SAVI
STRATEGIC ALLIANCE VETERAN INTEGRATION

FEDERAL BENEFITS 101

An overview of VA benefits and services

The Department of Veterans Affairs offers benefits for service-members, Veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors. Here is what each one covers and where to start. Only a VA-accredited representative may prepare or file a claim for you.

ELIGIBILITY

- Your character of discharge affects which benefits you can receive. If your discharge status is a barrier, you can ask for a **discharge upgrade or correction**.

DISABILITY COMPENSATION

- Monthly, tax-free payments for conditions caused or made worse by your service. See SAVI's Disability Compensation Guide.

HEALTH CARE

- **VA health care** for physical and mental health, with options for spouses, dependents, and family caregivers.
- **My HealtheVet** to manage appointments, prescriptions, and records online. Help desk: 877-327-0022.
- **Vet Centers** for free, confidential counseling.
- **The PACT Act** expanded care and benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

EDUCATION AND CAREERS

- **GI Bill programs:** the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty and Selected Reserve). Compare schools with the GI Bill Comparison Tool.
- **Family education:** the Fry Scholarship and Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance.
- **Personalized Career Planning and Guidance:** free education and career counseling.
- **Veteran Readiness and Employment** for Veterans with a service-connected disability that affects their ability to work.

HOME LOANS

- VA guarantees part of a home loan from a private lender, which often means no down payment and competitive rates.

LIFE INSURANCE

- Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance can convert to Veterans' Group Life Insurance after you separate. Other VA life insurance programs: 800-669-8477.

VA SOLID START

- VA calls newly separated Veterans three times in the first year to walk through benefits. Save 800-827-0611.

BURIAL AND MEMORIAL BENEFITS

- Burial in a national cemetery, headstones and markers (800-697-6947), burial scheduling (800-535-1117), and Presidential Memorial Certificates.

SURVIVOR BENEFITS

- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, the Survivors Pension, and home loan benefits for surviving spouses.

VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

- Accredited Veteran service organizations can file claims for you at no cost. Search accredited organizations on VA.gov. National organizations include AMVETS, The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

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Numbers to save

VA benefits	800-827-1000 (TTY: 711)
VA health care	877-222-8387
GI Bill	888-442-4551
VA home loans	877-827-3702
Life insurance (SGLI, VGLI, FSGLI)	800-419-1473
Vet Centers	877-927-8387
VA Solid Start	800-827-0611
Homeless Veterans call center	877-424-3838

In crisis? Veterans Crisis Line: dial 988, then press 1, or text 838255.

WHERE TO START

- **VA.gov** to apply for and manage benefits
- **VA regional offices** for in-person help
- **National Resource Directory** for support near home
- **SAVI guides** at savivets.org/veterans

Want one-on-one support? The SAVI Transition Incubator℠ serves service-members and Veterans from one year before to one year after separation. Join the list at savivets.org/veterans.