

# Michigan State Veteran's Benefits & Discounts

August 2017



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

- Veterans Housing Programs
- Financial Assistance
- Veterans Employment Services
- Education
- Recreation Benefits
- Veteran Employment Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

## Veteran Housing Programs

There are 2 Michigan State Veterans Homes, the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette, and the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. All members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been honorably discharged, served more than 90 days on active duty (more than 24 months if entering service after October 16, 1981), and served after December 7, 1941 may apply for admission to these homes. Michigan residency is not required, and spouses or surviving spouses may be admitted if space is available. Fees are income based. Both the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans are State of Michigan facilities operated by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. The homes' Board of Managers annually determines the cost of care based on operational costs. The cost to individual members is determined by a monthly assessment based on each member's ability to pay. The current monthly cost of care rates for each home is:

- Vets: Domiciliary Care \$2,380 (\$2,330 if eligible for federal aid) | Nursing Care \$4,300;
- Non-Veterans Domiciliary Care \$3,800 | Nursing Care \$7,520.

The D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans is located in Marquette. The Home provides two levels of care - domiciliary and nursing. In addition, other services, such as spiritual, medical, social, recreational and educational are provided. All services are supported from individual members, Federal subsidies and appropriations by the State of Michigan. Refer to <https://www.michiganveterans.com/p/D-J-Jacobetti-Home-for-Veterans> for more info on the home.

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is located on 90 acres of land adjacent to the Grand River in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Home offers veterans a wooded area with a pond formed along Lamberton Creek, an amphitheater, nature trail, picnic pavilion and extensive picnic areas for residents. The buildings and grounds are groomed and maintained by an experienced and dedicated staff. Grounds beautification and building remodeling projects are continuously underway. GRHV has capacity for 450 nursing care beds and more than 100 domiciliary beds. The nursing care beds include 115 special needs beds, with two 35-bed nursing units for the care of Alzheimer's and dementia patients and one 45-bed nursing unit for dual diagnoses patients. Refer to <https://www.michiganveterans.com/p/Grand-Rapids-Home-for-Veterans> for more info on the home.



**D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans**  
425 Fisher St. Marquette, MI 49855  
Tel: 800-433-6760 | 906-226-3576



**Grand Rapids Home for Veterans**  
3000 Monroe Ave. N.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
Tel: 844-711-7986 | 616-364-5389

For additional information policies, available services, and application procedures for each home refer to:

- D.J. Jacobetti Home: [http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2362\\_2763---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2362_2763---,00.html)
- The Grand Rapids Home: [http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362\\_2749---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362_2749---,00.html)

### **Michigan Veterans Homeowners Assistance Program (MiVHAP)**

The Michigan Attorney General targeted funds from the National Mortgage Settlement to assist Military Service Members and Veterans with issues related to the foreclosure crisis. The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund state office staff members will administer funding assistance to prevent foreclosure. Grants are subject to approval based on program criteria. The fund will provide financial grant assistance to Active military service members; Reserve, Air and Army National Guard, and honorably discharged Veterans living or having lived in a home in Michigan. The MiVHAP may assist with residual effects related to the foreclosure crisis, since 2006. Eligible surviving spouses of military service members, whose deaths have been deemed to be combat related since 2006, may also be provided financial assistance.

## **Financial Assistance**

## **Income Tax**

Military pay is not taxed. Military retirement benefits in Michigan may be tax-free depending on your age, filing status, other pensions, and income from other sources.

## **Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF)**

The Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) is a program used when an unforeseen situation has caused a temporary financial emergency or hardship that a grant, if approved, would resolve and the applicant can show that they will be able to meet future expenses. Eligibility requirements are:

- Honorable Discharge
- 180 days during a period of war
- 180 days of active duty with award of Armed - Forces/Navy Expeditionary Medal
- Less than 180 days of wartime service due to service-incurred disability

**Note:** Dependents can apply if veteran is eligible under certain circumstances

The MVTF Main Office can be reached at 517-284-5299 or by mail to P.O. Box 30104 Lansing, MI 48909. Applicants must apply in county where they reside. They should call and make appointment and insure they bring all required documents and information to complete the application. This includes:

- Military discharge document (DD214 or other)
- Proof of Residence
- Documents for Dependents
- Proof of Income and Expenses
- Other documents depending on types of assistance

For additional information refer to [http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362\\_66822---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362_66822---,00.html)

## **Veterans' Employment Services**

Michigan offers veterans a large array of employment services including disabled veterans outreach programs and the Shifting Heroes Program, a component of the Michigan Shifting Gears Program which is a career-transition program for seasoned mid- and late-career professional talent going through, or preparing to go through, a career transition scenario. Refer to the following for information on Michigan jobs:

- <http://www.uschamberfoundation.org/hiring-our-heroes>
- <http://hro.minationalguard.com/vacancies>
- <http://www.mitalent.org/veteran>
- <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/michigan/default.cfm>

## **Education**

### **Tuition Grant Procedure Brief**

The Children of Veterans Tuition Grant (CVTG) was previously called Education of Children of Veterans, Public Act 245 of 1935 and was administered and funded by the Michigan Trust Fund. In 2005, CVTG was established under Public Act 248 to provide an undergraduate tuition program for children of certain deceased or disabled members of the armed forces of the United States.

The program is designed to provide undergraduate tuition assistance to certain children older than 16 and less than 26 years of age who have been Michigan residents for the 12 months prior to application. To be eligible, a student must be the natural or adopted child of a Michigan veteran. Stepchildren of the veteran are not eligible. The veteran must have been a legal resident of Michigan immediately before entering military service and must not have later resided outside of Michigan for more than two years; or the veteran must have established legal residency in Michigan after entering military service.

Students may receive scholarship assistance for up to four academic years for a total of up to \$11,200. Awards are for an academic year with the amount determined by the student's enrollment status. Full-time students can receive up to a maximum of \$2,800 per academic year.

State general funds are appropriated annually in the Higher Education Appropriations Act. This program is administered by the Student Scholarships and Grants Division.

Additional information and eligibility requirements are on the CVTG Fact Sheet and CVTG Application.

Visit the Michigan Department of Veterans Services website at <http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,4569,7-126-2362---,00.html> for contact information and benefits assistance.

### **Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program**

Public Act 259 of 2014 established the State Tuition Assistance Program (STAP) to provide tuition assistance of up to \$4,500 per academic year to members of the Michigan National Guard. It is available to members of the Michigan National Guard who (1) are active in the National Guard (including the traditional service of one weekend/month and two weeks/year; (2) are not absent without leave or under UCMJ charges; and (3) meet the additional criteria established by the TAG consistent with the guard's recruiting and retention requirements. STAP will provide assistance to students attending any public or private college, university, vocational school, technical school or trade school located in Michigan. Assistance covers students in any course of study that is intended to culminate in vocational or technical training, a certificate or the student's first associate's degree, bachelor's degree or master's degree. Current semester MING-STAP applications are now being accepted. Ensure you have submitted your degree plan and that the classes you are requesting reimbursement for are on it. Future MING-STAP deadlines will allow students to submit applications up to 60 days prior and 14 days after courses begin.

In order to receive your MING-STAP reimbursement, email, fax or mail an unofficial transcript with cumulative GPA and an itemized tuition statement or account summary. Make sure that your name is located on both documents. Two examples of acceptable itemized tuition statements or account summaries can be viewed at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/Example\\_1\\_479986\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/Example_1_479986_7.pdf) and [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/Example\\_2\\_479987\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/Example_2_479987_7.pdf).

#### **STAP Point of Contact:**

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
State Operations – Budget Office  
3423 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Lansing, MI 48906  
Phone: 517-481-7640  
Fax: 517-481-7782  
Email: MINGSTAP@michigan.gov

## **Veterans Recreation**

### **Hunting and Fishing Privileges**

Michigan residents who are currently in federal active duty status may obtain hunting and fishing licenses, for which a lottery is not required, free of charge. Non-residents who are in federal active duty status and currently stationed in Michigan are eligible to receive resident pricing on hunting and fishing licenses.

### **Resident Veterans with Disabilities Hunting and Fishing Privilege**

Permanently & totally disabled veterans can get any resident hunting or fishing license for which a lottery is not required, free of charge.

## **Other State Veterans' Benefits**

### **Michigan Veterans' Benefits and Services Handbook**

This booklet available at <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/Publications/VeteransBenefits.pdf> has been compiled especially for veterans and their families to fulfill three important purposes:

- To provide information concerning veterans benefits and service available through federal, state, and local agencies;
- To provide veterans and their families with links to direct sources, both computer-based and professional, knowledgeable counselors, for answers to specific questions; and
- To assist veterans in communicating more effectively with their elected representatives.

### **Michigan Veteran Cemeteries**

The Federal government has two national cemeteries in Michigan:

- Fort Custer National Cemetery, 15501 Dickman Road, Augusta, MI 49012 Tel: 269-731-4164 Fax: 269-731-2428
- Great Lakes National Cemetery, 4200 Belford Road, Holly, MI 48442 Tel: 248-328-0386 or 1-866-348-8603 Fax: 248-328-0612

### **Michigan State Veterans' Burial Expenses**

Under Michigan law, eligible veterans (or the wife or widow of a qualified veteran) who meet residency and asset limits may qualify for \$300 for burial expenses paid by the County Board of Commissioners or the Board of County Auditors. The Soldiers Relief Commission of each county has the responsibility for investigating each claim.

### **Veteran License Plates**

The Department of State offers veteran and military service plates. Each plate is available in two options. The first option is with the standard plate background as shown in the images below. The second option is with the multi-color graphic background of the Spectacular Peninsulas plate shown at the end of the below list. All plate can be personalized for an additional \$30 fee.

## **Veteran/Military Service Plates**



[Afghanistan Conflict Veteran](#)



[Afghanistan Campaign Medal Veteran](#)



[Air Force Veteran](#)



[Army Veteran](#)



[Coast Guard Veteran](#)



[Combat Wounded Veteran \(Purple Heart\)](#)



• [Cuban Missile Crisis](#)



• [Disabled Veteran](#)



• [Dominican Republic Veteran](#)



• [Ex-Prisoner of War \(Ex-POW\)](#)



• [Gold Star Family Plate](#)



• [Grenada Conflict Veteran](#)



[Iraq Conflict Veteran](#)



[Iraq Campaign Medal Veteran](#)



[Korean War Veteran](#)



[Laos Conflict Veteran](#)



[Lebanon Conflict Veteran](#)



[Marine Corps Veteran](#)

- [Medal of Honor](#)



- [Military Reserve Member](#)



- [National Guard Member](#)



- [Navy Veteran](#)



- [Panama Conflict Veteran](#)



- [Pearl Harbor Survivor](#)



[Persian Gulf \(Desert Storm\) Veteran](#)



[Somalia Conflict Veteran](#)



[Vietnam War Veteran](#)



[Vietnam Service Medal Veteran](#)



[World War II Veteran](#)

### Veteran/Military Service Motorcycle Plates



[Air Force Veteran](#)



[Army Veteran](#)



[Coast Guard Veteran](#)



[Marine Corps Veteran](#)



[National Guard Member](#)



All of the Veteran Plates are also available in a Spectacular Peninsula version.

### **Requesting Military Records**

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs maintains copies of DD Forms 214, Release from Active Duty, for persons who served on active duty with the U.S. Armed Forces and who requested a copy of their DD Form 214 be forwarded to the State of Michigan. The individual (or next of kin for deceased veterans) may request a copy using the DD-214 Request form at [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/DD-214\\_Request\\_480135\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dmva/DD-214_Request_480135_7.pdf). The next of kin must attach a copy of the veteran's death certificate with the request. Send the request to: Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Attn: Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, P.O. Box 30104, Lansing, MI 48909 Tel: Phone: 800621-4838 | Fax: 517-284-5297

Both the Michigan Army and Air National Guard have current military records of their members on file at State Headquarters. Current members should request their records through their unit or command. Retired members can request their records by contacting the Army National Guard at 517-481-8331 or the Air National Guard at 517-481-8277.

**State Archives of Michigan** has records of members of the Michigan State Troops, including rosters, lineage of units, and records of individuals for World War I and before. State the service member's name and the war in which the individual served and send your request to: State Archives of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48915 Tel: 517-373-3559

### **Other Michigan Veteran Services :**

Helpful Links:

- Michigan Veterans Affairs website <http://www.michigan.gov/dmva/0,1607,7-126-2362---,00.html>
- Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit Claim for Veterans and Blind People [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/taxes/MI1040CR2book\\_305438\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/taxes/MI1040CR2book_305438_7.pdf)
- Veteran License Plates [http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1585\\_1595\\_1598---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1585_1595_1598---,00.html)

**Note:** Michigan Veterans can find assistance through their local county veterans services offices. To locate an office near you refer to <http://macvc.net>.

Visit the **Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs** website <http://www.michigan.gov/dmva> for more information on any of these programs.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/michigan-state-veterans-benefits> August 2017 ++]

## **Military Discounts in Michigan**

1. There are close to 6,7 business locations in Michigan that have discounts for military personnel and veterans. In addition to businesses providing discounts, the state of Michigan 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/michigan.html>.

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

### 3. Discounted Fees and Taxes

- Military members stationed outside of Michigan can obtain a fishing and hunting license for \$1
- Homestead property tax credits for those making less than \$86,000.
- Low cost fishing licenses for 100% service rated disabled veterans
- Discounted license plates depending upon the conflict you served in

### 4. Education Discounts

- Dependent Tuition Assistance: Upon admission to a Michigan institution of higher education, the eligible student may be eligible for tuition waiver up to \$2,800 annually for undergraduate study. Eligibility: Legal children (of a Michigan Veteran who was killed, died as a result of service-connected disabilities, or is rated 100% disabled by the Veterans Affairs (VA).
- National Guard Association of Michigan Tuition Grants: The National Guard Association of Michigan (NGAM) has scholarships available that eligible members may apply for. NGAM scholarship awards vary depending on the number of applications received. NGAM reviews applications twice a year. The application must be postmarked by 15 June for the June selection and by 15 November for the November selection. Eligibility: Current, active National Guard Association of Michigan member, Enlisted, warrant officer through CW3, or commissioned officer through Captain, attending a college, university, or trade school.
- University & College Tuition Grants: The Michigan National Guard has worked with several Michigan universities and colleges to offer tuition grants. These grants, used in conjunction with other available tuition assistance programs and the Montgomery GI Bill, can enable Guard members to attend selected colleges and universities at no cost. Several other organizations offer scholarships to Michigan National Guard members. Eligibility: Michigan National Guard members.

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/michigan.html> August 2017 ++]