

Veterans Services of Carroll County



Carroll County Veterans Services Office
www.carrollcountymd.gov/carrollveterans

What we do...

MISSION: The Carroll County Veterans Services Program is dedicated to promoting the interests and welfare of veterans, their family members and survivors. The program focuses on enhancing the veteran's quality of life and improving outcomes through advocacy, claims assistance, education, counseling and facilitating access to appropriate human services programs.

The Carroll County Veterans Services Program envisions advocating for and protecting the rights of all Carroll County veterans, their family members and survivors and assisting them with obtaining the benefits and services to which they are entitled.

Services Provided

Assist veterans and their families who reside in Carroll County with:

- Obtaining the military discharge document (DD-214);
- Applying for Pension, Surviving Spouse Pension and Disability Compensation Claims, and other benefits applications;
- Preparing claim forms and submit appropriate supporting documentation to the Veterans Benefits Administration;
- Enrolling veterans into the VA Healthcare System;
- Tracking claims and assisting with corrections requested by the VA;
- Filing Supplemental Review and Higher-Level Review requests
- Providing case management services to veterans experiencing homelessness or other crisis

Disability Compensation Claim

Disability Compensation provides monthly cash benefits to address the effects of disabilities, diseases, or injuries incurred or aggravated during active military service.

You are eligible for compensation if:

- You have a current physical or mental disability that:
 - Was incurred while serving in the military (service records, buddy statements)
 - AND there is current medical evidence demonstrating your disability is continuing or residual in nature from the injury or illness incurred during military service. OR
- You had a disability before you entered the military, and activities, injury, or illness during your service made your condition worse and it continues to the present time.

Presumptive Conditions

The VA presumes that specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by their military service. If a condition is diagnosed in a veteran in one of these groups, the VA presumes that the circumstances of his service caused the condition, and disability compensation can be awarded.

Exposure and Presumptive Conditions:

- Agent Orange
- Burn Pits
- Camp LeJeune Water Contamination
- Gulf War Veterans (Undiagnosed Illness)
- Atomic Veterans (Exposed to Ionizing Radiation)
- Former Prisoners of War

Agent Orange Presumptive List

- CHLORACNE or other acne form disease consistent with chloracne (must manifest to a degree of 10% within one year of exposure)
- TYPE 2 DIABETES (aka Type II diabetes mellitus or adult-onset diabetes)
- ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE
- PARKINSON'S DISEASE
- HODGKIN'S DISEASE
- MULTIPLE MYELOMA
- NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA
- PROSTATE CANCER
- RESPIRATORY CANCERS (cancer of the lungs, bronchus, larynx or trachea)
- SOFT TISSUE CANCERS
- RECENTLY ADDED BUT NOT PUT IN REGULATION BY VA YET: BLADDER CANCER, HYPOTHYROIDISM, PARKINSONISM

Camp Lejeune Presumptive List

VA has established a presumptive service connection for Veterans, Reservists, and National Guard members exposed to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987 who later developed one of the following eight diseases:

- Adult leukemia
- Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- Bladder, Kidney or Liver cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

Presently, these conditions are the only ones for which there is sufficient scientific and medical evidence to support the creation of presumptions; however, VA will continue to review relevant information as it becomes available

GULFWAR

These "presumptive" illnesses must have appeared during active duty in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations, or by December 31, 2021, and be at least 10 percent disabling.

- [Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome \(ME/CFS\)](#), a condition of long-term and severe fatigue that is not relieved by rest and is not directly caused by other conditions.
- [Fibromyalgia](#), a condition characterized by widespread muscle pain. Other symptoms may include insomnia, morning stiffness, headache, and memory problems.
- [Functional gastrointestinal disorders](#), a group of conditions marked by chronic or recurrent symptoms related to any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Examples include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional dyspepsia, and functional abdominal pain syndrome.
- [Undiagnosed illnesses](#) with symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, fatigue, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances.

Pension/Survivors Pension Claim

- The VA helps veterans and their families cope with financial hardships by providing them with supplemental income through the Veterans Pension and the Survivor's Pension.
- The Pension and Survivors Pension is a tax-free monetary benefit.
- Veterans and survivors who are eligible for Pension benefits and are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person may be eligible to receive additional monies.

Pension/Survivors Pension Claim

Eligibility Requirements:

- Pension benefits are needs-based and your "countable" family income must fall below the yearly limit set by law.
- Veterans must have at least 90 days of active duty, including one day during a wartime period.

You must also be:

- Age 65 or older with limited or no income, **OR**
- Totally and permanently disabled, **OR**
- A patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, **OR**
- Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance, **OR**
- Receiving Supplemental Security Income

Medical Benefits

Our staff can assist veterans with enrolling in the VA Medical System

If you served in active-duty military and are separated under any condition other than dishonorable, you may qualify for VA health care benefits.

To be eligible:

- The veteran must have been active-duty military
- The veteran must have separated under any condition other than dishonorable
- The veteran and spouse must have a gross income of below \$59,000.00 (Veterans in Category 6 are enrolled regardless of income)
 - Non-reimbursed medical expenses, burial/funeral expenses and education/vocational expenses for the tax year prior to application are deducted from the adjusted gross income

Medical Facilities

Baltimore Regional Medical Center

10 North Greene Street
Baltimore MD 21201

410-605-7000



Medical Facilities

Loch Raven CBOC

(Community Based Outpatient Clinic)

3901 The Alameda
Baltimore MD 21218

410-605-7650



Medical Facilities

Martinsburg Regional Medical Center

510 Butler Ave
Martinsburg WV 25405

304-263-0811



Medical Facilities

Fort Detrick CBOC

1433 Porter St.

Fort Detrick Army Garrison

Frederick, MD 21702

800-817-3807, ext. 5130



Additional Services

Carroll County Veteran's Shuttle Transportation Program

- Free shuttle to transport veterans to VA medical facilities.
- Pick up at convenient locations- Westminster Sr. Center; North Carroll Sr. Center & Freedom Village Shopping Center in Eldersburg
- 1 caregiver may also ride for free.
- To register, call the Bureau of Aging at (410) 386-3800.

Veteran Directed Home & Community Based Services Program

- Veterans are referred to this program by their VA primary care physician.
- Veterans enrolled in the program, self-direct and manage a budget that may be used to supplement or meet their long-term care support needs without resorting to assisted living or nursing home care.
- Our staff is the local "Support Planner" to help with budgets and case management.

Kahlert Foundation-Veterans Assistance

- Funds are donated to assist Veterans with temporary housing, emergencies that could result in homelessness, transportation issues and training & education.
- Each year, the fund assists approximately 35 Veterans.

Meet Our Team

- Program Coordinators:
 - **Mike Messina**, phone 410-386-3829
mmessina@carrollcountymd.gov
Hours 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
 - **Francine Hahn**, phone 410-386-3826
fhahn@carrollcountymd.gov
Hours 9:00 AM – 2:00 pm
 - **Rick Pollard**, phone 410-386-3812
rpollard@carrollcountymd.gov
Hours 9:00 AM – 2:00 pm
- **Case Manager-** to be filled

Appointments required



VETERAN

Services Program
of Carroll County