Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs Programs and Services



David Puente, Jr.
DavidP@dva.wa.gov



Major Programs

- State Veterans Homes
- Transitional Housing Program
- State Veterans Cemetery
- Veterans Services
- Counseling and Wellness









State Veterans Homes



Spokane Veterans Home
Spokane
Serving 100 Residents



WA Soldiers Home
Orting
Serving 97 Residents



WA Veterans Home
Port Orchard
Serving 240 Residents
Memory Care Provided



Walla Walla Veterans Home
Walla Walla
Serving 80 Residents
Memory Care Provided

Our State Veterans Homes are Medicaid and Medicare Certified and provide 24-hour nursing care, medical care and pharmacy services. **Veterans rated 70%-100% Service Connected, or whose service connected disability is the reason nursing care is needed, may have their nursing home care paid by the Federal VA.**

As part of residing in our homes, our residents benefit from:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Recreational Activities
- Social Services
- Volunteer Programs
- Hospice
- Nutritious Meals
- Community Involvement
- Religious Programs
- Transportation
- Laundry
- Beauty & Barber Shops
- Fishing Pond (Orting)

<u>To be eligible for admission, applicants must meet the following criteria:</u>

- **Served at any time, in any branch of the United States Armed Forces including the National Guard;**
- **Received an honorable discharge;**
- **Reside in Washington State;**
- **Be the spouse of a resident or widow of an eligible veteran;**
- **Or be a Gold Star Parent who lost a child while serving in the armed forces.**

WDVA

Transitional Housing Program (THP)

Transitional housing facilities in **Port Orchard** and **Orting** help veterans in need with stable housing, vocational rehabilitation, and employment.

Veterans are surrounded with supportive staff and wrap-around services that lead to successful program completion and their return to the community.





- **Building 10 in Port Orchard**
- **Roosevelt Barracks / Betsy Ross in Orting**
  - Roosevelt Barracks
  - Betsy Ross which are dedicated for women veterans
  - Contract Residential Shelter
  - Medical Recuperative Care

Program Goals include:

- Increased residential stability
- Greater self-determination
- Increased skill level and income potential

Contact THP, Monday - Friday 8:30-4:30, at 360-895-4371
Or THP staff at:
Building 10: Port Orchard, WA
Phone: 360-895-4371
Fax: 360-895-4451
Roosevelt Barracks: Orting, WA
Phone: 253-263-0735
Fax: 360-893-5623

Email: thp@dva.wa.gov

WDVA

State Veterans Cemetery



21702 West Espanola Rd
Medical Lake, WA

Located in Medical Lake, WA the cemetery has a committal service shelter, and provides for casketed burial, columbarium niches, and burial plots to support cremations, as well as a scatter garden.

Eligibility mirrors that of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Cemeteries.

Armed Forces License Plates help support the State Veterans Cemetery

$28 from the sale or renewal of each Armed Forces License Plate are directed to operating and maintaining the state veteran's cemetery, and to providing programs, and services for veterans without homes, and other activities that benefit veterans



WDVA

Veterans Services

Claims Assistance through Veteran Service Officers

- WDVA contracts with 4 Veteran Service Organizations
  - American Legion
  - National Association for Black Veterans Inc
  - Veterans of Foreign Wars
  - Vietnam Veterans America.
- 25 County Veteran Service Officer (VSO) agreements with 30 (out of 39) counties being served
- WDVA has MOAs with the 12 out of the 29 federally recognized Indian tribes to provide VSO training and accreditation to their Tribal VSOs

Transitioning Warrior Program (JBLM)

Provides information about all available benefits to separating personnel from Joint Base Lewis McChord

WA State Military Transition and Readiness Council

A partnership that supports military service members and families to successfully transition into civilian careers.

Veterans Services Continued

Veteran Owned Business Certification Program

Certifies Veteran and Service Member Owned Businesses so that public entities can identify them and do business with them.

LGBTQ+ Veterans Outreach Coordinator

Connects LGBTQ+ veterans to benefits and assists with the upgrade of discharge status.

Military Spouse Outreach Initiative

Shares resources with military spouses, convenes workgroups on important issues such as employment and childcare, and advocates for military spouses.



Other WDVA Programs, Call Centers, and Service Hubs

- Olympia Service Center: 1-800-562-2308
- King County Office
- BLDG 10 at Port Orchard
- Spokane Regional Veterans Service Center
- VA Regional Office in Seattle

WDVA

Counseling and Wellness

WDVA Counseling Program

Contracted Licensed Mental Health Providers serve veterans and families experiencing Post-Traumatic Stress, Military Sexual Trauma, or other military related issues.

Veterans Training Support Center

No-cost training provided each month on a variety of topics. Sign up at www.dva.wa.gov

Traumatic Brain Injury Program

Supports and represents every veteran in WA that has incurred a Brain Injury.

Vet Corps

Through training and peer-to-peer support, Vet Corps Member's support student veterans, veterans in the community, and military families by building on shared experiences and creating supportive relationships.

Veterans Conservation Corps

Provides opportunities for veterans to connect with nature in their own way while restoring and cultivating Washington's natural resources.

Suicide Prevention Programs

Including the Governor's Challenge and Staff Sergeant Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program.

Tobacco & Cannabis Cessation Program

Helps connect veterans and military families to resources that help decrease tobacco dependence, increase cessation efforts, and support for staying stopped.

Other State Benefits

- Reduced Fishing/Hunting License (DV 30%+)
- State Park Passes (DV 30%+)
- Federal Park Passes (all veterans)
- Reduced Public Transportation Fees (DV 40%+)
- Reduced Tuition at Public Colleges and Universities
- Free License Plates for 100% disabled veterans and Gold Star spouses and parents.
- Reduced Property Taxes (DV 80%+), contact the county assessor for more information
- Recording of Discharges
  - DD 214 Database
  - Governors Welcome Home Letters
- County Veterans Assistance Funds

2027 Legislative Priorities

Spokane Veterans Home Replacement Project

- Land purchased near Mann-Grandstaff VAMC, Nov 2025.
- Grant application submitted to VA for construction
- $10.9 million in Governor's 2026 capital budget
- New 120-bed facility will comply with Fed VA Small House Model.
- Potential for transitional housing, or adult day health in existing facility.

State Veterans Cemetery, Tri-Cities Project

- Projected to serve 46K Veterans in 75-mile radius, approximately 400 interments per year.
- Significant community support and continued WDVA Outreach to generate awareness.
- 25-27 Capital Budget included $500,000 for WDVA to conduct a Pre-Design.

Agency Request Legislation

- Agency clean-up bill to eliminate a report to the legislature and allow flexibility for meetings with Resident Councils in State Veterans Homes
- Claims Consultants Prevention Act to prohibit unaccredited individuals and organizations from charging fees to assist with Veterans Claims to the Federal VA (something which is illegal at the federal level but because there are no penalties, it is not enforced.)

Interested in receiving weekly Legislative email updates? Visit our website www.dva.wa.gov to sign up (click the envelope icon at the top of the page).

WDVA

Connect to *Your* WDVA!

1-800-562-2308

www.dva.wa.gov

Heidi Audette
Communications & Legislative Director
Heidia@dva.wa.gov
360-485-1812
360-791-8966 (cell)

Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook (WSDVA):
www.facebook.com/wsdva

Twitter (WDVA):
https://twitter.com/WDVA

LinkedIn:
www.linkedin.com/company/Washington-state-department-of-veterans-affairs-recruiting

Instagram (WSDVA):
https://www.Instagram.com/wsdva

YouTube: Washington Department of Veterans Affairs or WDVA
https://www.youtube.com/user/WAVeteransAffairs/video