

Minority Veterans

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The term "Veterans who are minorities" means Veterans who are identified as African Americans, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Native American/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian. As a minority Servicemember or Veteran, you may qualify for a wide range of benefits offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. We encourage you to learn about available resources and programs and to apply for the benefits you may have earned.

Minority Veterans may be eligible for a wide-variety of benefits available to all U.S. military Veterans. VA benefits include [disability compensation](#), [pension](#), [education and training](#), [health care](#), [home loans](#), [insurance](#), [vocational rehabilitation and employment](#), and [burial](#). See our [Veterans](#) page for an overview of the benefits available to all Veterans.

The main goal for Minority Veterans Program Coordinators is to increase the awareness of issues pertaining to minority Veterans. This includes developing long-term strategies to encourage eligible minority Veterans to participate in USDVA benefit programs. Additionally, MVPCs advocate on behalf of minority Veterans and recommend ways to improve the delivery of services within USDVA facilities.

Each VA Regional Office has a Minority Veterans Outreach Coordinator who is a direct point of contact for you to learn more about what benefits you qualify for, assist you with applying for those benefits, and refer you to other organizations and resources that will help you meet your needs. Learn more about [Minority Veterans Program Coordinators](#).

Center for Minority Veterans

The Center for Minority Veterans (CMV) was established by [Public Law 103-446](#), in 1994. Title 38, United States Code (USC), Section 317 reflects the current responsibilities of the CMV. The Center Director serves as principal advisor to the Secretary on the adoption and implementation of policies and programs affecting minority Veterans. CMV serves as an advocate for minority Veterans by conducting outreach activities to promote the awareness and use of VA benefits and services.

The Center's activities include:

- Makes recommendations to the Secretary, the Under Secretary for Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and other Department officials for the establishment or improvement of programs in the Department for which Veterans who are minorities are eligible.
- Promotes the use of benefits authorized by this title by Veterans who are minorities and the conduct of outreach activities to Veterans who are minorities, in conjunction with outreach activities carried out under chapter 77 of this title [38 USCS §§ 7701 etseq.].

- Disseminates information and serve as a resource center for the exchange of information regarding innovative and successful programs which improve the services available to Veterans who are minorities.
- Conducts and sponsors appropriate social and demographic research on the needs of Veterans who are minorities and the extent to which programs authorized under this title meet the needs of those Veterans, without regard to any law concerning the collection of information from the public.
- Analyzes and evaluates complaints made by or on behalf of Veterans who are minorities about the adequacy and timeliness of services provided by the Department and advise the appropriate official of the Department of the results of such analysis or evaluation.
- Consults with, and provides assistance and information to, officials responsible for administering Federal, State, local, and private programs that assist Veterans, to encourage those officials to adopt policies which promote the use of those programs by Veterans who are minorities.
- Advises the Secretary when laws or policies have the effect of discouraging the use of benefits by Veterans who are minorities.
- Publicizes the results of medical research which are of particular significance to Veterans who are minorities.
- Advises the Secretary and other appropriate officials on the effectiveness of the Department's efforts to accomplish the goals of section 492B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 289a-2) with respect to the inclusion of minorities in clinical research and on particular health conditions affecting the health of members of minority groups which should be studied as part of the Department's medical research program and promote cooperation between the Department and other sponsors of medical research of potential benefit to Veterans who are minorities.
- Provides support and administrative services to the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans provided for under section 544 of this title.
- Performs such other duties consistent with this section as the Secretary shall prescribe.

Find a USDVA Facility

Use the [facility locator](#) or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Contact Your County Veterans Service Office

The County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) are locally-funded agencies established to assist Veterans and their families in obtaining benefits and services accrued through military service. These County Veteran Service Offices promote the interest and welfare of Veterans, their dependents, and their survivors by enhancing their quality of life through counseling, education, benefits assistance, and advocacy. They connect Veterans to their benefits by assisting in their interactions with the USDVA.

- Visit the [CalVet](#) website for more information, **OR**
- Find the [CVSO](#) closest to you, **OR**

CalVet strongly recommends you to work with the CVSO nearest you. Your CVSO can guide you through the benefits and services available as well as help connect you with other local resources.

eBenefits

Apply for compensation, pension, housing, education and training, healthcare, insurance, and burial benefits through www.ebenefits.va.gov .

Questions/Comments

Email us at CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov

Sources

<https://www.va.gov/centerforminorityVeterans/about/index.asp>