



The state of Ohio offers many veteran benefits for service members and Veterans that have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. These benefits include income and property tax exemptions, financial exemptions, education and training programs, hunting and fishing licenses, vehicle registrations, and assistance with employment. Your residency, military career, and disability status may result in certain differences in what benefits you may be eligible for. The following are benefits for the state of Ohio.

### Ohio Veteran Financial Benefits

- **Deduction for Military Stationed Outside Ohio State Tax Benefit:** Military Service members who are stationed outside Ohio are eligible for the deduction of military pay received for active duty service while stationed outside the state if the military pay is included in federal adjusted gross income (see division (A)(24) of Ohio Revised Code 5747.01. Service members must still file an Ohio individual, and if applicable, school district income tax return in order to qualify for the deduction. This deduction applies to taxable years beginning on and after Jan. 1, 2007.
- **Military Retirement Pay Ohio State Tax Deduction:** Division (A)(26) of Ohio Revised Code 5747.01 provides that for taxable years beginning after 2007 taxpayers who retired from service in the active or reserve components of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or national guard (any state) can deduct the pay the taxpayers receive for their military retirement to the extent that payment is not otherwise deducted or excluded in computing Ohio adjusted gross income. Taxpayers who served in the military and receive a federal civil service retirement pension are also eligible for a limited deduction if any portion of their federal retirement pay is based on credit for their military service. These retirees can deduct only the amount of their federal retirement pay that is attributable to their military service.
- **Ohio Income Tax Exemption for Military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/ Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP)/ Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) Annuity:** The Ohio Military Retirement Pay Ohio State Tax Deduction also applies to such amounts received by the Surviving Spouse or former Spouse of each military retiree who is receiving payments under the survivor benefit plan. Please note that Child support receipts, regardless of the source, are not included in federal adjusted gross income; so these amounts are not deductible.
- **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Ohio Income Tax Exemption:** Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is a tax-free monetary benefit paid to eligible survivors of military service members who died in the line of duty or eligible survivors of Veterans whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease.

#### Sales Tax:

- Statewide: 5.75%
- Counties: can levy an additional sales tax of no more than 2.25%
- Current average sales tax (with local taxes included): 7.13%

### Recreation

**Disabled Veteran Recreational Benefits:** Ohio offers the following recreation benefits for totally disabled veterans, Medal of Honor recipients, and former POWs:

-Free hunting & fishing licenses



- Free boating licenses & registration
- Free camping at Ohio State Parks

**Active Duty Hunting and Fishing Licenses:** Ohio active duty residents don't have to buy a hunting license, fishing license, Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp, or fur taker permit while on leave. Non-resident active duty members stationed in Ohio can buy a hunting license, fishing license, Ohio Wetlands Habitat Stamp, or fur taker permit for the resident rate.

**Camping Discounts at Ohio State Parks:** Active military and veterans are entitled to a 10% discount. The discount may be used for only ONE campsite, getaway rental unit, cottage, or lodge room per visit. Military ID or Veteran identification must be presented to receive discount. Visit the Ohio Department of Veterans Services website for more information on any of these programs.

## Education Programs

**Ohio War Orphans Scholarship:** The Ohio War Orphans Scholarship Program awards tuition assistance to the Children of deceased or severely disabled Ohio Veterans, or has been declared Missing in Action, a prisoner of war or was a former prisoner of war, who served in the Armed Forces during a period of declared war or conflict. The application deadline is May 15th of each year for the following school year.

**Ohio National Guard Scholarship Program (ONGSP):** Eligible Ohio National Guard (ONG) members may receive up to 96 educational credits (12 full-time quarters or 8 full-time semesters) of tuition assistance toward an undergraduate degree at a participating Ohio school during their enlistment. ONG members who possess a Bachelor's degree are not eligible; however, possessing prior college credits or possession of an Associate's degree does not affect eligibility. Scholarship applications are accepted and utilized during the ONG member's enlistment only. However, members deployed during their enlistment may apply to extend their benefits. Non-deployed ONG members with remaining Educational Units may extend their enlistment in order to use them.

**Ohio Safety Officers College Memorial Fund:** This program provides tuition assistance to the children and spouses of peace officers, firefighters and certain other safety officers who are killed in the line-of-duty, anywhere in the United States. It also provides assistance to the children and spouses of a member of the armed services of the U.S., who has been killed in the line of duty during Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom or a combat zone designated by the President of the United States. The Child is only eligible for this program if he/she is not eligible for the Ohio War Orphans Scholarship.

**Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children:** It is the purpose of this compact to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents by:



- Facilitating the timely enrollment of children of military families and ensuring that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in the transfer of educational records from the previous school district or variations in entrance or age requirements.
- Facilitating the student placement process through which children of military families are not disadvantaged by variations in attendance requirements, scheduling, sequencing, grading, course content or assessment.
- Facilitating the qualification and eligibility for enrollment, educational programs, and participation in extracurricular academic, athletic and social activities.
- Facilitating the on-time graduation of children of military families.
- Providing for the promulgation and enforcement of administrative rules implementing the provisions of this compact.
- Providing for the uniform collection and sharing of information between and among member states, schools and military families under this compact.
- Promoting coordination between this compact and other compacts affecting military children.
- Promoting flexibility and cooperation between the educational system, parents and the student in order to achieve educational success for the student.

## **Housing:** The following are the sites for Veterans Homes

**Ohio State Veterans Home at Georgetown**

**Ohio State Veterans Home at Sandusky**

### **Eligibility for admission:**

- Veterans must be North Dakota residents
- Discharged other than on dishonorable accounts
- The veteran must have served during wartime
- Veterans who are disabled and unable to earn a living are eligible for admission
- Cost is based on monthly income and assets

## **Employment and Job Training: Veteran Preference**

**State Employment:** Veterans are entitled to 20% added credit on an Ohio civil service exam. Current reserve and guard members who successfully complete initial entry-level training get a 15% added credit.

**Ohio Educator License Fee Elimination:** The Ohio Department of Education is eliminating fees for educator licenses for any initial (or a renewal of an) Ohio educator license, permit, or certificate for Veterans or current Armed Forces Service members, including the National Guard or Reserve. Spouses of active-duty Service members also may receive a license free of charge.

## **Burials and Memorials**

Please note that your preference regarding burial in a national cemetery and use of a headstone provided by VA should be documented and kept with your paperwork and medical records. Eligibility for interment in the State Veterans Cemetery follows National Cemetery Administration eligibility requirements. Veterans residing in the Ohio Veterans Home can request burial in the cemetery.



National Cemeteries include:

Cleveland: [Woodland Cemetery Soldiers' Lot](#)

Columbus: [Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery](#)

Dayton: [Dayton National Cemetery](#)

Sandusky: [Confederate Stockade Cemetery](#)

Seville: [Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery](#)

## Ohio VA Benefit Resources

Ohio provides Veterans with a Regional Benefits Office and VA Medical Centers.

### Ohio VA Regional Benefits Office

- Cleveland: [Cleveland Regional Office](#)

### Ohio VA Medical Centers

- Chillicothe: [Chillicothe VA Medical Center](#)
- Cincinnati: [Cincinnati VA Medical Center](#)
- Cleveland: [Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center](#)
- Columbus: [Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care Center](#)
- Dayton: [Dayton VA Medical Center](#)

### Important information for Ohio Veteran Benefits:

For Veterans applying for VA benefits for the first time, you must submit a copy of your DD 214 (discharge paperwork). This will provide your discharge status, along with your full name, social security number, branch of service, and dates for which you served. Honorable and general discharges qualify a Veteran for most VA benefits.

You should always keep your paperwork, along with your medical records, in a safe place where you and your family can have access to them. It is imperative to have it in a location where it cannot be destroyed or tampered with, which includes a safe.

Your eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, the Environmental Services Administration or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Any Veteran discharged from the military under the conditions of "Dishonorable" due to bad conduct discharges issued by general courts-martial may bar VA benefits. Veterans in prison and parolees may be eligible for certain VA benefits. VA regional offices can clarify the eligibility of prisoners, parolees, and individuals with multiple discharges issued under differing conditions.



\*This information is accurate as of December 2019