

NYS Veterans' Benefits Summary

Financial

Blind Annuity Program (Fact Sheet #1)

Benefit is for legally blind NYS wartime veterans or their surviving un-remarried spouse. The program authorizes an annuity payment of up to \$1,341.00 per veteran.

Gold Star Parent Annuity Program (Fact Sheet #2)

Authorizes an annuity payment of up to \$500 per Gold Star Parent of deceased veteran.

Property Tax Exemption (Fact Sheet #3)

Provides a partial exemption on real property taxes to veterans' of defined periods of war, veterans who received expeditionary medals or certain family members.

Homes for Veterans Program (Fact Sheet #4)

Offers fixed-rate mortgages with interest rates 0.5% below the already low interest rates charged on SONYMA mortgages with closing cost assistance.

Supplemental Burial Allowance (Fact Sheet #5)

Provides up to \$6,000 to help pay for burial or interment of military personnel killed in combat or who died from wounds incurred while in combat.

Education

High School Diplomas (Fact Sheet #6)

Operation Recognition allows certain veterans to earn high school diplomas if they left school without graduating.

Veteran Tuition Awards (Fact Sheet #7)

Provide up to 100% of tuition cost of a SUNY undergraduate tuition to eligible veterans in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting institution or vocational training in NYS.

Military Recognition Scholarships (Fact Sheet #8)

Provides financial aid to veterans, children, spouses, and financial dependents of members of the US Armed Forces who while NYS residents, died or became severely and permanently disabled while engaged in hostilities or training for hostilities.

Regents Awards for Children of Veterans (Fact Sheet #9)

Provides up to \$450 a year to students who parent served in the US Armed Forces during specified times of national emergency and is deceased or disabled.

Quality of Life

Hunting & Fishing Licenses (Fact Sheet #10)

Licenses and permits at a reduced cost to veterans with a 40% or greater disability rating and free to NYS residents who are active members of the NYARNG, US Reserve or Active Duty.

Employment (Fact Sheet #11)

Section 55-c of the NYS Civil Service Law permits disabled veterans to apply for Civil Service positions without taking a civil service exam.

Veterans' Homes (Fact Sheet #12)

Five skilled nursing facilities located in Oxford, Jamaica, Stony Brook, Batavia, and Montrose, for veterans and their dependents.

NYS Veterans' Benefit Fact Sheet #1

The Blind Annuity Program benefit is for legally blind NYS wartime veterans or their surviving un-remarried spouse. The program authorizes an annuity payment of up to \$1,341.00 per veteran paid in monthly amounts of \$111.75.

Who is eligible for the Blind Annuity?

To be eligible, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Resident of New York State
- Veteran has been determined legally blind*
(20/200 vision in the better eye with best correction)

or

20 Degree limitation of field of vision

AND

- Served on active duty (other than for training) for 90 days or more during any of the following:

April 11, 1899 – July 4, 1902

May 9, 1916 – April 4, 1917

April 6, 1917 – Nov 11, 1918

Dec 7, 1941 – Dec 31, 1946

June 27, 1950 – Jan 31, 1955

Feb 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975

Aug 2, 1990 – End of conflict

Or Received the Armed Forces, Navy, or Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, for participation in:

Lebanon – June 1, 1983 – Dec 1, 1987

Grenada – Oct 23, 1983 – Nov 21, 1983

Panama – Dec 20, 1989 – Jan 31, 1990

How do you apply for the Blind Annuity?

Complete and submit the following forms to the NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs:

- Blind Annuity Application
- Report of Legal Blindness (Form OCFS-4599)
- Evidence of Military Service
- Marriage and Death Certificate (for un-remarried surviving spouse)
- Proof of New York State Residency

What documentation is required to prove eligibility?

- Evidence of Military Service (DD 214/copy of a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty)
- Completed Report of Legal Blindness (from eye doctor)
- Marriage or death certificate if applicable

For More Information, Call 1-888-838-7697 or 518-486-3602



NYS Veterans' Benefit Fact Sheet #2

Gold Star Parent Annuity authorizes an annuity payment of up to \$500 per Gold Star parent of a deceased veteran paid in two installments of \$250 each in most cases.

Who is eligible for the Gold Star Parent Annuity?

To be eligible, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- The applicant must be a Gold Star Parent (as defined in 10 USC 1126)
- The applicant must be a resident of New York State

What documentation is required to document evidence of military service of the deceased?

DD Form 1300 (Report of Casualty) or a copy of the telegram from the Department of Defense advising the parent of his or her loss, shall be submitted with the application.

How do you apply for the Gold Star Parent's Annuity? What forms must be completed?

All forms and supporting documentation with the exception of the direct deposit form are to be submitted to the NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs

- Application Form
- Evidence of Military Service of the Deceased Veteran
- Proof of NYS Residency

Are there deadlines for submitting an application, and when will payment be approved?

Applications may be sent at anytime; payments will be authorized and disbursed in semi-annual installments (March and September)

Is there a recertification process?

Yes. Applicants approved for the Gold Star Parent Annuity payments are required to verify their eligibility on a periodic basis.

Does incarceration affect a gold star parent's eligibility to receive the annuity?

Yes: No entitlement shall be paid to or for a gold star parent who is incarcerated. Pursuant to a misdemeanor or felony conviction for any part of the period beginning sixty-one days after his or her imprisonment begins and ending with his or her release.

For More Information, Call 1-888-838-7697 or 518-474-6114

NYS Veterans' Benefit Fact Sheet #3

NYS Veterans' Property Tax Exemption provides a partial exemption on real property taxes to veterans' of defined periods of war, veterans who received expeditionary medals or certain family members, as allowed by law.

There are three levels of benefits, depending on whether the veteran served in combat and/or was disabled. Exemptions are also subject to dollar limitations, pursuant to state and local law.

- An exemption equal to 15 percent of the property's assessed value (or \$12,000, whichever is less) is granted to eligible veterans who served during a specified period of war.

- An additional 10 percent exemption (or \$8,000, whichever is less) is available to eligible veterans who served in a combat zone.

- An additional exemption may be granted to eligible disabled veterans equal to the product of the assessed value of the property and 50 percent of the veteran's disability rating (or \$40,000, whichever is less).

Who is eligible for the Property Tax Exemption?

To be eligible, an applicant must be one of the following:

- A qualified veteran
- The spouse of a qualified veteran (un-remarried surviving spouse)

What documentation is required to prove eligibility?

- A copy of a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
- Copy of deed to home (title must be veterans' or spouses name)

How do you apply?

An Application for Veterans Exemption from Real Property Taxation (Form RP-458) must be filed with the local assessor.

- Application Form
- Evidence of Military Service
(DD214/copy of a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty)

Are there deadlines for submitting applications?

Applications must be filed on or before taxable status date. Check with your assessor for exact date. The Exemption and Abatement Application for Owners must be received by March 1st for benefits beginning on July 1st of that same year.

For Additional Information:

<http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/exemption/vetexempt.htm> or 1-888-838-7697



NYS Veterans' Benefit Fact Sheet #4

Homes for Veterans Program offers fixed-rate mortgages with interest rates 0.5% below the already low interest rates charged on SONYMA mortgages with closing cost assistance.

The Homes for Veterans Program features the following:

- Veterans, and their spouses or co-borrowers, need not be a first-time homebuyer.
- Interest rates that are 0.50% lower than our standard interest rates (for loans with closing cost assistance).
- Closing cost assistance up to the greater of **\$3,000 or 3%** of the requested loan amount.
- No points or origination fees.
- Minimum borrower cash contribution only 1% (the remaining 2% can come from a gift or other acceptable source).

Who is eligible for the mortgage program?

To be eligible, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- The applicant must be a veteran who served in the active military, naval, or air service who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

What documentation is required to prove eligibility?

In order to qualify for the Homes for Veterans Program, a veteran must supply the following documentation with their SONYMA mortgage application:

- DD214 – Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty;
- Military Veteran's Eligibility Affidavit (SONYMA Form 243) [Required only if veteran (or their spouse or co-borrower) is not a first-time homebuyer]

How do you apply?

Contact the State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) at

1-800-382-HOME (4663) or

<http://www.nyshcr.org/Topics/Home/Buyers/SONYMA/HomesforVeteransProgram.htm>

and get pre-qualified with a SONYMA participating lender.

For More Information, Call 1-888-838-7697 or 518-474-6784

NYS Veterans' Benefit Fact Sheet #5

Supplemental Burial Allowance of up to \$6,000 is authorized for military personnel killed in combat or while on active duty in hostile/imminent danger or dying from wounds sustained in combat.

The supplemental burial benefit provides a maximum of \$6000 payment to defray funeral and interment expenses for members of the armed forces who were residents of NYS. This money will cover costs that remain after feral VA burial benefits are paid.

Who is eligible?

The burial allowance will be paid to the family member responsible for funeral and burial expenses.

Recipients eligible for reimbursement are, in order of priority:

- Surviving spouse or domestic partner of qualified decedent
- Adult children of qualified decedent
- Parents of qualified decedent
- Any other relative of qualified decedent

What documentation is required?

- Proof of Death (casualty report, death certificate)
- Proof of decedent's NYS residency
- Proof of relationship to decedent (marriage certificate, birth certificate)
- Statement of account from funeral home (showing name of decedent, nature and cost of all services rendered and any unpaid balance)
- Copy of receipted bills
- Completed application for any allowance granted by federal government

How do you apply?

Applications can be found online at: <http://www.veterans.ny.gov/content/new-york-state-supplemental-burial-allowance> or by visiting one of our State Veterans Counseling Offices.

Submit completed applications to:

NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs
c/o Finance Unit
2 Empire State Plaza, 17th Floor
Albany, NY 12223

For Additional Information Contact 1-888-838-7697

NYS Veterans' Benefit Fact Sheet #6

Operation Recognition allows certain veterans to earn high school diplomas if they left school without graduating.

Section 305 of the NYS Education Law created Operation Recognition to recognize the dedication and sacrifice of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veterans who left school before graduation by awarding them a high school diploma.

Who is eligible?

To be eligible, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

- The applicant must have been a member of the US Armed Forces, and
- Engaged in qualified service during one of the below periods:
 - World War II - December 7, 1941 – December 31, 1946
 - Korea - June 27, 1950 – January 31, 1955
 - Vietnam - May 1, 1961 – April 30, 1975
- Received a satisfactory discharge, and
- A resident of New York State
- Next of Kin if eligibility established

What documentation is required to prove eligibility?

- DD214 (copy of a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) OR
- A Certificate of Service
OR
- A letter from a recognized veterans agency affirming such service

How do you apply for a diploma?

Interested veterans should bring their honorable discharge certificate or letter to any high school that issues local high school diplomas. Candidates do not need to show evidence of attendance at a school in NYS – only to affirm in writing that they do not possess a high school diploma. There is no fee for this service.

For Additional Information Contact:
The NYS Education Department (518) 474-8940

NYS Veterans' Benefit Fact Sheet #7

Veterans Tuition Awards, for the 2014-2015 college year, provide up to 100% of tuition of a SUNY undergraduate tuition or \$6,195 to eligible veterans in an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting institution (or vocational training) in NYS.

Who is eligible?

Veterans who are NYS residents discharged under honorable conditions from the US Armed forces and who served in:

- Vietnam between Feb 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975; or
- Persian Gulf on or after Aug 2, 1990; or
- Afghanistan on or after Sept 11, 2001

Additionally – other combat veterans who served in hostilities that occurred after February 28, 1961 as evidenced by receipt of an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal or Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal.

What can it be used for?

- Applicable to undergraduate and graduate programs, and approved vocational programs in New York State
- Can be applied to study at both private and public institutions
- Full or part time study

What is required to apply?

- Must establish eligibility by applying to the Higher Education Services Corp (HESC) at www.hesc.com or call 1-888-697-4372.
- Be a NYS resident & US citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Be matriculated full or part time at an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting institution in NYS
- Have applied for the Tuition Assistance Program for full time undergraduate or graduate study.

For Additional Information contact

Higher Education Services Corp (HESC) at:

http://www.hesc.ny.gov/content.nsf/SFC/Veterans_Tuition_Awards

or call 1-888-697-4372.

NYS Veterans' Benefit Fact Sheet #8

Military Service Recognition Scholarships provides financial aid to veterans, children, spouses, and financial dependents of members of the US Armed Forces who while NYS residents, died or became severely and permanently disabled while engaged in hostilities or training for hostilities. Not to exceed \$21,892.

This award covers up to four years of full-time undergraduate study (or five years in a approved five year bachelor's degree program) and includes the following:

- At a public college or university (SUNY or CUNY): Actual tuition and mandatory educational fees; room and board charged to the student (on campus) or an allowance for room and board for commuter students; and allowances for books, supplies, and transportation.
- At a private institution: An allowance equal to SUNY four-year college tuition and mandatory educational fees, and allowance for room and board, books, supplies and transportation.

Who is eligible?

- MSRS provides financial aid to children, spouses and financial dependents of members of the armed forces of the United States or state organized militia who provided eligible military service on or after Aug 2, 1990, while New York State residents and who :
 - Died, or became severely and permanently disabled as a result of injury or illness suffered or incurred, or are classified as missing in action in a combat theater or zone of operations; or who died as a result of injuries incurred in these areas; OR
 - Died, or became severely and permanently disabled as result of injury or illness suffered or incurred during military training operations in preparation for duty in a combat theater or combat zone of operations.

What is required to apply?

- Must establish eligibility by applying to the Higher Education Services Corp (HESC) at www.hesc.com or call 1-888-697-4372.
- Veteran parent must be a NYS resident
- Have applied for the Tuition Assistance Program and Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

For Additional Information visit

<http://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/msrs-scholarship.html>

or call 1-888-697-4372.

NYS Veterans' Benefit Fact Sheet #9

Regents Awards for Children of Deceased &

Disabled Veterans provide up to \$450 per year to students whose parent(s) served in the US Armed Forces during specified times of national emergency.

Who is eligible?

• Eligible students are those whose veteran parent(s) are NYS residents and who served in the US Armed forces during one of the following periods of war or national emergency:

- WW I between Apr 6, 1917 and Nov 11, 1918; or in
- WW II between Dec 7, 1941 and Dec 31, 1946; or in
- Korea between June 27, 1950 and Jan 31, 1955; or in
- Vietnam between Dec 22, 1961 and May 7, 1975; or in
- Persian Gulf on or after Aug 2, 1990; or in
- Afghanistan on or after Sept 11, 2001

Or students whose parent(s) was the recipient of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal or the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal for participation in operations in Lebanon, Grenada or Panama.

• **And** as a result of service, the veteran either died, suffered a 40% or more disability, was classified as missing in action, or was a prisoner of war.

What is required to apply?

- Must establish eligibility by applying to the Higher Education Services Corp (HESC) at www.hesc.com or call 1-888-697-4372.
- Veteran parent must be a NYS resident
- Have applied for the Tuition Assistance Program and Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

All applications must be completed by May 1st of the academic year for which an award is sought.

For Additional Information contact

Higher Education Services Corp (HESC) at:

http://www.hesc.ny.gov/content.nsf/SFC/NYS_Regents_Awards_for_Children_of_Deceased_and_Disabled_Veterans

or call 1-888-697-4372.

NYS Veterans' Benefit Fact Sheet #10

Hunting Licenses & Fishing Permits are available at reduced cost to veterans with a 40% or greater disability rating and free to NYS residents who are active members of the NYARNG, US Reserve or Active Duty.

Who is eligible for Reduced Cost licenses & permits?

- Disabled veterans with at least a 40% service connected disability
- Applicant must have received an honorable discharge
- Applicant must have been a resident of New York State for 30 days immediately prior to date of application

What documentation is required to prove eligibility?

- A Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
- Certification from VA of percent of disability

How do you apply?

Apply at any licensing entity.

Who is eligible for Free Licenses?

Under the Patriot Plan, NYS Residents who are active service members of either the New York State Organized Militia, U.S. Reserve Forces, or certain members of the U.S. Armed Forces. (Inactive service status does not qualify an individual for free DEC sporting licenses)

What free license types will be available to qualifying military personnel?

The following FREE license types will be available: Small/Big Game, Trapping, Fishing.

What documentation is required to prove eligibility for Free Licenses?

- US Armed Forces Identification Card
- Affidavit (available at www.dec.ny.gov/permits)
- Authorized leave orders showing applicant stationed outside of NY (for Active duty service members only)

For Additional Information contact
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at www.dec.ny.gov

NYS Veterans' Benefit Fact Sheet #11

The Governor's Program to Hire Veterans with Disabilities provides employment opportunities in State service for veterans.

Section 55-c of the NYS Civil Service Law permits qualified veterans to apply for Civil Service positions without taking a civil service exam. Veterans with disabilities are not required to take a written or oral examination, but they must meet the educational and/or experience qualifications for the position.

Who is eligible?

Veterans of the US Armed Forces who served on active duty, other than for training, during: (Eligible service during earlier wars is also defined in the law)

- Vietnam – February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975
- Persian Gulf – August 2, 1990 – Until hostilities end

Recipients of certain Expeditionary Medals are also eligible, including

- Lebanon – June 1, 1983 – December 1, 1987
- Grenada – October 23, 1983 – November 21, 1983
- Panama – December 20, 1989 – January 31, 1990

Veterans must have a disability;

- 20% Disability rating by the VA **OR**
- Disability certified by the Employee Health Service of the Dept of Civil Service **OR**
- Be a Purple Heart Medal recipient

What documentation is required?

- Certificate of Discharge (DD 214)
- Resume
- Required Documentation for Participation (Civil Service Form DPM-1)
- Application (Civil Service Form DPM-61)
- Physician's Questionnaire (Civil Service Form DPM-60)

How do you apply?

Applications can be obtained from the NYS Department of Civil Service.
All documentation should be sent to:

NYS Department of Civil Service
55 b/c Program
55 Mohawk Street
Cohoes, NY 12047

certified eligible for the 55-c Program receive no guarantees of State employment.

For additional information call 1-518-233-3118 or toll-free at 1-866-297-4356 or on the web:

www.cs.state.ny.us/dpm/c55.cfm



NYS Veterans' Benefit Fact Sheet #12

The New York State Veterans' Homes are skilled nursing facilities owned and operated by the New York State Department of Health for veterans and their dependents. They exist to provide quality care to all eligible veterans and dependents in need of skilled nursing care and rehabilitative services.

There are five New York State Veterans Homes in the State. Four of the homes are operated by the New York State Department of Health.

NYS Veterans Home at St. Albans
178-50 Linden Boulevard
Jamaica, NY 11434-1467
(718) 990-0353

NYS Veterans Home
220 Richmond Avenue
Batavia, NY 14020
(845) 345-2049

NYS Veterans' Home
4211 State Highway
220
Oxford, NY 13830
(607) 843-3121

Long Island State Veterans Home
State University of New York at Stony
Brook 100 Patriots Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3300
(631) 444-8548

Route 9A
PO Box 188
Montrose, NY 10548
(914) 788-6000

Who is eligible for care?

- The applicant must require skilled nursing care and,
 - have entered active duty from the State of New York or be a New York State resident for one year prior to application for admission, and
 - veteran must also have had an honorable discharge from the US Armed Forces, and
 - veteran must have had at least thirty (30) days of active service.
 - A spouse of an otherwise qualified veteran, unless legally separated, may be admitted to the Home if the spouse was married to an eligible veteran for 1 year prior to application and requires skilled nursing care.
 - A veteran accompanied by their spouse both of whom require skilled nursing care will receive the highest priority for admission followed by "wartime" veterans; "non-wartime" veterans, spouses and unremarried surviving spouses, and then Gold Star mothers and fathers.

How to Apply: An application and full requirements for admission can be obtained from www.nysvets.org or contacting one of the above homes.

For More Information, Call 1-888-838-7697