



UNDERSTANDING VA BENEFITS

For those who have served in the United States military, you may be entitled to a series of veteran benefits. These benefits have different requirements in order to qualify and can be difficult to understand. On top of that, applying for veteran benefits can be a confusing and overwhelming process if you are unsure what is required. Oaks Senior Living wants to make sure our veterans understand all the benefits available to them and how to apply for each.

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY FOR VETERAN BENEFITS?

- ☐ Discharge or separation papers (DD214 or equivalent)
- ☐ Service Treatment Records if they are in your possession
- ☐ Medical evidence (doctor & hospital reports)
- ☐ Complete and mail the VA Form 21-526EZ, "Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits," and submit it with copies of your service treatment records

During the application process, you are able to apply online, by mail or in person at a VA regional office. If you prefer to apply in person, we recommend locating the one nearest you using the Facility Locator page listed on the [U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs website](#).

Make sure to include as much information as possible in your application in order to avoid complications such as delays or denied applications due to missing information. If you are unsure where to obtain the forms or documents being requested, contact your local VA facility.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HAVING VETERAN STATUS?

The benefits that you are eligible for depend on the length of time you served in the military and when you served, but here are several of the common benefits that all veterans and their families receive after being accepted into the VA program.

- Long-term care monetary assistance
- Caregiver Support Hotline
- GI Bill Education Assistance (credits may be passed on to immediate family members)
- Free tax preparation
- Health care and life insurance
- Mortgage and home loan assistance
- Pension programs
- Business loans
- Burial and memorial assistance
- Job training
- Counseling

Most of the benefits listed above apply to all veterans, but some of them depend on the length of service. When applying, we recommend that you request additional information from the VA in order to understand exactly which of these benefits you are entitled to. There are also additional benefits for veterans who are currently serving in the National Guard and Army Reserve.

If you or your loved one is a veteran, we urge you to start the application process as soon as possible. The longer you wait to apply for veteran status, the longer it will be before you can receive the vast majority of veteran benefits.

We thank you for your service and wish you the best of luck in the application process!

