VETERANS VOICE

Brown County Department of Veterans Services **November 2020**

305 E. Walnut Street Green Bay, WI 54301
920-448-4450
Website: www.browncountywi.gov/departments/veterans-services **E-Mail:** Bc.veterans@browncountywi.gov
Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/BrownCVSO

County Veterans Service Office is Open by Phone and E-Mail Services

The Brown County Veterans Service Office is OPEN by phone and e-mail to serve Veterans, dependents, and Survivors of Veterans.

The office has the capability to conduct phone appointments, file VA benefits electronically, answer benefit questions, or connect those we serve with community resources. You can apply for your benefits from the convenience of your home or other location.

We have been and continue to function at 100%, the only difference is we are not meeting with veterans and family member in person.

So feel free to reach out to us today at 920-448-4450 or email us at bc.veterans@browncountywi.gov.

All in-person appointments and walk-in appointments have been suspended, until further notice, in order to do our part to assist with minimizing the spread of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) to our Veteran community.

The Program of Comprehensive Assistance For Family Caregivers

Make sure to REVIEW eligibility requirements for each program.

The VA recognizes the important role of family caregivers in supporting the health and wellness of Veterans. You may be eligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) if you and the Veteran you're caring for meet all of the requirements listed below.

Eligibility requirements for the family caregiver:
You must be at least 18 years old and at least one of these must be true for you.
You must be either:
- A spouse, son, daughter, parent, stepfamily member, or extended family member of the Veteran or
- Someone who lives full-time with the Veteran, or is willing to do so if designated as a family caregiver.

Eligibility requirements for the Veteran:
All of these must be true for the Veteran you're caring for.
The Veteran must have a VA disability rating (individual or combined) of 70% or higher.
The Veteran's service-connected disabilities must have been caused or made worse by their active-duty service during one of these periods of time:
- On or after September 11, 2001 or
- On or before May 7, 1975

And the Veteran must:
- Have been discharged from the U.S. military or have a date of medical discharge, and
- Need at least 6 months of continuous, in-person personal care services.

Personal care services are services the eligible Veteran needs from another person. They include care or assistance to support the Veteran's:
- Health and well-being
- Everyday personal needs (like feeding, bathing and dressing)
- Safety, protection or instruction in the daily living environment

The Veteran can appoint **1 Primary Family Caregiver** (the main caregiver), and up to **2 Secondary Family Caregivers** (people who serve as backup support to the primary caregiver when needed).

Eligible Primary and Secondary Family Caregivers can receive:
- Caregiver education and training
- Mental health counseling
- Travel, lodging, and financial assistance when traveling with the Veteran to receive care.

Eligible Primary Family Caregivers may also receive:
- A monthly stipend (payment)

- Access to health care benefits through the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) - if you don't already qualify for care or services under another health care plan.
- At least 30 days per year of respite care for the Veteran.

The caregiver and the Veteran will need to apply together and participate in an application process to determine if you're eligible for the PCAFC. Both will need to sign and date the application and answer all questions for your role.
You can apply online: Apply for caregiver assistance [at https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/apply](https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/apply)

Note: Each time the Veteran wants to add a new family caregiver, the Veteran and the new caregiver will need to submit a new application.

Health Care for Spouses and Dependents
Make sure to REVIEW eligibility requirements for each program.

If you're the spouse, surviving spouse, or dependent child, of a Veteran or service member, you may qualify for health care benefits. In certain cases, you may also qualify for health care benefits due to a disability related to your Veteran's service.

TRICARE
If you're the family member of an active duty, retired, or deceased service member, National Guard soldier, Reservist, or Medal of Honor recipient, you may qualify for the TRICARE program. TRICARE provides comprehensive health coverage, including health plans, prescription medicines, dental plans, and programs for people with special needs. The Department of Defense's Defense Health Agency manages this program.
Find out if you qualify for TRICARE and how to apply at
https://www.va.gov/VADODHEALTH/TRICARE.asp

The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA)
Are you the current or surviving spouse or child of a Veteran with disabilities or a service member who died in the line of duty? If you don't qualify for TRICARE, you may be able to get health insurance through CHAMPVA. Through this program, the VA covers the cost of some of your health care services and supplies. This is called cost sharing.
Find out if you qualify for CHAMPVA and how to apply at https://www.va.gov/health-care/family-caregiver-benefits/champva

The Camp Lejeune Family Member Program
Did you live at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune or Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) in North Carolina with an active-duty Veteran who was your spouse of parent? If you lived in either of these places for at least 30 cumulative days from August 1953 through December 1987, you may have had contact with contaminants in the drinking water there. Scientific and medical evidence has shown an association between exposure to the contaminants and the development of certain diseases later on. If you now have one of the related conditions, you may qualify for health care benefits through VA.
Find out if you qualify for this program and how to apply at
https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/camp-lejeune-water-contamination/

The Spina Bifida Health Care Benefits Program
If you're the biological child of a Korean or Vietnam War Veteran and you've been diagnosed with spina bifida, you may qualify for disability benefits, including health care benefits.
Find out if you qualify and how to apply at
https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/dependents/spinabifida/index.asp

The Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Health Care Benefits Program
If you're the biological child of a woman Vietnam War Veteran and you've been diagnosed with certain birth defects, you may qualify for VA health care benefits. These benefits may help pay for services needed to treat your covered birth defect and related medical conditions.
Find out if you qualify and how to apply at
https://www.benefits.gov/benefit/569

Pharmacy benefits
If you qualify for CHAMPVA or the Spina Bifida or Children of Women Vietnam Veterans programs, you can get prescription benefits through your local pharmacy or through the VA Meds by Mail program.
Learn more about pharmacy benefits at
https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/dependents/pharmacy/index.asp

Brown County World War II Veterans,
I have been writing a series in The Business News on businesses/nonprofits that had World War II veterans either start the endeavor or help grow it. It has been very well-read. It started in July and I plan to conclude it with our Christmas edition dated 12/21.

It has been an amazing journey, but all of the business owners I have featured have passed away in the last few years.

I'd like to do something on Christmas 1941 vs. Christmas 1945 and I'm just wondering if there are two or three World War II vets that have their health that could maybe talk about their service some, but also talk about what it was like when everything changed with Dec. 7, 1941, and what Christmas was like for them in 1945.

This has been my honor to do this series, and I hope to conclude it with something special. Please email or call me with your stories.

Many thanks!
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JOB LOSS INSURANCE HELP

Have you been laid off or lost wages due to COVID-19? You may be eligible for different health insurance options such as BadgerCare Plus or Marketplace health insurance. Call 920-882-6420 or United Way's 2-1-1 for free assistance.

We always recommend that you annually review your VA Benefits due to on-going changes in benefits.

Please call or e-mail us today:

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Website

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