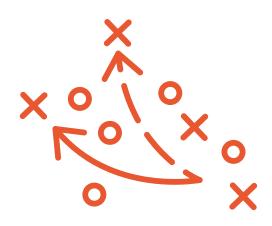


Aging with Honor: Integrating Veteran Cultural Competency into Aging Services



Crystal Miller and
Nate Pratt
Veterans Bridge Home







Aging with Honor: Integrating Veteran Cultural Competency into Aging Services

BENEFITS INFORMATION AND ENTITLEMENTS

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Advocates

County Veteran Service Officers

Service Members
Veterans
Dependent Family Members

Benefits and Community Resources

Case Coordinators

Benefits for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families

Mecklenburg County has a devoted team of specialists dedicated to make certain that all those who served –and their dependent family members –are made aware of and maximize all the benefits and resources available.

This team of federally accredited Veteran Service Officers has an established relationship with the North Carolina Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (NCDMVA) and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA).

Our services are provided free of charge and access to current federal, state, and local veterans' programs, entitlements, and referral services are available at multipole locations in Mecklenburg County.







Eligibility for VA disability benefits

VA disability compensation provides tax-free monthly payments. If you have a service-connected condition, you may be eligible for compensation. A service-connected condition means an illness or injury that was caused by—or got worse because of—your active military service. Keep reading to find out if you may be eligible.





The PACT Act expands benefit access for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances

The PACT Act is a new law that expands access to VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

Learn how the PACT Act may affect your VA benefits and care



Eligibility for Veterans Pension

The Veterans Pension program provides monthly payments to wartime Veterans who meet certain age or disability requirements, and who have income and net worth within certain limits. Find out if you're eligible for this benefit.



Am I eligible for Veterans Pension benefits?

You may be eligible for the Veterans Pension program if you meet these requirements.

Both of these must be true:

- You didn't receive a dishonorable discharge, and
- Your yearly family income and net worth meet certain limits set by Congress. Your net worth includes all personal property you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishings), minus any debt you owe. Your net worth includes the net worth of your spouse.

Find out about Veterans Pension rates

And at least one of these must be true about your service:

- You started on active duty before September 8, 1980, and you served at least 90 days on active duty with at least 1 day during wartime, **or**
- You started on active duty as an enlisted person after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions) with at least 1 day during wartime, or
- You were an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and you hadn't previously served on active duty for at least 24 months

And at least one of these must be true:

- You're at least 65 years old, or
- You have a permanent and total disability, or
- You're a patient in a nursing home for long-term care because of a disability, or
- You're getting Social Security Disability Insurance or Supplemental Security Income



About VA DIC for spouses, dependents, and parents

If you're the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a service member who died in the line of duty, or the survivor of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness, you may be able to get a tax-free monetary benefit called VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA DIC). Find out if you can get VA benefits or compensation.



Am I eligible for a Survivors Pension as a surviving spouse?

You may be eligible for this benefit if you haven't remarried after the Veteran's death, and if the deceased Veteran didn't receive a dishonorable discharge and their service meets at least one of these requirements.

At least one of these must be true:

- The Veteran entered active duty on or before September 7, 1980, and served at least 90
 days on active military service, with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period, or
- The Veteran entered active duty after September 7, 1980, and served at least 24 months or the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least 1 day during a covered wartime period or
- The Veteran was an officer and started on active duty after October 16, 1981, and hadn't previously served on active duty for at least 24 months

Learn more about covered wartime periods

And this must be true for you:

Your yearly family income and net worth meet certain limits set by Congress. Your net worth equals the value of everything you own (except your house, your car, and most home furnishings), minus any debt you owe.

Am I eligible for a Survivors Pension as the child of a deceased wartime Veteran?

You may be eligible for this benefit if you're unmarried and you meet at least one of these requirements.

At least one of these must be true:

- You're under age 18, or
- You're under age 23 and attending a VA-approved school, or
- You're unable to care for yourself due to a disability that happened before age 18







State Service Office (SSO)

- The VSOs co-located at the US Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) federal building in Winston Salem, NC represent all veterans, who have named NCDMVA as their authorized service organization, at personal hearings and/or appeals.
- Hearings assist in preventing reductions in ratings, higher level reviews of denied claims and/or claims that were awarded an incorrect rating. These staff also represent claimants at Board of Veterans Appeals hearings.
- Mecklenburg County conducts its own hearings in the Janene McGee Hearing room. This makes access to appeals and personal hearings easier for veterans and their families.

NCDWYA

NORTH CAROLINA STATE VETERANS HOMES

- Fayetteville-currently closed
- Salisbury
- Black Mountain
- **Kinston**
- Kernersville
- Raleigh
 - Planning Phase
- Skilled level care facilities only





How to Engage...Military Cultural Competence

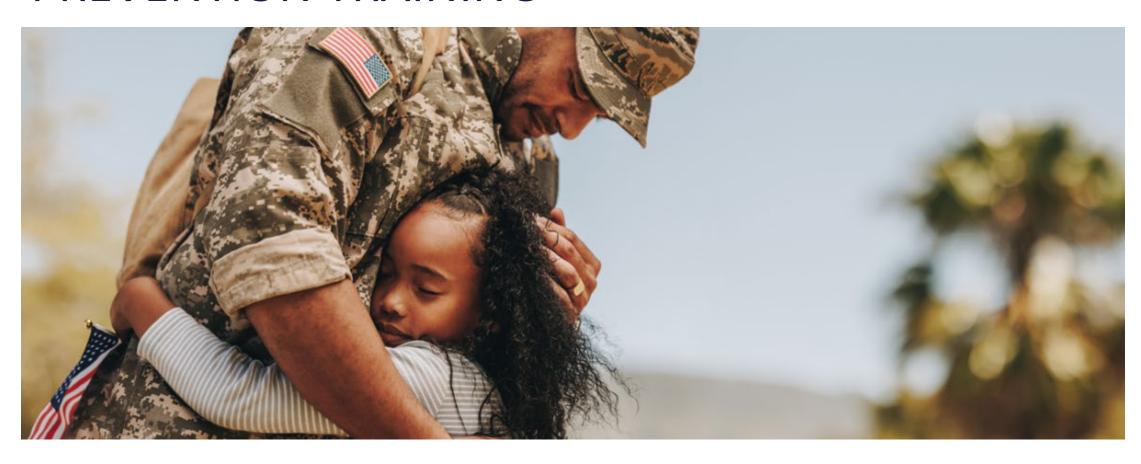
Military cultural competency is the ability to understand, respect, and effectively interact with service members, veterans, and their families, recognizing the unique experiences and values shaped by military culture.



April 10, 2025 12pm-3pm

• https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn2/education/vcc.asp

BE A BATTLE BUDDY: VETERANS SERVICES PROMOTES MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING



https://governorschallenge.psycharmor.org/

Askthe Question!

Have You or Someone You Know Served in the Military?

How can we improve access to services for veterans, former service members, and their families?

Sponsored by:





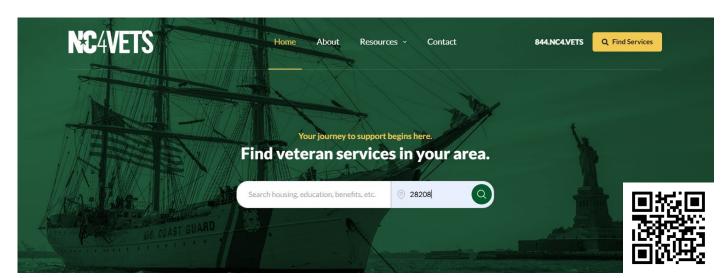


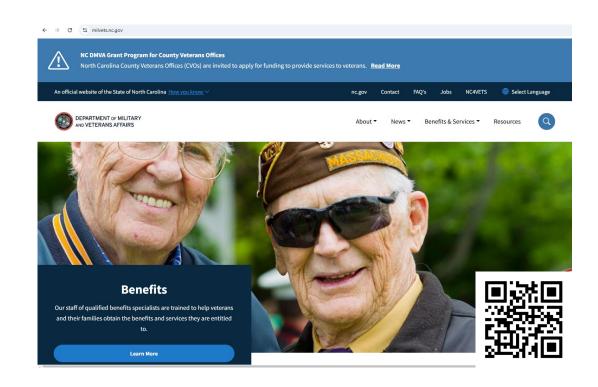
























Referrals, please use the QR code and request assistance, under what services are you seeking, select benefits navigation and describe your request. You will be referred to Mecklenburg County Veteran Services.

THANK YOU

704-372-2416 | info@centralina.org | 10735 David Taylor Drive, Suite 250, Charlotte, NC 28262 | www.centralina.org

Scan the QR Code to take our conference survey!

