenses they may have in order to work, to train for a job or to set up their own business.

SSDI/SSI Work Incentives

SSDI: The SSDI work incentives are:

- Impairment-Related Work Expenses;
- Trial Work Period;
- Extended Period of Eligibility;
- Continuation of Medicare Coverage;
- Medicare for People With Disabilities Who Work; and
- Continued Payment Under a Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

SSI: The SSI work incentives are:

- Impairment-Related Work Expenses;
- Earned Income Exclusion;
- Student Earned Income Exclusion;
- Work Expenses for persons with blindness
- Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS);
- Property Essential to Self-Support;
- Section 1619 Work Incentives; and
- Continued Payment Under a Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

* Above Source directly from: http://www.empowermentzone.com/ss_incen.txt

Vet Center: The Vet Center Program was established by Congress in 1979 out of the recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era vets were still experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers are community based and part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In April 1991, in response to the Persian Gulf War, Congress extended the eligibility to veterans who served during other periods of armed hostilities after the Vietnam era. Those other periods are identified as Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, and Kosovo/Bosnia. In October 1996, Congress extended the eligibility to include WWII and Korean Combat Veterans. The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life. On April 1, 2003 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs extended eligibility for Vet Center services to veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and on June 25, 2003 Vet Center eligibility was extended to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and subsequent operations within the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). The family members of all veterans listed above are eligible for Vet Center services as well. On August 5, 2003 VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi authorized Vet Centers to furnish bereavement counseling services to surviving parents, spouses, children and siblings of service members who die of any cause while on active duty, to include federally activated Reserve and National Guard personnel.

*Above source: http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/Vet_Center_Services.asp

Readjustment Counseling

What is readjustment counseling?

Readjustment counseling is wide range of services provided to combat veterans in the effort to make a satisfying transition from military to civilian life. Services include individual counseling, group counseling, marital and family counseling, bereavement counseling, medical referrals, and assistance in applying for VA Benefits, employment counseling, guidance and referral. Alcohol/drug assessments. Information and referral to community resources, military sexual trauma counseling & referral, outreach and community education.

Does VA have readjustment counseling for family members?

Family members of combat veterans have been eligible for Vet Center readjustment counseling services for military related issues since 1979.

Am I eligible for Vet Center readjustment counseling?

If you, or a family member, served in any combat zone and received a military campaign ribbon (Vietnam, Southwest Asia, OEF, OIF, etc.)you are eligible for Vet Center services.

Where is counseling offered?

VA's readjustment counseling is provided at community-based Vet Centers located near veterans and their families. There is no cost for Vet Center readjustment counseling. Contact your nearest Vet Center. Vet Center staff are available toll free during normal business hours at 1-800-905-4675 (Eastern) and 1-866-496-8838 (Pacific).

*Above source: http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/Vet_Center_Services.asp

VETERAN CENTERS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DuBois Vet Center

100 Meadow Lane, Suite 8
DuBois, PA 15801
Phone: 814-372-2095

Erie Vet Center

Renaissance Centre 1001 State St., Suite 102
Erie, PA 16501
Phone: (814)-453-7955

Harrisburg Vet Center

1500 N. Second Street Suite 2
Harrisburg, PA 17102
Phone: (717)-782-3954

McKeesport Veterans Resource Center

Oak Park Mall
2001 Lincoln Way
McKeesport, PA 15131
Phone: (412)-678-7704

Philadelphia Vet Center

801 Arch Street Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: (215)-627-0238

Philadelphia Vet Center NE

101 E. Olney Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19120
Phone: (215)-924-4670

Pittsburgh Vet Center

2500 Baldwick Rd
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Phone: (412)-920-1765

Scranton Vet Center

1002 Pittston Ave.
Scranton, PA 18505
Phone: (570)-344-2676

Williamsport Vet Center

49 E. Fourth Street Suite 104
Williamsport, PA 17701
Phone: (570)-327-5281