

What benefits and services are available to veterans? Who do they need to talk to about them?

Often many veterans are unaware of benefits and services that they may be eligible for or do not know who to contact. First let's give some definitions to help clarify the difference between them.

- Veterans Benefits deal more with educational funding, compensation, pension, VA health care, loans, grants, etc.
- Veterans Services are assistance with finding employment, ability profiling testing, job search, resume development, interview, Job Centers, etc.

Not all benefits and services are handled by the Veterans Affairs (VA) and the use of correct terminology will help move things quicker. Most benefits and services are accessed through State and County agencies not the VA itself. Nor are all funded by the VA some are funded by the Department of Labor or other departments or government levels. Also, veterans are not limited to just veterans programs, they can and should apply for other programs and services such as, Workforce Investment Act, Trade Program, Job Service, County Human Services, etc. In some cases qualified veterans even have priority of service for programs funded by the Department of Labor.

Each veteran will be handled on a case-by-case basis, because each has different needs or eligibility status, which must be determined. To qualify the following are general requirement standards for veteran services and benefits. Must have either:

- Served 180 days on "active duty" other than Reserve or National Guards training including boot camp and follow on training, and
- Received a discharge other than Dishonorable or Uncharacterized, or
- Served less than 180 days, but discharged with a service-connected disability, or
- Awarded a campaign medal for servicing in a combat zone.

*** Requirements and rules do vary so always best to ask. ***

So who do you ask? That will be based on what you are seeking. For veteran specific programs you would contact:

- The Veterans Employment Representative for veteran employment and training assistive services. Your contact for Marinette is Brian Marquardt, DVOP, (920) 448-6778, Cell (920) 360-0573 or Email brian.marquardt@dwd.wisconsin.gov. Normally available at the WI Job Center Marinette the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month by appointment. Walk-ins can only be taken if time permits.
- The Marinette County Veterans Service Office at (715) 732-7650 to arrange an appointment for benefits review, application, etc.

*** To apply for veteran benefits and services you need to have either the original or certified copy of your DD Form 214. If you do not have one the County Veterans Service Office can assist in getting a replacement. Some other programs may require as well. ***

Also, do not forget about the WI Job Center Marinette. It is available to provide assistance in using Job Center of Wisconsin job bank, workshops, information and services for other assistive services, and more. They also have a variety of publications on hand.

*We all wish each of you the very best in your endeavors of
education and finding that right job.*