

STATE OF  
**ARKANSAS**

**Military  
Friendly Guide**

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



# Table of Contents

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Employment . . . . .	2
Taxes and Financial Support . . . . .	6
Health Care. . . . .	10
Education . . . . .	14
Housing . . . . .	17
Recreation . . . . .	19
Legal Services . . . . .	22
Small Business. . . . .	24
Additional Benefits & Assistance . . . . .	27
Highlights . . . . .	31



# Employment

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# Employment Opportunities

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## Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) and Local Veterans Employment Representatives (LVER)

DVOP and LVER are state-sponsored employment programs. DVOP works to increase employment opportunities in the local workforce by working with employers to raise awareness about the availability of veterans and the benefits of hiring them. LVER conducts outreach to employers, advocates with employers to increase veteran employment opportunities, and assists veterans in obtaining and retaining employment.

Please visit <https://dws.arkansas.gov/workforce-services/job-seekers/veterans-services/> for more information or call 1.844.908.2178.

2

## Arkansas State Employment Veteran Hiring Preference

State agencies are required to give preference to qualified veterans, disabled veterans, spouses of disabled veterans, and the surviving spouse of a deceased qualified veteran in all hiring, promotion, and retention activities. To receive preference, applicants must voluntarily submit official proof of their status as a veteran.

Please visit <https://www.transform.ar.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/13-Veterans-Preference-and-Reemployment-5.19.2021.pdf> for more information on this policy.

3

## Educator License Reciprocity

The Arkansas Department of Education values our veterans and military and their family members. Act 820 of 2019 grants active-duty service members, returning military veterans, and their spouses an automatic equivalent license if their license, issued by another state, territory, or district of the United States is in good standing.

For more information please visit <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/educator-effectiveness/licensure/licensure-by-reciprocity> or call 501.682.4342.

4

## Feds Hire Vets

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

For more information, please visit <https://www.opm.gov/fedshirevets/> or call 202.606.7304.

## 5 Veteran Job Center

Veterans deserve a dedicated job center that is easily accessible, costs nothing, and features employers who seek former military employees. Stars and Stripes provides just this.

To search for job postings, visit <https://veteranjobs.stripes.com/>

## 6 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.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/solutions/workforce-development-and-training/hiring-our-heroes> or call 202.463.5807.

## 7 Helmets to Hardhats

Helmets to Hardhats connects veterans with three- to five-year apprenticeship opportunities at no cost.

To learn more, visit <https://www.helmetstohardhats.org> or call 866.741.6210.

## 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.

To learn more, visit <https://getintoenergy.org/veterans/>

## 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 <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/userra>





## 10 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)

This Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program assists veterans who have service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep employment. For veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they are not able to immediately consider work, VR&E offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

For more information, please visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab>

## 12 Uniformed Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act (USERRA)

USERRA is intended to ensure that persons who serve or have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves, National Guard, or other uniformed services are not disadvantaged in their civilian careers because of their service, are promptly re-employed upon their return from duty, and are not discriminated against in employment because of past, present, or future military service.

For more information, please visit <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/programs/userra> or call 1.866.4.U.S.A.DOL (1.866.487.2365).

## 11 Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

ESGR understands the unique talents and skill set that Guard and Reserve Service members can bring to the civilian workforce. To make this arrangement work, both parties must be aware of their rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). ESGR promotes a culture where all employers support and value the military service of their employees.

For more information, please visit <https://www.esgr.mil/> or call 800.336.4590, option 1.



# Taxes & Financial Support

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# Taxes and Financial Support

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## State Income Tax Exemption

Arkansas recognizes the value of its active, reserve/guard, and retired military communities. Military pay for active and reserve components as well as military retirement pay are exempt from state income taxes.

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## Homestead and Personal Property Tax Exemption

The disabled veterans of Arkansas who receive VA compensation for loss of one or more limbs, total blindness in one or both eyes, or service-connected 100% disability are exempt from payment of all state taxes on the homestead and personal property owned by the disabled veteran. This benefit extends to surviving spouses, so long as they remain unmarried, and dependent children until they reach the age of majority.

15

## Gross Receipt of Tax Exemption

Veterans who are blind because of a service-connected injury do not have to pay taxes on the purchase of a vehicle. This benefit is limited to one vehicle every two years and extends to passenger vehicles only (not including trailers or trucks with a maximum gross load over three-fourths of a ton). Additionally, disabled veterans purchasing motor vehicles or adaptive equipment with assistance from the VA do not have to pay taxes on the purchase of their adaptive vehicles or equipment.

16

## Military Family Relief Trust Fund

Arkansas Army/Air National Guard and reserve members and their dependents can request short-term, emergency financial assistance if they have been impacted by active-duty service.

For more information, please visit

<https://arkansas.nationalguard.mil/Families/>

17

## Military Consumer

Be prepared for whatever comes. Whether going to a first duty station, undergoing a permanent change of station or deployment, receiving a promotion, starting a family, or transitioning to civilian life—Military Consumer has the tools to achieve success. Gain financial readiness by learning how to plan, spend, earn, borrow, save, and invest.

For more information, please visit

<https://www.militaryconsumer.gov>



## 18 VA Injury/ Disability Compensation

This is a monthly, tax-free monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by an injury or disease that is related to active military service. Disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of dependents.

To find out how you can apply for the disability benefits you have earned, please visit <https://www.va.gov/disability> or call 800.827.1000.

## 19 VA Pension Program

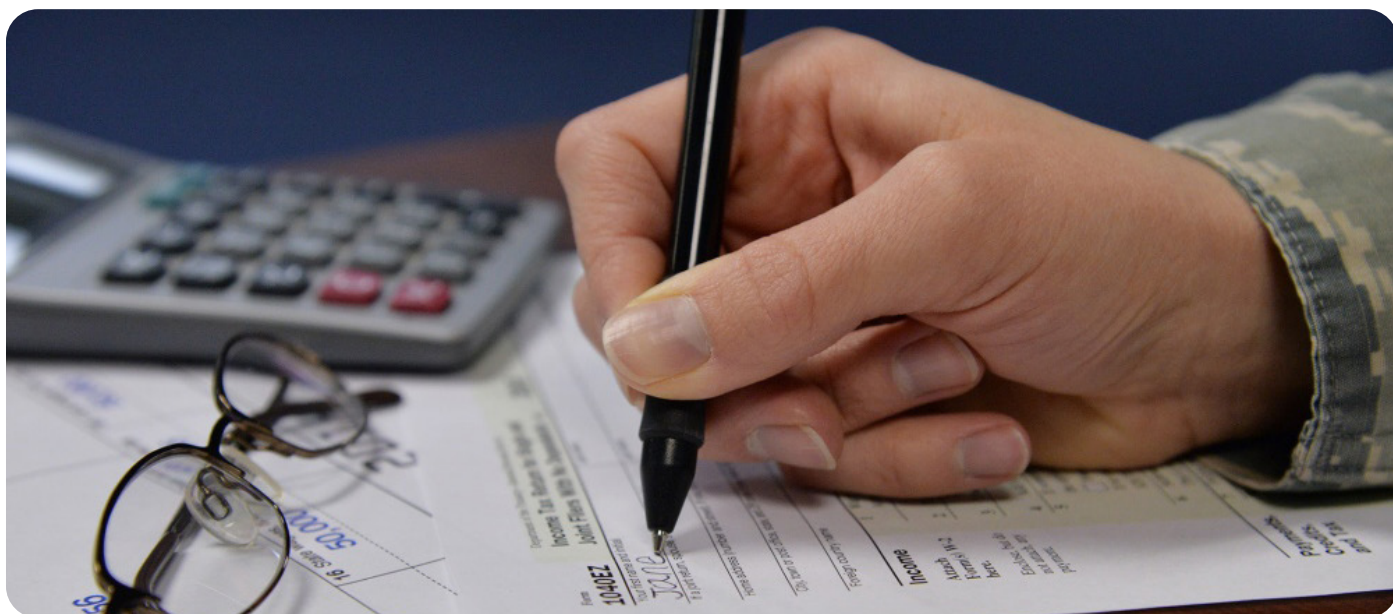
This program aims to help veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income. Eligible low-income veterans can apply for this tax-free monetary benefit. A survivor's benefit is also available to eligible family members of a deceased veteran.

For more information, please visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/pension> or call 800.827.1000.

## 20 American Red Cross

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

Active duty, activated Guard/Reserve, military retirees (or spouses/widows), and their immediate family members can call the Hero Care Center, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, at 877.272.7337, or visit <https://www.redcross.org/get-help/military-families/financial-assistance>



## **21 Operation First Response**

Operation First Response serves all wounded heroes/disabled veterans and their families with personal and financial needs. Services are provided from the onset of injury or illness through their recovery period and along their journey from military life to the civilian world. Financial aid varies, as each case is based on individual needs such as rent, utilities, vehicle payments, groceries, clothing, and travel expenses.

To find out how we can help, call **888.289.0280** or visit <https://www.operationfirstresponse.org>

## **22 Operation Homefront**

This program provides short-term financial relief, long-term stability, and recurring family support to military families and veterans. Services and support include food, home repairs, rent/mortgage payments, caregiver support, baby showers, holiday programs, and more.

For more information please call **800.722.6098** or visit <https://operationhomefront.org/>

## **23 USA Care**

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. Their services improve the quality of life for veterans and their families and alleviate stresses that can contribute to veteran suicide.

For more information, please visit <https://usacares.org/> or call **1.800.773.0387**.

## **24 Fisher House Foundation**

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 the Hero Miles program, using donated frequent flyer miles to bring family members to the bedside of injured service members.

For more information, please visit <https://www.fisherhouse.org> or call **888.294.8560**.



# Health Care

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# Health Care

## 25 Veterans Crisis Line

The VA Veterans Health Administration (VHA) established a national Veterans Crisis Line to ensure that veterans in emotional crisis have free, 24/7 access to trained counselors. To operate the hotline, the VA partnered with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Please call 1.800.273.TALK (8255) option 1.

## 26 Veterans' Centers (Readjustment Counseling)

These are community-based counseling centers that provide a wide range of social and psychological services including professional readjustment counseling, bereavement counseling, military sexual trauma counseling, and more. These services are available to eligible veterans, service members, and their families. The Arkansas state veterans' center is located in Little Rock and can be reached by calling 501.918.1800.

For more information on veterans' center services please visit <https://www.vetcenter.va.gov/> or call the national number 1.877.WAR.VETS (1.877.927.8387).

## 27 Veteran Long-Term Care Homes

The Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs operates two State Veterans Hospital Homes located in Fayetteville and North Little Rock. These homes are available to veterans (with an honorable discharge), veterans' spouses, and gold star parents who have a need for nursing home placement.

For more information on the Fayetteville home, please visit <https://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/veteran-homes-1> or call 479.444.7001. For more information on the North Little Rock home, please visit <https://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/veteran-homes-1> or call 501.683.1406.



## 28 Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department of Arkansas

The DAV aims to build better lives for disabled veterans and their families. They do this by providing free assistance to veterans in obtaining benefits and services earned through military service. Additionally, DAV offers free rides to veterans with appointments and serves VA medical centers in Little Rock and Fayetteville.

For information on transportation services, please call 501.257.6991. For more information on the DAV and its services, please visit <http://www.ardav.org/>.

## 29 Civilian Health and Medical Program of the VA (CHAMPVA)

CHAMPVA is a comprehensive health care program in which the VA shares the cost of covered health care services and supplies with eligible beneficiaries. This program covers most health care services and supplies that are medically and psychologically necessary.

Current TRICARE beneficiaries are not eligible for CHAMPVA. For more information, please visit <https://www.va.gov/communitycare/programs/dependents/champva/index.asp> or call (800) 733-8387.

## 30 Make the Connection

MakeTheConnection.net is an online resource designed to connect veterans, their family members, friends, and other supporters with information, resources, and solutions to issues affecting their lives.

For more information, please visit <https://www.maketheconnection.net>.

## 31 Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund

Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund serves military personnel experiencing the invisible wounds of war: traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress (PTS). When servicemen and women return from the battlefield, they 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 to serve on active duty and enjoy a full and productive life.

To learn more about Intrepid Spirit Centers, please visit <https://www.fallenheroesfund.org> or call 800.340.HERO (4376).

## 32 The Patriot Project

For those who suffer from back pain, The Patriot Project's core mission is to make chiropractic care accessible to active military, their families, wounded warriors, and Gold Star Dependents. There are currently seven Patriot Project chiropractors in Arkansas.

For more information on the Patriot Project and practitioners, please visit <https://www.patriot-project.org> or call 330.495.8333.

### 33 Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)

PVA has developed a unique expertise on a wide variety of issues involving the special needs of our members – veterans of the armed forces who have experienced spinal cord injury or dysfunction. PVA offers a wide variety of services to its members including caregiver support, COVID-19 support, legal services, medical services, employment, and much more.

For more information, please visit <https://pva.org> or call the North Little Rock Regional Office at 501.370.3757.



### 34 Coaching Into Care

Coaching Into Care is a free service for families and friends of veterans. Responders will briefly assess concerns and provide appropriate resources and referrals. Through 10- to 30-minute calls, licensed psychologists and social workers offer guidance and help for starting conversations with veterans about their mental health or substance use and motivating them to seek treatment if necessary.

For more information on this program please visit <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/> or call 888.823.7458.

### 35 Veteran Training

The VA Training site offers a wide variety of free courses covering sleep issues, anger management, parenting, and more. These courses are built by and for veterans and are available to non-veterans as well.

For more information, please visit <https://www.veterantraining.va.gov>.

### 36 K9s for Warriors

Determined to end veteran suicide, K9s For Warriors provides highly-trained service dogs to military veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury, and/or sexual trauma. With the majority of dogs coming from high-kill rescue shelters, this innovative program allows the K9/warrior team to build an unwavering bond that facilitates their collective healing and recovery.

For more information, please visit <https://k9sforwarriors.org/> or call 1.888.819.0112.



Photo Credit: Lawrence G. Miller, Flickr

# Education

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# Education

## 37 Arkansas Military Dependents Scholarship (MDS)

MDS provides financial aid for undergraduate students seeking a bachelor's degree or certificate of completion at any public or private college, university, or technical school in Arkansas, if they qualify as a spouse or dependent child of an Arkansas resident who has been declared missing in action, killed in action, a prisoner of war, killed on ordnance delivery, or totally and permanently disabled during, or as a result of, active military service.

For more information on this scholarship, please visit <https://sams.adhe.edu/Scholarship/Details/MDS> or call 501.371.2000.

## 38 Arkansas In-State Tuition

Regardless of residence, a state-supported institution of higher education, trade school, or vocational school shall classify a student as in-state, in-county, in-district, or resident for the purpose of tuition and fees applicable to all programs of study, including distance learning programs, if the student is (a) a veteran who was discharged or released from a period of not less than 90 days of active duty in the military, naval, or air service within three years before the date of enrollment in a program of study, (b) a dependent of an eligible veteran, (c) a member of the armed forces, or (d) a spouse of a member of the armed forces (AR Code § 6-60-205).

## 39 Arkansas National Guard Tuition Waiver Program (NGTW)

NGTW pays for up to 120 credit hours or until completion of a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first. NGTW will be applied to tuition first so that a service member's GI Bill can be used to cover all additional costs if the member decides to use both programs. The NGTW can be used to cover mandatory fees but does not cover other costs such as books.

For more information on this program, please visit <https://arkansas.nationalguard.mil/EIB/NGTW/>.

## 40 Diplomas for Veterans

High school diplomas can be obtained for World War II, Korean, and Vietnam veterans who were called up for active-duty service before finishing high school.

For more information on this program, please visit <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/office-of-school-choice-and-parent-empowerment/military-families--veterans/information-for-veterans>. Qualifying veterans should contact their school superintendent or the Arkansas Department of Education's military liaison officer at 501.683.5188.





## 41 Arkansas Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children (MIC3)

The purpose of this compact is to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents. Through the Interstate Compact, MIC3 addresses educational transition issues encountered by children of military families.

For more information, please visit <https://mic3.net> or call the Arkansas primary point of contact at 501.683.5188.

## 42 Arkansas Purple Star School Award for Military Friendly Schools

This program recognizes schools that show a major commitment to serving students and families connected to the U.S. Armed Forces. In order to qualify for the Purple Star Award, a school must appoint a liaison who is specially trained to handle the unique challenges experienced by military families. This liaison will ensure that other teachers at their school are aware of special considerations from which students from military families can benefit. Each school will also have a dedicated page on its school website featuring resources for military families.

For more information on Purple Star Schools in Arkansas, please visit <https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/office-of-school-choice-and-parent-empowerment/military-families--veterans/purple-star-schools> or call the Arkansas Department of Education's military liaison officer at 501.683.5188.

## 43 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.

For more information, please visit <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill> or call 888.GIBILL.1 (888.442.4551).



# Housing

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## Housing

### 44 Arkansas Veterans Village

Arkansas Veterans Village is a nonprofit organization focused on helping 500 homeless veterans in Washington and Benton Counties, Arkansas. Through the provision of safe housing, they work to get veterans the care they need to obtain training and jobs to rejoin their community.

For more information, please visit <https://arveteransvillage.org>.

### 45 VA Homeless Programs

The VA is committed to ending homelessness among veterans. Veterans who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness are strongly encouraged to contact the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877.4AID.VET (877.424.3838) for assistance. Veterans are also able to visit their closest VA medical center for help.

For more information, please visit <https://www.va.gov/homeless/>.



### 46 VA Home Loans

VA helps service members, veterans, and eligible surviving spouses become homeowners. As part of their mission to serve them, they provide a home loan guarantee benefit and other housing-related programs to help them buy, build, repair, retain, or adapt a home for their personal occupancy. The benefits of VA home loans include: no requirement for a down payment, low and competitive interest rates, limited closing costs, no need for Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI), and the ability to use the loan multiple times.

For more information, please visit <https://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/> or call 1.877.827.3702.

### 47 Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP)

The Department of Defense (DoD) Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP) assists eligible homeowners who face financial loss when selling their primary residence in areas where real estate values have declined because of a base closure or a realignment announcement. HAP may provide financial assistance under one of the following three scenarios: private sale, government acquisition, or foreclosure.

For more information, please visit <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Military-Missions/Real-Estate/HAP/>.



Photo Credit: Brad Sims, Flickr

# Recreation

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# Recreation

## 48 Arkansas State Parks

The Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism provides Arkansas resident veterans who have a permanent service-connected 100% disability rating the ability to camp for half price in state parks. Proof of 100% status is required.

For more information, please visit <https://www.arkansasstateparks.com/about/faq> or call 1.888.287.2757.

## 49 Arkansas Disabled and Retired Military Hunting and Fishing Licenses

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission recognizes the value of its veteran and retired military communities and offers several license and permit discounts to eligible individuals.

For more information on licenses and permits or the application process, please visit <https://www.agfc.com/en/resources/licensing/disability-65-plus-and-lifetime-licenses> or call 800.364.4263.

Disabled Veterans		
Type of License/Permit	Cost	Eligibility
Resident Disabled Military Veteran Lifetime Fishing License	\$1.50	100% disabled veteran and 1-year proof of residency
Resident Disabled Military Veteran Lifetime Hunting License	\$1.50	100% disabled veteran and 1-year proof of residency
Resident Disabled Military Veteran Lifetime Combination License	\$3.00	100% disabled veteran and 1-year proof of residency
Lifetime Waterfowl and Trout Permit	\$7.00-\$10.00	100% disabled veteran and 1-year proof of residency
Resident Disabled Military Veteran Lifetime Combination License	\$52.50	>70% disabled veteran or >50% disabled veteran with purple heart, and 1-year proof of residency

Military Retirees		
Type of License/Permit	Cost	Eligibility
Resident Military Retiree Lifetime Fishing License	\$10.50	> 60 years with proof of military retirement and 1-year proof of residency
Resident Military Retiree Lifetime Hunting License	\$25.00	> 60 years with proof of military retirement and 1-year proof of residency
Resident Military Retiree Lifetime Combination License	\$35.50	> 60 years with proof of military retirement and 1-year proof of residency
Lifetime Waterfowl and Trout Permit	\$7.00-\$10.00	> 60 years with proof of military retirement and 1-year proof of residency

## 50 Arkansas Freedom Fund

The Arkansas Freedom Fund exists to serve and support rehabilitative recreational outdoor activities that benefit military, veterans, wounded/disabled veterans, and their families. They provide veterans with opportunities including cycling, golf, hunting, fishing, hiking, martial arts, kayaking, and scuba diving.

For more information, please visit <https://www.arkansasfreedomfund.org> or call 501.580.5572.



## 51 Warhorse Legacy Foundation (WLF)

Warhorse Legacy Foundation (WLF) is the only nonprofit veterans' organization in northwest Arkansas dedicated to horsemanship, outdoor recreation, and networking. WLF offers its programs free of charge to veterans and their families. They believe in connecting people with nature, fostering wellness, and discovering the healing potential of horsemanship.

For more information, please visit <https://warhorselegacy.org> or call 479.634.2119.

## 53 Heroes on the Water

Heroes on the Water, a 501(c)(3) veterans' charity, creates alternative wellness programs to serve veterans, active-duty military personnel, first responders, and their families. These experiential programs incorporate structured activities proven to improve the lives of these men and women. Each experience reduces the impact of post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury while providing much-needed camaraderie and support. They provide kayak fishing trips across the country.

For more information, please visit <https://heroesonthewater.org>.

## 52 Freedom Hunters

Freedom Hunters reflects the outdoor community's appreciation to servicemembers by taking selected active duty and combat veterans, families of fallen heroes, children of the deployed, and those wounded or injured on outdoor adventures. Empowered by help from conservation groups, outfitters, corporations, government agencies, and landowners, Freedom Hunters honors individuals from all branches of the military.

For more information, please visit <https://freedomhunters.org> or call 303.884.0059.

## 54 Dive Pirates Foundation

Dive Pirates supports, trains, equips, and provides dive travel to veterans with disabilities through adaptive scuba diving. Trips are available in 21 states across the country.

For more information, please visit <https://divepirates.org> or call 877.EYE.DIVE (877.393.3483).



# Legal Services

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# Legal Services

## 55 Center for Arkansas Legal Services (CALS)

CALS is a non-profit law firm that provides free legal services to low-income and veteran communities in Arkansas. CALS works to help veterans with the common legal problems that they may face, including VA benefit denials, discharge upgrade appeals, consumer and family law matters, the need to seal criminal records, and landlord/tenant disputes.

For more information, please visit <https://www.arkansaslegal.org/veterans-legal-assistance> or call 501.376.3423.

## 57 StatesideLegal

StatesideLegal assists people who have military experience by providing them information and resources so they may better understand and protect their rights. This is done by hosting a broad library of legal information, creating interactive online spaces for individuals to ask questions, and providing a national directory of free and low-cost legal help throughout the U.S.

For more information, please visit <https://www.statesidelegal.org>.

## 56 UA Little Rock Veterans Legal Services Clinic

The Veterans Legal Services Clinic provides law students a high-quality, service-oriented learning experience while helping Arkansas veterans access benefits available to them under federal law. Students in the clinic represent former military service members with VA appeals related to disability compensation and reconsideration of discharge status. Additionally, the clinic serves as a resource center for veterans and their families throughout Arkansas. Finally, the clinic engages in community education and connects veterans to attorneys and organizations who have agreed to provide assistance at no charge or at a reduced rate.

For more information, please visit <https://ualr.edu/law/clinical-programs/veterans-legal-services-clinic/> or call 501.916.5452.

## 58 National Veterans Legal Services

The Lawyers Serving Warriors program offers pro bono legal help with disability issues to all veterans. Support services include assistance with discharge upgrades, applications for combat-related special compensation, submissions to the Boards for Correction of Military Records for wrongfully discharged veterans, VA medical claims for mental health or physical conditions, and many others.

For more information please visit <https://www.nvlsp.org/what-we-do/lawyers-serving-warriors/> or call 202.265.8305.





# Small Business

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## Small Business

### 59 UTA Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)

UTAVBOC provides collaborative, hands-on, interactive learning opportunities including classroom instruction and opportunities to work with experienced coaches and mentors, attend workshops, and develop connections. Through training programs, one-on-one business counseling, accredited university courses, practical seminars, relevant workshops, expert referrals, and veteran-focused outreach activities, UTAVBOC serves as the Small Business Administration (SBA) resource for veterans. UTAVBOC services are funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the SBA to empower transitioning veterans, disabled veterans, National Guard, active and reserve component members, and their spouses to grow the U.S. economy and its employment base, while adding value to the communities in which they live and serve.

For more information, please visit <https://www.uta.edu/vboc> or call 817.272.6789.

### 60 Office of Veterans Business Development

The Office of Veterans Business Development's (OVBD) mission is to maximize the availability, applicability, and usability of small business programs for veterans, service-disabled veterans, Reserve component members, and their dependents or survivors. OVBD is SBA's liaison with the veteran business community. It provides policy analysis and reporting and acts as an ombudsman for veteran entrepreneurs. OVBD has several programs and services to assist aspiring and existing veteran entrepreneurs such as training, counseling and mentorship, and oversight of federal procurement programs for veteran-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

For more information, please visit <https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/sba-locations/headquarters-offices/office-veterans-business-development>.





## 61 Arkansas Division of Emergency Management Federal Surplus Property Program

In accordance with the Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act of 2018, Public Law 115-416, Veteran-Owned Small Businesses and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) are now eligible to participate in the Arkansas Federal Surplus Property Program. This unique program allows eligible businesses and organizations to acquire property that has been declared surplus by the federal government. The property is brought to Arkansas from all over the world and made available to eligible organizations.

**For more information on this program, please visit <https://www.dps.arkansas.gov/emergency-management/adem/federal-surplus-property/veteran-owned-small-businesses>.**



## 63 VetFran

VetFran aims to educate both veterans and franchisors about the unique match between the skills and aptitudes of entrepreneurial veterans and the demands and opportunities of being a franchisee. Our research and experience have shown that veterans make great franchisees and that the business model is a gateway to small business ownership, prosperity, and success for our nation's heroes. VetFran also works to facilitate the transition of veterans into franchising by encouraging franchisors to offer discounts and incentives to veterans, and has assembled resources, tools, and a database of franchising opportunities for veterans.

**For more information, please visit <https://www.vetfran.org> or call 202.662.0781**



## 62 Bunker Labs

Bunker Labs, a 501(c)(3) non-profit program, provides a nationwide network of veteran entrepreneurs dedicated to helping new veteran entrepreneurs start their own business. Bunker labs hosts several programs and courses to help veterans reach their small business goals faster.

**For more information, please visit <https://bunkerlabs.org>.**



## **Additional Benefits and Assistance**

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# Additional Benefits and Assistance

## 64 License Plates

The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration Office of Motor Vehicle will provide (upon receipt of proper certification letters) several special privileges and benefits for Arkansas residents, including special license plates.

For more information, please visit <https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/office/motor-vehicle/motor-vehicle-forms/> or call the Motor Vehicle Office at 501.682.4692.

## 65 Arkansas State Veteran Cemeteries

There are two state cemeteries: Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery at North Little Rock and Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery at Birdeye. Members who qualify for veteran interment may do so at no cost (\$807 for spouse or qualified dependent). This includes gravesite opening, closing, and perpetual care; an upright federal government-supplied headstone or niche cover; a burial flag; and military honors.

For more information, please visit <https://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/veteran-cemeteries-1>.

## 66 Federal Burial and Memorial Benefits

Burial in a national cemetery is available to veterans of active federal military service, their spouses, and dependent minor children. Provided at no cost to the family, a national cemetery burial includes the gravesite and grave-liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. If a veteran is buried in a private cemetery anywhere in the world, the VA will provide a headstone or marker. Arkansas has two national cemeteries: Fort Smith National Cemetery and Little Rock National Cemetery.

For more information, please visit [https://www.cem.va.gov/burial\\_benefits](https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits) or call 800.698.2411.

## 67 American Legion, Department of Arkansas

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic organization of wartime veterans devoted to mutual assistance. Among American Legion members, there is no rank or prejudice, only purpose. A veteran is a veteran. And the purpose of veterans in the American Legion is to strengthen the United States through programs, services, compassion, and actions that have proven vital, timeless, and life-changing for over a century.

For more information on the Department of Arkansas, please visit <http://www.arlegion.org> or call 501.375.1104.

### **68** Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of Arkansas

The VFW's mission is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts; to serve our veterans, the military, and our communities; and to advocate on behalf of all veterans. The VFW has several resources and programs for its members.

For more information, please visit <https://vfw.org> or call 501.834.8392.

### **69** Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is committed to serving its communities, supporting the next generation of America's war veterans, seeking the fullest possible accounting of our Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA), creating a positive public perception of Vietnam veterans, and securing full access to quality health care 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. Arkansas houses four VVA chapters.

For more information, please visit <https://vva.org> or call 1.800.882.1316.

### **70** Home for Dinner

Home for Dinner, Inc. is a non-profit organization with 501(c)3 status, founded in 2011 and located in Bentonville. Home for dinner seeks to honor and assist hometown military veterans through its restaurant gift card program, grocery giveaway program, Valentines for Vets, and local college scholarship fund. All monies are dispersed in Benton and Washington Counties, but the ultimate vision is to be able to provide for every veteran in northwest Arkansas through these and other initiatives.

For more information, please visit <https://homefordinner.us>.

### **71** Veteran IDs

There are many types of identification cards you can use to show that you are a veteran, including a DoD Identification Card, Veteran Health Identification Card, Veteran ID Card, or a veteran's designation on a state-issued driver's license or ID. A person may apply to the Arkansas Office of Driver Services to obtain a veteran designation or identification card.

For more information on these services through the state, please visit <https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/office/driver-services/licenses-ids-permits/military-veterans/> or call 501.682.7059.

For more information on other forms of veteran identification, please visit <https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/>.

## **Military OneSource**

Military OneSource is your 24/7 connection to information, answers, and support to help you reach your goals, overcome challenges, and thrive. As a member of our military family, you are eligible to use this DoD-funded program anytime, anywhere. Turn to Military OneSource for tax services, spouse employment help, webinars and online training, relocation and deployment tools, and much more. This resource is available to military members and veterans for up to one year post-separation or post-retirement.

**For more information, please visit**  
<https://www.militaryonesource.mil> or  
call 800.342.9647.

## **Wounded Warrior Project**

More than 52,000 servicemen and women have been physically injured in recent military conflicts and over 500,000 are living with invisible wounds, from depression to post-traumatic stress. Advancements in technology and medicine save lives – but the quality of those lives might be profoundly altered. Through a range of programs and services, we are transforming the way America’s injured veterans are empowered, employed, and engaged in our communities.

**For more information, please visit**  
<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org>  
or call 888.997.2586.

## **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 you with federal, state, and local government agencies; non-profits and community-based organizations; academic institutions; and professional associations. NRD harnesses unprecedented partnerships with the Departments of Defense, Labor, and Veterans Affairs to get you to the ideal resource for recovery, education, training, employment, housing, health, transportation, and more.

**For more information, please visit** <https://nrd.gov>.

## **Cell Phones for Soldiers**

Cell Phones for Soldiers is a national non-profit organization dedicated to providing cost-free communication services and emergency funding to active-duty military members and veterans. Since 2004, we have provided more than 400 million minutes of free talk time to servicemen and women and recycled more than 25 million cell phones, reducing the impact on landfills. Cell Phones for Soldiers uses proceeds from donated cell phones to purchase international calling cards for troops to call home and to provide emergency funding to veterans.

**For more information, please visit**  
<https://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/>  
or call 678.580.1976.

# Highlights

## **Veteran Crisis Line**

1.800.273.TALK, Press 1  
<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

## **Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs**

501.683.2382  
501 Woodlane Drive, Suite 401N, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
<https://www.veterans.arkansas.gov/>

## **VA Medical Centers**

### **Fayetteville VA Medical Center**

479.443.4301  
1100 North College Avenue, Fayetteville, AR 72703-1944  
<https://www.va.gov/fayetteville-arkansas-health-care/>

### **John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans' Hospital**

501.257.1000  
4300 West Seventh Street, Little Rock, AR 72205-5446  
<https://www.va.gov/central-arkansas-health-care/>

### **Eugene J. Towbin Healthcare Center**

501.257.1000  
2200 Fort Roots Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72114-1707  
<https://www.va.gov/central-arkansas-health-care/locations/eugene-j-towbin-healthcare-center/>

**Don't see a VA Medical Center near you? Find a clinic by visiting**  
<https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?dnum=ALL&STATE=AR>

## **Veterans Benefits Administration**

### **North Little Rock Regional Office**

800.827.1000  
2200 Fort Roots Drive, Building 65, North Little Rock, AR 72114  
<https://www.benefits.va.gov/littlerock/>





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