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***If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?***

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# Your Guide to Veterans Resources





Veterans face a series of unique challenges upon completion of their military service. Despite the promising implications of an improved job market and nationwide economic recovery, many former members of the armed forces continue to encounter difficulties as they transition to the civilian workforce and access other resources like health care and retirement information.

To help those who have served our country, GovLoop has put together this small guide to resources relating to workforce transitions, health care, and benefits for veterans. We hope you find this useful, and we thank you for your service.

Part

1

# Workforce Transition

According to an iCIMS survey of former military personnel, 41 percent of respondents said that hiring managers didn't understand how military experiences could transfer to a private sector career.

Further, veterans themselves reported feeling like they were unable to effectively communicate or market how their skills might be applicable to civilian careers. One of the biggest issues is a lack of information and institutional support. A number of available advocacy, training, and support programs, in addition to government policies like the GI Bill, can better facilitate workplace transition and assist veterans in finding fulfilling work.



# Tips

### 1. Get in touch with your local VFW, American Legion or other veterans group.

The folks there could have job leads to send your way, and you might make some great friends along the way.

2. Check out [jobs-for-veterans pages online](#) and get in touch about resume building workshops (like [this one](#)).

### 3. Give yourself a break.

Don't drive yourself into the ground with feelings of inadequacy, even if the job hunt is taking longer than expected. Stay methodical in working toward your goals.

### 4. Apply military disciplines to your life, job search, and ultimately your job.

These can include skills such as knowing how to lead and be led, and how to bring out the best in team members.

## List of Resources:

There are quite a few online resources for veterans looking to settle back into the workforce, but you have to know where to look. Also check out the [National Veterans Foundation](#) (NVF) or the [National Resource Directory](#) (NRD), both of which have helpful information on post-service compensation and assistance programs.

### [Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment \(VR&E\)](#)

By design, this program assists veterans and servicemembers "with job training, employment accommodations, resume development and job seeking skills coaching."

### [Homeless Veteran Supported Employment Program \(HVSEP\)](#)

This service is organized to assist homeless or at-risk-of-being-homeless veterans in finding vocations to support themselves.

### [Compensated Work Therapy \(CWT\)](#)

CWT helps homeless veterans work their way into competitive employment in three separate programs: Sheltered Workshop, Transitional Work and Supported Employment.

### [NVF's Jobs for Veterans Page](#)

A frequently updated database of positions across the country.

### [Veteran-owned businesses, U.S. Small Business Administration](#)

If you're looking to start up a business of your own, this is the site for you. The program offers support for veterans by way of funding, training and federal contracting opportunities.

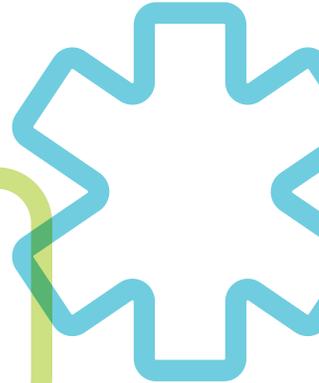
### [Hire Heroes USA](#)

Is a national nonprofit that empowers U.S. military members, veterans and military spouses to succeed in the civilian workforce.

Part

2

# Health Care



You gave a significant amount of your life to serve the United States, and you deserve access to healthcare. Unfortunately, that's going to take a bit of work on your part. Don't worry! We've got some tips and resources to help you get a hold of the benefits you deserve.



## Tips

**1. Take the time to educate yourself on what's available.** If you've ever had to navigate the health care system, you know how time-consuming it can be. We've included a list of resources below.

**2. Advocate for veterans' health care rights.**

If you have the time to do so, think about getting involved with a nonprofit like Fighting for Veterans Healthcare (FFVHC, see below).

**3. Don't be afraid to ask for help.** If you need a crisis hotline immediately, call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1 to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

## List of Resources:

Ready to jump in and explore your health care benefits? Below we've compiled five of the most useful websites for your health care needs. The list isn't all-inclusive, but it should get you going on the right foot. We recommend starting with Veterans Affairs Department resources and working out from there.

### [Explore.va.gov](#)

This is your first and maybe most important stop on the health care hunt. The Veterans Affairs Department site has a lot of information on how to apply to programs you're eligible for.

### [Veterans Health Administration](#)

The Veterans Health Administration website holds a great deal of information. Locate hospitals, check out facility quality ratings or read through veterans success stories from across the country.

### [Military.com Veteran Health Care Info](#)

Started in 1999, it was built to help connect veterans to each other and to benefits that had been shrouded in bureaucratic complexity.

### [Benefits.gov](#)

This is a helpful resource to figure out what benefits you're entitled to, based on your service time and discharge status.

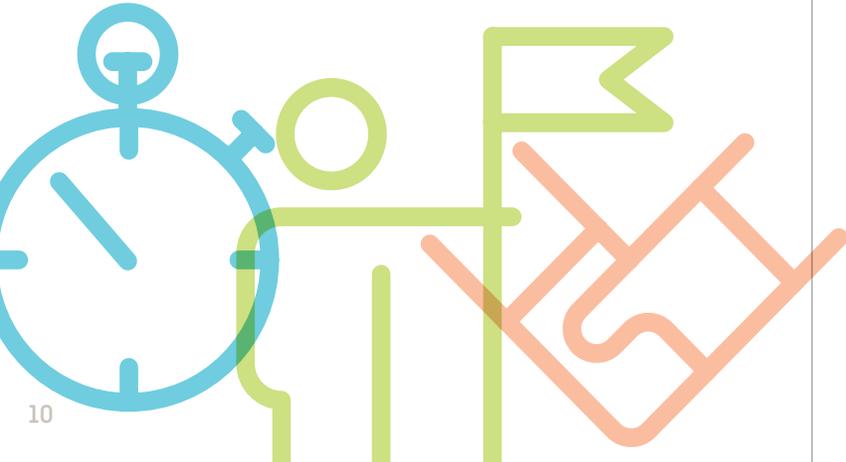
### [Fighting for Veterans Healthcare \(FFVHC\)](#)

Check this site out if you're looking for something closer to activism. The nonprofit advocates veterans' rights by working to provide a platform for veteran voices and opposing the privatization of the Veterans Health Administration.

Part

3

# Retirement and Other Benefits



Millions of veterans and their family members are eligible for billions of dollars each year in aid and assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Because there are so many different programs, however, it can be difficult for veterans to keep track of exactly what benefits are available to them or understand the varying eligibility and application requirements.



## Tips

**1. Familiarize yourself with the types of benefits available.** Navigating all existing assistance programs can be overwhelming, so narrow your focus. Start with the specific programs you think you might need, and then look into the program criteria and required qualifications.

**2. Keep an eye out for changes to existing bills and newly introduced legislation** (e.g. the 2017 **Forever G.I. Bill**, recently passed in the Senate).

**3. Meet with a representative or VA staff member in person** (find your local office [here](#)). The information can be a lot to navigate alone, so speaking with an expert can clarify any questions you might have.

## List of Resources:

These resources provide a useful place to start for those navigating the numerous benefits and financial assistance programs available to veterans and their families.

### [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Benefits Administration](#)

Check out the VA's **Pension list** for detailed information about available programs, qualifications and application requirements.

### [VetAngels.org](#)

This nonprofit organization aims to help provide eligible senior veterans and their families with information and support in applying for VA benefits to help with the cost of care.

### [Operation Homefront](#)

Operation Homefront is a national nonprofit aiming to help struggling military families.

### [The American Legion](#)

The American Legion, a nonprofit organization devoted to advocacy for the veteran community, offers a variety of services around veterans' benefits. Check out their site for a benefits calculator, lists of everyday veterans discounts and services, and more.

### [AgingCare.com](#)

This website has thorough information for elderly and aging veterans and their caregivers.

### [The Mission Continues](#)

The nonprofit organization operates under a goal to provide veterans with volunteer service opportunities in their communities. Their projects offer a chance to meet other veterans and their families who live in the area.

**We thank you for your service  
and hope you found these  
veterans resources helpful.**

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