

# New Mexico State Veteran's Benefits

**March 2022**



The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) exists to help veterans and eligible family members understand, navigate, and obtain federal and state benefits. Their mission is to provide the highest quality care, service, and advocacy for the men and women—and their eligible family members—who have served as members of the United States Armed Forces, and to be the premier agency that anticipates and meets the changing needs of New Mexico's veterans and their families.

The agency has four divisions, in addition to the State Approving Agency (SAA), the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC), and the Public Information Office standing ready to help veterans and their families with their particular needs. The veteran community served by NMDVS as of DEC 31, 2021 consisted of the following:

- 13,914 active-duty service members
- 4,774 active-duty spouses
- 8,385 active-duty children
- 7,824 National Guard and reserve members
- 3,215 National Guard and reserve spouses
- 5,116 National Guard and reserve children

A large number of services/benefits, both state and federal, are provided to veterans in New Mexico. This Bulletin attachment applies mostly to those provided or obtained through the state vice federal government and addresses many, but not all of those in the following areas:

- Housing
- Financial Assistance

- Employment
- Education
- Recreation
- Driver and Vehicle Licensing
- Burial
- Taxation
- Women Vet Program
- Homeless Vet Assistance
- Other

## Housing

### **State Veteran Home**

The New Mexico State Veterans' Home (NMSVH) is New Mexico's only nursing facility for our country's veterans. Centrally located in southwestern New Mexico in the city of Truth Or Consequences, half way between Albuquerque and El Paso and nestled in the Rio Grande Valley, it is situated on 12 beautifully landscaped acres, overlooking one of the Southwest's outstanding retirement communities. NMSVH strives to provide integrated services in an atmosphere that promotes the physical, social and emotional well-being of every resident. Every effort is made to continuously improve care while safely assisting residents to live as independently as possible and as they choose, thereby assuring dignity and respect at all times. The staff makes individual and team commitment to demonstrate professionalism and pride in all their actions, maintaining an environment of accountability and responsibility to residents and each other. The following are eligible for admission:

- Honorably discharged veterans with 90 days or more of service and their spouses are eligible for admission.
- Preference is given to New Mexico residents when there is a waiting list – but every veteran is welcome to apply. We are not restricted to New Mexico veterans only.
- Gold Star Parents, who have lost children in the service of their country, are also eligible.
- Certain members of a reserve component of the US Armed Forces who meet the legal residence requirements.

### **The following are not eligible for admission:**

- A person whose only separation from one of the US Armed Forces was other than honorable.
- A person ordered to report to an induction station who was not actually inducted into the military service.
- A person who was convicted of subversive activities against the US after 9/1/1959. Eligibility shall be reinstated if a pardon is granted by the President of the US.

- A person with medical or mental conditions beyond the Home's capability to care for them.
- A person with a history of violent crime, substance abuse, sexual offenses or who is currently charged with one or more of the above.



992 South Broadway, Truth Or Consequences, NM 87901 Tel: (575) 894-4297

Fees and charges for services are established by the New Mexico State Veterans' Home and are subject to change in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and policies. Resident's are assessed a maintenance charge based on their income and resources. Should the resident become a Medicaid recipient, the amount of the maintenance fee shall be the same as the Medical Care Credit. If the resident is not a Medicaid recipient, the maintenance fee shall be determined by the regulation as outlined under this policy. These regulations will utilize Medicaid guidelines to the extent possible. Upon admission, the Admission Coordinator will complete a payment contract for services provided by the facility, based on the applicant's ability to pay.

Admission Applications are available at <https://nmhealth.org/publication/view/form/1637>. At <https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/form/7114/> is listed the required information for admission and at <https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/form/7115> is a list of required financial information. Admissions coordinator is Karen Thompson who can be reached at [Karen.Thompson@state.nm.us](mailto:Karen.Thompson@state.nm.us) or (575) 894-4216. For additional information on the home refer to <https://nmhealth.org/about/ofm/lctf/nmsvh> and/or <http://nmdvs.org/state-veterans-home> or call 575-894-4200 /800-964-3976.

## **Financial Assistance**

### **Veterans' Property Tax Exemption**

Any veteran who has been rated 100 percent "Permanent & Total" disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and is a legal resident of New Mexico, qualifies for a complete property tax waiver on their primary residence. To apply download the Application at <http://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Application-DVS-Form-1.Property-Tax-Exemption.pdf>

Veterans honorably discharged may qualify for a \$4,000 reduction in the taxable value of their real property for county taxation purposes. Resident National Guard and Reserve Service members must have been honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces, with a minimum of six years of continuous service to be eligible for the exemption. This exemption is also available to the un-remarried Surviving Spouse of a Veteran who would have otherwise qualify. Those eligible must submit [https://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/DVS\\_Form\\_1\\_TE\\_App-1-2.pdf](https://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/DVS_Form_1_TE_App-1-2.pdf)

### **Exemption from Excise Taxes on Vehicle Purchases**

Any veteran who has suffered the loss, or complete loss of use of one or more limbs due to their service in the military shall be exempted from excise taxes when purchasing a new vehicle.

Download: [http://nmdvs.sks.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/DVS\\_Form\\_1\\_TE\\_App-1-2.pdf](http://nmdvs.sks.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/DVS_Form_1_TE_App-1-2.pdf)

Application

### **Vehicle Registration Reduction**

Every person who is entitled to a veteran exemption and who does not have sufficient real or personal property to claim the full property tax exemption may be eligible to pay motor vehicle registration fees at two-thirds the rates charged on vehicles the veteran owns.

### **Veterans' Service Organization Property Tax Exemption**

Any U.S. Congressionally-chartered veterans' service organization is exempt from paying property tax on the property of its facility. To receive submit the application at <https://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/DVS-Form-16-VSO-Exemption-1-1.pdf>

### **FIDUCIARY**

The Fiduciary Division oversees and manages the financial assets of up to 300 veterans and is responsible for ensuring the proper and appropriate application of those assets. In every case the division attempts to ensure the highest possible quality of life for each veteran while ensuring their financial obligations are met and residual funds are saved and properly invested.

The Fiduciary Division consists of a manager, a financial specialist, a records keeper and two social workers. The role of the manager is to oversee the entire operation and to be the decision maker on all aspects of the division. The financial specialist processes all financial transactions, performs records reviews, and conducts regular, periodic reconciliation with the Trust Bank. The records keeper is responsible for the proper filing of all financial transactions and legal documents. The social workers provide guidance, support, and counseling to the approximately 300 veterans that receive the department's services.

In almost every case managed by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services, the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) has determined that a military veteran receiving financial benefits from the federal government for military service is unable to properly manage his or her finances. The VA determines that a fiduciary is necessary to manage the veteran's financial affairs. The fiduciary may be any person or institution designated by the VA. Usually the

fiduciary is a family member, relative or close friend of the veteran and is very capable and willing to manage the veteran's finances. In those cases where the veteran does not have a close relative or friend capable and willing to properly administer the veteran's financial affairs the federal Department of Veterans Affairs solicits the services of the State of New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) to provide fiduciary services.

## **Employment**

All honorably discharged veterans or anyone currently serving in the National Guard shall have five (5) points added to their final passing numerical scores on screening examinations performed by the NM State Personnel Office. Veterans honorably discharged with a service-connected disability will have ten (10) points added to their final passing numerical score. All state, county, municipal, school district and other public employees that are in the National Guard or the Reserves are authorized 15 days of military leave, with pay, per federal fiscal year. Service members can use military leave when they are ordered to duty for training. Military leave is in addition to any other leave or vacation time with pay. The governor is authorized to grant up to an additional 15 days of military leave when that training will benefit the state, by enabling that employee to better perform the duties required in their state occupation.

### **New Mexico Operation Sound Stage:**

Operation Soundstage is a pilot program to put military Veterans to work on movie and TV productions in New Mexico. The Veterans' movie production pilot program is a multi-state agency partnership which aims to increase the hiring and training of military Veterans for production by movie studios and television production companies in New Mexico. The partnership includes the New Mexico Film Office, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services and the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions. To learn more on this program refer to <https://www.dws.state.nm.us/veterans/resources/operation-soundstage>.

### **New Mexico Personnel Office Veterans Hiring Preference**

All veterans honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces or anyone currently serving in the National Guard shall have five (5) points added to their final passing numerical scores on screening examinations performed by the NM [State Personnel Office](#). Veterans honorably discharged with a service-connected disability will have ten (10) points added to their final passing numerical score.

### **Business Tax Credit for Hiring Recently-Returned Veterans**

Any business in the state of New Mexico can qualify for up to a \$1,000 business tax credit for each hire of a recently-returned veteran. Please contact the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department for additional information at (505) 827-0700 or <http://www.tax.newmexico.gov>

### **5% Procurement Advantage for Veteran-Owned Businesses or Contractors**

The state of New Mexico shall set aside an additional 5% hiring preference for veteran-owned businesses or contractors over the existing 5% preference currently established for locally-owned businesses during the bidding process for state contracts

### **Apprenticeship Training**

The state offers apprenticeship and theoretical training programs for qualified veterans, who can receive their G.I. Bill benefits while working full-time and earning a salary. Qualified veterans sign a contract establishing the length and scope of the training. All programs must meet apprenticeship standards set by the U.S. Department of Labor. Apprenticeship programs typically last between two to five years. Businesses and programs participating in a veteran's apprenticeship program must require a participating veteran to spend a minimum 2,000 hours of on-the-job training, along with a minimum 144 hours per year of related instruction. Typical apprenticeship opportunities are offered for: Carpenters, ironworkers, sheet-metal workers, plumbers, construction and architectural design. Call (505) 383-2431 for more information.

### **On-The-Job Training (OJT)**

The state offers On-the-Job-Training (OJT) programs which typically last between six months to two years. Participating veterans work under a skilled worker's supervision and draw monthly benefits from the U.S. Veterans' Administration. Upon completion, the veteran is awarded a certificate by the employer indicating the successful completion of that training program. Some of the programs offered under OJT program are: Heating and air conditioning repair, law enforcement, security and corrections officer training, warehouse operations, shipping and receiving clerks, landscaping, welding, commercial painting, auto mechanics and the beverage & food industry. Call (505) 383-2431 for more information.

### **New Mexico Unemployment Insurance (UI):**

UI provides temporary financial assistance to qualified individuals who meet state eligibility requirements. UI benefits are financed through employer payroll taxes; they are not deducted from employee paychecks. Everyone who collects UI benefits is legally responsible for following the rules according to New Mexico state law. There are two ways to file an unemployment claim:

- You can file your new (initial) UI claim online at the New Mexico UI Online Portal
- You can also file over the phone by calling 877-NM-4-MYUI (877-664-6984). The UI Operations Center is open Monday through Friday, 7:00 am - 5:00 pm

You will need the following information to file a new claim:

- Social Security Number
- Mailing address and phone number(s) of employer(s) you worked for in last 18 months
- The starting and ending dates of your last job (or jobs if more than one employer in last 18 months)
- If you are a non-citizen, have your alien registration number and expiration date

- If you worked during the week you are filing your claim, be sure you know the gross amount (total dollars and cents before any deductions) of your pay before filing.

## **Education**

The NMDVS wants to ensure that every veteran or eligible person has a full and fair opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential through access to the GI Bill® approved post-secondary educational, training/ licensure, certification, entrepreneurial institutions, and New Mexico colleges and universities.

The Department's State Approving Agency (SAA) promotes and safeguards quality education and training for veterans to ensure greater educational and training opportunities and to protect available GI Bill® education benefit resources by assisting the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in preventing fraud, waste, and abuse of the GI Bill® education benefit. The SAA reviews, evaluates, and approves education and training programs. The SAA also provides technical assistance for interested parties upon request and is actively engaged in outreach activities throughout New Mexico to promote the GI Bill® education benefit.

For veterans seeking educational assistance, contact any of the local field offices across the state to speak to a Veteran Service Officer about GI Bill® and state funded scholarships. Click <https://www.nmdvs.org/new-mexico-offices> for a list of the field offices. For institutions or programs looking to become GI Bill® approved, contact NMDVS State Approving Agency, ATTN: Marilyn Dykman, 5201 Eagle Rock Ave. NE, Suite 2A, Albuquerque, NM 87113 Tel: (505) 238-6300 or [marilyn.dykman@state.nm.us](mailto:marilyn.dykman@state.nm.us).

### **In-State Tuition for Veterans**

Veterans, their spouses and their children no longer have to wait to establish "in-state" residency status when applying for college. Those who wish to use their G.I. Education Benefit Bill can now immediately take advantage of less-expensive "resident" in-state tuition rates at any state funded college, university, vocational school or vocational training program.

### **Vietnam Veteran Scholarship**

The Vietnam Veterans' Scholarship Award is to reimburse STATE FUNDED SCHOOLS for tuition costs and books directly associated with undergraduate and master's degree work at a public New Mexico Institute of Higher Education only. Veterans who have been residents of New Mexico for a minimum of 10 years, served in Vietnam, and were issued the Vietnam Campaign or Service Medal are eligible. The Vietnam Veteran Scholarship will pay full tuition and books at any state funded post-secondary school. If applicant is found to be ineligible, the veteran will be required to pay all tuition due to the institution. To download an application go to <http://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Application-DVS-Form-7.Vietnam-War-Scholarship.pdf>.

### **Wartime Veteran Scholarship Fund**

This scholarship is available to veterans who have been residents of New Mexico for a minimum of ten years and who were awarded the Southwest Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal or any other medal issued for service in the Armed Forces of the United States in support of any US Military campaign or armed conflict as defined by congress or presidential executive order for service after August 1, 1990. Eligibility Requirements

- Must be an undergraduate student or a graduate student
- Must attend a university, a four-year college, two-year college or a vocational-tech school
- Restricted to survivors or dependents of people who died, are missing or were disabled in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks
- Citizenship requirements: US
- Both full-time and part-time students
- Restricted to residents of New Mexico
- Restricted to students studying in New Mexico
- Must be in or a veteran of any U.S. Armed Service

To apply contact Director, State Benefits, 407 Galiesteo St, Room 134 Santa Fe, NM 87501 or call/email Tel: 505-827-6374 or [vet.benefits@state.nm.us](mailto:vet.benefits@state.nm.us). To download an application go to <http://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Application-DVS-Form-14.Wartime-Veteran-Scholarship.pdf>. Refer to [https://www.petersons.com/scholarship/new-mexico-wartime-veterans-scholarship-111\\_213307.aspx](https://www.petersons.com/scholarship/new-mexico-wartime-veterans-scholarship-111_213307.aspx) for further information.

### **Other Veteran Related Scholarships**

Refer to the University of New Mexico website <https://vrc.unm.edu/admissions/scholarships-.html>.

### **Children of Deceased Veterans**

Children between the ages of 16-26 whose veteran parent was killed in action or died as a result of their wounds incurred in battle, qualify for a full tuition waiver at any state funded post-secondary school. A \$150 stipend, per semester, will be issued to help with books or fees. Download: Application <http://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Application-DVS-Form-6.Children-of-Deceased-Veterans.pdf>

### **World War II and Korean Veterans' High School Diploma**

Any veteran who left a New Mexico high school before graduating to serve in World War II or the Korean War will be awarded a valid high school diploma issued from the high school they were attending.

Download application at <http://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Application-DVS-Form-12.High-School-Diploma.WWII..Korean.pdf> and return with copy of veteran discharge



papers DD-214 to New Mexico Department of Veterans Services, 407 Galisteo St., Room 134 Santa Fe, NM 87501 Attn: State Benefits.

### **Military Children School Enrollment Priority**

Priority enrollment status is automatically assigned to incoming students or the New Mexico schools system whose active-duty, National Guard or Reservist parent is transferred to a New Mexico military facility.

### **Post 9/11 GI Bill®**

While the previous GI Bill® provided a monthly stipend that was the same from state to state, the Post 9/11 GI Bill® pays full in-state tuition and mandatory fees at public colleges and universities. Veterans who served 36 months are eligible for 100% of the benefits. Eligibility for benefits decreases with less service time. Fees, books, and housing may also be covered; however, these benefits are adjusted based on a number of factors. In some cases, the veterans are able to pass their benefits on to dependents. Refer to <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill> for complete details about this federal VA educational benefit.

## **Recreation**

### **Veterans' Day Recreation and Museum Privileges**

Every Veterans' Day holiday, any New Mexico resident who was honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces or is currently on active-duty—along with their spouse and children—is entitled to free use of any New Mexico State Park. Admission fees will be also be waived for campsites, the Museum of New Mexico, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, and the New Mexico Museum of Space History.

### **Day-Pass and Three Free Camping Nights for Disabled Veterans**

Any veteran rated 50% or higher service-connected disabled may obtain an annual free day-use pass and three free nights of camping for personal use only. Download application at <http://nmdvs.sks.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/DVS-form15-1.pdf>.

### **Disabled Veteran Free State Parks, Museums and Monuments Pass**

Any veteran rated 50% or higher service-connected disabled may obtain a free pass for personal use by submitting an application available at <http://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Application-DVS-Form-15.Museum-Pass.pdf> which must be forwarded, together with a copy of the veteran's DD 214 (Report of Separation) or equivalent Department of Defense document showing an honorable discharge and complete dates of service, proof of residency, and a copy of the official award letter provided to you by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Please mail application to: New Mexico Department of Veterans Services, 407 Galisteo St., Room 134, Santa Fe, NM 87501

### **Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License for Disabled Veterans**

Any veteran rated 100% service-connected disabled is eligible for a free lifetime New Mexico small-game hunting and fishing license.

### **Reduced-Fee Hunting & Fishing License for Disabled Veterans**

New Mexico's 26,000 service-connected disabled veterans may apply for a reduced fee \$10 small-game & fishing license—no matter what percentage their disability. Download application at <http://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Disabled-Veteran-Card-Application-1.pdf>

### **Hunting Fee Discount for Non-Resident Disabled Veterans Undergoing Rehabilitation**

Hunting licenses for deer, antelope, elk, javelina and turkey may be sold to non-resident disabled U.S. military members or veterans at resident license-fee rates if the applicant is undergoing a rehabilitation program utilizing hunting activities supported by the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) or an authorized nonprofit organization.

### **Temporary Hunting and Fishing License for Active-Duty Military Personnel**

Any active duty military personnel, National Guard or Reserve member who is a legally domiciled resident of New Mexico can apply for a temporary active duty fishing or small game hunting license. Applicants must show proof of residency and not claim residency elsewhere. Applicants may also apply if they are on active duty outside the state but are currently on leave in New Mexico for not more than 30 days.

## **Driver and Vehicle Licensing**

### **Driver License Veteran Designation**

- No cost on a first time or renewal
- If just adding designation, customer must pay regular replacement cost depending on 4 or 8 years
- Just need to provide either a DD214 or Veteran's Card
- Customer does not need to show DD214 or Veteran's Card on subsequent visits
- Can be removed on later replacement or renewal



## Veterans' License Plates

Any veteran who was honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the U.S. is eligible for a New Mexico license plate. A fee and registration is required for some plates.

### Medal of Honor (Motor Vehicle Code Section 66-3-409 NMSA 1978)



A distinctive Medal of Honor plate is available for any person who has been awarded the Medal of Honor and submits proof satisfactory to the division that he has been awarded that medal. No fee, including the regular registration fee, shall be collected for the issuance of a Medal of Honor plate.

Fee: None for plate or registration

Application form [MVD10353](#)

### Prisoner of War (Motor Vehicle Code Section 66-3-411 NMSA 1978)



Prisoner of War (POW) plates are available to any person, or to the surviving spouse of a deceased person, who was held as a prisoner of war by an enemy of the United States during any armed conflict, upon submission of proof satisfactory to the division. If the applicant is the surviving spouse, a copy of the marriage certificate and death certificate must accompany the application. No fee, including the regular registration fee, shall be collected for issuance of a POW plate.

Fee: None for plate or registration

Application form [MVD10353](#)

**50% Disabled Veteran** (Motor Vehicle Code Section 66-3-412 NMSA 1978)



The 50 percent disabled veteran plate is available for up to two vehicles, including motorcycles, to a veteran of the armed forces of the United States, upon the submission of proof satisfactory to the department that he was fifty percent disabled while serving in the armed forces of the United States. No fee, including the regular registration fee, shall be collected for issuance of 50 percent disabled veteran plate. A 50% disabled veteran who would also qualify for the disabled person (HP) plate may elect to have the disability wheelchair symbol included on his disabled veteran plate.



Fee: None for plate or registration

Application form **MVD10353**

**National Guard** (Motor Vehicle Code Section 66-3-413 NMSA 1978)



The National Guard plate is available to any person who is an active member of the New Mexico national guard, upon the submission by the person of proof satisfactory to the division that the person is currently a member of the guard. No fee, including the regular registration fee, shall be collected for issuance of a National Guard plate. Fee: None for plate or registration

Application form **MVD10247**

<https://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/mvd10247.pdf>

**Purple Heart** (Motor Vehicle Code Section 66-3-414 NMSA 1978)



The Purple Heart plate is issued for up to two vehicles to any person who is a veteran and a bona fide purple heart medal recipient and submits proof that he has been awarded that medal. No fee, including the regular registration fee, shall be collected for issuance of a Purple Heart plate. Fee: None for plate or registration  
**Application form MVD10353**

**Armed Forces Veterans (Motor Vehicle Code Secs. 66-3-419 and 66-3-412.1 NMSA 1978)**



Section 66-3-419 authorizes special registration plates for Armed Forces Veterans. Section 66-3-412.1 adds specific authorization for an Armed Forces Veterans motorcycle plate. Armed Forces Veterans plates are available for any individual who is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States or is retired from the national guard or military reserves, with proof satisfactory to the department of honorable discharge from the armed forces or of retirement from the national guard or military reserves.

\$8.00 of the \$17.00 fee collected for each non-motorcycle plate is transferred to the Armed Forces Veterans License Fund, for the purpose of expanding services to rural areas of the state, including Native American communities and senior citizen centers.

Fee: \$17.00 initially (\$9.00 for motorcycles); no added fee upon regular registration renewal

**Application form MVD10353** for all the above <https://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/mvd10353.pdf>

**Woman Veteran (Motor Vehicle Code Secs.(66-3-424.20 NMSA 1978)**



"Women Veterans Serve Proudly", indicating that the recipient is a woman veteran of the armed forces of the United States, as defined in Section 9-22-3 NMSA 1978, or is retired from the national guard or military reserves, if that person submits proof satisfactory to the department of honorable discharge from the armed forces or of retirement from the national guard or military reserves.

Each armed forces veteran may elect to receive a veteran-designation decal (see above) to be placed across the top of the plate, centered above the registration number.

The revenue from the special registration plates for the women armed forces veteran fee imposed by Subsection B of this section shall be distributed as follows:

Seven dollars (\$7.00) of the fee collected for each registration plate shall be retained by the department and is appropriated to the department for the manufacture and issuance of the registration plate. Eight dollars (\$8.00) of the fee collected for each registration plate shall be transferred to the state treasurer for credit to the armed forces veterans license fund.

Fee: \$17.00 initially no added fee upon regular registration renewal

**Application form MVD10353** <https://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/mvd10353-1.pdf>

**Patriot (Motor Vehicle Code Section 66-3-424.17 NMSA 1978)**



The Patriot registration plate is available to any motor vehicle owner who is a patriot. No proof of patriotism is required. \$8.00 of the \$27.00 fee collected for each Patriot plate is transferred to the Armed Forces Veterans License Fund, for the purpose of expanding services to rural areas of the state, including Native American communities and senior citizen centers. Fee: \$27.00 upon initial registration.

**Application form MVD11300:** <http://nmdvs.sks.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/mvd11300.pdf>

**Gold Star Families (Motor Vehicle Code Section 66-3-424.24 NMSA 1978)**



(Motor Vehicle Code Section 66-3-424.24 NMSA 1978)

The *Gold Star Family License Plate* is available for any family which has had a son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, parent or step-parent killed in combat action. There is a four-plate limit per family. The first plate is free and all fees will be waived over the lifetime of the recipient. The remaining three plates are also free, but these recipients are responsible for an annual \$17 plate registration fee. A separate application form must be completed and submitted for each Gold Star Family special registration plate that is applied for. Applications will be processed in the order that they are received by the MVD Vehicle Services Unit. Applicant information **MUST** be as shown on the vehicle's current registration form. Application form MVD10100 | <https://www.mvd.newmexico.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/MVD10100.pdf>

### **Heroes to Highways**

The State of New Mexico received exemptions from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) program for implementation of Heroes to Highways. This program is intended to help active duty military members and veterans who are within 90 days of separation from active duty transition into employment in the civilian work force. Qualified applicants will need only to take the CDL knowledge exam to be issued a CDL.

### **Military CDL Waiver Programs**

Qualified, eligible active military service members and those who have been discharged within the past 12 months who wish to obtain a New Mexico Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and can fulfill the necessary requirements will have the opportunity to have some or all of their CDL testing waived, due to their extensive training and experience. This program is only available to those service members who are obtaining their initial CDL and not for upgrades or restriction changes to an existing CDL. There are two options under the Military CDL Waiver program, the Even Exchange and the Skills Test waiver. For either option, the applicant and their Commanding Officer must provide a fully completed and acceptable application for the appropriate option. The Applicant must submit the application with required documentation, via email to the CDL Unit at [NMCDL.HelpDesk@state.nm.us](mailto:NMCDL.HelpDesk@state.nm.us).

The CDL Unit will review and verify the application; then contact the Officer and the applicant in reference to the applications approval. Once approved, the applicant will be required to present the approval notice (from the CDL Unit), and all other necessary documentation to a Motor Vehicle Division Field Office. Each applicant will be required to pay the appropriate CDL fee and satisfy all the CDL and other licensing requirements.

- **Even Exchange option** — The Even Exchange option is available to service members who have certain military MOS/Rating's in the Armed Services as noted on the application for this option, along with the proper military commercial driving training and experience. After an acceptable [Even Exchange application](#) is received and verified, these service members are permitted to have their CDL knowledge and skills testing waived. This also could include certain endorsement tests, if applicable to the applicant's experience. Go to <http://realfile.tax.newmexico.gov/MVD-11200%20Even%20Exchange.pdf> for the application.
- **Skills Waiver option** — The Skills Waiver option is available to all service members who have the proper military commercial driving training and experience but do not have the certain MOS/Rating's for the Even Exchange option. After an acceptable [Skills Waiver application](#) is received and verified, these service members are permitted to have their CDL skills testing waived. This does not include the CDL knowledge testing requirement and does not apply to any endorsements requiring skills testing. For the Application go to <http://realfile.tax.newmexico.gov/MVD11198.pdf>.

For further information, please contact the CDL Unit at 505-827-1036.

## **Burial**

DVS currently operates three state veterans cemeteries: Gallup, Fort Stanton, and Angel Fire, with a fourth planned cemetery in Carlsbad. These four locations represent areas of the state with large, underserved veteran populations who live too far from the two national veterans cemeteries in the state: The Santa Fe National Cemetery in northern New Mexico, and Fort Bayard National Cemetery in the southwestern part of the state.

To arrange for an interment in one of the state veteran cemeteries, or to memorialize a veteran missing in action or missing at sea, contact the appropriate cemetery below. For all other assistance, contact DVS at (505) 827-6356 or at (505) 231-8911. To download a Pre-Application for Memorial Wall Plaque in a New Mexico State Veterans Cemetery go to <http://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Memorial-Wall-App.pdf> . To download a Pre-Application for Burial in a State Veteran Cemetery go to <http://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/State-Veterans-Pre-Application-for-Burial.pdf> .





**Fort Stanton State Veterans Cemetery**

1398 Hwy. 220, Fort Stanton, NM 88323 Tel: (505) 205-6707 or [stephen.mcconnell@state.nm.us](mailto:stephen.mcconnell@state.nm.us)



**Gallup State Veterans Cemetery**

333 National Cemetery Dr. Gallup, NM 87305 Tel: (575) 921-3494 or [gilbert.lopez@state.nm.us](mailto:gilbert.lopez@state.nm.us)



**Angel Fire State Veteran Cemetery**

31 Onate Rd. (County Rd. B4), Angel Fire, NM 87710  
Tel: (505) 225-4341 [randal.myklebust@state.nm.us](mailto:randal.myklebust@state.nm.us)



**Angel Fire Memorial**

Manager D.B. Herbst, 34 Country Club Rd., Angel Fire, NM 87710  
Tel: (575) 377-2293 or [DB.herbst@state.nm.us](mailto:DB.herbst@state.nm.us)

In the 1960s, Victor Westphall (Doc) and his wife, Jeanne, purchased more than 800 acres of the Val Verde ranch near Angel Fire, NM, with the intention of building a resort complete with homes, a golf course, and ski slopes. Then on May 22, 1968, their eldest son, Lt. Victor David Westphall III, was killed in an ambush in Con Thien, Vietnam just south of the DMZ. David Westphall was buried in the Santa Fe National Cemetery in early June 1968.

David's mother, Jeanne, suggested using David's life insurance money to build a chapel to honor the memory of their son and the fifteen men who died with him. Fueled by this inspiration, Doc drew out the initial sketches for the Chapel and submitted them to a local Santa Fe architect for final drafting. Construction of the Peace and Brotherhood Chapel began in September 1968. The vision for the Chapel soon expanded to commemorate the service and sacrifice of all Vietnam veterans. The Chapel was the first major memorial created to honor the veterans of the Vietnam War. It was recognized the United States Congress as a "memorial of national significance" and served as inspiration for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

In 2017, the Department of Veterans' Services took over management of the Memorial. Today, the Memorial includes a visitor center and museum, with a library of over 1,000 books and 2,000 photographs, memorabilia exhibits, touchable displays, artwork, and sculptures that provide a glimpse into the daily life of our troops. The Memorial includes an amphitheater, a memorial walkway, memorial gardens, a Huey Helicopter display, and the gravesites of Doc and Jeanne. The Memorial also overlooks the Angel Fire State Veterans Cemetery, which opened in July 2020. Approximately 45,000 individuals come each year. For more information about other veterans memorials and monuments in New Mexico refer to <https://www.nmdvs.org/nm-memorials>'

### **Forgotten Heroes Burial Program**

In the event no family members come forward to claim the body of a veteran upon death, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services has established the *Forgotten Heroes Burial Program* to ensure that no veteran will be alone at the end—and that the deceased veteran will receive a military funeral and burial. The Program covers the deaths of homeless or indigent veterans. The program was developed in 2009 as the result of a cooperated effort between the NMDVS, Bernalillo County, the state Office of the Medical Investigator to properly honor and bury unclaimed deceased veterans in the county.

The FHB Program designates the NMDVS as the family of record of any veteran upon death whose body goes unclaimed by family members and which has been cremated and stored at state-contracted funeral homes. If the cremated remains have been identified by the VA as that of a veteran, the NMDVS will take possession of these cremains and contacts the Santa Fe national Cemetery and an Honor Guard Team to provide a full military funeral. The remains will then be interred at the cemetery's Columbarium. The public is invited to any Forgotten Heroes Funeral to function along with the NMDVS as the "family" to provide the farewell and "Final

Salute” which these veterans have earned through their service to our country. For more information, please contact Josetta Rodriguez at (505) 827-6356 or by E-mail at [josetta.rodriquez@state.nm.us](mailto:josetta.rodriquez@state.nm.us). Refer to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TSaTgXGRHE> for a video showing the Program in action.

### **New Mexico National Veteran Cemeteries**

Presently, New Mexico—the mostly rural, fifth-largest state in the nation in terms of size—has two national cemeteries located in the northern and southwestern New Mexico:

- *Santa Fe National Cemetery* <https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/santafe.asp>
- *Ft. Bayard National Cemetery* <https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftbayard.asp>



501 North Guadalupe Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501 Tel: 505-988-6400 or FAX: 505-988-6497 (left) and 200 Camino De Paz, Fort Bayard, NM 88036 Tel: 505-988-6400 or FAX: 505-988-6497 (Right)

## **Taxation**

### **Sales Tax**

- Statewide: 5.125%
- Counties can levy an additional sales tax of no more than 9.0622%.
- Current average sales tax (with local taxes included): 7.227%
- Common Exceptions at State Level:
  - Groceries: Exempt
- Gasoline Tax: 37.28 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local, and federal taxes)
- Diesel Fuel Tax: 47.28 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local, and federal taxes)
- Cigarette Tax: \$2.00/pack of 20
- New Mexico doesn't have a sales tax, per se; its “gross receipts tax” is imposed on businesses, but is almost always passed on the buyer.

### **Personal Income Tax**

- Personal Income Tax Rate Range: Five brackets from 1.7% to 5.9% (highest bracket on income greater than \$210,000)

- Standard deduction: Same as federal. Single filing Status: \$12,550/Married Filing Jointly: \$25,100
- Personal Exemption Allowance: \$4,000 for all but one dependent
- Itemized Deductions Allowed?: Yes, subject to limitations
- Retirement Income
  - Social Security: Taxable to the extent included in federal Adjusted Gross Income\*
  - IRAs: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*
  - 401Ks/Defined contribution employer retirement plans: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*
  - Private pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*
  - Public Pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*
- Military Pay
  - Active Duty Pay: Exempt
  - Military Retirement Pay: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*
  - Military Disability Pay: Exempt
  - VA Disability Dependency & Indemnity Compensation Benefits: Exempt
  - SBP/SSBP/RCSBP/RSFPP: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates\*

Income Tax Comments: \*A retirement income exemption of \$8,000 is available, subject to income restrictions, for taxpayers 65 and over. Additional exemptions and credits for seniors are available based on income restrictions or high medical expenses. If a taxpayer is over 100 and not a dependent, there are no income taxes due. All taxpayers may be eligible for a tax credit equal to 10% of the federal earned income tax credit, and low- and middle-income taxpayers may receive an income exemption up to \$2,500 if income less than \$36,667.

### **Property Tax**

- Local municipalities average .80% of the property's assessed value.
- Calculation of assessed value: One-third of fair market value
- Relief programs for:
  - Owner-occupied: Assessed value may not increase more than 3% annually.
  - Head of Family: Up to \$2,000 of assessed value exempt.
  - 65 and over: If income less than \$16,000, tax credit of up to \$250.
  - Veterans/Surviving Spouse: Exemption of up to \$4,000 of assessed value if meet certain requirements.
  - Disabled Veterans/Surviving Spouse: 100% tax credit if 100% service-linked disability.
- Personal Property Tax: No.

**Inheritance & Estate Taxes:** None.

**Department of Revenue website:** [www.tax.newmexico.gov](http://www.tax.newmexico.gov)

## Women Vet Program

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services is dedicated to treating women veterans with the dignity and respect earned by all veterans. Part of the Field Services Division, the Women Veterans Program Manager assists the Cabinet Secretary and Deputy Secretary with all duties in directing a statewide Women Veterans Program and is the first point of contact for all women veteran issues. She is Robin Wilson at 5201 Eagle Rock Ave. NE, Suite 2A, Albuquerque, NM 87113 and can be contacted (505) 372-9106 or [robin.wilson@state.nm.us](mailto:robin.wilson@state.nm.us)

The Women Veterans Program will provide the highest quality service and advocacy for women veterans and their families. They will conduct outreach to ensure women veterans are knowledgeable of federal and state veteran benefits, and they are committed to making sure women veterans have equitable access to those programs and services. To contact a female Veteran Service Officer select the location below that is closest to you residence:

- VSO at 5201 Eagle Rock NE, Suite 2A, Albuquerque, NM 87113 Phone 505-383-2400
- VSO/Tribal-Pueblo Liaison Beverly Charley at 4601 College Blvd. Room #1715B Farmington, NM 87401 Phone: 505-327-2861 Cell: 505-327-2861E-mail: [beverly.charley@state.nm.us](mailto:beverly.charley@state.nm.us)
- VSO Rosa Bycenski at 2024 E. Griggs Avenue, Los Cruces, NM 8801 Phone: (575) 524-6220 Cell: 505-216-8782 E-mail: [rosa.bycenski@state.nm.us](mailto:rosa.bycenski@state.nm.us)
- VSO Dagmar Youngberg at 101 N. Halagueno Carlsbad, NM 88220 Phone: 575-885-4939 Cell: 575-988-5900 E-Mail: [dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us](mailto:dagmar.youngberg@state.nm.us)
- VSO Danielle Thompson at 1600 SE Main St. Suite A, Roswell, NM 88201 Phone: 575-624-6086 Cell: 575-416-2284 Email: [danielle.thompson@state.nm.us](mailto:danielle.thompson@state.nm.us)

To assist female vets the program provides pamphlets on mentorship and homelessness for those in need at <https://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Mentorship-Pamphlet.pdf> and <https://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Homelessness-Pamphlet.pdf>. In addition New Mexico female vets can avail themselves of the following resources:

- <https://www.nmdvs.org/womens-veteran-program> NM Women Vet Program
- <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net> Veterans Crisis Line
- <https://safehelpline.org> DOD Safe Helpline
- <https://www.va.gov/womenvet> VA Center for Women Veterans
- <https://www.va.gov/new-mexico-health-care> New Mexico VA Women Veterans Clinic
- <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/mentalhealth/msthome/index.asp> Military Sexual Trauma
- <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/womenveterans> Department of Labor Women Vets
- <http://vrc.unm.edu/women-veterans.html> UNM Women Veterans

- <https://womensveteransofnewmexico.org> Women Veterans of New Mexico
- <http://umsws.weebly.com/index.html> United Military Women of the Southwest
- <https://www.facebook.com/servicewomen> Service Women's Action Network
- <https://womensvetsusa.org/benefits-services/organizations/women-veterans.php> Women Veteran Organizations
- <https://cyfd.org/ps-overview> New Mexico Children, Youth, & Families Department
- <https://www.newmexicokids.org> Child Services

If you cannot find the answer you are looking for, don't turn away: Contact your VSO, and they will figure out the direction you need to take. VSO's are Veterans and accredited by the VA — and will work with you every step of the way. Their team can also help you navigate through the VA Health Care Systems, with fifteen VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinics, and four VA Vet Centers in New Mexico.

## **Homeless Vet Assistance**

Through contracts with the New Mexico Veterans Integration Center (NMVIC) in Albuquerque and the Mesilla Valley Community of Hope in Las Cruces, the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (NMDVS) provides transition services for homeless and at risk New Mexico Veterans. Those eligible should contact the NMDVS for more information via one of their field offices listed at <https://www.nmdvs.org/field-offices>. To be eligible for assistance, you must meet the following conditions:

- A Veteran of the US Armed Forces (Active, Reserve, National Guard) or Un-remarried Surviving Spouse of a Veteran
- Certain programs may require active duty service to be eligible
- Be literally or at-risk of homelessness
- Discharged Under Conditions of other than Dishonorable
- Willing to accept help and improve your life
- Must live in New Mexico

### **About the Veterans Integration Center (IC)**

The Veterans Integration Centers strives to meet the varying needs of Veterans, their families and local residents of the 87123 zip code by offering a wide range of services designed to help provide assistance to each Veteran's unique situation. Their goal is for you to achieve stable housing and independence that includes assistance with multiple resources. The services they provide include

- Multiple housing options for Veterans and their families who are at risk of homelessness to end the cycle immediately that cover emergency housing, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing.

- Counseling that focuses on clinical mental health, substance abuse and addictions.
- Clothing and donation program clothing options for men, women and children, as well as essential hygiene items for every enrollee as needed. Also, every veteran and family that exits their programs and moves into their new home receives furniture and household items to turn a “house” into a “home”.
- Access to food resources
- A free Community Support Shuttle in Albuquerque that helps connect riders with essential community resources in the downtown corridor. Riders can also talk with their team to learn about new programs and reach out when they are ready to accept help while navigating their way to other services.

To learn more about VIC refer to <https://www.nmvic.org>

### **About the Community of Hope**

The Community of Hope serves the homeless and near-homeless population. They provide a number of services from housing to case management to helping house veterans. A video at <https://youtu.be/C0EBELhYR3s> explains what they do to assist people. Their services include:

- Permanent Supportive Housing: Individual apartments for homeless people with disabilities and their families.
- Abode Permanent Housing: A group home for the chronically homeless.
- Rapid Rehousing: Subsidized rent to help individuals, families and veterans stabilize after becoming homeless.
- Sue’s House: A group residence for up to four chronically homeless women.
- Veterans Housing: Ongoing rental assistance and supportive services for Veterans at a 20-unit complex. Assistance available to homeless vets for security deposit, first month’s rent, homeless prevention, and utility assistance.
- Linkages: Permanent supportive housing voucher program for persons with severe mental illness who are homeless or precariously housed. MVCH partners with La Clinica de Familia and St. Luke’s Health Care Clinic to provide supportive services.
- Homeless Prevention: Assistance to help individuals, families and veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless.
- New Home Set-ups as available for those in housing program:
  - Furniture
  - Household goods
  - Miscellaneous supplies
- Camp Hope is a tent city for members of the community currently experiencing homelessness and is located on the Community of Hope campus which provides a safe place for homeless residents to stay while they transition to housing. Campground amenities include full service bathroom, kitchen and 3-sided structures on 50 tent pad sites.

- Mano y Mano Day Labor: Up to 20 homeless & near homeless participants are transported to city-owned properties to provide day labor. Participants are connected to supportive services, housing, & income assistance.

To learn more about Community of Hope refer to <http://www.mvcommunityofhope.org>

## **Other**

### **Veteran Service Offices**

The NMDVS operates 14 Veteran Service Office to assist veterans and their families asking questions about their benefits and in obtaining assistance for their problems. To obtain contact information on them along with the names of the VSO's manning them refer to <https://www.nmdvs.org/field-offices>.

### **National Guard and Reserves Defined as Veterans**

According to the state of New Mexico, veteran status is given to anyone honorably discharged after serving six consecutive years as a member of the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard or Air National Guard. Veteran status is also given to commissioned officers from the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who served on active duty in defense of the United States.

### **Special MacArthur Service Medal**

The Special MacArthur Service Medal is issued members of the 200th/51st Coast Artillery Units who were residents of New Mexico at their original time of entry into the U.S. Military and served under General Douglas MacArthur in the Philippine Islands during World War II. The medal is also available to surviving family members of the 200th/51st units

### **Service Member Child Custody Protection**

Child custody arrangements cannot be modified while a parent is deployed for military service. All child custody issues involving a deployed parent must wait to be resolved until the deployed parent returns to New Mexico.

### **Military Discharge Papers Protection**

Military discharge papers filed with County Clerks in the State of New Mexico shall be available only to the veteran who filed them, the veteran's next of kin, or a person holding the veteran's general power of attorney. Refer to <https://www.sos.state.nm.us/voting-and-elections/voter-information-portal/county-clerk-information>. to contact your county clerk.

### **New Mexico Personnel Office Veterans Hiring Preference**



All veterans honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces or anyone currently serving in the National Guard shall have five (5) points added to their final passing numerical scores on screening examinations performed by the State Personnel Office. Veterans honorably discharged with a service-connected disability will have ten (10) points added to their final passing numerical score.

### **Business Tax Credit for Hiring Recently-Returned Veterans**

Any business in the state of New Mexico can qualify for up to a \$1,000 business tax credit for each hire of a recently-returned veteran. Please contact the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department for additional information at (505) 827-0700 or <http://www.tax.newmexico.gov>.

### **High School Diploma for WWII, Korean & Vietnam Veterans**

Any veteran who left a New Mexico high school before graduating to serve in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam conflict may be awarded a valid high school diploma issued from the high school they were attending. To receive complete the application form at [https://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Application-DVS-Form-12.High-School-Diploma.WWII\\_.Korean.pdf](https://www.nmdvs.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Application-DVS-Form-12.High-School-Diploma.WWII_.Korean.pdf)

### **Veteran Transportation Service**

Disabled veterans in northern and central New Mexico can arrange for free transportation to and from their home and the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center or the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Albuquerque by calling the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) at (505) 256-2821. Veterans in southeastern New Mexico can arrange for free transportation to the medical center or a nearby CBOC through a transportation program provided by the Southeastern New Mexico Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Please call (575) 622-0729.

### **Veterans' Crisis and Suicide Hotlines**

If you're experiencing a crisis or supporting someone who is, the Veterans Crisis Line can help. The VFSS provides a 24-hour Crisis hotline and a 24-hour VA Suicide hotline at [\(866\) 433-8387](tel:8664338387)

### **New Mexico Vet Information Resources**

- <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/State/Territory-Benefits/New-Mexico> Army website.
- <http://www.dvs.state.nm.us> NM Department of Veteran Services.
- <https://www.moaa.org/content/state-report-card/statereportcard> MOAA for current issues/legislation affecting veterans residing in the state.
- <https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhbh> Veteran Health Benefits Handbook.
- <https://www.militaryonesource.mil> Military One Source.
- [https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book/2019\\_Federal\\_Benefits\\_for\\_Veterans\\_Dependents\\_and\\_survivors.pdf](https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/2019_Federal_Benefits_for_Veterans_Dependents_and_survivors.pdf) & <https://www.military.com/topics/veteran-benefits> for info on federal benefits and assistance.

- If emergency assistance is needed use the National 24 Hour Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 and Press 1.

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For contact information and benefits assistance visit the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services website <http://www.dvs.state.nm.us/benefits.html>. [Source: <https://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/new-mexico-state-veterans-benefits.html> | February 2022 ++]