

MASSACHUSETTS VETERANS BENEFITS AND RESOURCE GUIDANCE:



General information regarding benefits and services available to veterans in Massachusetts

VETERAN SPECIFIC FEDERAL & STATE RESOURCES:

- **Federal** – US Veterans Affairs is the federal agency responsible for providing benefits and services to all eligible veterans. For information visit www.va.gov.
- **State** – A comprehensive listing of all benefits and services available in Massachusetts can be found at the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) www.mass.gov/veterans and www.massvetsadvisor.org. DVS is located in Boston and can be reached by telephone at 617-210-5480. A list of Veterans' Services Providers in your region can be found at the DVS website.
- **Local** – Every locality and region in Massachusetts is obliged to have a veterans' services officer (VSO). These VSOs are knowledgeable about the federal, state and local benefits for veterans, including Chapter 115 benefits which are state subsidized funding and include cash assistance and referral for eligible veterans and their families. Visit <http://www.mass.gov/veterans/utility/local-veterans-service-officers-3.html> for a list of VSOs.

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALL VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

- **VASH Housing Voucher** – the VA Supporting House (VASH) program provides a Section 8 voucher exclusively for eligible veterans and their families linked with case management services. More information regarding the VASH Program can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/veterans/housing/va-supportive-housing.html>.
- **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)** – Case management services and time limited cash assistance to prevent homelessness or rapidly re-house homeless veterans and their families. For a list of community-based SSVF providers serving Massachusetts: www.massvetsadvisor.org.
- **Chapter 115 benefits** – State subsidized benefits including cash assistance and referral for eligible veterans and their families. Please contact your local Veterans Service Officer (VSO – using the link above) for more information on eligibility and benefits.
- **Veterans Administration (VA)** – The VA provides a comprehensive array of services and benefits to veterans. Eligibility requirements can be located on line at www.massvetsadvisor.org or www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/character_of_discharge.asp. VA benefits to eligible veterans include health care, housing, supportive services, clinical treatment and cash benefits.
- **Housing** – The Massachusetts Department of Veteran's Services provides several housing resources including information on home loans, transitional and supportive housing resources, and information on federal and state subsidies and/or tax exemption programs that provide emergency shelter or long term housing needs. The website is <http://www.mass.gov/veterans/housing/>.
- **SAVE** – the Statewide Advocacy for Veterans' Empowerment (SAVE) program assists Veterans in need of referral services and seeks to prevent suicide and mental health distress through the identification of issues facing veterans when they return from service and proactively providing them with access to benefits and services that may address these issues and result in positive transitions back to civilian life. To access SAVE, please call 617-210-5743 or go to their website: <http://www.mass.gov/veterans/health-and-well-being/counseling/suicide-prevention-only/save.html>

EMERGENCY SERVICES: If a veteran is in need of immediate assistance, please call either:

- The Samaritans 24/7 Statewide Helpline: 1-877-870-HOPE (4673); or
- National Crisis Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) & press "1" for Veteran