



# MICHIGAN VETERANS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT '26

Please tag your event photos and social posts **#MIVetSummit**

# Welcome!

Terry Sabo, Director  
Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency



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SUMMIT '26

# Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

Major General Scott Hiipakka



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# **National Guard Association of Michigan (NGAM)**

T.J. Pierce, Executive Director



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# Mission Statement

“The National Guard Association of Michigan (NGAM) exists to advance the interests of the Michigan National Guard. Since 1956, we inform, educate and advocate for all Soldiers and Airmen of the MING, their families and our retirees to ensure they have the equipment and resources they need to accomplish their mission and the benefits that they and their family deserve”



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# Focus Areas

- Legislative / Government Advocacy (State and Federal)
- Servicemember Professional Development
- Unit / Installation Support
- State Sponsored Life Insurance Program Administrator
- Defense Industry and Corporate Partner Liaison
- Veteran Support Grant, scholarships and other initiatives (i.e. honor flight, fallen servicemember events, cross-org support)



# NGAM Veteran Support Grant

- NGAM has provided nearly \$3 million dollars in grant support to Veterans in Michigan over the last decade.
- Over \$400k in the past year.
- All Veterans living in Michigan are eligible.
- Discharge status doesn't matter.
- Does not pay for certain things (i.e. medical bills, credit cards/personal loans, taxes).
- \$25k maximum annual / \$50k maximum life.



# Current Legislative Priorities (State)

- State Active Duty Pay Reform
- MING Retired Pay
- Support of Skilled Trades and Advanced Manufacturing Programs. Develop and Advance Partnerships with MING
- MING Fallen Soldier/Airmen Highway Dedications
- SSLI Statute



# Current Legislative Priorities (Federal)

- F15EX / KC46 Selfridge ANG MILCON (protect/advance)
- Tricare for All / GI Bill Parity / Richard Starr / Gray Area Retiree
- Duty Status Reform
- National Guard Parity
- Northern Strike Funding / other senior leader initiative reinforcement as requested.



# “PROFESSIONALS BELONG TO THEIR PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION”

T.J. Pierce  
Executive Director, Michigan  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP, NGEDA  
989.620.6210  
tjpierce@ngam.org



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# Association of the United State Army (AUSA)

Chuck Cogger



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# AUSA – ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY CHAPTER

## 2026 MVAAs VETERANS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

LTC Chuck Cogger, US Army Retired, Chapter President

12 May 2026



# AUSA

ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY  
CHAPTER

# AGENDA

- **AUSA & the Arsenal of Democracy Chapter**
- **Mission – Inform, Educate, and Connect**
- **AUSA Placemat**
- **AUSA Support for Retired Soldiers & Veterans**
- **AUSA Veteran Association Partners**
- **Benefits**
  - Multiple discounts**
  - Scholarships for AUSA Members and their families**
  - Enhance your life**
- **Events**
- **Questions?**

# ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY CHAPTER OF AUSA

- **Mission – AUSA continues to provide a voice for the Army, supports the Soldier, and honors those who have served in order to advance the security of the nation within the State of Michigan.**

**AUSA Informs its members, our communities, and Congress about issues affecting America's Army and the Soldiers who serve in the Regular Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve.**

**AUSA Educates its members, the public, industry, and Congress about the critical nature of land warfare and the Army's central role in national defense.**

**AUSA Connects the Army to the American people at the national, regional, and chapter levels.**

- **The Arsenal of Democracy Chapter of AUSA informs, educates, and connects the local community, industry, and media with the Army (Active, Reserve, Guard, Veterans and Families) within the State of Michigan.**
- **Who we serve – 2M plus members nationwide and OCONUS**
- **Why – AUSA is the Army's voice on capital hill.**

# THE ARMY'S PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Voice for the Army  
Center for Leadership  
1.6 Million+ Members

EDUCATE · INFORM · CONNECT

- Streaming
- Webinars
- Podcasts

- 9 Regions
- 120+ Chapters

Family Readiness

NCO & Soldier Programs

National & Community Partner Programs

- ARMY Magazine
- Digital News Publications

- Exhibitions
- Symposia
- Seminars

- Professional Articles
- Spotlight Studies
- Education Papers



## KEY TASKS

- Support the Total Army
- Tell the Army Story
- Provide Leadership & Professional Development
- Connect the Army with America
- Gain support from Congress, Industry, & the Public
- Connect Industry & Academia with the Army



# 2026 FOCUS AREAS

STRENGTHENING THE TOTAL ARMY

REPRESENTING MORE THAN 2 MILLION MEMBERS, AUSA ADVOCATES FOR THE TOTAL ARMY – Regular Army, National Guard, Reserve, Army Families, Army Civilians, and Veterans.

“The Army is the heart of America’s strength, values, and resilience.”

- Hon. Daniel P. Ditscol, Secretary of the Army, February 28, 2025

### CONNECTING AMERICA WITH THE ARMY: ENERGIZING NATIONAL PRIDE IN THE ARMY.

- EDUCATE: Discussing the history and achievements of the Army, providing educational opportunities, and celebrating America’s 250th Birthday.
- INFORM: Telling Army, Soldier, and Family stories which raises awareness of the value of service.
- CONNECT: Leveraging AUSA’s nine Regions and 122 Chapters to help connect communities across America with their Army.

### STRENGTHENING ARMY WARFIGHTING: SUPPORTING A MORE AGILE AND LETHAL ARMY ALIGNED WITH READINESS PRIORITIES.

- Holding symposiums: Annual Meeting, Global Force, LANPAC, LANDEURO, and Region and Chapter events.
- Hosting professional forums and programs: Center for Leadership, NCO and Soldier Programs, events with key leadership and industry engagements, etc.
- Providing professional publications and writing program: Army Magazine, National Security Studies, Book Program, Army Chief of Staff writing program.
- Supporting Army families and veterans through AUSA Family Readiness, and Region and Chapter events.

### FORGING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS: CONNECTING WITH ALLIES, INDUSTRY, AND ACADEMIA.

- Hosting forums for discussion, development, and networking: Landpower Dialogue, Center for Leadership corporate program, Senior Executive Roundtables.
- Informing and connecting industry: Companies of all sizes, including non-traditional and commercial companies, about the Army’s acquisition process.

“Warfighting is the reason our Army exists. We’re a global force that fights when called upon at the scale required.”

- Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Randy George, October 12, 2024

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONGRESS

- Enact timely and flexible authorizations and funding with real growth for the Army to enhance warfighting and readiness.
- Support acquisition reform to benefit the warfighter, taxpayer, and industry.
- Support Army efforts to increase lethality and agility and accelerate transformation which is critical to the joint force and national security.
- Support Soldier and unit deployment and sustainment capabilities to enable landpower dominance and to enable the joint force.
- Support training and professional development so Army leaders, Soldiers, and Civilians can serve with competence and character.
- Support programs to build and recognize effective, cohesive teams. Support Army recruiting and retention initiatives.
- Provide sufficient compensation, benefits, health care, housing, and quality-of-life programs for Soldiers, Army Families, and Civilians in support of readiness, resilience, and retention.
- Strengthen the industrial base and Army infrastructure while securing the supply chain.
- Support Veterans/Soldiers for Life programs, survivors, and caregivers to ensure members of the Total Army receive the benefits earned, to include health care and TRICARE For Life.
- Support legislation to pay Soldiers and Army Civilians if appropriations lapse

“The Army is indispensable to national security as a member of the joint force. We must provide the Total Army with the resources and support it needs to achieve its mission.”

- Gen. Robert B. Brown, U.S. Army, Retired, President & CEO, Association of the United States Army

# SUPPORT FOR RETIRED SOLDIERS & VETERANS

- Strengthen the industrial base and Army infrastructure while securing the supply chain
- Support Veterans/Soldiers for Life programs, survivors, and caregivers to ensure members of the Total Army receive the benefits earned, to include health care and TRICARE For Life.
- Support legislation to pay Soldiers and Army Civilians if appropriations lapse

# AUSA RETIRED SOLDIERS & VETERANS



- **AUSA LED THE WAY – PAST SUCCESSES**

- Prevention of new co-pays and fees for under 65 TRICARE beneficiaries
- Elimination of the SBP – Social Security offset
- Approval of concurrent receipt
- Waiver of the Medicare Part B penalties for military Retired Soldiers(part of the Medicare legislation)
- TRICARE for Life for over 65 Retired Soldiers and the Pharmacy Benefit for all beneficiaries
- Reduction of the Catastrophic cap from \$7500 to \$3000
- Elimination of financial penalties for federally employed Retired Soldiers
- Full funding of TRICARE/Pharmacy Programs for all beneficiaries
- <https://www.ausa.org/retired-soldiers-and-veterans>

# VETERAN ASSOCIATION PARTNERS OF AUSA

- **Association Partnership with AUSA** is an opportunity for like-minded military service organizations to join AUSA to show their support for the total Army, our Soldiers, DoD Civilians, and their families and to provide AUSA membership benefits to all or a subset of their constituents.



- **STRONGER ADVOCACY** Amplify our collective voice, 2M+ members strong, on Capitol Hill to support policies that benefit Soldiers, their families, and the Total Army.
- **INCREASED VISIBILITY** AUSA will actively promote our partnership, showcasing your commitment to the Army through our platforms. ☐
- **LOCAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATION** Work with AUSA chapters to engage communities and enhance outreach through joint events and initiatives.
- **INDUSTRY & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES** Gain access to AUSA's trusted connections with military, government, and industry leaders.
- **EXCLUSIVE PRESENCE AT AUSA'S ANNUAL MEETING** Receive kiosk space in the AUSA Pavilion (as available) and connect with key stakeholders.
- **CONFERENCE SPACE DISCOUNT** All Association Partners receive a 10% discount on AUSA conference space rentals.

# MEMBER BENEFITS

- AUSA offers multiple benefits to premium members.



AUSA Events



Digital ARMY Magazine



AUSA Soldier & Family Programs\*



Professional Networks



Educational Resources



Chapter Affiliation



Advocacy



Podcasts



Newsletters



Discounts & Savings



Discounted Registration & Tickets

- Member Savings include



<https://www.ausa.org/membership/benefits>

# ENHANCE YOUR LIFE. EMPOWER YOUR FUTURE.

EDUCATION. CERTIFICATIONS. OPPORTUNITIES. ALL WITH AUSA.



**AUSA**  
ASSOCIATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES ARMY

## WHAT IS ENHANCE YOUR LIFE (EYL)?

EYL provides service members, their families and AUSA members with access to online courses, certifications, and credentials through partnerships with AUSA's National Partners and accredited universities. It supports personal and professional development by enhancing skills for career advancement within the Army and facilitating a seamless transition into civilian careers.



### FLEXIBLE LEARNING

100% Online  
Self-Paced  
Courses



### EARN CREDENTIALS

Certificates,  
Certifications  
& Degrees



### ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

Build Skills.  
Increase  
Opportunities.



### SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO SERVE

Service Members,  
Families &  
AUSA Members

## UNLOCK NEW OPPORTUNITIES: PARTNER WITH AUSA TO EMPOWER SOLDIERS AND OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION



### BOOST INSTITUTIONAL VISIBILITY

Strengthen your reputation  
as a military-friendly  
school.



### DRIVE WORKFORCE READINESS

Equip our military community  
with skills and credentials for  
success in and beyond  
the Army.



### EXPAND YOUR REACH

Connect with motivated AUSA  
members, service members  
and their families seeking  
career advancement.

## ★ ★ EARN CREDENTIALS & DEGREES WITH OUR NATIONAL PARTNER SCHOOLS ★ ★



NORWICH  
UNIVERSITY  
ONLINE



COLUMBIA  
SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY



Arizona State  
University



JAMES MADISON  
UNIVERSITY.



Veteran-Founded  
Nonprofit



CENTRAL  
MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



PennState  
World Campus



PURDUE  
GLOBAL.



FLORIDA  
INTERNATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY.



SOUTH  
UNIVERSITY  
ESTABLISHED 1899



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Associate, Bachelor's,  
Master's & Doctoral  
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EVERY STEP



STRONG SKILLS.  
STRONG LEADERS.  
STRONGER ARMY.



VISIT [WWW.AUSA.ORG/EYL](http://WWW.AUSA.ORG/EYL)  
YOUR FUTURE STARTS HERE.





**AUSA**  
ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY  
CHAPTER

PRESENTS

# AN ARMY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Join us for an unforgettable evening under the stars as we honor the 251st Birthday of the United States Army. This is not your typical gala, we are trading the ballroom for the wild beauty of the Detroit Zoo.




**251 YEARS OF THE U.S. ARMY**  
HIDDEN IN NATURE - REVEALED IN EXPERIENCE

## CAMOUFLAGE IN THE CANOPY

**FRIDAY, JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> | 6:00 PM**  
THE DETROIT ZOO | 8456 W 10 Mile Rd  
Royal Oak, MI 48067



**RSVP**  
LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE - GO TO:  
[BuyTickets.at/AusaAOD/2152506](http://BuyTickets.at/AusaAOD/2152506)

**THE EVENING'S EXPERIENCE**

- ★ **STROLLING IN THE D**  
Experience a high-end taste of Detroit with a curated strolling dinner featuring the city's finest culinary favorites.
- ★ **Tradition & Ceremony**  
Witness the time-honored Army Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony alongside high-ranking military leadership and industry partners.
- ★ **Wild Entertainment**  
Enjoy live entertainment, games, and exclusive networking opportunities within one of Michigan's most iconic venues.

★ **ATTIRE**  
Casual / Business Casual / "Camo Chic"  
*(We encourage you to incorporate your favorite camouflage patterns into your evening wear.)*



**U.S. ARMY**

[AUSAARSENALOFDEMOCRACY.COM](http://AUSAARSENALOFDEMOCRACY.COM)

# JOIN AUSA TODAY!

TREMENDOUS SUPPORT AT INCREDIBLE VALUE

## AMERICA'S 250<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION RATES\*

**LIFE**  
~~\$400~~ **\$250**

**5-YR PREMIUM**  
~~\$75~~ **\$50**

**2-YR PREMIUM**  
~~\$40~~ **\$30\*\***

*\*\* A special rate of \$10 for 2 years is available for active Soldiers E1-E4 and ROTC and Military Academy Cadets*

**WWW.AUSA.ORG/JOIN**

*\* Expire 12/31/2026*

# CONNECT WITH THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY CHAPTER

PO BOX 3792  
Centerline, MI 48015

<https://www.ausa.org/chapters/arsenal-democracy-chapter>

[www.linkedin.com/company/ausa-arsenal-of-democracy-  
chapter](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ausa-arsenal-of-democracy-chapter) [www.AUSArsenalofDemocracy.ORG](http://www.AUSArsenalofDemocracy.ORG)



# AUSA

ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY  
CHAPTER

# WE SERVE SOLDIERS

## EDUCATE



### CONFERENCES

Our Annual Meeting—the largest land-power expo and professional development forum in the U.S.—Global Force, LANPAC, and LANDEURO



### EVENTS

Hot Topics, Coffee Series, and Noon Reports, plus local events hosted by our Chapters



### CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

Young Professional, Army Leadership, and Corporate Leadership programs



### NCO & SOLDIER PROGRAMS

Leadership development, career tools, life skills training, and chapter workshops



### FAMILY PROGRAMS

Family Readiness Pavilions and Forums, Family Fellows program, and Army family support to chapters



### SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Speakers with diverse backgrounds in military history and national security



### ARMY MATTERS PODCAST

Inspirational stories from the Total Army; new episodes every other Wednesday



### SCHOLARSHIPS

\$330K+ in annual scholarships for Premium and Association members and their dependents

## INFORM



### NEWS & PERIODICALS

A monthly *ARMY* magazine, weekly digital newsletters, weekly tip sheets, and daily articles



### PUBLICATIONS

Professional research papers, essays, and special reports like the *Profile of the U.S. Army*



### BOOK PROGRAM

Quality books on Army heritage, military theory, and modern warfare; plus, Medal of Honor graphic novels



### GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Advocacy in support of the Total Army to ensure all receive the recognition, benefits, and support they deserve



### JOBS CENTRAL

A one-stop career resource center, with a free resume review, to prepare you for your next opportunity



### WRITING PROGRAM

A sponsored program for quality manuscripts that discuss the U.S. Army and national defense



### SENIOR FELLOWS

A program of seasoned influencers publicizing the critical importance of the U.S. Army



### NATIONAL AWARDS

Prestigious recognition to those who have served the Army and the Association

## CONNECT



### AUSA MEMBERS

1.6M+ Members  
2,500+ Industry Partners  
40+ Association Partners  
9 Regions | 120+ Chapters



### AUSA VOLUNTEERS

2000+ volunteers connecting Soldiers, civilians, and their families to their communities through AUSA chapters



### THE TOTAL ARMY

Active, National Guard and Reserve, their families, Army civilians, and retired Soldiers and veterans



### DEFENSE PROFESSIONALS

Industry, government, defense contractors, and other defense specialists



### LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Local defense industry, Army-supportive businesses, and Chambers of Commerce



### RESEARCH PROFESSIONALS

Think tanks, academia, analysts, and media



### RELEVANT COMMUNITIES

Association Partners, Army supporters, engaged citizens, and military organizations



### SAVINGS PARTNERSHIPS

75+ savings providers covering car rentals, office supplies, legal services, and more

BENEFIT	BASIC	PREMIUM
AUSA Events	✓	✓
AUSA Soldier & Family Programs	✓	✓
Professional Networks	✓	✓
Educational Resources	✓	✓
Chapter Affiliation	✓	✓
Advocacy	✓	✓
Podcasts	✓	✓
Newsletters	✓	✓
Members-only Savings	✓	✓
Subscription to ARMY Magazine		✓
\$300,000+ in Scholarships		✓
Discounted Registration & Tickets		✓
Chapter Leadership Opportunities		✓
Speakers' Bureau		✓
Prints of Publications		✓
Free ACT & SAT Prep		✓
Free Legal Documents		✓
Membership Card		✓
Member Pin		✓
AUSA Store \$5 Coupon		✓



# 250<sup>TH</sup> ARMY BIRTHDAY BALL

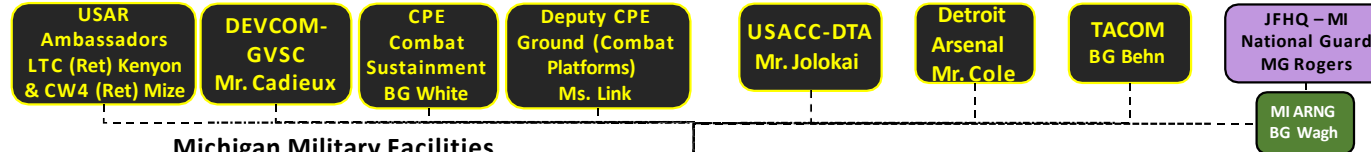






# AOD- AUSA Michigan Defense Sphere of Influence

As of: 25 April 2026

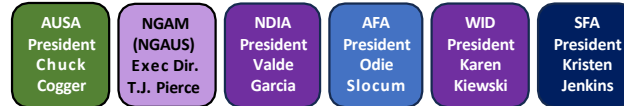


## Michigan Military Facilities

Detroit Arsenal, Warren  
TACOM, GVSC, DCPE Ground (Combat Platforms), CPE Combat Logistics  
Joint Force Headquarters, Lansing  
Camp Grayling - NADWC

Ft. Custer Training Center  
Selfridge Air National Guard Base (SANG)  
Battle Creek Air National Guard Base  
Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center

## Michigan Military Coalition



- Joint Events
- CODELs Breakfasts
- Networking Events

## Adaptive Acquisition Framework/Programs & Contracting



## Michigan Economic/Business Organizations



## Outreach/Support to Operations



### Legend:

- AFA: Air Force Association
- AUSA: Association of the U.S. Army
- AoD: Arsenal of Democracy Chapter of AUSA
- CASA: Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army
- CP: Community Partner
- CPE - Capability Portfolio Executive
- ENGAUS: Enlisted National Guard Association of the U.S.
- GVSETS: Ground Vehicle Systems Engineering Technology Symposium
- LANEURO: Land Forces Europe
- LANPAC: Land Forces Pacific
- MIARNG: Michigan Army National Guard
- MDEX: Michigan Defense Expo
- NADWC: National All Domain Warfare Center
- NDIA: National Defense Industrial Association
- NGAUS: National Guard Association of the U.S.
- NGAM: National Guard Association of Michigan
- PED: Planning & Economic Development Team
- SFA: Space Force Association
- TACOM: Tank and Automotive Command
- USACC: U.S. Army Contracting Command
- WID: Women in Defense

## Major AUSA Events 2025-2026

- AoD Chapter CP Luncheon
- AoD-AUSA National Meeting Reception
- DMVA/MVAA Gala
- AUSA Global Force Symposium
- AUSA T2COM - Detroit
- NDIA ROTC Awards Banquet
- MDEX
- AoD Annual Chapter Member Breakfast
- AoD Annual Golf Outing
- AUSA LANDPAC/LANDEURO Symposium & Expos
- AoD 251<sup>st</sup> Army Birthday Event
- GVSETS
- AUSA Warfighter Summit

# Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Keaton Lezman



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# Veterans' Offerings

Michigan Department of Natural Resources



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# DNR Offerings Overview

- Free entry to state parks, trails and boating access sites
- Fireworks-free Fourth of July
- Free hunting and fishing licenses
- Hunting opportunities
- Accessible recreation opportunities
- Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors Partnership



# Free Entry to State Parks (Qualifying Veterans)

- Michigan Residents with Medal of Honor Recipient, 100% disabled veteran or ex-prisoners of war plates on their vehicle receive free entry into facilities requiring a Recreation Passport.



# Fireworks-Free Fourth of July

Veterans, pet owners and other visitors can find camping options situated in campground locations that are farther away from traditional fireworks displays.

All campers are asked to abide by additional fireworks regulations to help us accomplish our goal of providing an honorable and comfortable setting for our veterans and other campers.



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# Fireworks-Free Fourth of July Cont.

## Participating Parks:

- Bewabic State Park
- Brighton Recreation Area
- Cheboygan State Park
- Craig Lake State Park
- Hayes State Park
- Lake Hudson Recreation Area
- Leelanau State Park
- Rifle River Recreation Area
- Sleepy Hollow State Park
- Tahquamenon Falls State Park
- Wells State Park



# Free Hunting and Fishing Licenses Available

Free for 100% Disabled Veterans or Michigan Residents on Active Duty

## Free for 100% DV & AD

- Pheasant
- Fur Harvester
- Waterfowl
- Base
- Hunt/Fish Combo
- Base Apprentice
- Hunt/Fish Combo Apprentice
- Deer Combo
- Deer
- Deer Antlerless Universal
- Deer Antlerless DMU 487

## Free for 100% DV & AD if Requested as a Leftover License\*

- Turkey Fall
- Turkey Spring
- Bear
- Bear No Kill Tag

*\*if entering a draw, the \$5 application fee and kill tag fee apply.*



## Free for Everyone

- Migratory Bird Hunter
- Sharp Tailed Grouse
- Woodcock
- Bobcat Tag All Units
- Bobcat tag Unit A
- Marten/Fisher Tag
- Otter Tag Unit A or B
- Otter Tag Unit A or B
- Otter Tag Unit A or C
- Otter Tag Unit A, B or C
- Marten Only Tag



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# Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors (MiOFO)

- Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors (MiOFO) is a non-profit and cooperative partnership between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, UAW Ford, Garmin International, Team Depot, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, and Top Gun.
- The mission of MiOFO is to provide improved outdoor recreation opportunities for wounded veterans and individuals with health challenges and to coordinate a support network that facilitates their recovery through connecting with nature.
- The Michigan DNR cooperates by helping MiOFO access 4,500 acres of state land for MiOFO to utilize for this important mission, along with the staff and support. MiOFO focuses its initial efforts on DNR-managed Sharonville State Game Area. These properties are near several population centers: Ann Arbor, Jackson, Lansing, and Detroit. Veterans, Partners, and Volunteers will assist with habitat development projects to give a sense of accomplishment, pride, and ownership for the area.



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# MiOFO Offerings

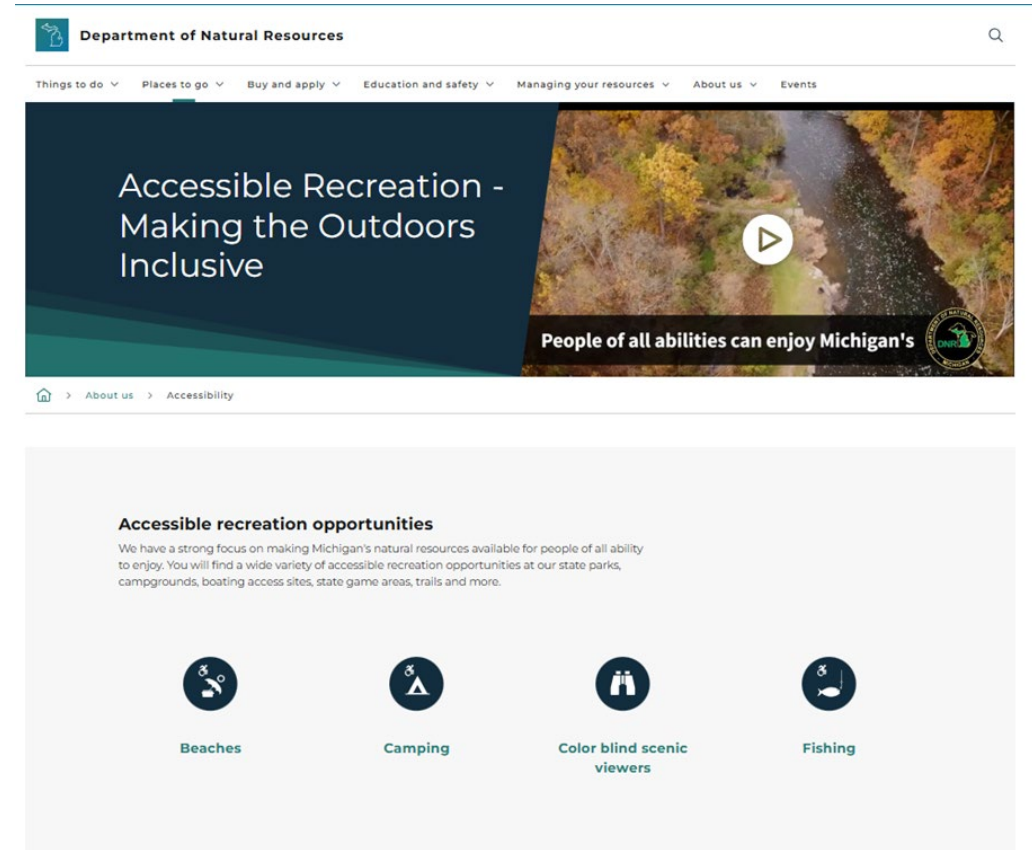
[www.miofo.org](http://www.miofo.org)

- Assistive Resources Available:
  - Track Chairs available for use at Sharonville State Game Area and other areas (reservable)
  - Accessible Hunting Blind Reservations  
Accessible blinds on public land available (reservable)
  - Hunting Guide to Assist Outdoors people – MiOFO certified volunteer helpers are available on scheduled days to provide one-on-one assistance



# Helpful Sites

- [Michigan.gov/dnr/about/accessibility](https://Michigan.gov/dnr/about/accessibility)
- [Miofo.org](https://Miofo.org)



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# Michigan Department of Treasury

Heather Bouck



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# Disabled Veterans Exemption

PA 161 of 2013

Signed by then Governor Snyder



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# MCL 211

## **211.7b Exemption of real property used and owned as homestead by disabled veteran or surviving spouse; filing and inspection of application; cancellation of taxes; local taxing unit to bear loss; proration of exemption for partial year; definitions.**

### Sec. 7b.

- (1) Real property used and owned as a homestead by either of the following individuals is exempt from the collection of taxes under this act:
  - (a) A disabled veteran.
  - (b) A surviving spouse of a disabled veteran who, immediately before death, was eligible for the exemption under this section. An exemption under this subdivision continues as long as the surviving spouse does not remarry, and the exemption applies to any property used and owned as a homestead by the surviving spouse, including homestead property acquired after the decedent's death.
- (2) To obtain the exemption, an individual described in subsection (1)(a) or (b), or the individual's legal designee, must file an application, in a form and manner prescribed by the state tax commission, showing the facts required by this section and a description of the real property with the assessing officer for the local assessing unit after January 1 and before December 31 of the calendar year for which the exemption is claimed. The application when filed is open to inspection. The taxes subject to collection under this act shall be canceled for any year in which an individual described in subsection (1)(a) or (b) who is eligible for the exemption under this section has acquired title to real property exempt under this section. Upon granting the exemption under this section, each local taxing unit shall bear the loss of its portion of the taxes upon which the exemption has been granted. An exemption granted under this section as to taxes levied on or after January 1, 2025 remains in effect, without subsequent reapplication, until it is rescinded by the individual who was granted the exemption or is denied by the assessor, as provided in section 7c.
- (3) An exemption once granted applies to all property taxes for the current tax year that have been paid by the individual who qualified for the exemption under subsection (1)(a) or (b) and all property taxes for the current tax year that would have been owed by that individual if the property was not exempt. If the individual who qualified for the exemption under subsection (1)(a) or (b) does not use and own the property as a homestead for the entire tax year, the exemption must be prorated under 1 of the following methods:



# MCL 211 continued

- (a) Based on the closing or other purchase documents, if any, executed by or on behalf of the individual who qualified for the exemption under subsection (1)(a) or (b). That individual shall provide a copy of the closing or other purchase documents with the application claiming the exemption. The local treasurer shall use the closing or other purchase documents when calculating the amount of taxes to be exempted. There must be no refund of any property taxes not levied in the current tax year paid pursuant to the closing or other purchase documents to the seller by the individual who qualified for the exemption under subsection (1)(a) or (b).
- (b) If closing or other purchase documents are not provided for the proration under subdivision (a), based on a proration under which the local treasurer calculates the amount of property taxes levied in the current tax year to be exempted by dividing the total property taxes levied in the year by 365 and then multiplying that number by the number of days the individual will use and own the property as a homestead.
- (c) Based on a proration that takes into account the effective date of any removal of the exemption, which the assessor shall designate as the date of the relevant conveyance or disposition. Using that date, the local treasurer shall calculate the amount of property taxes levied in the current tax year to be exempted by dividing the total property taxes levied in the year by 365 and then multiplying that number by the number of days the individual, while qualified for the exemption, used and owned the property as a homestead.
- (4) As used in this section:
- (a) "Disabled veteran" means a veteran who is a resident of this state and who meets 1 of the following criteria:
- (i) Has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate.
- (ii) Has a certificate from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs certifying that the veteran is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing.
- (iii) Has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as individually unemployable.
- (b) "Own" or "owned" means 1 of the following:
- (i) For an individual described in subsection (1)(a), legal title to the property is held solely by that individual or jointly by that individual and that individual's spouse.
- (ii) For an individual described in subsection (1)(b), legal title to the property is held solely by that individual.
- (c) "Veteran" means an individual who served in the United States Armed Forces, including the reserve components, and was discharged or released under honorable conditions.



# Points of Interest

- No qualifying income test
- No assistance for renter
- No coverage for the surviving spouse whose veteran died in the line of duty
- Real property taxes only
- Homestead parcel only
- Mobile home – extras
- PRE
- No business activity
- No occupied second home
- No duplex
- Ownership – veteran & spouse
- No contiguous parcels
- No residential cooperative



# History – Legislative Changes

- Board of Review approval (prior to October 2023)
  - July/December currently have limited authority
    - Late Determination
    - Error by the local unit of a timely filed application
- Annual filing required (prior to January 1, 2025)
- Audits every three years
- Surviving spouse - moving



# Pending – Legislative Changes

- HB 5407 – Unremarried surviving spouse
- HB 5855 – Clarify language for a denial
- HB 4443/4444 – Provides a tax exemption based on percentage of disability
- SB 196 – Cooperative housing
- HB 4682 – Expands surviving spouse benefits



# How to Apply – Form 5107

## State Tax Commission Affidavit for Disabled Veterans Exemption

**Instructions:** This form is to be used to apply for an exemption of property taxes under 211.7b and 211.7c, for real property used and owned as a homestead by a disabled veteran or an unmarried surviving spouse of a disabled veteran who, immediately before death, was eligible for the exemption under this section. **Submit the completed form with required documentation to the local assessor in the city or township where the property is located.** For a newly purchased home, include a copy of the closing documents or other purchase documents, if any, to support the proration of property taxes. (See page 2 instructions.)

<b>OWNER INFORMATION (Enter information for the disabled veteran or unmarried surviving spouse)</b>			
Owner's Name		Owner's Telephone Number	
Owner's Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
<b>LEGAL DESIGNEE INFORMATION (Complete if applicable)</b>			
Legal Designee Name		Daytime Telephone Number	
Legal Designee Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP Code
<b>HOMESTEAD PROPERTY INFORMATION (Enter information for the property in which the exemption is being claimed)</b>			
Name of Local Unit (Check Township, City or Village)		County	
<input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Township <input type="checkbox"/> Village		Name of the Local School District	
Parcel Identification Number		Date the Property was Acquired (MM/DD/YYYY)	
Homestead Property Address	City	State	ZIP Code
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT (Check all boxes that apply)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a disabled veteran, or the legal designee of the disabled veteran.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I am an unmarried surviving spouse of a disabled veteran who, immediately before death, was eligible for the exemption under this section.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a Michigan resident.			
<input type="checkbox"/> I own the property in which the exemption is being claimed and it is used as my homestead. Homestead is generally defined as any dwelling with its land and buildings where a family makes its home.			
<b>AFFIRMATION OF ELIGIBILITY (Check the appropriate box and provide a copy of the required documentation)</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> The disabled veteran has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled as a result of military service and entitled to veterans' benefits at the 100% rate (must attach a copy of the letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).			
<input type="checkbox"/> The disabled veteran is receiving or has received pecuniary assistance due to disability for specially adapted housing (must attach a copy of the certificate from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).			
<input type="checkbox"/> The veteran has been rated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as individually unemployable (must attach a copy of the letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).			
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>			
I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge that the information provided in this Affidavit is true and I am eligible to receive the disabled veteran's exemption from property taxes pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law, Section 211.7b.			
Printed Name of Owner or Legal Designee		Title of Signatory	
Signature of Owner or Legal Designee (Designee must attach a letter of authority)		Date	
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT USE ONLY (Do not write below this line)</b>			
Did the Assessor Approve or Deny the Affidavit?		Year the Affidavit will be posted to the tax roll	
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Denied (Attach a copy of the Local Unit Denial)			
<b>Certification:</b> I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this form is complete and accurate.			
Assessor's Signature		Date Certified by Assessor (MM/DD/YYYY)	



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# How to Apply –

- File Form 5107 and related documents with the local assessing office
  - Closing statement
  - Qualifying letter from Veteran Affairs
- Must be filed on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> during the year in which the exemption is requested. A postmark of December 30 is acceptable.



# Delayed Determination

- Application made at the local municipality
- Exemption can be granted for the current year by the local unit assessor
- July/December Board of Review may grant one year prior



# Approval –

- First year of approval, owned home prior to Jan 1 – 100% for the entire year
- Proration –
  - Newly purchased home
  - Sold home
  - Rescinded exemption
  - Deed change on the home



# Recent MTT Decisions

- Business entity
- Duplex
- Joint ownership other than spouse



# References -

<https://www.michigan.gov/treasury/local/stc/ppe/detail/disabled-veterans-exemption-information>

State Tax Commission Guidance to Assessors

Frequently Asked Questions

Form 5107 – Affidavit for Disabled Veterans Exemption

Form 6054 – Request to Rescind Disabled Veterans Exemption

Form 6055 – Notice of Denial of Disabled Veterans Exemption



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# Contact information -

Heather Bouck, MAAO

Central Office Operations Manager

Property Services Division

Bureau of Local Government and School Services

Michigan Department of Treasury

[BouckH@michigan.gov](mailto:BouckH@michigan.gov)

General Questions: [state-tax-commission@michigan.gov](mailto:state-tax-commission@michigan.gov)



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# VFW National Home

Jerred Johnson, CEO

Angela Harkins, Program Director



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# VFW NATIONAL HOME

## The National Home's Mission

*The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment.*



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**VFW NATIONAL HOME**

## **The National Home's Priorities**

- 1. Veterans and Families**
- 2. Communication**
- 3. Funds and Finance**



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# VFW NATIONAL HOME

## What We Value

1. Integrity – Doing the Right Thing
2. Community – A group of like-minded people
3. Family – A core unit working and learning together
4. Veteran Driven – Strong and deliberate focus on Veteran Support
5. Accountability – Conducting ourselves ethically and with



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# VFW NATIONAL HOME

Over 620 Acres of land  
80 Acre Campus  
43 Single-family homes  
Museum  
Education and Training Center

Supportive Structures:  
Community Center  
Early Education Center  
Gymnasium/Fitness Center  
Library/Computer lab



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# Contact

Chief Executive Officer

Jerred Johnson

517-204 -1682

[jjohnson@vfwnationalhome.org](mailto:jjohnson@vfwnationalhome.org)

Program Director

Angie Harkins

517-663-7880

[aharkins@vfwnationalhome.org](mailto:aharkins@vfwnationalhome.org)



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# Break



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# Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs

Tina Ingraham & Kelly Bean



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# **Veteran Resources**

**Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL)**

**&**

**Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC)**



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# LARA Department Overview

- LARA oversees the licensing and regulation of more than 2 million individuals and entities.
- LARA administers several acts including the Michigan Occupational Code, Michigan Public Health Code, Michigan Elevator Licensing Act, Elevator Safety Board and Skilled Trades Regulation Act, that provide resources for hundreds of license types.



# Mission, Vision and Values

## Mission

We protect people and promote business in Michigan through transparent and accessible regulatory solutions.

## Vision

To be national leaders that partner with people and businesses to improve the lives of Michigan residents through an engaged and inclusive workforce.

## Values

PUBLIC SERVICE  
LARA WORKFORCE  
TRANSPARENCY  
ACCESSIBILITY  
RESPONSIBILITY

# Areas of Regulation

Skilled Trades	Health Professions	Commercial Licensing	Occupational Professions	Construction Codes	Health Facilities	Cannabis & Liquor
Electrician	Nursing	Security Alarm Contractor	Accountancy	Boiler	Adult Foster Care	Medical Facility
Mechanic	Pharmacy	Taxicab Carrier	Cosmetologists	Plumbing	Nursing Homes	Adult Use Establishment
Plumber	Dentistry	Limousine Carrier	Real Estate Brokers	Elevator	Hospice Residences	Liquor Retailers
Code Official	Massage Therapy	Personnel Agencies	Engineers	Building	Rehab Hospitals	Special Act Licenses
Elevator Contractor	Psychology	Refrigeration Facilities	MMA Fighters	Ski/Amusement	Psychiatric Hospitals	Suppliers & Wholesalers

# BPL Overview

- The Bureau of Professional Licensing (BPL) is responsible for licensing and regulating over 700,000 individuals who are regulated by either the Michigan Occupational Code or the Public Health Code.
- BPL oversees 41 health and occupational professions.
- The mission of the Bureau of Professional Licensing is to protect, preserve and improve the health, safety and welfare of Michigan's citizens through the licensing and regulation of occupational and health professionals. The Bureau is designed to make the regulatory system simple, fair and efficient.



# Licensing Division

## Licensing Section 1

Acupuncture  
Athletic Trainers  
Audiology  
Marriage & Family Therapy  
Massage Therapy  
Nursing  
Occupational Therapy  
Psychology  
Sanitarians  
Speech Language Pathology

## Licensing Section 2

Chiropractic  
Counseling  
Dentistry  
Dieticians & Nutritionists  
Nursing Home Administrators  
Optometry  
Pharmacy  
Respiratory Care  
Veterinary Medicine

## Licensing Section 3

Barbers  
Behavior Analysts  
Cosmetology  
Genetic Counseling  
Medicine  
Midwifery  
Osteopathic Medicine  
Physician's Assistants  
Podiatry

## Licensing Section 4

Accountancy  
AMC's  
Appraisers  
Architects  
Collection Agencies  
Hearing Aid Dealers  
Landscape Architects  
Personnel Agencies  
Physical Therapy  
Professional Engineers  
Professional Surveyors  
Real Estate  
Social Work



# Licensing Resources for Veterans

- **Granting a waiver for the initial license or initial registration fee for veterans**
  - LARA shall waive the fee for an initial license or initial registration that is otherwise required under the State License Fee Act, or an application processing fee charged by the department for an initial license or initial registration, if the applicant is an individual who served in the armed forces and provides to the department a form DD214 or DD215, that demonstrates he or she was separated from that service with an honorable character of service or under honorable conditions (general) character of service.
- **Exemption from renewal fees while on Active Duty**
  - The license or registration of an individual practicing his or her profession while in active service in the military service of the United States, an auxiliary thereof, or the United States public health service, who was licensed or registered at the time of induction or entering into service, continues in effect without further action by the individual until discharge or leaving the service. The individual shall notify the board of the military service or federal employment and the cessation thereof.
- **Exemption from continuing education requirements while on Active Duty**
  - A board which requires evidence of attendance at educational programs as a condition to license renewal may waive those requirements if, upon written application, the board finds the failure of the licensee to attend was due to the licensee's military service.
- **Reimbursement by VA for examination fees**
  - Examination fees required and paid for by the veteran for licensure may be reimbursed by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Please be advised that utilizing this reimbursement may affect your VA educational benefits. It is recommended you contact the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency or the Michigan Workforce Development Agency to better understand how the use of this reimbursement may impact your VA benefits.

# Who is Eligible?

- Qualifying individuals include:
  - Members or veterans of the armed forces: United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, and the reserve components.
  - Members of the uniformed services including Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps.
  - Dependents (a spouse or surviving spouse and/or children or surviving children under the age of 26) of members of veterans aforementioned groups.

# Temporary Military Spouse License

- Beginning June 11, 2014 (health professions) and September 9, 2014 (occupational professions), the department shall grant a temporary 6-month professional license or registration to an applicant who meets all of the following:
  - He or she provides proof acceptable to the department that he or she is a dependent of a member of the Armed Forces, a dependent of a member of the uniformed services, or a dependent of a veteran.
  - He or she provides proof acceptable to the department that he or she holds a current license in good standing, or a current registration in good standing, in that health profession, issued by an equivalent licensing department, board, or authority in another state or country, as determined by the department, in consultation with the applicable board.
  - He or she has criminal history check conducted (health professions only).
- The temporary license may be renewed for one additional 6-month term, if the board determines that the temporary licensee continues to meet the requirements.


# Licensure by Reciprocity

- If you are a licensed professional in good standing in another state or country, you may be eligible for an easier path to licensure in Michigan through license reciprocity.
  - The requirements for licensure in that state or country must be substantially equivalent to or exceed Michigan licensure requirements.
  - Applicants must be able to demonstrate competency in their profession through training, experience, or licensure examination.
  - Applicants must complete a criminal history check (**health professions only**).
  - Applicants cannot have a history of imposed discipline, a pending complaint or allegation, or a licensure revocation or voluntarily surrender while under investigation for unprofessional conduct.

# How to Register for a MiPLUS Account

[www.michigan.gov/MiPLUS](http://www.michigan.gov/MiPLUS)



 **Licensing and Regulatory Affairs** 🔍

[About Us](#) ▾ [Bureaus](#) ▾ [I Need to...](#) ▾ [Learn About...](#) ▾ [News, Events & Meetings](#) ▾ [Contact Us](#) ▾ [LARA Jobs](#)

## MIPLUS User Assistance

[🏠](#) > [Bureaus](#) > [Professional Licensing](#) > [MIPLUS User Assistance](#)


- [File a Complaint](#)
- [Verify a License](#)
- [Profession Specific Licensing Guides](#)

### Welcome to MiPLUS

The Michigan Professional Licensing User System (MiPLUS) is the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Professional Licensing's new online licensing and regulatory database application for health and occupational professionals in Michigan.

- Applicants can now apply online, track the status of their application, and receive electronic notifications.
- Licensees are able to renew and modify their existing licensing information.
- Verify the status of a licensed professional.

### Quick Links

- [MiPLUS Login](#) 
- [File a Complaint](#)
- [Verify a License](#)
- [Request for Assistance](#)
- [Profession Specific Licensing Guides](#)



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# How to Submit a License Application

- Once you are logged into your MiPLUS account, you will click on the Licenses tab, select the Apply for a License or Submit a Request link, click the disclaimer box and then click Continue Application.

The screenshot shows the Professional Licensing section of the MiPLUS system. At the top, it says "Professional Licensing" and "Logged in as: Christina Marie Ingraham". Below this is a navigation menu with "Home", "Licenses", and "Enforcement" tabs. The "Licenses" tab is highlighted with a red arrow. Underneath the navigation menu, there is a link that says "Apply for a License or Submit a Request (Certified License Verification)" with a red arrow pointing to it. Below this link is a "General Disclaimer" box with a scroll bar. A red arrow points to the checkbox below the disclaimer that says "I have read and accepted the above terms.". Another red arrow points to the "Continue Application" button at the bottom of the page.

# How to Submit a License Application

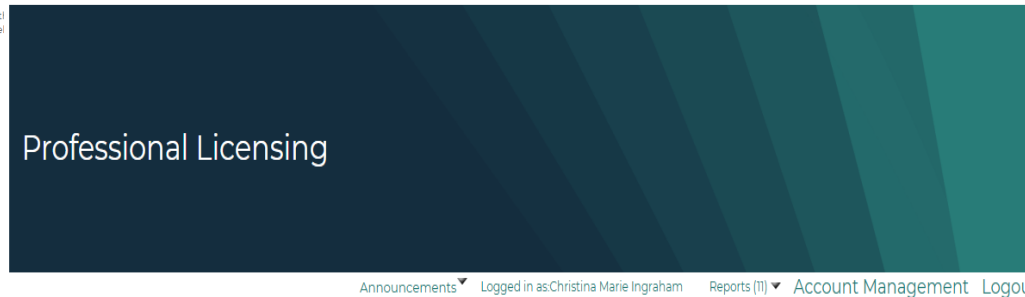


- An alphabetical list of professions will then appear. Click the arrow next to the profession you are applying for and a list of license types will appear. Proceed through the application and be sure to complete all required information. The final step will be the payment. Once the payment is complete, you will receive a confirmation that your application has been received.

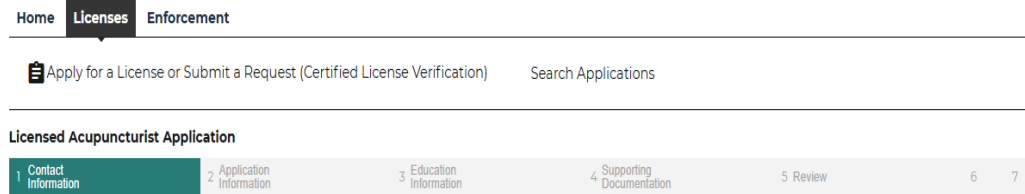
## Select a License or Request Type

First select the category of license you are applying for, then choose one of the listed available license application types. Or, choose to License Link, License Verification, Program Review, and Temporary Military Spouse are available for all license categories listed below.

- ▶ Accountancy
- ▼ Acupuncture
  - Licensed Acupuncturist Application
- ▶ Applied Behavior Analysis
- ▶ Appraisal Management Company
- ▶ Architect
- ▶ Athletic Trainer
- ▶ Audiology
- ▶ Barbers
- ▶ Chiropractic
- ▶ Collection Practices
- ▶ Controlled Substance
- ▶ Cosmetology
- ▶ Counseling
- ▶ Dentistry
- ▶ Genetic Counseling
- ▶ Good Moral Character Preliminary Determination
- ▶ Hearing Aid Dealers
- ▶ Landscape Architects
- ▶ License Link
- ▶ License Verification
- ▶ Marriage and Family Therapy
- ▶ Massage Therapy
- ▶ Medicine
- ▶ Midwifery
- ▶ Nursing
- ▶ Nursing Home Administrator
- ▶ Occupational Therapists
- ▶ Optometry
- ▶ Osteopathic Medicine & Surgery
- ▶ Personnel Agency
- ▶ Pharmacy
- ▶ Physical Therapy
- ▶ Physician's Assistant
- ▶ Podiatric Medicine & Surgery
- ▶ Professional Engineers
- ▶ Professional Surveyor
- ▶ Program Review
- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Real Estate
- ▶ Real Estate Appraisers
- ▶ Respiratory Care
- ▶ Sanitarian
- ▶ Social Work
- ▶ Speech - Language Pathologist
- ▶ Temporary Military Dependent
- ▶ Veterinary Medicine



For assistance in using MIPLUS, please visit [www.michigan.gov/miplus](http://www.michigan.gov/miplus)



### Step 1: Contact Information > Applicant Information

You must download the [SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER EXPLANATION FORM](#), complete it, and upload it as a supporting documentation attachment to your application if you have a social security number and did not provide the number during registration, OR if you are exempt under law from obtaining or disclosing your social security number.

[Continue Application »](#)

Home **Licenses** Enforcement

[Apply for a License or Submit a Request \(Certified License Verification\)](#) [Search Applications](#)

### Licensed Acupuncturist Application



#### Step 6: Pay Fees

Listed below are the license fees based upon the information you've entered.

The application processing fee is a one-time fee for each license type you have applied for. A license fee will be assessed for each year your license will be issued until your next renewal. For accounting purposes some license fees are broken down into parts. A renewal fee is assessed for the complete renewal length. For eligible professionals the quantity listed for the controlled substance and/or drug control license fee may differ from your primary license, however both the primary and controlled substance and/or drug control licenses will be renewed for the same length of time.

#### License-Related Fees

Fees	Qty.	Amount
Acupuncturist Application Processing Fee	1	\$76.50
Acupuncturist Per Year License Fee	2	\$408.00

**TOTAL FEES: \$484.50**

Note: Click Continue Application to proceed to our payment processor.

Listed below are requirements that will be applied once you submit this record. These requirements must be resolved or met before approval.

### Requirements

Showing 1-1 of 1

**Licensing** - 1 Pending

**Acupuncture**

**Current NCCAOM Certification** - Pending

Have the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM) submit proof to the department at [bpdata@michigan.gov](mailto:bpdata@michigan.gov) that you are currently certified as a Diplomat of Acup. [more](#)

[Continue Application »](#)



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# BPL Contact Information

Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Bureau of Professional Licensing  
PO Box 30670  
Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: (517) 241-0199

Email: [BPLHelp@michigan.gov](mailto:BPLHelp@michigan.gov)

[www.michigan.gov/bpl](http://www.michigan.gov/bpl)



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# BPL Online Resources

- BPL Homepage - [Professional Licensing \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/professional-licensing)
- MiPLUS Homepage - [MIPLUS User Assistance \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/miplus)
- Michigan Public Health Code - [MCL - 368-1978-15 - Michigan Legislature](#)
- Michigan Occupational Code - [MCL - Act 299 of 1980 - Michigan Legislature](#)
- Administrative Rules - [ARS Public - MI Admin Code for Licensing and Regulatory Affairs - Bureau of Professional Licensing \(state.mi.us\)](#)



# Bureau of Construction Codes

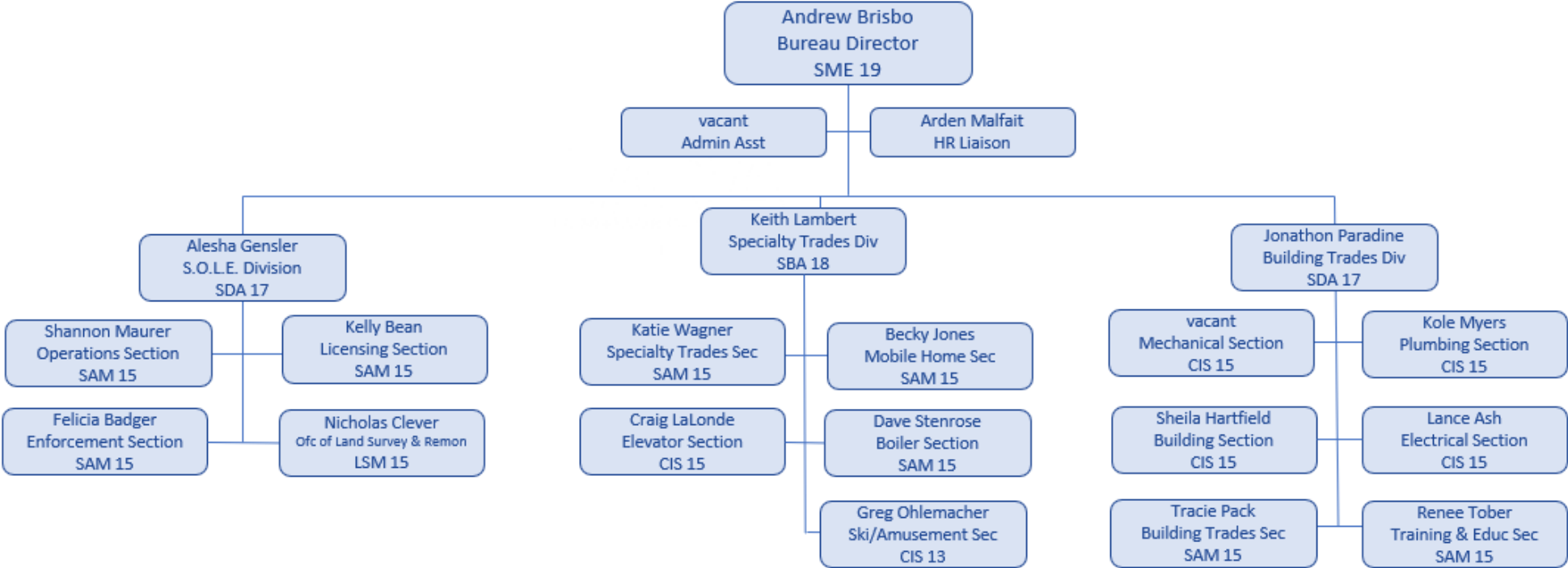
The dedicated staff of the Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) work as a team to assure that the built environment and the systems within are sound, safe and sanitary; building users' health, safety and welfare are protected; and that, through a coordinated program of code compliance, investigation and training, there is consistent application of standards.

Kelly Bean, Licensing Section Manager



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# BCC Leadership



# **BCC Program Administration – Construction & Safety Standards**

- [Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act](#) (1972 PA 230)
- [Utilization of Public Facilities by Physically Limited](#) (1966 PA 1)
- [Construction of School Buildings](#) (1937 PA 306)
- [Elevator Safety Board Act](#) (1967 PA 227)
- [Carnival-Amusement Safety Act](#) (1966 PA 225)
- [Ski Area Safety Act](#) (1962 PA 199)



# BCC Program Administration – Licensing & Regulation

- [Skilled Trades Regulation Act](#) (2016 PA 407)
- [Occupational Code – Article 24](#) (1980 PA 299)
- [Elevator Licensing Act](#) (1976 PA 333)
  
- [Administrative Rules](#)



# **BCC Program Administration – Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation**

- [Land Division Act](#) (1967 PA 288)
- [Corner Recordation Act](#) (1970 PA 74)
- [State Survey and Remonumentation Act](#) (1990 PA 345)
- [State Boundary Commission Act](#) (1968 PA 191)
- [Michigan-Indiana State Line Remonumentation Act](#) (2022 PA 81)



# Veteran Benefits for Licensure

- Occupational Code
  - Initial application fee waiver
    - Military members, current and former, and dependents
  - Temporary licenses for dependents
    - Must hold current license in good standing in issued by an equivalent licensing department.
  - Exam waivers
    - Military members, current and former, and dependents
  - Temporary renewal exemptions
    - Exemptions from renewal fees and continuing education while deployed.
- Skilled Trades Regulation Act
  - Initial application fee waiver
    - Military members, current and former, and dependents
  - Temporary licenses for dependents
    - Must hold current license in good standing in issued by an equivalent licensing department.
  - Exam waivers
    - Military members, current and former, and dependents
  - Temporary renewal exemptions
    - Exemptions from renewal fees and continuing education while deployed.



# Military Experience for Licensing Experience

- Occupational Code
  - Residential Builder and Maintenance and Alteration Contractors.
    - Applicant can provide affidavit signed by a commanding officer, supervisor, or military superior with direct knowledge of the applicant's service that the applicant has entry-level experience or basic knowledge of the areas of competency.
    - Or if has not reached the entry-level experience in all areas, an affidavit as signed above providing some experience towards the 60-hour prelicensure requirement.
- Skilled Trades
  - Same as builders but applies to:
    - Electrical journeymen
    - Mechanical Contractors
    - Boiler Installers and Repairers
    - Journey Plumbers
  - Boiler Operators and Stationary Engineers
    - Military and Coast Guard provide copy of DD-214 with duty station and occupational specialty.
    - Further review of that information to determine the level of registration issued.



# Out of State Experience

Michigan does not hold reciprocity with any other state/country.

- Veteran exam waiver:

- A member of the armed forces or uniformed services; a veteran; or a dependent of a member of the armed forces, uniformed services or a veteran.
- Hold a valid license or registration in that occupation from an equivalent licensing department, board or authority, as determined by the department and for each license:
  - In good standing and held for at least one year.
  - Minimum education and/or work experience requirements and other state verifies those were met to obtain the license or registration.
  - If exam was required, that exam was passed.
- The requirements to obtain are equal to or greater than Michigan.
- Has not had a license or registration revoked or voluntarily surrendered while under investigation.
- No disciplinary action
- No open complaints/investigations.
- Include form with paper or online application.

[Military Examination Waiver Application](#)



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# Out of State – Non-veteran

- To be considered for licensure, you must submit a copy of the out of state/country license that you hold and a copy of that jurisdiction's licensing requirement. The licensing requirement must indicate a detailed description of the hours, schooling and requirements that had to have been met to obtain licensure in that state.
- If the requirements are equal to or greater than those of Michigan, you may be approved to test. If they are not, we will be unable to approve your application.
- Must take exam.



# Applying for Licensure

- BCC accepts paper applications. [Licensing Section](#)
- Also accept online applications. [Accela Citizen Access](#)
- Both reflect that fee waiver. Must provide/upload copy of DD214 or DD215, or other form satisfactory to the department that shows the above.
- DD214 or DD215 must show honorable discharge/character of service.
- We don't deny applications. When reviewed, we will make contact to correct deficiencies.
- Staff does attempt to prioritize Veteran applications.
- Applications are processed in order received.
- Within 3 weeks of receipt to our office.
- Applications are only valid for one year.





**LARA**

LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

**NASCLA**



**CONSUMER GUIDE TO**

**HOME  
IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECTS**

NASCLA.ORG

# Protect Your Family and Property

- Are you looking at starting a project this spring?
- The National Association of State Contractor Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) and the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) are happy to provide you with this guide to ensure that your project is completed to your satisfaction.
- **IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU SHOULD CONSIDER IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON HIRING A CONTRACTOR!!**



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# Bureau of Construction Codes Licensing Section

[LARA-BCC-Licensing@Michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-BCC-Licensing@Michigan.gov)

517-241-9316

M-F 0900 – 1600

Except State Holidays

[Bureau of Construction Codes-Licensing Section](#)

[Licensing Section Forms](#)

[Accela Citizen Access](#)

[LARA Accela FAQs](#)

[Registering for an ACA Account](#)

[How to use Express Payment](#)

[Linking Your License](#)

[License and Address/Phone Number Changes](#)

[Renewing Your License](#)



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# State of Michigan Veteran Friendly Employer



- Always looking to add more skilled individuals to our staff
- Veteran's Preference
  - [State of Michigan Job Openings | Live. Work. Play.](#)
- Licensing Resources for Veterans
  - LARA staff will connect you with a designated representative in each of the Bureaus.
  - [Licensing Resources for Veterans](#)



Thank you for giving us this opportunity to share this information with you.

We appreciate your sacrifices for our country and freedoms.



**QUESTIONS?**



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# Michigan Secretary of State

Joshua Elliott



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**Jocelyn Benson, Secretary of State**  
Michigan Department of State

**Veterans' services**

May 2026

# Veteran designation

Military veterans who served in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces and were honorably discharged may have a veteran designation printed on their Michigan driver's license.

## What is the veteran designation:

- The veteran designation provides an easy and optional way to show your veteran status

## Qualifying military branches:

- U.S. Air Force, Air Force National Guard, Army, Army National Guard, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy and Space Force, as well as their Reserve components



# Veteran designation

## How to obtain the designation:

You will need to complete the application and submit acceptable documentation that indicates the character of discharge, such as:

- DD214 (or correction DD215), Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, any copy except Copy 1
- Form NGB FM 22 or 23, Report of Separation and Record of Service, which must indicate honorable or general discharge
- Forms WD AGO, such as WD AGO 53-55, Enlisted Record and Report of Separation Honorable Discharge
- GSA 6954, Certificate of Military Service
- NAVPERS 553, Extract of Notice of Separation from U.S. Naval Service
- VA Veteran Health Identification Card
- DD-2 (blue or pink version), United States Uniformed Services ID card - issued to retired military and military reserve veterans



# Veteran license plates

Michigan has 30+ different veteran plate options.

**Branch and peacetime plates-these plates are only issued to the veteran:**

- Air Force Veteran
- Army Veteran
- Coast Guard Veteran
- Navy Veteran
- Marine Corps Veteran
- Merchant Marine Veteran
- Past or present National Guard member
- Past or present Military Reserve member
- Combat Wounded Veteran (Purple Heart recipient)
- Pearl Harbor Survivor (stationed in Pearl Harbor on 12/7/1941)



# War, conflict, and special veteran plates

---

**These plates can be issued to either the veteran or the veteran's spouse:**

- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- Afghanistan Conflict Veteran
- Cuban Missile Crisis Veteran
- Dominican Republic Conflict Veteran
- Grenada Conflict Veteran
- Iraq Campaign Medal
- Iraq Conflict Veteran
- Korean War Veteran
- Laos Conflict Veteran
- Lebanon Conflict Veteran
- Panama Conflict Veteran
- Persian Gulf Veteran
- Somalia Conflict Veteran
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam War Veteran
- World War II Veteran

# Veteran license plates

**Ex-Prisoner of War** - Veterans who were a prisoner of war and their spouses are eligible

**Blue Star Family** - Issued to a person who has an immediate family member serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or in forces incorporated as part of the U.S. Armed Forces.

**Gold Star Family** - Residents who are immediate family members of military personnel who lost their lives in combat. Immediate family includes the deceased veteran's spouse, father, stepfather, mother, stepmother, foster parent, brother (including half brother), sister (including half sister), child, and stepchild

**Medal of Honor** - Veterans who are awarded the Medal of Honor are eligible for a Medal of Honor plate. Spouses aren't eligible.



# Disabled veteran plate



**Permanent Disabled Veteran license plate: 100% disability**  
(yearly registration fee is not required)

**Eligibility:** Veterans with a total or permanent total disability rating and an honorable discharge from the military are entitled to one permanent Disabled Veteran plate.

The spouse of a deceased disabled veteran may apply for a permanent Disabled Veteran license plate if, in addition to the required documents, a copy of the disabled veteran's death certificate is also provided.

## **Document requirements when applying:**

- Discharge papers showing honorable discharge with a 100% disability rating and applicant is receiving disability retirement pay, or
- Documentation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (usually a "Rating Decision") or a branch of the U.S. military service showing the applicant has: - 100% combined disability rating, or - a disability rating of less than 100% but an unemployable rating of 100%.

# Disabled veteran plate



**Standard Disabled Veteran license plate: 50-99% disability**  
(yearly registration fee is required)

**Eligibility:** Veterans with a 50%-99% disability rating and an honorable discharge from the military are entitled to one standard Disabled Veteran plate.

The spouse of a deceased disabled veteran may apply for a permanent Disabled Veteran license plate if, in addition to the required documents, a copy of the disabled veteran's death certificate is also provided.

**Document requirements when applying:** The following must be submitted as proof of service-related total (50%-99%) disability:

- Discharge papers showing honorable discharge with a 50%-99% combined disability rating

**Disability parking:** A Disabled Veteran plate does not mean you can park in handicap spots. You will still need the disability placard or red disabled wheelchair sticker on the plate.



# *Veterans' services questions?*

# Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Walking with Warriors

Brian Webb



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# Walking With Warriors Project Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025

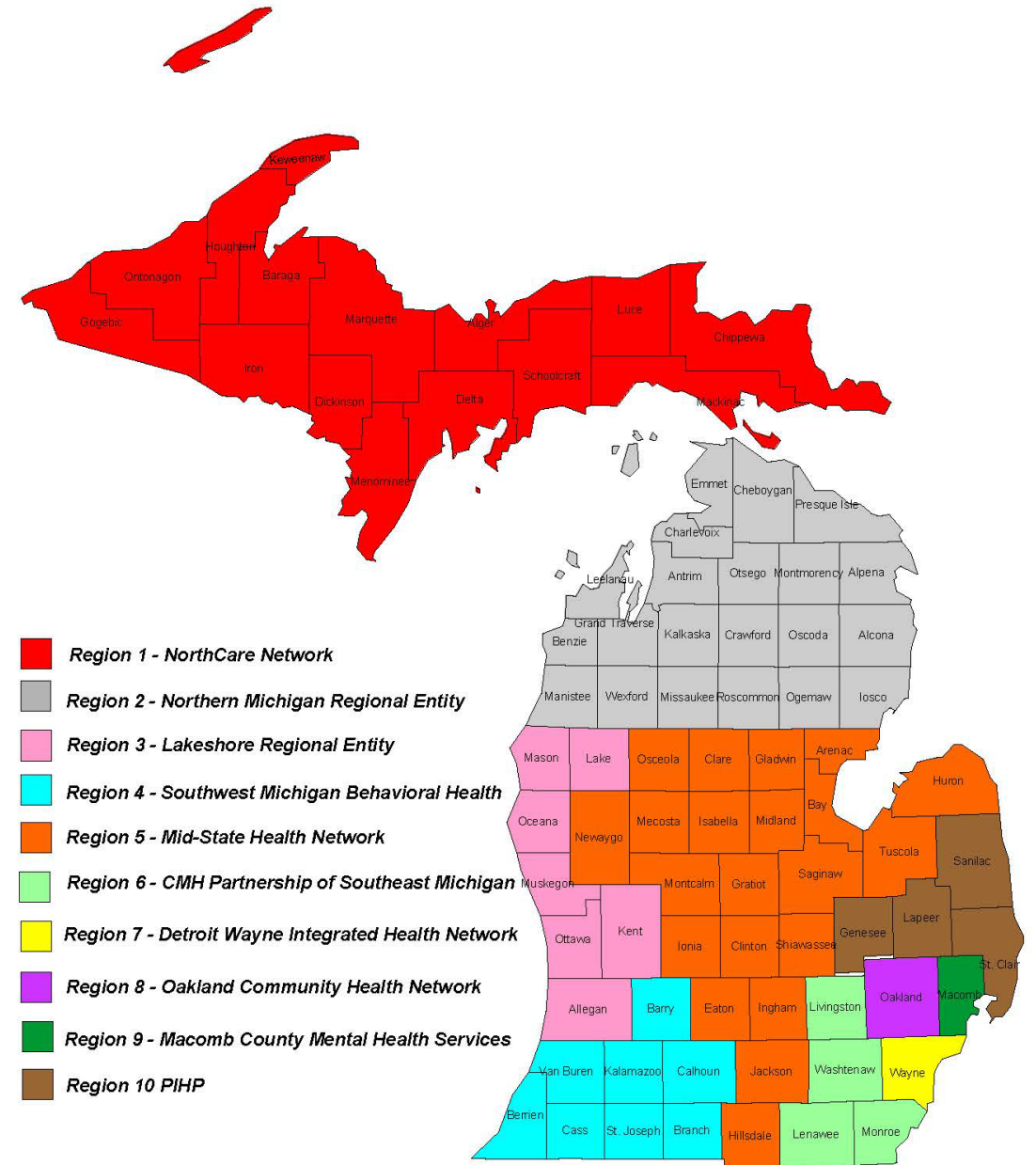


# Health Services Veteran and Military Family Strategic Plan and Objectives

- **Mission:** Our mission is to identify, engage and connect veterans and military families to mental health and substance abuse resources.
- **Vision:** To create an effective and sustainable program that increases capacity in the publicly funded behavioral health care system.
- **Values:** Safeguard, respect and encourage the behavioral wellbeing of veterans and military families.

# MDHHS Regional Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs)

*Effective Jan. 1, 2014*



# Walking With Warriors Project Overview

- Nine PIHP regional veteran navigator positions.
- Fifteen community mental health veteran navigators who cover 24 counties.
- Six veteran peer support specialists.
- Four veteran reentry care coordinators.

# Walking With Warriors Project Overview

- Adventure Therapy.
- Woman Veteran Strong.
- THRIVE Training.
- Health & Wellness Program.
- Military Multicultural Competency Course.

# Walking With Warriors Program Successes

- Integrated reciprocal relationships with all five Veteran Health Administrations (VHA).
- Overall success throughout our project:
  - Engaged with more than 60,000 veterans and military families since November 2016.
  - Veterans more likely to reach out for help: 78%.
  - Veterans engaging in social activities that positively affect their health has increased to 12%.
  - Virtually zero suicide rate.
  - Seventy-three previously justice-involved veterans assessed and connected to essential resources.

# **Veterans and Military Families for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment**

- FY24 veterans and military families identified: 8,242.
- FY25 veterans and military families identified: 8,836.

# **Social Determinants of Health for Veterans**

- Housing instability.
- Gambling
- Substance abuse.
- Depression.
- PTSD.
- Food insecurity.
- Military service.

# Snapshot of Demographics of Veterans Reached

- Male: 5,714
- Female: 3,122

# Snapshot of Demographics of Veterans Reached

• Army	3,141
• Navy	2,478
• Air Force	2,157
• Marines	1,001
• Coast Guard	58
• Space Force	1

# Snapshot of Demographics of Veterans Reached

- Honorable 2,971
- General/Hon 1,318
- Medical 988
- Other than honorable 289
- Dishonorable 78

# Veteran Eras Most Identified for Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Referral

Three largest demographics:

- Vietnam veterans : 1,342
- Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom veterans : 1,035
- Desert Storm veterans : 531

# **Veteran and Military Family Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Primary Challenges**

Four largest challenges:

- PTSD 1,701
- SUD - Alcohol 1,682
- Depression/Anxiety 624
- SUD - Opioids 601

# Veteran Insurance Coverage

# Where are we referring newly identified veterans and military families?

- Community Mental Health/SUD Providers – 49%.
- Veterans Affairs (VHA, VBA), CBOCs, Local County VA's – 82%.
- Housing – 90%
- Employment – 31%.
- Education – 8%.
- Transportation – 70%.
- Veteran Service Officer – 62%.
- Legal/Veteran Court – 48%.
- Food – 40%.

# Survey Results

- Individuals who report being better equipped to function effectively in community: 70%.
- Individuals who report greater willingness to reach out for help: 78%.
- Individuals acknowledging an increased awareness or knowledge of veteran programs and/or benefits they're for: 79%.

# Contact Information

Brian Webb

Health Services Veteran Liaison

[WebbB3@Michigan.gov](mailto:WebbB3@Michigan.gov)

Brenda Stoneburner

CPI Section Manager

[StoneburnerB@Michigan.gov](mailto:StoneburnerB@Michigan.gov)

# Lunch



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# **Peter F. Secchia Military & Veterans Resource Center at Grand Valley State University**



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# Center for Veterans and Military-Affiliated Students at Michigan State University



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# **Veterans Health & Wellness Collaborative at Michigan State University**



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**Midwest Truck Driving School and  
North Country Electrical Line & Heavy Equipment School**



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# Schoolcraft College



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# Consumers Energy



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# Michigan Department of Transportation



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**Peckham, Inc.**



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# STACK Cybersecurity



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## **VFW National Home**



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# The New Standard for VA Home Loans

Powered by

 **Rocket Pro**



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**Who is:**

# Rocket Pro

Rocket Pro is committed to nurturing partnerships with leading brokers across American in serving clients.

You may know our other companies:



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# Our mission:

## Help Everyone Home

**Own the Dream** - We're creating opportunities for generational wealth. Dreams with solid foundations. Goals within reach. We still believe in the American Dream, and to us, that means everyone has a fair shot at prosperity, fueled by homeownership.





















It's essential for every American to see themselves in the work we do. We are becoming America's most optimistic and most inclusive brand. Every interaction should reflect the world we're building together.

We are here to serve our military community with a different standard for Veterans and Service members.



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# Ism's & Partner Promises

 <p><b>Launch and learn.</b> The best way to learn anything is by doing. Think big. Start small. Iterate fast. Launch and learn.</p>	 <p><b>Every client. Every time.</b> Clients don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.</p>	 <p><b>Responding with a sense of urgency is the ante to play.</b> We take care of things, especially our clients, now!</p>	 <p><b>Obsessed with finding a better way.</b> If it's good, let's make it great. If it's great, let's take it to an even higher level.</p>	01 <b>It's your business who you do business with.</b> Even if that's not us, we'll support you. We'll never tie you down. Your terms. Your choices.	02 <b>Your clients are your clients.</b> We don't poach. We've firewalled our retail and wholesale channels, so there's no crossover.
 <p><b>Do the right thing.</b> Stick to the highest standard of integrity, without compromise. Character is what you do when no one is looking over your shoulder!</p>	 <p><b>You'll see it when you believe it.</b> If we believe in something, we can – and will – affect the outcome. If we believe in ourselves first, we dramatically increase our odds of success.</p>	 <p><b>Simplicity is genius.</b> Simplifying things in this fast-moving, complicated world isn't just good – it's great.</p>	 <p><b>We'll figure it out.</b> We don't need to have all the answers before we take on a project or launch a new and innovative idea. We'll figure it out along the way.</p>	03 <b>Full pricing transparency. No surprises.</b> We offer clear pricing without gimmicks and real-time visibility into loan status, so you can offer your clients the same.	04 <b>Tech that works faster. So you don't have to.</b> Our top engineering talent invests millions of hours to deliver innovative tech and support, because the more time we can save you, the more clients you can serve.
 <p><b>We are the "they."</b> There is no "they." We are the "they." Just open minds and an open culture rooted in trust.</p>	 <p><b>It's not about who is right: it's about what is right.</b> There's no place at our company for typical corporate arrogance. Who is right (or who is wrong) is irrelevant and insignificant to what is the right decision.</p>	 <p><b>Innovation is rewarded. execution is worshipped.</b> It takes both ideas and execution to make things happen.</p>	 <p><b>Always raising our level of awareness.</b> As Yogi Berra said, "You can see a lot just by looking." Keep your head up. Look. Be curious.</p>	05 <b>Helping everyone home means everyone.</b> Not just the people with high credit scores. We'll always invent new ways to unlock doors until you can approve every dream.	06 <b>We grow your brand. You grow your business.</b> Many buyers need a broker to navigate the road home. We will always invest in marketing to help clients find the broker they need.
 <p><b>Ignore the noise.</b> The noise may fluctuate in volume, but your determination to press on in spite of it (ignore it!) will make all the difference.</p>	 <p><b>The inches we need are everywhere around us.</b> We're all empowered to find the opportunities to make an impact everywhere. One inch at a time, these inches all add up to greatness.</p>	 <p><b>Numbers and money follow: they do not lead.</b> Become great at something or build something great. Chasing numbers and money first will leave you chasing your tail.</p>	 <p><b>We eat our own dog food.</b> Tying the threads and making connections is what it's all about.</p>	07 <b>Human expertise, with the speed of AI.</b> Our underwriters and closers are trained at 5x the industry average and leverage cutting-edge AI to deliver unmatched efficiency, all rooted in real expertise.	08 <b>Work where you want. Close when you're ready.</b> If you have a connection, you're connected to us. Our always-on, ever-advancing tech empowers you to work from anywhere life takes you.
 <p><b>Ignore the noise.</b> The noise may fluctuate in volume, but your determination to press on in spite of it (ignore it!) will make all the difference.</p>	 <p><b>The inches we need are everywhere around us.</b> We're all empowered to find the opportunities to make an impact everywhere. One inch at a time, these inches all add up to greatness.</p>	 <p><b>Numbers and money follow: they do not lead.</b> Become great at something or build something great. Chasing numbers and money first will leave you chasing your tail.</p>	 <p><b>We eat our own dog food.</b> Tying the threads and making connections is what it's all about.</p>	09 <b>We grow the whole pie. Not just our slice.</b> From advocacy in Washington to bold acquisitions, we do more to put the dream of homeownership back on the table, so everyone wins.	10 <b>The better we serve you, the better you serve your clients.</b> We offer tools, training, and tech to help you run your business on your terms, because when you own your dream, more people own theirs.



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# New Standard for VA Home Loans

## • Broker Community

- Built on a trusted broker network embedded in the local community
- Dedicated to serving veterans with integrity, clarity, and respect
- Prioritize education first—empowering veterans to make informed decisions, not pressured ones
- Live and work locally, offering guidance grounded in real community insight
- Provide practical, common-sense financial advice—recognizing that being *mortgage-ready* is not the same as being *loan-ready*
- Tailor solutions around each veteran's unique goals, timeline, and financial situation
- Leverage access to multiple lenders to deliver competitive options and the best fit for each veteran

## • Banks/Credit Unions

- Committed to serving veterans with integrity and purpose
- Education-first approach—guidance before any sales conversation
- Deeply rooted in and trusted by the local community
- Support veterans with financial education and broader financial needs
- Offer a range of tailored solutions to match each veteran's goals and circumstances



# Question:



- Kurtis Schneider US Army (Ret)
  - (810) 278-3716
  - [KurtisSchneider@RocketMortgage.com](mailto:KurtisSchneider@RocketMortgage.com)
  - LinkedIn - [www.linkedin.com/in/kurtis-schneider](http://www.linkedin.com/in/kurtis-schneider)



# Michigan Association of County Veteran Counselors (MACVC)

Michael Roof



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## MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY VETERAN COUNSELORS

Michael W. Roof, Immediate Past President



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# Mission Statement

The mission of the Michigan Association of County Veterans Counselors is to *assist veterans and their families in obtaining any and all county, state, and federal benefits to which they are eligible.*

This service is best provided through a *local veterans' office* where the veterans' programs and assistance are consolidated into an easily accessible “one-stop shopping” location.



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# Michigan Statute

*Public Act 192 of 1953*

Creates a County Department of Veterans' Affairs Office (CDVA).

Almost all 83 counties in Michigan have a CDVA.

The newest CDVA is Ionia – Formed in April 2026.



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# Services – One Stop Shop!

Claims Assistance (Veteran, Surviving spouse, dependent)

*Disability, Pension, Widow, Burial*

Financial Assistance (Millage-funded)

County Residency required

Michigan Veteran Trust Fund

County Residency required

County Burial Allowance

Local veteran resources



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# Claims Assistance

All County Veteran Service Officers are accredited by the VA's Office of General Counsel.

*Many are accredited by NACVSO, the American Legion, the DAV, and the VFW.*

Can represent their clients up to the VA Board of Appeals

Completely FREE. No cost to the client!

No residency requirements for most counties.



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# Financial Assistance

In most counties, for veterans and dependents.

Each county has its own guidelines.

(War-era, peacetime, and limits)

Millage-funded and county residency required.



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# Financial Assistance

## Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

County residency required

Most counties have Trust Fund Agents able to take applications for Emergency Assistance.

Local committee approval (<\$3,400) or Board Approval (>\$3,400)



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# County Burial Allowance

By Michigan statute, Public Act 235 of 1911.

Honorable Discharge

90 days of service

Resident of Michigan (6 months before service or 3 years before death)

Estate Limit (<\$40,000)

\$300 (Some counties have large amounts)



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# Local Resources

We live where we work!

We know local resources that can fill the gaps when assisting veterans.

We all need to work together for veterans in Michigan.

Helps maximize public tax dollars.



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# Partners

## *Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA)*

Most counties utilize the County Veteran Service Fund to expand services through their offices. (Advertising, transportation, Veteran picnics, and concerts, etc.)

## *Michigan Association of Counties (MAC)*

Work on legislation priorities that help county & state leadership understand our offices.

## *Michigan Commander's Group*

A Coalition of Michigan's Chartered Veteran Service Organizations. Working on improving legislation for veterans and their dependents.



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# Contact

[www.macvc.net](http://www.macvc.net)

**Michael Roof**

**Grand Traverse County Dept of VA**

[mroof@gtcountymi.gov](mailto:mroof@gtcountymi.gov)

**231-995-6070**



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# **Veteran Service Organizations**

Sidney Love & Gary Easterling



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# Veteran Service Organizations In Michigan

Support Beyond Claims



# Resource Categories:

- **Homelessness outreach and prevention efforts**
- Emergency housing, shelter, and transitional support referrals
- Rent, utility, and basic needs assistance during financial hardship
- Coordination with local shelters, counties, and state partners
- Early intervention to prevent housing crises before displacement occurs

## Education and Employment

- **Scholarships for veterans, spouses, and dependents**
- Career readiness, job fairs, and employer partnerships
- Resume assistance and interview preparation
- Support for vocational training, certifications, and retraining
- Financial assistance related to career transition needs

## Family and Community Support

- Youth programs, leadership camps, and mentoring opportunities
- Family relief grants and emergency family assistance
- **Survivor and dependent support programs**
- Community service, volunteerism, and civic involvement
- Events and activities that foster connection and belonging

## Health & Wellness

- Peer support and post-based veteran networks
- **Transportation assistance to medical and VA appointments**
- Mental wellness outreach and suicide-prevention engagement
- Adaptive sports, recreational therapy, and social connection
- Wellness checks and community reintegration support

# The American Legion

Website Link: <https://michiganlegion.org>



## Housing & Stability

- **Veterans Homeless Task Force (Michigan)** – coordinates Legion Family efforts to assist homeless and at-risk veterans through outreach, referrals, and supplemental assistance
- **Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA)** – short-term emergency grants for eligible veterans, service members, and families facing hardship-related housing instability
- **Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program (Reconnect Program)** – financial and reintegration assistance for veterans and service members dealing with transition-related hardship

## Health & Wellness

- **Wilwin Lodging Reconnect Reintegration Support** – mental health–focused retreats and supports for veterans and service members returning from deployment
- **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (Legion & Auxiliary)** – volunteer support within VA medical centers, veterans homes, and healthcare facilities across Michigan

## Education and Employment

- **American Legion Oratorical Contest** – scholarship-based civic education program offering department- and national-level education awards
- **Michigan American Legion Skilled Trades Scholarship** – supports youth pursuing careers in construction, automotive, manufacturing, and energy trades
- **Boys and Girls States Program (Michigan)** – immersive leadership and government education program for high-school students, with associated scholarship opportunities

## Family and Community Support

- **Family Support Network / Reconnect Program** – assists military and veteran families with emergency needs during deployment, transition, or crisis
- **American Legion Auxiliary Family Programs** – support for children, dependents, and surviving families through relief, scholarships, and outreach
- **Community Service & Disaster Response Programs** – Legion posts provide local support during emergencies and community-wide needs across Michigan

# Disabled American Veterans

Website Link: <https://www.mi-dav.org>



## Housing & Stability

- **DAV Homeless Veterans Outreach Program (Michigan)** – supports outreach, referrals, and Stand-Down events in coordination with VA and local partners
- **Emergency assistance through DAV Auxiliary Family Assistance Program** – short-term support for disabled veterans and families experiencing financial hardship affecting housing stability
- Advocacy and navigation to VA housing programs such as HUD-VASH and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)

## Health & Wellness

- **DAV Transportation Network** – free transportation for injured and ill veterans to VA medical facilities, operated by volunteers across Michigan
- **Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs)** – on-site DAV representatives at VA medical centers assisting veterans with access and coordination of care
- Suicide prevention and mental health advocacy, including promotion of VA crisis and behavioral health resources

## Education and Employment

- **DAV Auxiliary Education Scholarship Program** – college and vocational scholarships for veterans, spouses, and dependents of disabled veterans
- DAV Employment Resources (Michigan) – connections to veteran-focused employment agencies, federal hiring programs, and job placement resources
- Career transition advocacy for disabled veterans, including referrals to vocational rehabilitation and workforce partners

## Family and Community Support

- **DAV Caregiver Support Program** – resources and advocacy for family members and caregivers of disabled veterans
- **DAV Auxiliary Family Assistance Program** – emergency financial help for disabled veterans' families facing essential expenses
- Legislative and community advocacy focused on quality-of-life issues affecting disabled veterans and their survivors

# Veterans of Foreign Wars

Website Link: <https://vfwmi.org/>



## Housing & Stability

- VFW National Home for Children (Eaton Rapids, MI) – long-term housing and stability services for military and veteran families with children in crisis or transition
- Michigan VFW Homeless Veteran Program – statewide outreach, awareness, and referral coordination for homeless and at-risk veterans
- Emergency financial assistance through VFW and Auxiliary relief funds to address short-term housing and utility crises

## Health & Wellness

- Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention Initiatives, including outreach tied to the 988 Lifeline and peer-based veteran engagement
- Hospital and Medical Facility Volunteer Programs supporting veterans in VA and non-VA healthcare settings across Michigan
- Transportation assistance and advocacy to help veterans access medical appointments and services

## Education and Employment

- Voice of Democracy® Scholarship Program – national audio-essay scholarship for high school students, with department-level and national awards
- Patriot's Pen® Youth Essay Contest – middle-school scholarship and civic education program administered through VFW Posts
- Continuing Education and Student Veteran Support Scholarships offered through national and Auxiliary programs

## Family and Community Support

- Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention Initiatives, including outreach tied to the 988 Lifeline and peer-based veteran engagement
- Hospital and Medical Facility Volunteer Programs supporting veterans in VA and non-VA healthcare settings across Michigan
- Transportation assistance and advocacy to help veterans access medical appointments and services

# Vietnam Veterans of America

Website Link: <https://vva.org>



## Housing & Stability

- VVA Homeless Veterans Outreach – chapter-led outreach and referrals for Vietnam-era veterans facing homelessness or housing instability
- Stand Down and Resource Fair Participation – connects homeless and at-risk veterans to housing, healthcare, and employment resources in coordination with VA and community partners
- Local emergency assistance efforts – chapter-based financial support and referrals for veterans in crisis impacting housing security

## Health & Wellness

- Agent Orange & Toxic Exposure Program – education, advocacy, and assistance related to Agent Orange, dioxin, and other service-related toxic exposures
- PACT Act guidance and outreach – supports Vietnam veterans and survivors affected by newly recognized presumptive conditions
- PTSD and substance-use outreach – peer-based support and referrals for Vietnam veterans experiencing post-service health challenges

## Education and Employment

- Descendants of Vietnam Veterans Scholarship Programs – chapter- and foundation-supported scholarships for children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans
- Employment and transition referrals – assistance connecting veterans to veteran-focused employment and workforce programs through community partners
- Advocacy for veteran employment protections – legislative efforts focused on fair employment access for aging and disabled Vietnam-era veterans

## Family and Community Support

- Caregiver and survivor advocacy – support for families impacted by Agent Orange-related illnesses and service-connected conditions
- POW/MIA advocacy programs – ongoing efforts to seek accountability and recognition for missing and unaccounted-for service members
- Chapter-based peer support networks – community engagement focused on reducing isolation among aging Vietnam-era veterans

# American Veterans

Website Link: <https://amvetstmichigan.org>



## Housing & Stability

- Veteran Homelessness Advocacy & Outreach – AMVETS engages nationally and locally in advocacy and awareness efforts related to veteran homelessness, including participation in Stand Downs and community resource events
- Referral and navigation support – assists veterans in connecting with VA and state housing programs through AMVETS posts and service representatives

## Health & Wellness

- VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) participation – AMVETS supports hospitalized and recovering veterans through volunteer engagement at VA facilities
- AMVETS Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse (AADAA) – education and prevention initiatives addressing substance-use impacts within veteran communities

## Education and Employment

- AMVETS National Service Foundation Scholarship Program – education assistance for veterans, active duty, Guard/Reserve members, and eligible family members
- AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary Career Scholarships (Michigan) – department-level scholarships supporting career training and non-traditional education paths

## Family and Community Support

- Military Funeral Honors support – AMVETS assists with coordination and ceremonial honors for eligible veterans
- Community-based peer support and veterans fellowship – local AMVETS posts provide connection, engagement, and mutual support for veterans of all eras

# The Marine Corps League

Website Link: <https://www.michiganmarines.org>



## Education and Employment

- Scholarship and leadership recognition programs – Michigan MCL supports select scholarships and leadership awards (e.g., LtGen Lejeune Leadership Award, Delta Dental Scholarship) administered through the Department and affiliated foundations
- Support for transitioning Marines (Marine for Life) – detachments assist Marines and families informally during transition through mentoring, peer support, and connection to Marine Corps partner organizations

## Family and Community Support

- Funeral honors, honor guards, and color guards – one of the League's primary missions in Michigan, providing ceremonial support at Marine funerals, memorials, and civic events
- **Toys for Tots support across Michigan** – detachments actively assist Marine Corps Reserve units with toy collection and distribution efforts statewide
- Community and youth engagement – support for programs such as Young Marines, Eagle Scout recognition, parades, and patriotic observances through local detachments

# Military Order of the Purple Heart

Website Link: <https://www.purpleheart.org>



Combat-wounded veterans only – Membership is limited to service members who were wounded or killed in action and awarded the Purple Heart medal. MOPH is unique among VSOs in serving this specific population

## **Family and Community Support**

- Gold Star and survivor advocacy – MOPH includes surviving families of purple-heart recipients in remembrance, ceremonial activities, and advocacy efforts.
- Community support through Auxiliaries – Family members often engage through the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary, which complements member services with outreach and VA support.
- Purple Heart Trail (Michigan) – One of MOPH Michigan's most visible contributions:
  - Designation of Purple Heart cities, counties, universities, and roadways
  - Ongoing expansion across Michigan communities
- Memorials and remembrance events – Active role in Purple Heart Day (August 7), memorial gardens, and ceremonial observances statewide.

## **Health & Wellness**

- VA Voluntary Services (VAVS) participation – MOPH Michigan participates in VA-recognized volunteer activities, including:
  - Hospital visitation
  - Providing hygiene items and comfort supplies
  - Recreational support for hospitalized veterans
  - These services are frequently supported by the MOPH Auxiliary in coordination with VA facilities.
- Rehabilitation advocacy – The organization advocates broadly for medical care, rehabilitation, and long-term support for combat-wounded veterans.



## Education and Employment

- Officer and ROTC engagement – Michigan MOAA chapters support leadership development through ROTC engagement, commissioning recognition, and professional mentorship activities
- Surviving spouse and career transition support (informational) – chapters provide peer support and benefit-navigation education rather than direct employment services

## Family and Community Support

- **Legislative advocacy through the Michigan Commanders Group (MCG)** – MOAA Michigan participates alongside other congressionally chartered VSOs to influence state-level veteran legislation
- Education and awareness for officers and families – chapters provide briefings, newsletters, and advocacy tools to help members engage policymakers effectively

# Women's Army Corps Veteran Associations

Website Link: <https://www.armywomen.org>



Women who served in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) and the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

Membership also extends to women who served in the U.S. Army after WAC integration, through its modern alignment as Army Women United. WACVA focuses exclusively on Army women, not all women veterans.

## WAAC Information:

- The Women's Army Corps Veterans Association – Army Women United (WACVA-AWU) is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
  - Michigan maintains organized representation through the Michigan Council of Chapters, including Wolverine Chapter 67, based in the Detroit area
  - WACVA is a Congressionally Chartered Veterans Service Organization
- 
- WACVA provides peer support and community for women veterans, particularly:
    - WWII- and Vietnam-era Army women
  - Older women veterans often underrepresented in mainstream VSOs
  - Emphasizes visibility of women veterans, reinforcing women's identity as veterans within their communities.

# Native American Indian Veterans

Website Link: <https://www.naivets.org>



## Who They Serve:

- American Indian / Alaska Native veterans of all eras and branches.
- Members typically maintain tribal affiliation and are often connected to tribal governments or Native veteran councils.
- NAIV is the only Congressionally Chartered VSO dedicated specifically to Native American veterans.

## Commemoration & Public Recognition

- Native American Veterans Day (Michigan):
  - October 11 designated by Governor Gretchen Whitmer in 2024
  - Recognizes more than 2,500 Native veterans living in Michigan [michigan.gov], [indianz.com]
- Participation in:
  - Pow wows honoring veterans
  - Color guards and eagle staff ceremonies
  - State and national Native veteran commemorations
  - Strong cultural focus on honor, warrior tradition, and remembrance statewide.

# Catholic War Veterans CWV

Website Link: <https://www.thecwv.org>



Catholic War Veterans provides faith-based fellowship, ceremonial support, and community involvement for veterans, participating in statewide advocacy through the Michigan Commanders Group rather than direct service delivery.

## **Family and Community Support**

- Faith-based fellowship and pastoral support – CWV provides a Catholic-centered environment for veterans and families focused on spiritual support, fellowship, and mutual aid
- Ceremonial, memorial, and patriotic services – participation in funerals, memorial Masses, patriotic observances, and community events honoring veterans' service
- Legislative advocacy through the Michigan Commanders Group – CWV participates collectively with other congressionally chartered VSOs on veteran-related legislation rather than operating a standalone advocacy program

# Jewish War Veterans

Website Link: <https://www.jwv-mi.org>



## Education and Employment

- Post-secondary scholarships (Michigan-specific) – JWV Department of Michigan provides scholarships to Michigan Jewish residents who are active-duty service members, veterans, or direct descendants of veterans through affiliated scholarship efforts
- Educational outreach and historical education – JWV Michigan places strong emphasis on educating the public about the contributions of Jewish Americans to U.S. military service

## Family and Community Support

- Advocacy for veterans' services and benefits – JWV Michigan advocates for improved veterans' clinics, hospitals, veterans homes, and Michigan veteran-friendly legislation
- Cemetery and memorial stewardship – JWV leads efforts to identify graves of Jewish veterans, place flags, and maintain veteran plots in Jewish cemeteries across Michigan
- Ceremonial and patriotic participation – Active involvement in Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, parades, and community commemorations
- Legislative advocacy through the Michigan Commanders Group – JWV Department of Michigan is a formal member of the Michigan Commanders Group and participates in collective state-level veteran advocacy rather than operating independently

# Thank you for Attending



# Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity

Gerald Merrell & Leo Arellano



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# Veterans' Employment Services Program Overview

## Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG)

Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity  
Employment & Training



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
**LABOR & ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY**

**EMPLOYMENT  
& TRAINING**

# Veterans' Employment Services

- ❑ Our team of military veterans is dedicated to creating new futures for eligible veterans and their spouses. By prioritizing their care through the Michigan Works! network, VES provides one-on-one career services designed to reduce or eliminate barriers into the workforce.
- ❑ Veterans' Employment Services offers program-specific services through Veterans' Career Advisors (VCAs) and Veterans' Employment Representatives (VERs) with eligibility requirements as defined by federal law.
- ❑ Veterans' Employment Services also helps employers fill their workforce needs with job-seeking veterans

# Veterans' Career Advisors

What role do they play in assisting veterans?

- ❑ Work directly with veterans, their spouses and eligible persons who have significant barriers to employment. Referred to as individualized career services. These include:
  - Comprehensive assessment interviews
  - Career guidance services
  - Individual Employment Plans
  - Staff-assisted job search activities
  - Cover Letter and Resume Development
  - Labor Market Information
  - Case management
  - Outreach services





# Veterans' Employment Representative

Veterans' Employment Representatives: How do they help veterans?

- Perform a wide array of services, specifically relating to employer outreach
- Promote the advantages of hiring veterans to employers, employer associations and business groups
- Advocate for all veterans
- Conduct employer outreach
- Plan and participate in job and career fairs
- Coordinate with unions, apprenticeship programs and businesses to promote and secure employment and training opportunities for veterans
- Coordinate and participate with other business outreach efforts
- Encourage the hiring of disabled veterans
- Engage in advocacy efforts to increase employment opportunities for veterans



# Veterans' Employment Services LVER Map

Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER) perform a wide range of duties on behalf of veterans, specifically relating to employer outreach. They're assigned duties which promote the advantages of hiring veterans to employers, employer associations, and business groups. They advocate for all veterans served by the Michigan Works! Agencies with business, industry and other community-based organizations by participating in appropriate activities.

Region 1



Region 2



Region 3



Region 4



**James Grose**

Southeast Michigan LVER  
517-285-8909

**Paul Salcepuedes**

Detroit Metro LVER  
517-243-8166

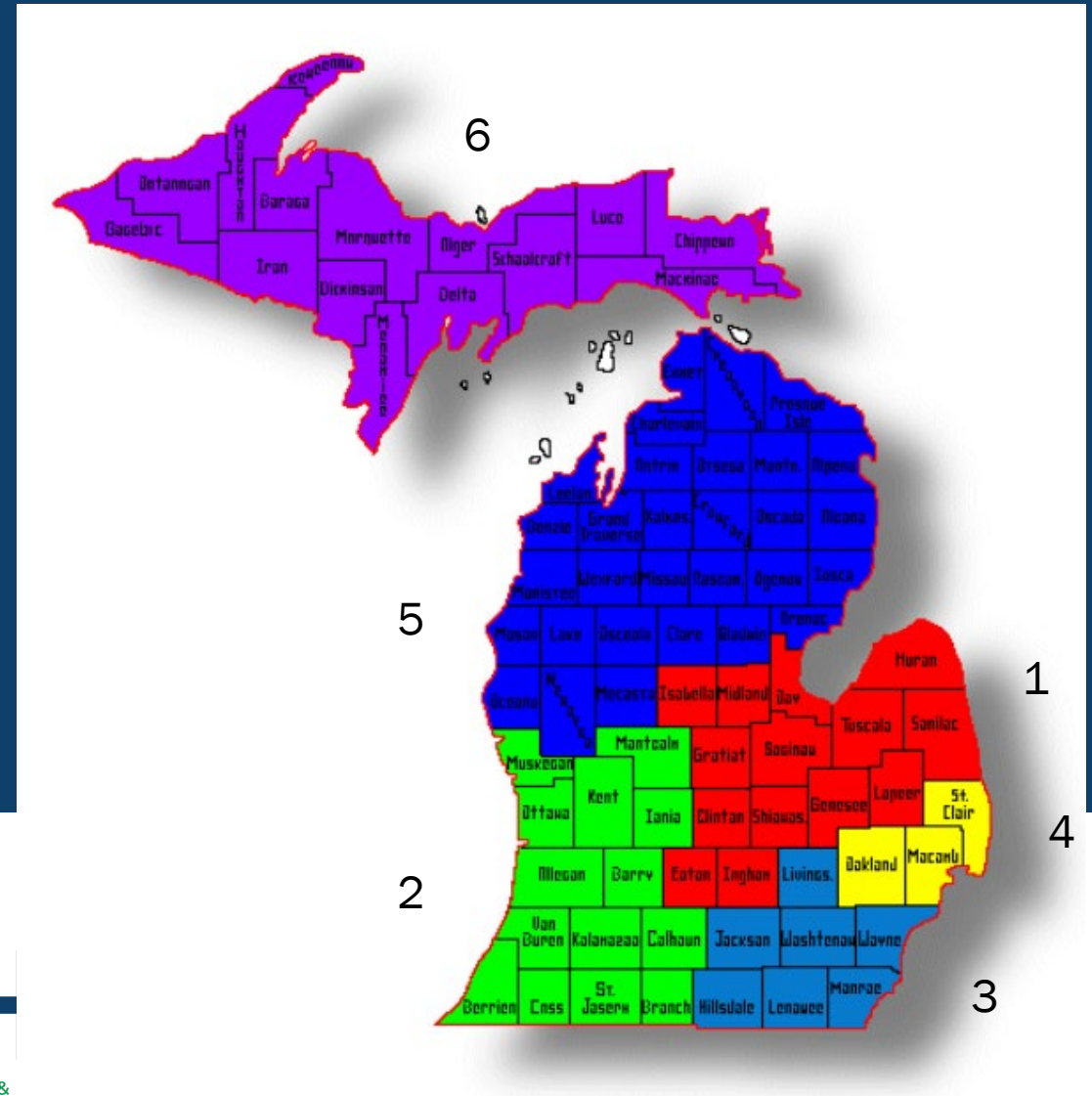
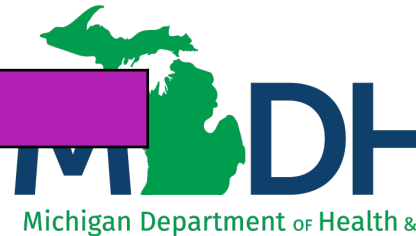
Region 5



**Pat Muoio**

Northern Michigan LVER  
231-350-9177

Region 6





**Always remember, we are here!**

# **Regenerative Agriculture Veterans Employment (RAVE) Program**

VFW National Home

Jerred Johnson & Laura Lonsbery



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# VFW National Home

Regenerative Agriculture and Veteran Education Program  
(RAVE) Program



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# RAVE Program

Formerly VRAD Program (Veteran Regenerative Agriculture Demonstration Farm) is an innovative initiative designed to support military veterans transitioning into careers in agriculture, agribusiness, and entrepreneurship.



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# RAVE Integrates

- Agricultural Training



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# RAVE Integrates

- Experiential Learning



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# RAVE Integrates

- Business Development



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# RAVE Integrates

- Wrap around supportive services



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# Giving Back



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# RAVE Farmstand



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# In the media

- VFW National Home Facebook Page and Blog
- Michigan Department of Agriculture (VRAD Farm) Facebook and Magazine
  - [Michigan Agriculture 2026 - Farm Flavor](#)
- Gov. Whitmer's 2025 Earth Day Facebook Posting
- MVTF Facebook?



# Contact Information

Laura Lonsbery

[Llonsbery@vfwnationalhome.org](mailto:Llonsbery@vfwnationalhome.org)

517-663-7913



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# Closing Comments

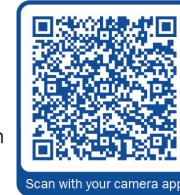


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# New State of Michigan Veteran Benefits Webpage & Cards



- Michigan has benefits available for service members, veterans and their dependents that support financial stability, health, education and quality of life.
- **Get connected.** Call the Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center at 1-800-MICH-VET.



Scan with your camera app

Visit [Michigan.gov/VeteranBenefits](https://Michigan.gov/VeteranBenefits)

Visit [Michigan.gov/VeteranBenefits](https://Michigan.gov/VeteranBenefits) or scan the QR code.



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**Thank you!**



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# MICHIGAN VETERANS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT '26

Please tag your event photos and social posts **#MIVetSummit**



# Michigan Veterans Trust Fund

Lindell Holm, MVTF Director

Erik Napieralski, Partnership Analyst



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# Establishment of MVTF

In 1946, the Michigan Legislature allocated \$50M to the trust fund corpus. The interest and earnings of the corpus fund the grants and operations of the MVTF.

- Constitutional protections established in 1996
- Current value of corpus at \$80M

The MVTF has approved more than 650,000 emergency grants and distributed more than \$130 million in grants.



# MVTF Eligibility Expansion

**When Enacted:** Limited to WWII veterans & dependents

**Eligibility Expansion:** Eligibility since expanded to include

- WW I, Indian Wars, Mexican War, Spanish-American War, Korean War, Vietnam War
- \*All wartime era veterans

and

- \**Peacetime veterans with Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal*

***NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF THE CORPUS SINCE 1946!***



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# Board of Trustees

- Membership
- Seven-member board, appointed by the Governor
- Members include representatives of DAV, VFW, AL, plus one other Congressionally Chartered Veteran Service Organization & three independent members
- Must be eligible for the MVTF

Paul McIvor, Chair (Army/VFW)

Rodney Loonsfoot, Vice-Chair (Marines/NAIV)

Greg Spight (Army/AL)

Gerald Gorski (Navy/DAV)

Ray Lopez (Marines/Ind)

John Gardner (Air Force/Ind)

Kimberly Napoleon (Army/Ind)



# MVTF Board of Trustees Authority & Duties

***Spending Authority***- Sole constitutional authority over Trust Fund expenditures

- CONSTITUTION OF MICHIGAN OF 1963; § 37 Michigan Veterans' Trust Fund “...an expenditure or transfer of a trust fund asset, interest, or earnings may be made only upon the authorization of a majority of the members of the Michigan veterans' trust fund board of trustees.”

***Policy-Making Authority*** – BoT is a state-level policy-making board

- VETERANS TRUST FUND; Act 9 of 1946; 35.604 Board of trustees; powers and duties. “Sec. 4. The board of trustees shall be a policy-making body, on the state level...”

***Review Applications & Arbitrate Appeals*** - Meet monthly to conduct reviews/hear appeals for the Emergency Grant Program



# Mission of the Assistance Programs

To assist **wartime and 65+ Peacetime era veterans** who are experiencing a **temporary financial emergency** or hardship caused by an **unforeseen situation**



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# Emergent Need Defined

## Must Meet All 3 Key Criteria

### #1 *Unforeseen*

- Outside of reasonable expectations

### #2 *Temporary*

- Meaning “a definable endpoint is in sight”

### #3 *Resolve*

- *Applicant will be able to maintain their financial needs once assisted*



# Types of Assistance

## Local Committee

- -Made up of eligible veterans
- -Authority to approve up to \$3,500
- -Applicant has the right to appeal

### Monthly Home Bills

- Rent, mortgage, utilities

### Home Repairs

- Health and safety not upgrades

### Auto Repairs

- Auto needed for work
- Not routine maintenance items

### Medical

- Non routine medical care. i.e., tooth extraction, dentures
- Durable Medical Equipment i.e., ramp, glasses, etc.



# Examples of Ineligible Expenses

- Personal or business income taxes
- Costs associated with civil or criminal proceedings/charges/infractions
- Credit card bills or any other bills for products or services already received
- Spousal/Child support payments
- Legal fees (exception for court fees related to eviction and foreclosure)
- Down payments or closing costs for vehicle or home purchase
- Home repairs or housing bills not related to a primary homestead residence
- Responsibility Fees or Restitutions
- Medical bills not currently resulting in denial of service or income garnishment
- Cable TV bills not part of a subscription package that includes internet service
- Auto registration or driver's license fee
- Utility bills over \$3,500
- Automotive requests over \$5,000
- Housing requests over \$25,000
- Medical/Dental requests over \$5,000



# Eligibility Requirements for Emergency Grant Application

- Michigan Resident
  - *Honorable or General Under Honorable Conditions* discharge
  - Meet one of the following criteria:
    - a. 180 days active duty during a period of war
      - Last wartime period discharge applies
      - Initial training/Active duty for training does not count towards the requirement for Reserve and National Guard Members.
    - b. Less than 180 days active duty with one day of wartime service and a separation for reason of medical/mental disability incurred in line of duty
    - c. 180 days active duty with award of Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or Navy/Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal
- OR**
- d. An un-remarried spouse or dependent child of a veteran who meets the eligibility requirements above



# 65+ Peacetime Emergency Grants

Program to meet the needs of peacetime era veterans that are 65 and older

- Must meet the following criteria
  - At least 65 years of age in the current year
  - Served on active duty in the military during peacetime (180 days)
    - Same restrictions regarding active duty for training for Reserve and NG members apply
  - Discharged under honorable conditions
  - Surviving spouses of eligible veterans may apply
- Application requests are limited to utilities and shelter (including home repairs) assistance.



# 5 Year History

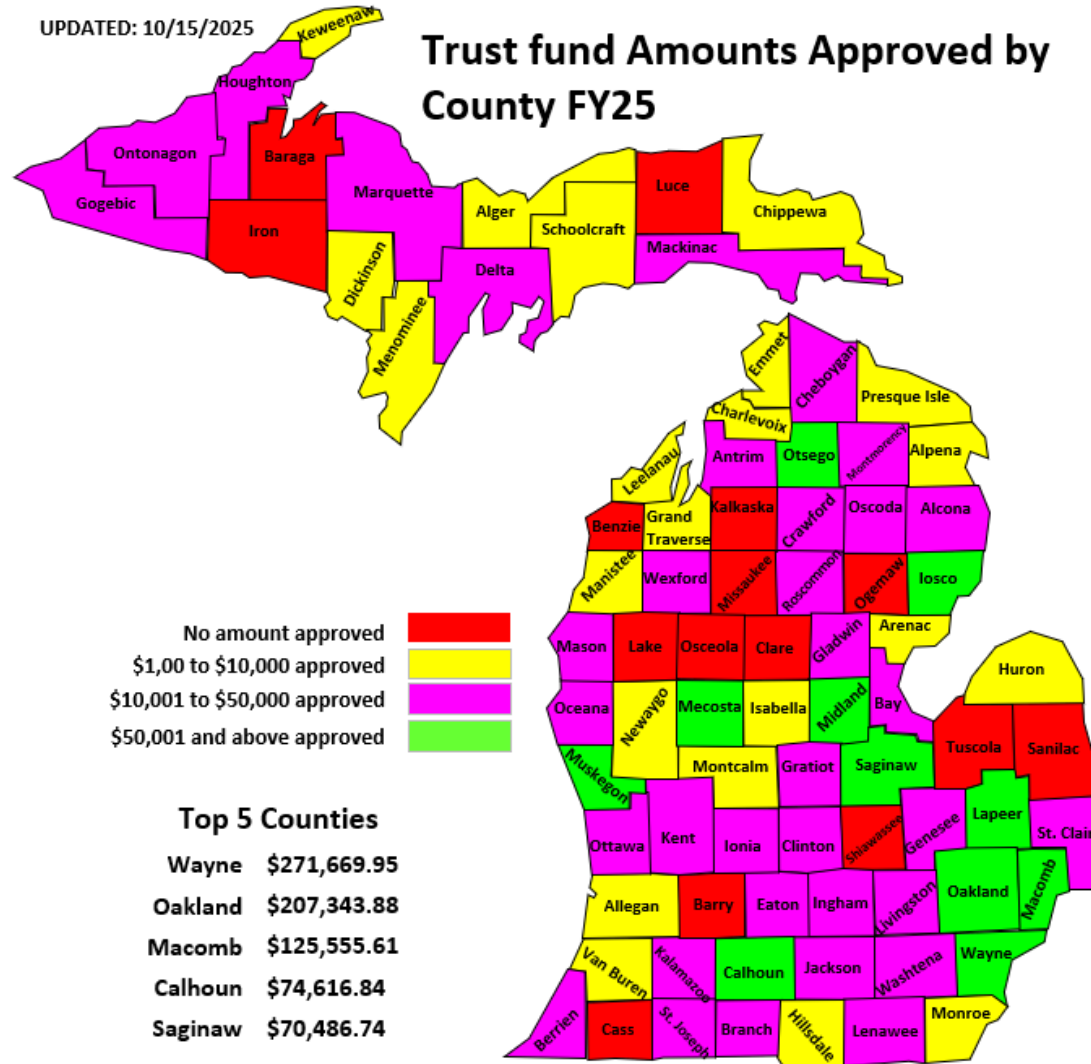
EMERGENCY GRANT PROGRAM 5-YEAR COMPARISON					
	Applications Total	Approved	% Approved (Withdrawn applications not included)	Amount Requested	Grants Distributed
FY 2020-21	760	426	74%	\$2,177,095	\$1,303,008
FY 2021-22	1,298	482	79%	\$2,656,635	\$1,513,467
FY 2022-23	1,495	592	76%	\$2,752,766	\$1,515,538
FY 2023-24	857	541	78%	\$3,748,902	\$1,763,835
FY 2024-25	911	557	78%	\$4,467,646	\$2,017,443





UPDATED: 10/15/2025

# Trust fund Amounts Approved by County FY25



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# Partnerships

- Habitat for Humanity
  - Provide funding for projects
  - Streamlined application process
- VFW National Home
  - Regenerative Agriculture Veterans Education (RAVE) Program



# Greenpath Financial Wellness

The MVTF partners with GreenPath to provide a dedicated phone line and website for veterans to access educational resources and trained financial counselors for help to achieve and maintain financial wellness.

## Get Out of Debt, Pay Bills on Time and Help Reduce Financial Stress

MVRSC will connect the veteran to a GreenPath financial expert who will provide personalized financial coaching to help with:

- Personal and family budgeting
- Housing counseling (Avoiding bankruptcy, foreclosure, and repossession)
- Student loan debt counseling (may involve an additional fee)
- Credit report coaching – how to read it and improve their credit score
- Debt management plans to repay their debt in FULL (NOT debt settlement)
  - This service involves a monthly fee NOT covered by the MVTF

GreenPath number

**(866) 256-8352**



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# Questions



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# Pine Rest

Josh Haney



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# Habitat for Humanity

Michael DeLarosa



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# HOMES OF THE BRAVE PARTNERSHIP



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# Year 1: Operation Prep Phase

**Community by Community.**

**County by County.**

**Partner by Partner.**



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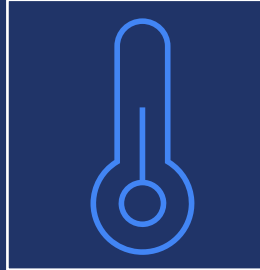


## Benefits

- VA housing grants
- Ratings & Healthcare

## Performance

- High utility costs
- Inefficient systems



## Health

- Unsafe steps or ramps
- Mold or moisture problems

## Safety

- Leaking roof
- Failing floor or foundation



Most housing **instability** starts small

Then the risks **stack**



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And Michigan feels it



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# 12th

Largest Veteran population  
in the U.S.



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# Who are Michigan Veterans

Source: Housing Assistance Council (2024), ACS 2019–2023.



**50%**

**are 65 and older**

Aging in homes built before accessibility standards.



**37%**

**served in Vietnam**

Many are long-term homeowners hoping to age in place.



**~22%**

**enrolled in VA benefits**

Millions in earned support remain unclaimed.



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# 3 in 4

Veteran households working with Habitat **are not enrolled** with VA



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# Michigan Veteran Housing Today

Source: Housing Assistance Council (2024), ACS 2019–2023.



## Veteran Homeowners

**82%**

Among the highest ownership rates in the U.S.



## Aging Homes, Growing Needs

**~70,000**

Homes needing repair or accessibility improvements



## Less home equity cushion

**\$180,000**

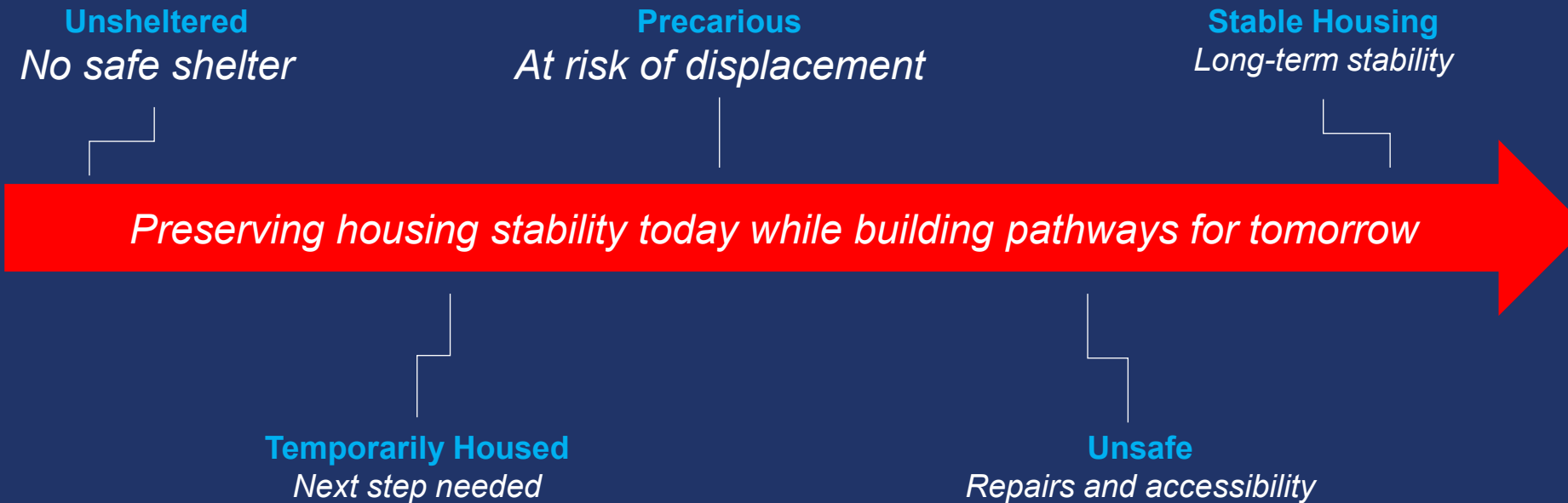
Median Veteran home value below state average



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# Every Veteran Household Starts Somewhere

From housing crisis to long-term stability



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**Designed to meet Veterans households  
before crisis becomes displacement**



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# Who HBP Is Designed to Serve

Built to serve the broader military-connected community

Families of the Fallen  
Surviving Spouses  
Dependent Children  
Veterans  
National Guard & Reserve



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**Designed for the homes Veterans live in**

**Real Veteran and Military-connected households homes**

**Owner-Occupied**

**Primary residence focus**

**Manufactured and mobile homes included**



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Designed to **reduce friction**, not add it



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# A Partnership, not a program

HFHM connects the system: shared standards, statewide coordination, and funding alignment



## Veteran & Military Households

Consent  
Choice  
Shared decision-making



## Local Partners

Habitat Affiliates  
Contractors  
Local capacity



## Support Partners

Veteran Service Organizations  
Nonprofits  
Public Agencies



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# How the Partnership Works

**One** mission. **Four** coordinated steps.



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# Step 1

A clear front door for **Veteran** and **Military-connected** households



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# Step 1: Start Here

A clear front door for Veteran households



## Eligibility

- 1. Military Service
- 2. Low – Moderate Income



## Risk

- 1. Dwelling Safety
- 2. Occupant Health
- 3. Home Performance



## Stability

- 1. VA Benefits
- 2. VA Healthcare
- 3. Housing costs



# Step 2

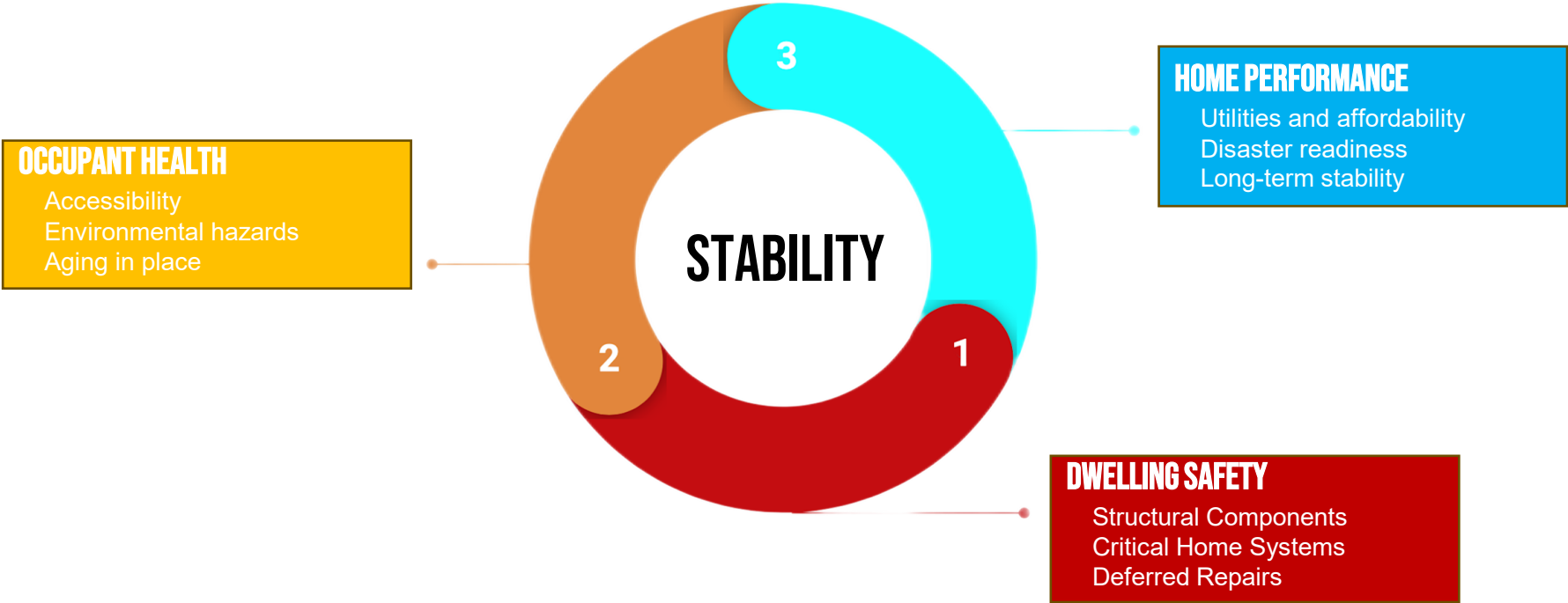
A whole-home view of what is at risk



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# Step 2: See the Home

Start with safety. Protect health. Strengthen stability.



# Step 3

Cover and Align the Support



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# STEP 3: Align the support

The right resources, in the right order



## Federal

- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Housing & Urban Development
- US Department of Agriculture



## State

- Michigan Veterans Trust Fund
- Department of Human Health Services
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority



## Community

- Counties Agencies
- Community foundations
- Local nonprofits



## Philanthropic

- Foundation support
- Corporate partners
- Donor support



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# Michigan Veterans Trust Fund



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# Step 4

Complete the work



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Built to catch **risk** early  
and coordinate support **before crisis**



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# What changes for veteran & military-connected households

From need to action, with less friction.

**Clear steps and expectations**

**Consent, choice, dignity**

**Faster path from need → decision → action**

**Long-term stability supports included**



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# We're looking for partners

There is more than one way to help

## Government and VSOs

- Refer households
- Share community needs
- Help unlock benefits

## Businesses and Contractors

- Expand delivery capacity
- Fill local gaps
- Support specialized scopes

## Foundations and Institutions

- Fund gaps
- Strengthen coordination
- Help scale what works



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# Help us finish the mission at home

HBP Year 1: Operation Prep Phase

Community by community.

County by county.

Partner by partner.



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# LET'S START A CONVERSATION

SEE WHERE YOU FIT

Set up a conversation  
about **partnership**,  
**referrals, donations**, or  
**service delivery**



[HOMESOFTHEBRAVE@HABITATMICHIGAN.ORG](mailto:HOMESOFTHEBRAVE@HABITATMICHIGAN.ORG)



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# HOMES OF THE BRAVE PARTNERSHIP



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# Break



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# West Michigan Benefits

Brian Fogg



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# Key Organization & Services

- **West Michigan Veterans Coalition (WMVC)**  
WMVC supports veterans, service members, and their families across 13 counties in West Michigan, including Allegan, Kent, Muskegon, and Ottawa. Services include:
- **Military Family Assistance Fund:** Emergency financial aid for housing, utilities, critical repairs, and unexpected expenses.
- **Share-a-Meal Program:** Food assistance for veterans and families experiencing food insecurity.
- **Transportation Program:** Free rides for medical appointments, job interviews, and essential errands.



# Key Organization & Services Continued

- **Financial Assistance:** Help with bus passes, fuel cards, medical co-pays, dental and eye exams, and other essential expenses.
- **Veterans Healthcare Facilities:** Battle Creek VAMC, Wyoming CBOC, Benton Harbor CBOC, Muskegon CBOC
- **Vet Center Grand Rapids, Volunteers of America,**
- **Michigan Veterans Home at Grand Rapids,** State run facility, providing long term and short-term housing, rehabilitation.
- **Veterans claims service,** Battle Creek VAMC, Wyoming CBOC, Muskegon CBOC, and at County Veteran Services throughout the region.



# Summary

Veterans in West Michigan have access to a network of nonprofit and coalition-based programs offering **financial aid, food, transportation, housing support, healthcare assistance, and educational scholarships**. These organizations work collaboratively to ensure that veterans and their families receive the resources they need, and they welcome volunteers and donations to expand their impact



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# Hero's Corner – Kentwood, MI

MISSION STATEMENT: Hero's Corner is dedicated to bringing our community "A place where Veterans feel at home" We serve our hero's by joining together to create a sober drop in stress-free help zone on a weekly basis. Promoting inclusion, diversity, continued support and social fellowship amongst veterans from all branches and their families.

[Herocornergrandrapids.org](http://Herocornergrandrapids.org)



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## **Shero's Corner**

Sheros Corner is a program inclusively for women veterans. We created a safe and inclusive space where female veterans can share their unique experiences, find camaraderie, and seek solace in a community that understands their journey. We are committed to providing female veterans with the resources and support they need to empower female veterans through mentorship, education, advocacy, and community-building initiatives.



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**Meet Up Mondays  
6-7pm**

Join other FEMALE Veterans for  
Networking, Upcoming Events  
New Ideas & Resources  
**MEALS PROVIDED**  
\*\* RSVP for Childcare

**\*\* Zoom Information Sent by Request!**

Hero's Corner Grand Rapids  
4809 Eastern Ave SE, Kentwood MI 49508  
616-635-2768 Office

**HERO'S & SHERO'S CORNER**

**Free Bread on  
Tuesdays**



**Every Tuesday  
after 12:00pm**

4809 Eastern Ave SE, Kentwood, MI 49508  
616-635-2768 Office  
connect@heroscornergrandrapids.org  
www.heroscornergrandrapids.org  
Hero's Corner Grand Rapids.org



**HERO'S & SHERO'S CORNER**



**FREE CHICKEN  
THURSDAYS**

**Between 12:00-6:00pm**



4809 Eastern Ave SE, Kentwood, MI 49508  
616-635-2768 Office  
connect@heroscornergrandrapids.org  
www.heroscornergrandrapids.org  
Hero's Corner Grand Rapids

\*\* Donated from [Chick-fil-A](#)



**Hero's Corner  
Recovery Meeting**

**Thursday  
4 - 5pm**



4809 EASTERN AVE SE, KENTWOOD, MI 49508  
616-635-2768 OFFICE  
CONNECT@HEROSCORNERRANDRAPIDS.ORG  
WWW.HEROSCORNERRANDRAPIDS.ORG

HEROS CORNER GRAND RAPIDS/SHERO'S CORNER

**HERO'S & SHERO'S CORNER**



**C.A.S.S  
Clean And  
Sober Support**

BUILDING A DRUG AND ALCOHOL  
FREE SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

**FRIDAY NIGHT  
Time: 7-10pm**



**FOOD \$\$**

**Fun Times**



4809 Eastern Ave SE, Kentwood, MI 49508  
616-635-2768 Office  
connect@heroscornergrandrapids.org  
www.heroscornergrandrapids.org  
Hero's Corner Grand Rapids



**WELCOME!**

**BIBLE  
STUDY**

• EVERY  
Wednesday •  
• 12PM NOON •  
• HERO'S CORNER  
4809 Eastern Ave SE  
Kentwood, MI •



**\*Free Admission\***

**HERO'S SHERO'S CORNER**  
A PLACE VETERANS FEEL AT HOME  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

**CAR & Bike SHOW**

**FOOD  
MUSIC  
VENDORS  
TROPHIES**

**MAY 23rd  
11 AM TO 4 PM**

4809 Eastern Ave SE,  
Kentwood, MI 49508

Phone: 616-635-2768  
connect@heroscornergrandrapids.org  
FB: Hero's Corner Grand Rapids |  
Hero's Corner Event | SHERO's corner  
Grand Rapids

**HERO'S SHERO'S CORNER**  
A PLACE VETERANS FEEL AT HOME  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

**\$ 25 Per Parking Spot**

**1st Annual FLEA Market**

**2 MAY 2026  
11 AM - 4 PM**

4809 Eastern Ave SE, Kentwood, MI 49508 |  
Phone: 616-635-2768 or 269-967-2267

**HERO'S SHERO'S CORNER**  
A PLACE VETERANS FEEL AT HOME  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

**Saturday  
MAY 9  
12 - 2pm**

**MOM  
BRUNCH**

**FEATURING  
MUSIC & VIBE**

4809 Eastern Ave SE, Kentwood, MI 49508  
616.635.2768 Office  
connect@heroscornergrandrapids.org  
www.heroscornergrandrapids.org  
FB: Hero's Corner Grand Rapids/Hero Corner Event  
FB: SHERO's Corner Grand Rapids

# **West Michigan Veterans Assistance Program**

Thornell Billingslea



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**Thank you!**



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