

KINGS COUNTY
VETERANS SERVICES

*serving those
who served*

VETERANS
SERVICES
WWW.COUNTYOFKINGS.COM





OUR MISSION

The Kings County Veterans Services Office, (CVSO) aggressively seeks out veterans and their families to provide assistance and service. To meet this objective, the CVSO seeks to increase awareness of eligibility, entitlements, benefits programs, and services provided to veterans by Federal, State, and Local government agencies. Information is provided by outreach, counseling, and referral services.

OUR SERVICES

- Comprehensive benefits counseling
- Claim development, preparation, and submission
- Case management
- Initiate appeals when appropriate
- Networking with federal, state, and local agencies
- Public speaking and media relations

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR VA BENEFITS?

- A veteran with other than a dishonorable discharge
- A veteran's dependent
- A surviving spouse or child of a deceased or disabled veteran
- A parent of a deceased veteran

Federal Veterans Benefits

DISABILITY BENEFITS

Disability compensation: VA may pay disability compensation if the veteran is at least 10% disabled as a result of military service.

Disability pension: VA may pay disability pension if a wartime veteran has limited income and/or is permanently and totally disabled.

* There is no deadline for application. Benefits are paid monthly.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

For Veterans:

Post 9/11 G.I. Bill – Veterans, active duty, reservists, and National Guard with active duty of at least 90 days service since September 10, 2001, may be eligible. Benefits last for 15 years from last discharge or release date.

Montgomery G.I. Bill - Veterans, active duty, reservists, and National Guard with active duty after June 30, 1985, may be eligible. Some Vietnam Era Veterans and others with special circumstances may also be eligible. Benefits last for 10 years from last discharge or release date.

For Survivors and Dependents:

Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35) offers education benefits to family members of deceased or disabled Veterans.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

VA can help certain service-disabled veterans to get and keep suitable employment, if within 12 years of eligibility determination.

HEALTH CARE

Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy, and prosthetic services. Domiciliary, nursing home, and community-based residential care, specialized health care for women veterans, health and rehabilitation for homeless veterans, medical treatment for exposure to Agent Orange, radiation, or environmental hazards.

- Readjustment counseling
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment

BURIAL BENEFITS

Headstone or Marker: VA may furnish a monument to mark the unmarked grave of an eligible veteran.

Burial Flag: VA may provide an American Flag to drape the casket and present to the family.

Reimbursement of Burial Expenses: VA may pay a burial allowance for veterans who die of service-related causes or are in receipt of VA Pension or Compensation, or if the veteran's death occurred in a VA facility or nursing home with which VA contracted.

Burial in a VA National Cemetery: Veterans and dependents are eligible for burial in National Cemeteries. The veteran must have been discharged or separated from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable and must have completed the required period of service.

* There is no time limit for claiming reimbursement for burial expenses for a service-related death. In other cases, claims must be filed within 2 years of the veteran's death.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- Housebound, Aid and Attendance benefits
- Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for surviving spouse, children, and parents
- Death pension for surviving spouse and children
- Special adapted housing and auto grants
- VA life insurance
- Many other ancillary benefits and programs

California Veterans Benefits

COLLEGE FEE-WAIVER PROGRAM

Through the California Department of Veterans Affairs, children and dependents of disabled or deceased Veterans may have college tuition fees waived. VA disability ratings of 0% or greater qualify. This waiver of tuition fees applies only to California Universities, State and Community colleges. Benefits are awarded on an "academic year" basis. Students are required to reapply annually.

CAL-VET FARM AND HOME LOANS

The Cal Vet loan program provides low-cost, low-interest financing to eligible, qualified veterans to purchase homes, farms, or mobile homes in California for use as their primary residence.

State Veterans Homes: A veteran must be a California resident at the time of application; must be honorably discharged and served during a time of war; must be at least 62 or disabled; must be self-reliant at time of entry and live with minimal support at residential care. Spouses are eligible. Fees are based upon income.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- Employment and unemployment insurance assistance
- Business license, tax and fee waiver
- Property tax exemptions
- Waiver of motor vehicle registration fees
- Veterans License Plates: Purchase plates where proceeds are used to expand veterans services throughout California.
Reduced annual fees for fishing and hunting licenses if eligible.
- State Parks and Recreation Pass: A lifetime State of California Parks pass if eligible.
- Many other ancillary benefits and programs

PERTINENT WEBSITES

Kings County Veterans Services Office
www.countyofkings.com


Veterans Administration (VA)
www.va.gov

California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA)
www.cdva.ca.gov

California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO)
www.cacvso.org

G.I. Bill Info
www.gibill.va.gov





DOCUMENTS ARE CRITICAL

The County Recorder Office records, free of charge, original military separation and discharge documents. Please take advantage of this service.

Personal identification and documentation can make the difference in receiving benefits or not. Please fill in the blanks below and keep this basic information in a safe place. Be sure your next of kin are aware of its existence and location.

Name: _____

SSN: _____

Military Service #: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Date Entered Active Duty: _____

Date Released Active Duty: _____

VA File # (C-File): _____

VA Life Insurance Policy #: _____

Location of Important Documents

Marriage Certificate: _____

Divorce Decrees: _____

Children's Birth Certificates: _____

Military Discharge: _____

Will or Trust: _____

PTSD/TBI ISSUES

Veterans returning from wars may have serious emotional as well as physical wounds. While the physical wounds are treated promptly, the emotional injuries may be unseen and go untreated. It is important for veterans along with their family and friends to be aware of these issues and seek help if necessary. Help is available from Kings County Behavioral Health and the Veterans Services Office.

- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) affects 30% or more veterans returning from wars.
- Symptoms may include: fear, anxiety, guilt, avoidance, impatience, irritability, distrust, flash-backs, nightmares, and alcohol or drug use.
- PTSD is recognized by the American Psychiatric Association.
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) affects 10% or more veterans returning from wars.
- Blasts or explosions are the most common cause of TBI in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- TBI can affect three systems of the brain: intellect, emotionality, and behavior control.
- Symptoms of TBI include: headaches, dizziness, fatigue, memory/concentration problems, irritability, sleep problems, balance problems, ringing in the ears, and vision change.
- In part due to PTSD and TBI, veterans are at an increased risk for suicide, drug and alcohol abuse.
- There are treatments available – with best results achieved through early intervention.



450 Kings County Drive • Suite 104 • 582-3211 ext. 2376



Kings County Veterans Services Office

Office hours:

8:00am – 5:00pm

Monday through Friday

(559) 582-3211 ext. 2669

Kings County Government Center

1400 W. Lacey Blvd.

Law Bldg. #4

Hanford, CA 93230

Visit our website at:

www.countyofkings.com

