As of 5/25/2016

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To help a Veteran in crisis, call the 24 hour Crisis Hotline at 1-800-273-8255 option 1

	VA Facility Locate	or
VA Facility Locator	 VA facilities including additional state and local resources 	Information available at: www.va.gov/landing2_locations.htm
	Transition and Veteran Employ	ment Services
Veterans Employment Services Office (VESO)	 Helps Veterans and transitioning Military Service Members find federal careers Military Skills Translator, Resume Builder and Federal Job Search functions Note: Visit <u>http://explore.va.gov/</u> to learn about other employment resources provided by VA. 	Information available at: www.vaforvets.va.gov 1-855-824-8387 http://explore.va.gov/employment-services
Transition Assistance Program (TAP)	TAP may include:Transition from Service briefings and assistance	Information available at: www.benefits.va.gov/TAP/
	Veterans Health Admini	istration
Health Care Benefits or Application Questions	 VHA provides: Primary care Mental health care (including Veteran-specific treatment for PTSD, TBI care, etc.) Preventative care A wide variety of specialty care Inpatient and outpatient pharmacy Geriatric care Long term care and support Note: For basic information and an easy to understand eligibility quiz with digital resource links go to: http://explore.va.gov/ .	Program Information: www.va.gov/healthbenefits/ 1-877-222-VETS (8387)
		Eligibility Information: www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply/veterans.asp
		How to Apply: www.1010ez.med.va.gov
		Application and General Information available at: http://explore.va.gov/health-care provides basic information to Veterans and their families and directs them to the latest online information and application sites. The site's video gallery holds Veteran testimonial videos about health care.
Access to Patient Medical information	 My HealtheVet is VA's online personal health record system designed to help VA patients manage their healthcare records and notes from medical providers Blue Button allows you to share info between VA and non VA providers. 	Information for both resources available at: www.myhealth.va.gov/index.html 1-877-327-0022
Women Veteran Support	 The Women Veterans Health Program addresses health care needs of women Veterans to ensure that timely, equitable, high-quality, comprehensive health care services are available and provided 	Information available at: www.womenshealth.va.gov Women Veterans Call Center: 1-855-VA-WOMEN (829-6636)
Rural Veteran Support	 The VA Office of Rural Health helps rural Veterans access medical care through VA facilities 	Information available at: www.ruralhealth.va.gov
Mental Health Support	 Authoritative mental health information and resources for Veterans and their families. Self-help toolbox Where to get help Comprehensive guide to VA Mental Health Services Veterans Crisis Line website has a live chat function 	Information available at: www.mentalhealth.va.gov http://maketheconnection.net/ https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/
		Guide to VA Mental Health Services for Veterans and Families: www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/MHG_English.pdf
Veteran (Vet) Center information	Vet Centers provide: Individual and group counseling Discharge upgrade information Community, social service and medical referrals Employee assistance referrals VA Benefits assistance referrals	Information available at: 1-877-WAR-VETS (927-8387) Locate a Vet Center near you at: www.va.gov/directory/guide/vetcenter.asp
	National Cemetery Admi	nistration
Burial and Memorial Benefits Information	 VA offers Veterans and their dependents: Burial and honoring services, including gravesites and grave liners Maintenance of national cemeteries Headstones, markers, and presidential memorial certificates Note: VBA manages additional memorial benefits 	Information available at: www.cem.va.gov 1-800-827-1000 Application and benefit information about both VBA and NCA managed memorial benefits available at: http://explore.va.gov/.

*Call back service may be available after hours

As of 05/25/2016

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To help a Veteran in crisis, call the 24 hour Crisis Hotline at 1-800-273-8255 option 1

"HOW CAN I HELP YOU?"				
Veterans Benefits Administration				
Benefits Information & Eligibility Questions	 Basic information about programs, eligibility, links to online application sites, testimonial videos, and an easy to understand eligibility quiz with digital resource links are available on <u>http://explore.va.gov/</u> A hardcopy and online handbook is available for benefits and qualifications information Further benefits and eligibility information is available at ebenefits.va.gov 	Information available at: www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/ 1-800-827-1000 http://explore.va.gov/ Benefits Handbook: www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp		
Benefits Applications & Claim Questions	 Information, forms, and phone numbers are available online for Veterans and their dependents Links to online application sties and other online resources where Veterans can get answers are on http://explore.va.gov/. 	All forms and applications available at: www.ebenefits.va.gov/ Videos that explain how to fill out select forms: www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/videos.asp		
Home Loan Guaranty Program Questions or Payment on a VA- Provided Home Loan	 VA guarantees loans made by private lenders. The VA provides Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grants for severely disabled Veterans <u>Note:</u> VHA provides HISA grants to eligible Veterans for use in modifying a home. These are smaller grants. 	All forms and information available at: www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/index.asp 1-877-827-3702 http://explore.va.gov/home-loans-and-housing		
Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Information	The VR&E program provides: Assistance in finding employment with programs such as vocational assessments, counseling, education tuition/stipends related to employment and employment planning <u>Note</u> : Links to VR&E as well as other employment resources can be found on http://explore.va.gov/	Information available at: www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab http://explore.va.gov/employment-services		
Education and Post- 9/11 GI Bill Benefits	 The post-9/11 GI Bill pays higher education tuition, housing, and stipends for Veterans, service members or their dependents Eligibility - served at least 90 days on active duty after 9/10/2001 An important starting point - GI Bill Comparison Tool 	Information available at: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/ 1-888-GIBILL-1 (442-4551) http://explore.va.gov/education-training https://www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool		
Pension	 Pension benefits descriptions, eligibility, and application forms are available online. Basic info, forms and links to resources for Veterans Pensions, Survivors Pension and Special Monthly Pension for Veterans on <u>http://explore.va.gov/</u>. 	Information available at: www.benefits.va.gov/pension/ http://explore.va.gov/pension		
Fiduciary	 Program for Veterans and other beneficiaries who, due to injury, disease, or due to age, are unable to manage their financial affairs Apply for benefit or to become a fiduciary for a Veteran 	Information available at: http://www.benefits.va.gov/fiduciary		
Insurance and TSGLI/SGLI Questions	 Veterans are eligible for: Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI), Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), and/or Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI), SGLI Traumatic Injury Protection (TSGLI), Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Disability Extension (SGIL-DE), Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (FSGLI), 	All forms and information available at: www.benefits.va.gov/insurance 1-800-419-1473 http://explore.va.gov/life-insurance		
Disability Compensation Questions	 Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to eligible Veterans Eligibility is determined by injuries/diseases from/aggravated by service 	All forms and information available at: www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/types-disability.asp http://explore.va.gov/disability-compensation		
Dependency & Indemnity Compensation for Veteran's Dependents	 Dependents may be awarded tax-free benefits for: Death during military service or post-service related to a service-connected disability Death after extended period of 100 percent disability Note: Links and information to VA benefits and services available to dependents, survivors and spouses are available on <u>http://explore.va.gov/</u>. DIC is just one of many benefits available to this group 	All forms and information available at: www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/types- dependency_and_indemnity.asp http://explore.va.gov/spouses-dependents-survivors		



For information about benefits, call the VBA Hotline: 1-800-827-1000 Monday-Friday 8am-9pm EST* *Call back service may be available after hours As of 05/25/2016

"HOW CAN I HELP YOU?"

	Board of	Veterans Ap	peals	
Claims Appeal Process information	 A Veteran or dependent/caregiver has a full year to appeal a denied claim regarding any VA benefit. To appeal, file a Notice of Disagreement with the Administration that denied the benefit The appeals process has many stages, and most of the appeals processing and resolutions take place in the Administration that made the initial claims decision 		Information available at: www.bva.va.gov Appeal Process Pamphlet: www.bva.va.gov/docs/Pamphlets/Flow-Do-I-Appeal-Booklet- -508Compliance.pdf	
VA Website		www.va.gov		
VA Benefits Info		1-800-827-1000		
VA Health Care Info		1-877-22	22-VETS (8387)	
24-Hour Hotline for Homeless Vets		1-877-4/	1-877-4AID-VET (4243-838)	
24-Hour Veteran Crisis Hotline		1-800-27	73-8255 option 1	

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General VA Information	VA Website

Welcome Home!





We are the people in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs who welcome home war veterans with honor by providing quality readjustment services in a caring manner. Vet Centers understand and appreciate Veterans' war experiences while assisting them and their family members toward a successful post-war adjustment in or near their community.



Walk on in!

Contact Us

Locations in all 50 states plus Guam, Virgin Islands & Puerto Rico *Find your nearest location by going online:* www.VetCenter.va.gov *or call... National Vet Center Line* (866) 496-8838 (GWOT VET) *(24/7) National Suicide Hotline* (800) 273-8255 (TALK) Veterans Press 1

Services provided in:

Columbia, SC (803)-765-9944 Charleston, SC (843) 789-7000 Greenville, SC (864) 271-2711 Myrtle Beach, SC (864) 465-0713

> Department of Veterans Affairs





Readjustment Counseling Service



Counseling, outreach, and referral services for a satisfying post-war readjustment

"Keeping the Promise"





Our Mission

Vet Centers serve veterans and their families by providing a continuum of quality care, which adds value for veterans, families and communities. Care includes professional readjustment counseling, community education, outreach to special populations, the brokering of services with community agencies, and providing a key access link between the veterans and other services in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Background of Readjustment Counseling Services

The Vet Center program was established by Congress in 1979 out of recognition that a significant number of Vietnam veterans were still experiencing readjustment problems. Today, over 300 Vet Centers across the U.S., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Guam serve ALL combat veterans and their families. We have evolved over the years and look forward to serving you!



Confidentiality and Privacy

The Vet Center staff respects the privacy of all veterans, and we hold in strictest confidence all information disclosed in the counseling process. No information will be communicated to any person or agency without written consent except in necessary circumstances to avert a crisis. (Privacy Act of 1974)



Troops praying for those killed in action, the wounded, and each other

Veterans returning from combat zones may experience

- Marriage/ Relationship Problems
- Medical Issues
- Financial Hardships
- Endless Questions from Family/ Friends
- Guilt or Shame
- Lack of Structure
- Feelings of Isolation
- Nightmares or Sleeplessness
- Lack of Motivation or Forgetfulness
- Anger, Irritability, or Rage
- Alcohol or Substance Abuse
- Depression or Anxiety Attacks

The Vet Center Can Help!



Services Provided

- Individual Readjustment Counseling
- Group Meetings & Counseling
- Military Sexual Trauma Counseling
- Bereavement Counseling
- Marital & Family Counseling
- Substance Abuse Information and Referral
- Community Education
- · Liaison with Community Agencies



Eligibility for Services

Readjustment counseling: Veterans from the following periods of hostilities: World War II - Dec. 1941 to Mar. 1946 Korean War - June 1950 to July 1954 Merchant Marines - Dec. 1941 to Aug. 1945 Vietnam War - Feb. 1961 to May 1975 Lebanon - Aug. 1982 to Feb. 1984 Grenada - Oct. 1983 to Nov. 1983 Panama - Dec. 1989 to Jan. 1990 Persian Gulf - Aug. 1990 to... Somalia - Sept. 1992 to... Former Yugoslavia - Dec. 1995 to... Global War on Terrorism - Sept. 2001 to...

Sexual trauma counseling- Veterans of any era who experienced sexual trauma or harassment while serving on active duty (gender neutral).

Bereavement counseling: Family members of armed forces personnel who died in service to our country. Also eligible are family members of Reserve and National Guard personnel who died while on federally activated duty. VA (http://www.va.gov/) » Locations (home.asp) » Veterans Health Administration (division.asp?dnum=1) » VISN 7: VA Southeast Network (region.asp?ID=7) » Columbia, SC Vet Center

Locations

Search Facility Directory

O

Columbia, SC Vet Center

Key Staff (keystaff.cfm?id=409) 1710 Richland Street, Suite A Columbia, SC 29201

Phone: 803-765-9944 Fax: 803-799-6267

Hours of Operation:

- Monday: 8:00 am 4:30 pm
- Tuesday: 8:00 am 4:30 pm
- Wednesday: 8:00 am 4:30 pm
- Thursday: 8:00 am 4:30 pm
- Friday: 8:00 am 4:30 pm
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: Closed

In an effort to better serve the veteran and family members, upon request Vet Centers will provide services after normal work hours and/or on weekends.

For assistance after hours, weekends, and holidays call : 1-877-WAR-VETS (1-877-927-8387)

Please contact the Columbia Vet Center for additional information on the following events:

Mondays: Counselor at York County Veterans Affairs Office location 529 S. Cherry Rd, Rock Hill, SC 29732, on 1st and 3rd Mondays 8am-4:30pm

Tuesdays: Counselor at South Hope Center, 1125 S. Lafayette Blvd, Sumter, SC (8:00am - 4:00pm.) Women Veterans Group every Tuesday evening at 5:00pm-6:30pm

Wednesdays: Counselor at Lancaster Veterans Affairs Office.

Helping Warriors

Thrive on the Home Front

Soldiers rarely forget what they have seen and done. For those serving or having served, getting out of their own heads – isolated with their memories and thoughts; instead of being present and living their best life in the present moment can be a huge challenge. We understand that challenge, and that is why the Big Red Barn Retreat (BRBR) offers integrated practices and programs that allow Warriors to thrive at home. These integrated practices are alternatives to traditional treatments; and are provided to veterans, active duty service members, and first responders at little to no cost to them. So, we encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and join your brothers and sisters in arms at the BRBR as you begin to heal and live the life you deserve full of joy, connection, and purpose.





The Big Red Barn Retreat continues to offer services & programs face to face.

Many of you inquired and asked if the Big Red Barn Retreat is open. The answer is WE ARE HERE FOR OUR HEROES. 2020 did present some challenges, and much of our programming was scaled back when COVID first hit beginning in Feb/March of 2020. But, after speaking with our service providers,



participants, and volunteers, we devised a plan that took into account our care and concern for those that may be most vulnerable while considering the best scientific opinions at our disposal. Since this is an ever-evolving situation with COVID-19, we reserve the right to cancel, close, or change our approach regarding recommendations to social distancing, group size, and whether masks are required. While it is not our desire to infringe on any one person's freedoms, we reserve the right to make the choice that is in the best interests of safety for all concerned. Here are the Standard Operating Procedures that were put in place for 2020 and remain in place for 2021 at the Big Red Barn Retreat.



We want you to know we take this situation very seriously and are committed to doing everything

Art & Music Therapy

We will be offering ART and MUSIC Therapy Classes in 2022. Sign up to receive our Newsletter for the latest news.

Yoga & Tai Chi

All yoga and tai chi classes have returned to face-to-face instruction. Class size is limited, and there are <u>COVID safety precautions</u> in place to keep everyone safe.

Peer to Peer Mentoring

Our Friday Peer to Peer Group meets face-to-face at 9:30 am at the barn and via ZOOM conference calls at the same time.

Equine Assisted Psychotherapy

EAP individual sessions are being offered. Plus, we will have group EAP therapy opportunities in 2022.

**Please review the new <u>Standard</u> <u>Operating Procedures</u> before attending any programs or classes at the Big Red Barn Retreat

TM Training

We offer quarterly classes in transcendental Meditation training. See registration info under OTHER SERVICES.

Warrior PATHH

Warrior PATHH is a transformative, lifelong, posttraumatic growthbased training program for combat veterans and first responders. The training begins with a seven-day on-site initiation followed by 18 months of training delivered by our instructors through our myPATHH platform.

2022 Warrior PATHH Class Dates January 14th – January 20th, 2022 (All possible to instill confidence in our ability to re-open with an abundance of care and concern. Please read the <u>Standing Operating Procedures</u> to ensure you are aware of all the safety precautions in place before arrival. We remain alert and ready to respond to developments as they unfold. We will keep you posted if anything changes. Thank you for your patience during these uncertain times.



Female) February 18th - February 24th, 2022 (All Male) March 11th - March 17th, 2022 (All Female) April 8th - April 14th, 2022 (All Male) April 22nd - April 28th, 2022 (All Male) May 20th - May 26th, 2022 (All Female) June 10th - June 16th, 2022 (All Male) September 9th - September 15th, 2022 (All Female) October 7th - October 13th, 2022 (All Male) October 21st - October 27th, 2022 (All Female) November 11th - November 17th, 2022 (All Male) December 9th -December 15th, 2022 (All Female)

Make A Donation



Class Schedule



Programs



Get Involved



Warrior PATHH

Case Managers will provide:

- Access to care and ongoing health care management
- Individualized assessment and plan for your readjustment needs
- Assistance with transferring care
- Linkage to VA and community services
- Health Education
- Response to questions and concerns
- Information and assistance regarding benefits, eligibility, and VBA claims
- Resolution to concerns
- Assistance to Veterans in understanding rights and responsibilities
- Assistance to Veterans, families and VA

staff with access to VA services



Transition and Care Management Team 803-776-4000 ext. 7303 Fax (803) 647-5730 Columbia, SC VAMC:

Yolanda Brown, Program Manager, Ext. 7243 Jeff Harmon, Prog. Support Assistant, Ext. 7303 Kendra Curry, SW Case Mgr., Ext 6472 Scott Smith, RN Case Mgr., Ext. 5014 Anola Lyons, RN Case Mgr., Ext. 6140 Dena Palmer, SW Case Mgr., Ext. 6140 Anthony Hodges Resource/Outreach Spec. Ext. 5013 Chris Whitehead, Transition Patient Advocate Ext. 5016

Out-lying Clinics: Stacey Reeves, SW Case Mgr., Greenville/Spartanburg 864-299-1600 Ext 2714, (803) 201-4064 Kathleen Doherty, RN Case Mgr., Anderson 864-224-5450 Ext 2501, (803) 201-6669 Henry Brown, SW Case Mgr., Florence, Sumter, Orangeburg 843-292-8383 Ext 5570

> Southeast Network TCM Program Points of Contact Atlanta, GA 404-321-6111, Ext. 6343 Augusta, GA 706 733-0188, Ext. 5754 Birmingham, AL 205-933-8101, Ext. 5031 Central Alabama 334-727-0550, Ext. 3949 Charleston, SC 843-789-6565 Dublin, GA 478-272-1210, Ext. 2553 Tuscaloosa, AL 205-554-2000, Ext. 2426

WJB Dorn VA Medical Center 6439 Garners Ferry Road Columbia, SC 29209



Transition and Care Management (TCM)

(formerly OEF/OIF/OND)

Points of Contact for Health Benefits and Services ****When contacting VA, please let the staff know you are an OEF-OIF-OND Combat Veteran****

Special Provisions for Combat Veterans

The TCM Program offers assistance with access to health care and benefits through outreach, case management and advocacy services.

Priority is given to all Veterans who have served in a combat theater since November 11, 1998 and are transitioning to civilian life.

- FREE medical and/or mental health care for 5 years from separation from active duty for conditions possibly related to service
- FREE dental care within 180 days of discharge from active duty. Must have 90 consecutive days on active duty
- Once you enroll, you have lifetime benefits



Mental Health (includes substance abuse, PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma and other) Emergency Department 24/7 Dental Care (1st 180 days after active duty) Women's Health Care Services Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Dermatology **Outpatient Diagnostic and Treatment** Pharmacy **Prosthetic Equipment** Hearing Examinations Patient Health Education Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Chaplaincy Various Social Support Services Nutrition Services Voluntary Service Various Specialty Clinics Home Health Care Adult Day Health Care Nursing Home Care (limited benefits) Hospice/Palliative Care

Health Care Services

Primary Care





Enrollment Process

- Complete VA Form 10-10EZ (Application for Health Benefits)
- Attach your DD214 (copy 4)

Send to:

Enrollment/Eligibility Office Dorn VAMC 6439 Garners Ferry Road Columbia, SC 29209

Once enrolled, you have lifetime benefits.

An enrollment letter will be sent to you confirming your eligibility as a Combat Veteran. The letter will also remind you to contact the TCM team if you have not yet done so.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

FACT SHEET

WHAT IS THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM?

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program is authorized by Congress under Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 31. It is sometimes referred to as the Chapter 31 program. The VR&E program assists Veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. For Veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, VR&E offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR VR&E SERVICE?

Active Duty Service Members are eligible if they:

- · Expect to receive an honorable discharge upon separation from active duty
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating or Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) rating of 20% or more
- Apply for VR&E services

Veterans are eligible if they:

- Have received, or will receive an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
- Have a VA service-connected disability rating of 10% with a serious employment handicap or 20% or more with an employment handicap
- Apply for VR&E services

BASIC PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY

The law generally provides for a 12-year basic period of eligibility in which services may be used. The 12-year period begins on the latter of these dates:

- Date of separation from active military duty or
- Date the veteran was first notified of a service-connected disability rating

Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER ELIGIBILITY IS ESTABLISHED?

Eligible Veterans are scheduled to meet with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) for comprehensive evaluation to determine if he/she is entitled to services. A Comprehensive Evaluation is completed with a VRC that includes:

- A full assessment of the veteran's interests, aptitudes, and abilities to determine whether the veteran is <u>"entitled"</u> to VR&E services
- An assessment of whether service-connected disabilities impair the veteran's ability to find and/or hold a job using the occupational skills already attained
- Vocational exploration and goal development leading to employment and/or maximum independence at home and in the Veterans community
- Explore labor market and wage information
- Narrow vocational options to identify a suitable employment goal
- Select a VR&E program track leading to an employment or independent living goal
- Develop an individualized rehabilitation plan to achieve the identified employment and/or independent living goal

HOW IS ENTITLEMENT DETERMINED?

A VA Counselor decides if a veteran has an **employment handicap** based upon the results of the comprehensive evaluation. Entitlement to services is established if the veteran has a 20% service-connected disability **and** an employment handicap. If the disability is 10% service-connected, then a **serious employment handicap** must be found to establish entitlement to vocational rehabilitation services. A serious employment handicap is based on the extent of services required to help a Veteran overcome his or her service and non-service connected disabilities permitting the return to suitable career employment. After an entitlement decision is made, the veteran and the counselor will work together to develop a rehabilitation plan.

WHAT IS A REHABILITATION PLAN?

A Rehabilitation Plan is an individualized written detailed outline of services provided under the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program. The plan is an agreement that is signed by the Veteran and the VRC and is updated as needed to assist the Veteran to achieve his/her goals. The following service delivery options may be provided under a Rehabilitation Plan:

- 1. Reemployment with previous employer
- 2. Rapid employment services for new employment

Contact us: www.va.gov 1-800-827-1000



Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service - February 2013

- 3. Self-employment
- 4. Employment through long term services
- 5. Independent living services

WHAT OTHER BENEFITS MAY BE PROVIDED?

After a plan is developed and signed, the counselor will assist the Veteran to implement the plans to achieve gainful suitable employment or independent living. The counselor or case manager will provide ongoing counseling, assistance, and coordination of services such as tutorial assistance, training in job-seeking skills, medical and dental referrals, adjustment counseling, payment of training allowance, and other services as required to help the Veteran achieve a career and live as independently as possible.

For more information, please visit **www.vetsuccess.gov**. If you prefer to speak to a VR&E representative, please visit the <u>VA Facility Locator</u> to find your local VA regional office. You may also call 1-800-827-1000.



Contact us: www.va.gov 1-800-827-1000

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service - February 2013



Unmet Needs Program FAQ

What does the Unmet Needs Program do?

 Unmet Needs provides grants (not loans) and referrals to other organizations to active duty service members, veterans and their immediate families to assist with basic life needs.

Who is eligible to receive assistance?

The applicant must be the service member, veteran or eligible dependent listed under the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). The financial hardship must be due to one of the following:

- a) Currently on active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of a current deployment, military pay error or from being discharged for medical reasons.
- b) Discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of your military service connected injuries and/or illnesses.
- c) Discharged prior to September 11, 2001, are on a fixed income that must include VA compensation for service connected injuries/illnesses and facing an unexpected financial hardship.

Who is not eligible to receive assistance?

- Anyone who has not served in the military or the financial hardship is caused by one of the following:
- a) Civil, legal or domestic issues, misconduct or any issues that are a result of spousal separation or divorce.
- b) Financial mismanagement by self or others, or due to bankruptcy.

How can I contact the Unmet Needs Program?

• The Unmet Needs program is located in the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Headquarters in Kansas City.

Mailing Address:	Toll Free Number: 866-789-6333
Unmet Needs	FAX Number: 816-968-2779
Program 406 W.	Email Address: unmetneeds@vfw.org
34th Street Kansas	Website: www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-
City, MO 64111	grants

How do I get an application for the Unmet Needs financial grant?

• The application can be found online at http://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants by clicking the Unmet Needs online application (Chrome is recommended for the online application). Applications cannot be completed unless all required fields are met. Once the application is submitted a notification email will be sent to you with further information.

How does the Unmet Needs application process work?

• Once an application has been submitted, the Unmet Needs caseworkers review the application and contacts the applicant if necessary for any additional required documents or information. All expenses are verified with the creditors. Payments are sent directly to the creditor to ensure proper disbursement of funds.

<u>What additional documents are needed for the Unmet Needs Program to process an</u> <u>application?</u>

• All required documents are submitted with the online application and cannot be submitted without them. Depending on the situation, additional documentation may be requested by the Unmet Needs caseworker.

What kind of expenses does the Unmet Needs Program assist with?

Unmet Needs assists with any expenses that are classified as "basic life needs", which includes, but is
not limited to the following: household expenses such as mortgage, rent, repairs, insurance, vehicle
expenses such as payments, repairs, insurance, utilities and primary phone, food and clothing,
children's clothing, diapers, formula, school or childcare expenses, and medical bills, prescriptions and
eyeglasses – the patient's portion for necessary or emergency medical care only.

What kind of expenses does the Unmet Needs Program not assist with?

Unmet Needs does not assist with any expenses that are not classified as "basic life needs", which
includes, but is not limited to the following: credit cards, military charge cards, or retail store cards,
cable, internet, secondary phones, taxes – property or otherwise, furniture rentals, or any expense
not determined to be a basic life need.

How long does the application process take?

• The applications are processed in the order in which they are received. It can take up to 20 business days to process an application once received.

What is the normal timeline for helping an individual through Unmet Needs?

• The length of time to process a request for assistance depends upon the information provided on the application and the amount of research conducted. After verification of the emergency from the service member and contacting creditors, a check is normally processed within 3 business days and an additional 5-7 business days for mailing of funds to the creditor.

How can I help?

• Contact your local VFW State Department or local VFW Post to let them know you're here to help. You can also send a monetary donation to the VFW Foundation to support the Unmet Needs Program.

Donations can be made:

<u>By mail:</u> VFW Foundation 406 West 34th Street, Ste. 920 Kansas City, MO 64111 Memo – Unmet Needs <u>Online:</u> Head to <u>www.vfw.org/Contribute</u> or click the direct link below: <u>https://heroes.vfw.org/ea-action/action?</u> <u>ea.client.id=1993&ea.campaign.id=49903&ea.tr</u> <u>acking.id=homepage</u>

<u>By Phone:</u> Call the VFW Foundation office directly at 816-756-3390

VR Snap Shot scvrd.net

Why seek VR services?

If you have a disability, we can help you understand the options available in setting and reaching a vocational goal.

Individualized services are provided at offices all over the state and may include:

Assessment to help you understand your capabilities. explore career options and plan for employment.

Disability management through therapies, treatments, procedures or assistive devices;

Training to enhance skills

through instruction and work experiences in our facilities, on worksites, or through educational partnerships;

Job search to help you achieve competitive employment and support you once you are on the job.

clients.scvrd.net

Why partner with VR?

VR clients have the skills, drive, loyalty and dependability you want, and we can help you tap into this talent pool through:

> Job matching that connects you with qualified, pre-screened, job ready candidates;

partnerships to meet your needs for quality products or services, and help clients learn fundamental work skills:

Intemships, apprenticeships and on the job training which address any specific knowledge or skills gap at initial employment;

Post employment and job retention services to keep valuable employees with disabilities:

Tax credits and other financial incentives to reduce the cost of training, accommodation and other on-the-job supports.

businesses.scvrd.net

Vocational Rehabilitation Let's go to work



VR Offices

offices.scvrd.net

Aiken

Serving Aiken, Barnwell and Edgefield counties 855 York St. N.E. Aiken, SC 29801 803-641-7630 (Office/TDD) 800-861-9410 (Toll free)

Anderson 3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Anderson, SC 29625 864-224-6391 (Office/TDD)

Beaufort

Serving Beaufort and Jasper counties 747 Robert Smalls Parkway Beaufort, SC 29902 843-522-1010 (Office/TDD)

Berkeley-Dorchester

2954 S. Live Oak Drive Moncks Corner, SC 29461 843-761-6036 (Office/TDD) 866-297-6808 (Toll free)

Camden

Serving Fairfield, Kershaw and Lee counties 15 Battleship Road Ext. Camden, SC 29020 803-432-1068 (Office/IDD) 866-206-5280 (Toll free)

Charleston

4360 Dorchester Road North Charleston, SC 29405 843-740-1600 (Office/TDD)

Conway

Serving Horry County 3009 Fourth Avenue Conway, SC 29527 843-248-2235 (Office/ITY)

Serving Georgetown County 1777 N. Fraser Street Georgetown, SC 29440 843-546-2595 (Office/TTY)

Florence

Serving Florence County 1947 West Darlington Street Florence, SC 295D1 843-662-8114 (Office/TTY)

Serving Dillon and Marion counties 309 North First Avenue Dillon, SC 29536 843-774-3691 (Office)

Greenville

Serving Greenville County and the Easley residents of Pickens County 105 Parkins Mill Road Greenville, SC 29607 864-297-3066 (Office/TDD)

Preparing and assisting eligible South Carolinians with disabilities to achieve and maintain competitive employment.

Greenwood

Serving Abbeville, Greenwood, McCormick and Saluda counties 2345 Hwy. 72/221 East Greenwood, SC 29646 864-229-5827 (Office/TDD) 866-443-0162 (Toll free)

Lancaster

Serving Lancaster County and the Pageland area 1150 Roddey Drive Lancaster, SC 29720 803-285-6909 (Office/TDD)

Laurens

22861 Highway 76 East Clinton, SC 29325 864-984-6563 (Office/TTY) 866-443-0103 (Toll free)

Serving Newberry County 2601 Evans Street Newberry, SC 29108 803-276-8438 (Office/TTY)

Lexington

1330 Bostorr Ave. West Columbia, SC 29170 803-896-6333 (Office/TDD) 866-206-5184 (Toll free)

Lyman

Serving the Lyman area residents of Spartanburg County 180 Groce Road Lyman, SC 29365 864-249-8030 (Office/TEDD) 888-322-9391 (Toll free)

Marlboro

Serving Chesterfield and Marlboro counties 1029 Highway 9 West Bennettsville, SC 29512 B43-479-8318 (Office/TDD) 800-849-4878 (Toll free)

Serving Darlington County 2413 Stadium Road Hartsville, SC 29550 843-332-2262 (Office/TTY)

Oconee-Pickens

1951 Wells Highway Seneca, SC 29678 864-882-6669 (Office/JDD) 866-313-0082 (Toll free)

Orangeburg

Serving Bamberg, Calhoun and Orangeburg counties 1661 Joe S. Jeffords Hwy S.E. Orangeburg, SC 29115 803-534-4939 (Office/TDD) Richland* 516 Percival Road Columbia, SC 29206 803-782-4239 (Office/TDD) 866-206-5280 (Toll free)

Rock Hill Serving Chester and York counties 1020 Heckle Blvd. Rock Hill, SC 29732

803-327-7106 (Office/TDD)

Spartanburg Serving Spartanburg and Union counties 353 S. Church Street Spartanburg, SC 29306 864-585-3693 (Dffice/TTY) 866-451-1480 (Toll free)

Serving Cherokee County 364 Huntington Road Gaffney, SC 29341 864-489-9954 (Office/TTY) 866-451-1481 (Toll free)

Serving Union County 131 North Main Street Jonesville, SC 29353 864-475-5000 (Office/ITY)

Sumter

Serving Clarendon and Sumter counties 1760 North Main Street Sumter, SC 29153 803-469-2960 (Office/TTY)

Walterboro

Serving Allendale, Colleton and Hampton counties 919 Thunderbolt Drive Walterboro, SC 29408 843-538-3116 (Office/TDD) 888-577-3549 (Toll free)

Williamsburg*

405 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue Kingstree, SC 29556 843-354-5252 (Office)

*This office has multiple locations. See offices.scyrd.net for details.

