



VETERANS RESOURCE GUIDE

2008



**Citrus, Levy and Marion County
Resources for Veterans.**

(Updated: 09/18/2008)

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WELCOME

The three Citrus, Levy and Marion County Workforce offices and the Veteran's Staff invite you to make use of the variety of professional services we provide to veteran job applicants. Each Workforce office provides the veteran with the tools necessary to conduct an effective job search by providing strategic job information, market analysis, and skill assessment tools. The veteran staff is also available to answer any veteran question or assist the veteran with the job searching process. The information contained herein is only meant as an overview of the veteran services. For more information, we **encourage** all Citrus, Levy and Marion County Veterans to meet with a veteran representative and discuss the full range of services that are available. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this guide and any changes in information should be reported. We encourage all veterans to use the following information wisely. Assistance or additional information is always available at one of our Workforce offices or via the telephone. Internet access is also available at the Workforce offices.

The names and phone numbers of your Local Veterans Employment Reps (LVER) and Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Reps (DVOP) are as follows:

Bob Weil	Lead LVER CLM Workforce (352) 732-1700 x 1106
Barry Elliot	LVER Ocala 14 th Street Office (352) 732-1700 x 1107
Russ Lake	DVOP Ocala 14 th Street Office (352) 732-1700 x 1146
John McCoy	DVOP Inverness (352) 637-2223 x 3210
The Workforce office in Citrus County (352) 637-2223	
The Workforce office in Levy County is (352) 486-5580	

PROOF OF VETERAN STATUS

The Workforce offices and many other agencies providing services **require** proof of veteran status. If you are claiming veteran preference for Federal, State, County or Municipal positions, the **only** documentation acceptable for this is the DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. If you do not have your DD Form 214, copy 4 (member copy), please ask one of the veteran's staff to provide you with a request form SF180, or go on line to this link to order one

www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/index.html

WHAT THE WORKFORCE OFFICE CAN DO FOR YOU

1. REGISTRATION

When you initially report to a Workforce office, one of our associates will instruct you on the registration process. You will be asked to enter your employment history, job skills, salary and personal desires into the statewide employment information system.

The website is: www.employflorida.com/

As local employers list jobs, veteran applicant files are searched to find qualified veterans. If a qualified veteran matches the employer's desired skills, a veteran representative will make every attempt to contact the veteran. Additionally, a veteran representative is available for job assistance, counseling, and any other veteran related issue.

2. SEARCHING FOR WORK ON THE VIRTUAL JOB LINK

The Workforce office website, www.employflorida.com/ gives you career guidance, online job searches, resume and letter-writing assistance; training and education program information, detailed information on specific employers and industries and access to state & national job searches. This site encompasses all areas of job seeking, labor market research, and benefits and social services. Additionally, this site allows a user to

search for employment and create a basic resume, it will also allow users to assess their job skills & investigate other career fields.

3. **USING WORKFORCE OFFICES CENTER RESOURCES**

All Workforce offices offer Resource Rooms with video and print libraries on many employment topics, computers with a resume maker, scanners, fax machines and a dedicated staff to assist you in using these resources. We also offer a weekly schedule of job skill workshops designed to help you obtain employment. There are also on site job recruitment fairs that are held. Please ask a veterans representative for a list of scheduled workshops or employment recruiting events. These resources are available **free of charge**

4. **FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT**

To learn of Federal Job openings, the U.S. Government's official site for jobs and employment information is USA Jobs. You can access this site through the web.

Website: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

Postal Service:

Employment information is available by Internet using www.usps.gov and clicking on the jobs link.

5. **STATE of FLORIDA EMPLOYMENT**

If you are seeking employment with the State of Florida, please visit the following website: <https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com/>. Nearly all the applications can be created, stored and completed online. Others positions may require an application be submitted through the mail. **All veterans claiming veterans preference must mail or fax the requested supporting documents to the contact person listed.** Application assistance is always available at the Workforce office offices.

6. **COUNTY EMPLOYMENT**

a. **Marion County:** To search for Marion County employment, access the web site at www.marioncountyfl.org or call the job-line number at (352) 671-8888 for current positions.

b. **Marion County Schools:** The Marion County School Board has a separate personnel office. Veterans applying for a position with the school board will be required to pay for fingerprints and a background investigation if they are selected for hire. The School Board Website is at www.marion.k12.fl.us/ The School Board Job-line number is (352) 620-7789

c. **Citrus County:** To search for Citrus County employment, access the web site at www.bocc.citrus.fl.us or call the job-line at (352) 527-5370 for current positions.

d. **Citrus County Schools:** The Citrus County School Boards has a separate personnel office. Veterans applying for a position with the school may be required to pay for fingerprints and a background investigation as part of the application. The School Board Website is at www.citrus.k12.fl.us

e. **Levy County:** To search for Levy County employment, access the web site at www.levycounty.org or call (352) 486-5219 for more information.

f. **Levy County Schools:** The Levy County School Boards has a separate personnel office. Veterans applying for a position with the school may be required to pay for fingerprints and a background investigation as part of the application. The School Board Website is at www.levy.k12.fl.us

7. **MUNICIPAL EMPLOYMENT**

- a. **Ocala:** To search for Ocala city employment, access their web site at <http://www.ocalafi.org/employment.aspx> or call the 24 hour-a-day job-line at (352) 351-6663.
- b. **ALL Cities:** visit www.myflorida.com/includes/cities.html for a list of all cities in the state that have their own web site.
A few of the remaining municipalities in tri-county area, listed below, will need to be contacted directly to inquire about employment.

- Crystal River
- Inverness
- Bronson
- Chiefland
- Belleview
- Williston

8. **VETERAN RE-EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS**

Under the Veterans' RE-EMPLOYMENT Rights (VRR) law, a person who left a civilian job to enter active duty in the Armed Forces, either voluntarily or involuntarily, may be entitled to return to the job after discharge or release from active duty.

Four basic eligibility criteria must be met:

- a. The person must have been employed in an "other than temporary" civilian job.
- b. The person must have left the civilian job for the purpose of entering military service.
- c. The person must not remain on active duty longer than four years, unless the period beyond four years is at the request and for the convenience of the federal government and the military discharge carries this statement.
- d. The person must be discharged or released from active duty under honorable conditions.

If you have questions or need assistance, contact the U.S. Department of Labor's director for Veterans Employment and Training (DVET) for Florida. Your veteran representative can provide contact assistance.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

1. **WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA)**

A program administered by the Workforce office which provides training opportunities to economically disadvantaged individuals, those with serious employment barriers or handicaps, and those who qualify under the Economically Disadvantaged Workers Assistance Act (EDWAA). This training can be either classroom or on-the-job training and is designed to lead to permanent employment. Please contact your local Workforce offices for more information.

Website: <http://www.afscme.org/pol-leg/wiahome.htm>

2. **TROOPS TO TEACHERS PROGRAM**

If you have a Bachelor's or Associates Degree and were released from active duty on or after Oct 1, 1990 or, you were a civilian employee of DOD terminated by the defense draw down or base closure, you have an opportunity to begin a new career in public education. To learn more call the Program Manager for Troops to Teachers in Florida (888) 358-7667 or visit there website.

Website: <http://www.proudtoserveagain.com>

Email: Troopstoteachers@fldoe.org

3. **Spouses to Teachers (STT) program**

Spouses to Teachers (STT) is proudly represented in **California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Louisiana**. The Colorado office services spouses in **Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah** as part of the Spouses to Teachers Program. This program is designed to assess the needs of spouses relative to becoming a teacher. The program provides support to eligible spouses in their pursuit of K-12 teaching positions. Limited funding will be provided to eligible spouses to reimburse the cost of tests required for state teacher licensure/certification. Maximum available financial assistance is \$600.00 per person. See website for more information.

Contact in Florida: Mr. Ron Burton or Mr. Chad Myrick
325 W. Gaines Street, Rm 124, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400
(850) 245-0543 or 888-358-7667

Email: troopstoteachers@fldoe.org

Websites: www.teachinflorida.com or www.spousestoteachers.com/pages/8/index.htm

4. **Vets Retooling and Refueling Program**

This program is sponsored and paid for by the CLM Workforce Connection Board of Directions and is aimed at all Veterans who have been discharged within the last few years. However all Veterans are encouraged to contact a Veterans Rep at the local One-Stop office in Marion, Levy or Citrus Counties for more info.

It is a 2 and 1/2 day seminar held at CFCC which provides assessment information for the veteran, resume writing skills, interviewing training, networking and other valuable information that will help a Veteran who is seeking a career and/or direction.

If you are a newly discharged Veteran, and are thinking about going into any training program, or are seeking information on the some of the best ways to find employment this program could be just what you are looking for.

Contact Bob Weil at (352) 732-1700 x 1106 or email at: bweil@clmworkforce.com

4a. some of the items covered in our Seminar include discussing the following:

Ten Steps to Getting Hired by Uncle Sam

Job seekers interested in working for federal government can be turned off by the federal application process, but if you persist, you'll discover some similarities to looking for a job in the private sector.

Follow these 10 steps to make your government job search more manageable – just be sure you know what you may need to do differently to land a job with Uncle Sam

Step 1: Network

Similarities: In both sectors, networking initially can be more about gathering info, contacts and leads than getting hired.

Differences: First-timers may feel stumped when trying to locate federal employees to contact. Ask around and persist. Look in your neighborhood, church, ski club, etc

Step 2: Become Familiar with the Hiring Process

Similarities: Whether you're going private or fed, you'll need to figure out who to work for, relevant job titles, appropriate salaries and where to apply.

Differences: Understanding the hiring process for a federal job requires a little more research on your part, because job postings often seem to be written in each agency's own unique language. You can learn more about federal agencies at FirstGov, as well as about obscure job titles at USAJOBS' Explore Your Career Opportunities page.

Step 3: Look for Openings

Similarities: Today's savvy seekers look to the Internet for the latest job postings.

Differences: Rather than searching numerous company Web sites and job boards, aspiring federal employees have the benefit of one-stop shopping: USAJOBS, a Web site of the US Office of Personnel Management.

Step 4: Assess Your Soft Skills

Similarities: Soft skills are your personal qualities, like being flexible, resourceful, resilient, etc. Determine your soft skills and then play them up to stand out.

Differences: In the public sector, soft skills are called core competencies (CCs). When HR reviews applications, the CCs are heavily weighed in determining who deserves an interview. Agencies occasionally reconsider the CCs they're seeking, and some feature them on their Web sites.

Step 5: Analyze Keywords in Announcements

Similarities: To strengthen your resume, it's wise to scrutinize listings for the language of the job as well as required skills.

Differences: Keywords tend to be in the Duties, Qualifications and KSA (Knowledge, Skills and Abilities) sections of federal announcements. Sixty percent of federal announcements call for electronic resumes, and more will soon. E-resumes, scored by computer, make including keywords essential.

Step 6: Create Your Resume

Similarities: Time invested in constructing a strong resume is a good investment.

Differences: Federal resumes demand more detail and run three to four pages. The feds often ask you to include social security numbers, addresses and phone numbers of supervisors from the past 10 years. Look for specific

Step 7: Write Your KSAs and Cover Letter

Similarities: Identifying your hard skills, those you've developed at work or school, is a vital part of job searching. You should highlight these skills in cover letters and during interviews.

Differences: When applying for federal jobs, you need to submit KSA statements along with your resume and cover letter. KSAs are all about hard skills.

Step 8: Apply for Jobs

Similarities: Finding an actual job you want to go for can be both exhilarating and nerve-racking.

Differences: Application processes vary in surprising ways from agency to agency. This is where some frustrated first-timers drop out. Stay sane by reading the vacancy announcements very carefully.

Step 9: Follow Up on Your Application

Similarities: Phoning in to check on your application's status can strengthen your position in the game.

Differences: Follow-up is even more critical in government. One reason is that announcements are sometimes dumped and reissued. If you don't call, you'd never know to reapply. Leave a strong voice-mail message 30 days after submitting your application package.

Step 10: Interview for the Job

Similarities: In both worlds, success occurs when strong preparation and opportunity meet. So prepare well.

Differences: In the federal market, an invitation for an interview usually appears in writing, via a letter or email. Your interview could be in person, before a panel or over the phone. Situational interviews (i.e., how would you handle this?) are popular.

5. Electrical Apprenticeship Program

A four year program designed so that a participant may become a trained, licensed, journeyman electrician. It is divided into two major parts:

1. A paid, on-the-job training with a local electric company, where the student gains practical knowledge of the trade. The on-the-job work experience is a typical 40-hour work week at an entry level wage.
2. Classroom instruction, where the student learns the technical aspects of the trade. The classroom instruction is held two evenings per week at the community education building, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

ENROLLMENT IS LIMITED.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

1. A regular high school diploma or GED
2. A valid Florida drivers license
3. At least 18 years of age
4. A resume of work experience
5. Hired and sponsored by FAEC employer
6. Availability of space in the program
7. Meets the basic skills requirement of the 9th grade level on Form A of the TABE tests in math, reading, and language.
8. Applicant required to be drug free

Date of program entry:

August each year

Additional detailed information may be obtained from

Mr. Gary Crandon at (352) 873-8400

Fax (352) 873-3881

6. Other Apprenticeship Programs

1. At any given time there are a number of employers in the area who offer various Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship programs, contact your local Workforce office's DVOP or LVER for more information.

COUNSELING SERVICES

- 1. (352) 732-4444. The Marion County United Way lists substance abuse counseling centers, food/pantry locations, victim rights information, and other social/community assistance groups and action agencies.

Website: www.uwmc.org

211 Citrus

1. **211 Citrus** responds to people in crisis and/or needing information in Citrus County. To connect with 211 Citrus telephonically **DIAL 211** (normal landline only) or (877) 700-8177 for cell phones. Residents of Citrus County, Yankeetown, Inglis and Dunnellon can access the service.

2. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) COUNSELING

The VA provides treatment for PTSD. Characteristic symptoms involve re-experiencing the traumatic event, a numb response to the external world, reduced involvement with society and a variety of depressive symptoms. If you feel you have experienced any of these symptoms, please contact the VA Mental Health Clinic at (352) 376-1611 or 1-800-324-8387, the VA help line can also be used at 1-800-827-1000

Gainesville Vet Center

<http://www1.va.gov/directory/guide/facility.asp?ID=5593>

105 NW 75th Street, Suite #2

Gainesville, FL 32607

Phone: 352-331-1408

Fax: 352-331-1962

The goal of the Vet Center Program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life.

Parents, spouses and children of armed forces personnel who died in the service of their country and family members of Reservists & National Guardsmen who died while on duty are offered bereavement counseling at the Vet Center.

[Vet Center Services](#) are free to eligible veterans and families.

Post Traumatic Stress is a set of reactions to a trauma such as war, which can be experienced by almost anyone. With the passage of time, when feelings or issues related to the trauma are not dealt with but are suppressed by the individual it sometimes becomes a disorder (PTSD). This can result in problems of readjusting to community life. A delayed stress reaction may surface after many years.

Suicide Prevention Lifeline

Veterans in crisis may also contact the [Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline has been enhanced to provide a new service for veterans in crisis. Veterans will be connected immediately to VA suicide prevention and mental health service professionals by calling 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and pressing 1.

3. VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELING

Voc Rehab seeks to determine whether a veteran's disability causes a serious employment handicap and whether a vocational goal is feasible for the veteran. To be eligible for Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Vocational Rehab (Chapter 31), the veteran must have a service-connected disability, which materially contributes to an employment handicap.

To be eligible for State of Florida Vocational Rehab, an individual must have a disability that is functionally limiting in terms of employment. If you feel you have a disability, which is a barrier to employment, please see a veteran representative for further assistance or contact VR&E by visiting their website.

Website: www.va.gov and click on their link.

Department of Veterans Affairs

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E)

Traveler's Building – Gateway Center

1000 Legion Place, Suite 1500

Orlando, FL 32801-1058

1-407-648-6133

Fax 1-407-648-6908

Directions to (VR&E)

Eastbound on I-4

Take exit 84 (old exit 42), Lake Ivanhoe, get immediately in the left lane and make a left onto Legion Place (before going under I-4). Get in right-hand lane and make a right at the first light, Garland Avenue, and then make first right into the parking lot.

Westbound on I-4

Take exit 84 (old exit 42) to lake Ivanhoe, bear right and go under I-4, which will put you on Legion Place. Stay in right lane and make a right at the first light onto Garland Avenue, and then make first right into the parking lot.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

1. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Partial wage replacement provided by law, through the Unemployment Insurance program, to eligible workers who lose their job through no fault of their own, to tide them over during an interim period of unemployment. You may obtain information for Unemployment by phone at 1-800-204-2418 or online.

Website: www.fluidnow.com

2. SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

Helps eligible participants, through federally administered programs, in the forms of retirement insurance, survivor's insurance, disability insurance, supplemental security insurance, or hospitalization and medical care insurance.

Website: <http://www.ssa.gov/>

U.S. Social Security Administration Federal Bldg
207 NW 2nd Street
Ocala, FL 34475
(352) 629-1850
1-800-772-1213

3. SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANCE

State administered program to provide eligible persons with public assistance payments.

Department of Children and Families
601 NE 22nd Ave
Ocala, FL 34470-9113
(866) 762-2237

4. SOCIAL SERVICES for AGING

Provides eligible participants with employment and training opportunities. The Senior Aide Program has income requirements. Please see one of the offices listed below:

Aging and Adult Services	1-352-742-6140
Senior Helpline	1-352-326-3540
Council on Aging	1-352-326-3644
Experience Works	1-352-732-1700 x 1151

5. WORKER'S COMPENSATION AND DISABILITY BENEFITS

Payments made to covered workers, through the Workmen's Compensation program, for medical expenses incurred in relation to an injury sustained on the job and as compensation during a period of unemployment resulting from the injury.

Florida State Department of Insurance
District Office: Orlando, FL
(407) 245-0758 or 1-800-342-1741

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

1. COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Usually provides services to persons who qualify for public assistance and eligible low income persons (over 65, blind, disabled, members of families with dependent children)

Marion County Health Dept.....1-352-629-0137
Bellevue office.....1-352-245-7520
Riddick office.....1-352-591-2470
Blind Services.....1-800-443-0908
Disability Hotline.....1-888-838-2253
FL Dept. of Children&Families..1-352-620-3000 (Marion Co.)
DCF Levy County.....1-352-493-6050
DCF Citrus County.....1 352 860-5000

Marion also provides information regarding medical assistance.
Contact the representatives to get more information at either (352) 732-4444 or go to their website at www.uwmc.org

2. DEPARTMENT of VETERANS AFFAIRS OUTPATIENT CLINICS

Provides priority medical care to veterans with service-connected disabilities. Provides medical to all other veterans with non-service connected disabilities that meet income guidelines on a space available basis. Please contact the clinic to determine your eligibility.

Website <http://www.va.gov/>

VA Outpatient Clinic - State of Florida
Veterans Administration Community Based Outpatient Clinic
Vets Helping Vets Program
1515 E. Silver Springs Blvd.
Cascades – Suite 115
1-352-401-9788

VA Outpatient Clinic – State of Florida
Veterans Administration Community Based Outpatient Clinic
Laurel Lake Professional Park
1950 Laurel Manor Drive, Bldg. 240
The Villages, FL 32162
1-352-205-8900

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic – State of Florida
Lecanto Clinic
2804 West Marc Knighton Court,
Lecanto, FL 34461
1-352-746-8000

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Provides civil legal assistance to persons who are without adequate means to employ other counsel and meet income eligibility guidelines.

Fla. Bar Call-A-Lawyer.....1-850-561-1200
Fla. Bar Lawyer Referral.....1-800-342-8011
Seniors Vs. Crime.....854-5950 x 27
Mid-Florida Legal Services..629-0105

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

1. FOOD STAMPS

Normally given to eligible low-income families and individuals to assist with purchase of food items from grocery stores.

Food Stamp Offices

1-866-762-2237

2. FOOD ASSISTANCE

A supply of basic food items provided during periods of emergency. Some of these agencies will require that you show proof you have registered for food stamps to be eligible to receive this assistance.

Brother's Keeper	1-352-622-3846
Food Stamps	1-352-620-3000
Interfaith Emergency Svcs	1-352-629-8868
Salvation Army	1-352-732-8326
Meals on Wheels	1-352-620-3501
Shores Skills Bank	1-352-687-4848
Soul Harvest WW&P Ministries (Serves Silver Springs Shores)	1-352-680-1240
SHARE	1-800-536-3379
On the Go	1-352-732-6178

3. SHELTER ASSISTANCE

Temporary short term housing during periods of emergency

Rape Crisis/Domestic Violence Center	1-352-622-8495
Salvation Army	1-352-732-8326
Interfaith Emergency Services (Women and Children)	1-352-629-8868
Pine Grove Apts. (Homeless Veterans shelter/program)	1-352-373-1213 (in Gainesville)

4. CLOTHING ASSISTANCE

Provides a supply of basic clothing items based on need. If you are in need of clothing for a job interview or a job, please see a veteran's representative for a referral.

Annie Johnson Center	1-352-489-8021
Brother's Keeper	1-352-622-3346
Extreme Solutions	1-352-629-2301
Interfaith Emergency Svcs	1-352-629-8868
Salvation Army	1-352-732-8326
SHARE	1-800-536-3379

5. **EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Limited financial assistance, bus tokens or gas vouchers may be available from these organizations depending on the situation, the needs of the applicant and the available agency resources.

Central FL Community Action Agency 1-352-732-3008

Call 1-352-732-4444 for additional information on emergency financial assistance programs.

7. **List of Companies that might help pay for prescriptions:**

Directory of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Indigent Patient Program

Many American who face economic hardships may not be able to afford the cost of medications that they need every day. Some must make difficult choices between buying food and paying for drugs. The US Senate Special Committee on Aging has compiled the following list of drug manufacturers who make their medications free to those who do not have the means to pay. The Committee recommends that patients' physicians contact the companies for specific information and eligibility determination.

NOTE: Not all the numbers listed are toll free

Abbott Laboratories/Ross Laboratories, Washington DC	800-922-3255
Adria Laboratories, Columbus, OH	614-764-8100
Allergan Prescription Pharmaceuticals	800-347-4500
Amgen, Inc., Washington, DC	800-272-9376
Boehringer Ingleheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc	203-798-4131
Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Mclean, VA	800-736-0003
Burroughs Wellcome, Research Triangle Park, NC	800-722-9294
Ciba-Geigy, Summitt, NJ	908-277-5849
Du Pont Merck P.O. Box 0027 Wilmington, DE 19880	
Genentech, mc, San Francisco, CA	800-879-4747
Glaxo Inc., Research Triangle Park, NC	800-452-9077
Hoffiuian LaRoche, Inc. Nutley, NJ	800-526-6367
ICI/Stuart Pharmaceuticals, Wilmington, DE	302-883-2231
Immunex Corporation.	800-321-4669
Johnson & Johnson (Ortho), Reston, VA	800-447-3437
Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) Piscataway, NJ	908-524-9409
Eli Lilly and Co. Indianapolis, IN	317-276-2950
Marion Merrell Dow Inc., Kansas, MO	816-966-4250
Merck Sharpe and Dohme, West Point, PA	215-540-8600
Norwich Eaton Pharmaceuticals	800-448-4878
Parke-Davis, Morris Plains, NJ	201-540-2000
Pfizer, Inc. (Roerig)	800-869-9979
Sandoz Pharmaceuticals, E Hanover, NJ	201-503-8341
Sanofi Winthrop Pharmaceuticals, New York, NY	212-907-2000
Schering-Plough, Kenflworth, NJ	800 822-7000
G.D.Searle and Co., Skokie, IL	800-542-2526
SmithKjine Beecham, Washington, DC	800-866-6273.
Syntex Labs., Inc.	800-822-8255
Upjohn Co., Kalamazoo, MI	616-323-6004
Wyeth-Ayers Labs, Phila, PA	215-971-5604

Florida's Discount Drug Card Website for seniors

<http://www.floridadiscountdrugcard.com/>

VETERANS IN FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT

(All veterans are advised to visit/call their local veteran's representative regarding preference.)

1. **VETERANS PREFERENCE in FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT**

- a. **5 Point Preference:** Given to honorably discharged veterans who serviced on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States:
- *During World War II (Dec 7, 1941 - Apr 28, 1952)
 - *During the Korean Conflict (April 28, 1952-July 1, 1955)
 - *In a campaign or expedition for which campaigns badge has been authorized, and, if the person enlisted after Sep 8, 1980, served continuously for 24 months.
(Individuals who have incurred a disability in the line of duty which the Department of Veterans Affairs determines is compensable are excluded from this 24 month service requirement).

*For more than 180 consecutive days, any part of which occurred after Jan 31, 1955 and before October 15, 1976. (An initial period of active duty for training under the "six month" Reserve or National Guard programs does not count.)

Note: Under PL 95-454, Oct 13, 1978 (Civil Service Reform Act), retired members of the Armed Forces are no longer considered preference eligible as of Oct 1, 1980, unless they are disabled veterans or retired below the rank of Major or the equivalent.

- b. **Ten Point Preference:** Given to:
- ***Disabled Veterans** - an honorably separated veteran who served on active duty in the Armed Forces at any time, and who:
 - (1) Has a service-connected disability, or
 - (2) Is receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension under laws administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard or Marine Corps. A veteran who has been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action is considered to have a service-connected disability.
 - ***Wives or Husbands, Widows or Widower and Mothers of Veterans** - You may be eligible for a 10-point veteran preference. Please see a veteran's representative for further guidance.

2. **VETERANS READJUSTMENT APPOINTMENTS (VRA)**

The VRA is a special authority by which agencies can, if they wish, appoint an eligible veteran without competition. The candidate does not have to be on a list of eligible's, but must meet the basic qualification requirements for the position. The VRA is a convenient method of appointment for both the agency and the veteran. However, use of the authority is entirely discretionary and no one is entitled to a VRA appointment. VRA appointees initially are hired for a 2-year period. Successful completion of the 2-year VRA appointment leads to a permanent civil service appointment.

a. **Service Requirements:**

You must have served on active duty for a period of more than 180 days which occurred after August 4, 1964, and received other than a dishonorable discharge. Active duty is full-time duty in the Armed Forces, other than active duty for training. You do not need to serve more than 180 days of active duty, if you were discharged or released from active duty because of a service-connected disability.

b. **Time Limit:**

Eligible post-Vietnam era veterans qualify for 10 years after the date of your last discharge or release from active duty or until December 31, 1999, whichever is later. Eligible Vietnam era veterans (those who served on active duty between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975) qualify until 10 years after your last discharge or separation from active duty or until December 31, 1995, whichever is later. Eligible veterans with a service-connected disability of 30% or more have no time limit. If you are selected for a VRA and have less than 15 years of education, you must agree to participate in a training or educational program.

c. **Grade Levels of Jobs That Can Be Filled:**

Agencies can use the VRA authority to fill white-collar positions up through GS-11 and equivalent jobs under other pay systems. Veteran's Readjustment Appointments are in the excepted service. After two years of substantially continuous service under a Veterans Readjustment Appointment, providing your performance has been satisfactory, your appointment shall be converted to the competitive service.

d. **How to Apply:**

You should contact the Federal agency personnel office where you are interested in working to find out about VRA opportunities. Agencies recruit candidates and make VRA appointments directly.

3. NONCOMPETITIVE APPOINTMENTS for 30% or MORE DISABLED VETERANS

Veterans who have a service-connected disability of 30% or more may apply directly to Federal agencies for consideration for noncompetitive temporary appointments. 30%-disabled veterans on a temporary appointment may be converted non-competitively to a career or career-conditional appointment.

4. VETERANS REOPEN ELIGIBILITY

Under certain conditions, veterans can file an application for Federal positions, which are not on the Federal Job Opportunity List and are not open to the acceptance of applications from the public. To be eligible for this eligibility, you must meet one of the following conditions:

- a. Have been awarded the Purple Heart
- b. Have a service-connected disability
- c. Be receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension because of a public statute administered by the Veterans Administration or a military department.
- d. Be entitled to ten point veteran's preference as a widow, widower, spouse or mother of a veteran 100% disabled or rated as unemployable.
- e. Will be discharged from active duty in the armed forces within 120 days or if you have been discharged from active duty in the armed forces, apply within 120 days of discharge.

If you meet one of these conditions and wish to apply for a position, please see your veteran representative.

5. **CIVIL SERVICE PREFERENCE CERTIFICATES**

The Department of Veterans Affairs will issue civil service preference certificates to eligible veterans seeking Government employment. You must have received an honorable discharge or have incurred a service-connected disability during any period of service. Contact your veteran representative for further assistance, or call 1-800-827-1000

VETERANS BENEFITS

The following benefits are but a few of those available to veterans discharged with a discharge under "other than dishonorable" conditions. The surest way to obtain current information on and apply for VA benefits and claims is to contact the nearest VA regional office or a state, county or veteran's organization veteran's affairs officer.

Website: <http://www.va.gov>

1. **VETERANS BENEFITS TIMETABLE**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Benefit</u>
<u>Table</u>	
10 Years	EDUCATION: You may be eligible for educational assistance while you pursue approved training if you participated in either the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP -Chapter 32) or the Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30) while on active duty; or if you had entitlement under the Vietnam Era GI Bill (Chapter 34) remaining on Dec 31, 1989, and were on active duty from Oct 19, 1984 through June 30, 1988, without a break; or were on active duty from Oct 19, 1984, through June 30, 1987 and subsequently entered into the Selected Reserve under a four year enlistment. Call the V.A. at 1-800-827-1000 for all updated education information.
12 Years	VOCATIONAL REHAB: For disabled vets, VA will pay tuition and fees, and the cost of books, tools and other program expenses as well as provide a monthly living allowance. Upon completion of the vocational rehab program, VA will assist in finding employment.
No Time Limit	GI LOANS: VA will guarantee your loan for the purchase of a home, farm, manufactured home, or condominium. The veteran can obtain a mortgage featuring an interest rate usually lower than conventional rates and no down payment.
No Time Limit	DISABILITY COMPENSATION: VA pays compensation for disabilities incurred in or aggravated by military service. Payments are made from date of separation if claim is filed within one year.
No Time Limit	MEDICAL CARE: VA provides a wide range of care benefits, including help for alcoholism and other drug dependency, to veterans with a service-connected disability & no time limit to non service-connected veterans who qualify. Readjustment counseling benefits is available at VA vet centers for veterans with readjustment problems.

90 Days Discharge **DENTAL TREATMENT:** VA provides necessary dental care for veterans who were not provided dental examination and treatment within 180 days of discharge or separation from service. The time limit does not apply to veterans with dental disabilities resulting from combat wounds or service injuries.

120 Days **SGLI:** Servicemen's Group Life Insurance may be converted to VGLI (Veterans Group Life Insurance), a 5 year nonrenewable term policy. At the end of the five-year term, VGLI may be converted to an individual policy with any participating insurance company.

2. **SOME VA BENEFIT SUBJECTS NOT COVERED:**

Pension, Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption, Specially Adapted Homes, Automobiles, Clothing Allowances, Veterans Rated Unemployable, Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), Burial Benefits, Nursing Home Care, Domiciliary Care, Board of Veterans Appeals, Military Medals, Review of Discharges. If you need to know about these, contact your veteran's representative. Or call this toll free number: 800-827-1000

3. **VA WORK STUDY PROGRAM:**

Veterans receiving VA educational benefits and enrolled at least 3/4 time in a college degree, vocational rehabilitation or professional program may "earn while they learn" under this program. Services performed under the VA Work-Study Program must be veteran related in nature. See a veteran representative for further information

4. **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE GOLDEN ACCESS PASSPORTS:**

This is a free lifetime entrance pass for persons who are blind or permanently disabled. It is available to citizens or permanent residents of the United States, regardless of age, who have been determined to be blind or permanently disabled. You may obtain a Golden Access Passport at any entrance fee area by showing proof of medical determined disability and eligibility for receiving benefits under federal law.

The Golden Access Passport admits the pass holder and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle. Where entry is not by private vehicle, the passport admits the pass holder, spouse, children, and parents. The Golden Access Passport also provides a 50% discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as fees for camping, swimming, parking, boat launching, or cave tours. It does not cover or reduce special recreation permit fees or fees charged by concessionaires. To apply for your Golden Access Passport, take a copy of your VA disability letter to any National Park Service entrance fee area.

5. **GUIDELINES FOR FILING CLAIMS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF VA:**

a. Get a State or County Veterans Service Officer (listed in 6, below) or a veteran's service organization to help you fill out your claim. The veteran's service organizations "Service Officers" can be found by calling the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office where they often locate their operations offices or by calling the veterans group itself (see Veteran Service Organizations listing).

b. Do not let anyone charge you for helping fill out your claim. Legally, you cannot pay anyone to represent you in a VA claim matter until you have indicated to the VA regional office in writing that you disagree with its decision and have had your claim rejected by the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

c. Ask for benefits as soon as possible - even if you do not have a formal claim form. A dated, handwritten note is enough to start your claim, and it will establish the earliest date for which the VA will pay benefits if your claim is later approved. The formal application form, VA Form 21-526, should be filed within one year of when the Department of Veterans Affairs sends it to you.

d. Good evidence is the key to winning a claim. Provide your advocate with all medical records, military records and statements from relatives or friends that support your claim.

e. Be consistent and clear in what you tell the VA about your medical condition. Inconsistencies in veterans' statements can be used against them when the VA raters decide whether to approve a claim.

f. Remember that the VA's examining doctors who evaluate your condition in with your claim are not paid to be on your side. They are more like insurance company doctors; their job is to help the VA regional office decide whether you are entitled to benefits. **Be honest, but think first about what you say to the VA doctor.**

g. You can appeal the decision by officials in the regional office to the Board of Veterans Appeals: If they find your illness is not linked to your military service; if the illness is rated as less severe that you think is fair; if you disagree with the date when the VA says it will begin disability payments. If you disagree with the VA's decision, you should promptly file a notice of disagreement with the VA regional office.

6. **COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS (VSO):**

Inform veterans and their dependents of benefits to which they are entitled and assist them in obtaining benefits by filing claims and supporting documents which will justify their claims.

MARION COUNTY

Marion County Veterans Service Office
2528 E. Silver Springs Blvd
Ocala, Fl. 34470-7010
(352) 671-8422 or 8423
Fax (352) 671-8424

Citrus County

Citrus County Veterans Service Office
Veterans Service Officer
2804 West Marc Knighton Court
Suite B 140
Lecanto, FL 34461-8334
(352) 527-5915
Fax (352) 527-5916

Levy County

Levy County Veterans Service Office
Veterans Service Officer
PO Box 310
353 Court St.
Bronson, Fl. 32621
(352) 486-5210
Fax 352-486-3329

VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Website: <http://www.legion.org/>

Post #	Address	City	Phone Number
27	516 NE Sanchez Ave.	Ocala	352-629-5922
58	10730 N. Hwy 41	Dunnellon	352-489-1829
77	VFW 4337 on Rt. 44	Inverness	352-746-5813
91	Trenton Community Center 214 SE 3 rd Ave.	Trenton	352-472-2252
210	Lillian Bryant Center 2200 NW 17 th PI	Ocala	352-732-0409
284	5515 SE 109 th St.	Bellevue	352-245-5832
354	863 Marion Oaks Manor	Ocala	352-245-2611
368	Lotshaw Post 19460 N. Hwy 441	Orange Lake	352-351-9581

Website: <http://www.amvets.org>

Post #	Address	City	Phone Number
1992	31116 Fairview Ave.	Tavares	352-742-8215

Website: <http://www.dav.org/>

Post #	Address	City	Phone Number
85	9892 SE 58 th Ave. (CR-35)	Bellevue	352-245-9080
121	Forest Community Center CR 314A	Lynne	352-625-5473
149	National Guard Armory 900 SW 20 th St	Ocala	352-622-3764
	DAV State Headquarters (Gainesville, FL)		352-331-0945

Website: <http://www.vfw.org/>

Post #	Address	City	Phone Number
2009	N. Clubhse. Rolling Greens		
	1815 W. Gleneagle	Ocala	352-624-2605
4209	4805 NE 36 th Ave	Ocala	352-732-7744
4337	906 Hwy 44 E.	Inverness	352-344-3495
4493	11100 SE Cr-464	Chandler	352-687-4493
4781	9401 SW 110 th Street	Ocala	352-873-4781
4864	10199 N. Citrus Springs Blvd.	Dunnellon	352-465-4864
5511	Masonic Hall SR-121 N	Williston	352-486-6222
7193	Howard Academy	Ocala	
7991	Citrus Springs Comm. Cntr.	Dunnellon	352-489-6654
8083	12966 S. US-441	Bellevue	352-245-8083
8189	8856 Veterans Drive	Homosassa	352-795-5012
8201	Rainbow Lakes Comm. Cntr.	Dunnellon	352-489-1198
8267	Forest Comm. Cntr. CR 314A	Forest Corners	352-236-1538
8689	520 E. Hwy 40 E.	Inglis	352-447-3495
8713	1681 E. Jefferson	Brooksville	352-796-4449
8978	4371 NE 167 th Place	Citra	
10087	2170 Veterans Lane	Beverly Hills	352-527-2522
10091	Marion Oaks Lane CR-484	Ocala	352-245-1686
10111	5521 NE 35 th Street	Silver Springs	352-236-1288
10208	23498 NE CR-314	Salt Springs	352-685-2707
10733	19241 N. US-441	Orange Lake	352-591-4359
11316	112801 NE 139 th Place	Ft. McCoy	352-236-0823

Other Veterans Service Organizations Websites

American Ex-prisoners of War www.axpow.org	(727) 319-7408
MOPH-Military Order of Purple Heart www.purpleheart.org	(727-319-7488
PVA- Paralyzed Veterans of America www.pva.org	(727) 319-7470

Department of Veterans Affairs

Benefits & Assistance (Nationwide Toll Free)	(800) 827-1000
VA Website:	www.va.gov
GI Bill Assistance	(800) GIBILL1 (442-4551)
Small Business Administration Office	(202) 205-6773
U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs	(202) 224-9126
House Committee on Veterans Affairs	(202) 225-3527
Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell	(352) 795-7740

Other numbers of Importance

Army Retired Affairs	(800) 336-4909
Coast Guard Retired Affairs	(800) 772-8724
Marine Corps Retired Affairs	(800) 336-4649
Navy Retired Activities Office	(800) 255-8950
Air Force Retired Affairs	(800) 531-7502
Defense Finance (retired pay)	(800) 321-1080
DEERS Verification	(800) 538-9552
VA Hosp. Gainesville	(352) 376-1611 (Employment x 6009) (Registration x 6726) (TelCare x 4142)
VA Med. Refills	(800) 308-8387 (then follow the prompts)

TRICARE (CHAMPUS) Claims Processors: (Palmetto GBA PO Box 7031 Camden, SC 29020-7031)	(800) 403-3950
TRICARE (Humana Healthcare)	800-444-5445
Tricare Delta Dental	888-838-8737
Army Personnel Records HR (St. Louis, MO)	314-592-0000 x 0621
Enlisted Soldier Records Data Center	317-517-3726
DAV State Headquarters (Gainesville, FL)	352-331-0945

AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING ASSISTANCE IN

CITRUS COUNTY.

United Way of Citrus County
5399 West Gulf To Lake Highway
Lecanto, FL 34461-8531
Tel: (352) 527-8894
Fax: (352) 527-8896
Email: citrusunitedway@unitedway.org

Hunger and Homeless Coalition of Citrus County, Inc.
P.O. Box 447
Homosassa Springs, FL
Tele: 1 – 352 – 628 – H E L P
Fax: 1- 352 – 628 – 4357
Email: hccocc@peoplepc.com

American Red Cross
7449 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy
Crystal River, FL 34429
(352) 564-8455

Disaster relief, single family fires, Armed forces emergency services, and disaster welfare inquiries.

American Cancer Society
140 N. Sportsman Pt.
Inverness, FL
(352) 637-5577

Offers services to cancer patients. Also offers educational programs.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Citrus County
Three locations
(352) 621-9225

Youth guidance educational recreational K-12

Blind Americans
6055N. Carl G. Rose Hwy
Hernando, FL 34442
(352) 637-1739

Services and help programs for visually impaired people of all ages.

CASA (Citrus Abuse Shelter Association)
107 E. MLK Blvd.
Inverness, FL 34450
(352) 344-8111

Shelter injunctions, Counseling, parenting classes, support, safety planning, and housing assistance for victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse.

Center for Independent Living
Lecanto, FL
(352) 527-8399

Job placement, job coaching, travel, training, brain and spinal injury services, and sign language interpreting.

Childhood Development Services
5641 Gulf to Lake Hwy
Crystal River, FL
(352) 795-2667

Counseling for children and their families at risk of abuse and or neglect, head start program and childcare services for disadvantaged.

Children's Home Society
Ocala, FL
(352) 629-7597

Birth parent counseling, crisis counsel, adoption, assists people with mental and physical handicaps.

Citrus County Transit
(352) 527-7630

Citrus Transportation System
Call 24 hours in advance. Available at no cost for low income households and also Medicaid recipients for medical appointments.

Citrus Hearing Impaired Program Services
105 SE Hwy 19
Crystal River, FL
(352) 795-5000/
TTDY (352) 795-7243

Provides services to hearing and speech impaired individuals. Information and referrals, educational classes and more.

Citrus County Child Centers
One-Day Care Providers
(352) 795-2667

Must call 24 hours prior to appointment
Business hours 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. or See Your Consultant for list of providers

Citrus County Housing Assistance
Lecanto, FL
(352) 527-5377
(352) 527-5388

Deposits for utilities. No interest loans, energy assistance, home repair. 60+ unable to drive emergency care.

Citrus United Basket
210 North Apopka
Inverness, FL
(352) 344-2242

Monday through Friday 10 am-3 p.m.
Food, clothes, shoes, household items and utilities.

Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida
1300 Highway 41 North, Suite A
Inverness, FL 34450
(352) 726-8512

Non-profit law firm provides quality legal assistance to low-income people. Housing issues, consumer, family, taxes, health, public benefits, and elder law.

Community Support Services
2804 Marc Knight Ct
Lecanto, FL 34461
(352) 527-5410

Assistance for citizens.
Senior citizens

Consumer Credit Counseling
1300 Hwy 41 North
Inverness, FL
(352) 637-2227

Budget, credit, debt
counseling

Daystar Life Center
6751 W Gulf to Lake Hwy
Crystal River, FL
(352) 795-8668

One nights lodging,
rental/mortgage,
assistance, utilities, and food.
clothing, emeg. prescriptions

Department of Children and Families
2315 Hwy 41 North
Inverness, FL
(352) 860-5000
(877) 891-6445

Food stamps, TANF, Medicaid
Emergency financial
assistance for housing

Family Resource Center
2435 N. Florida Ave.
Hernando, FL 34442
(352) 344-1001

Parenting support classes,
Holiday food and gift
assistance, clothing, referral
service, food pantry

Florida Low Income Housing Assistance
701 White Blvd
Inverness, FL
(352) 726-1113 or 726-1130

Building new homes for low
income families.

Habitat for Humanity
Crystal River, FL
(352) 563-2744
(352) 351-4663

Home construction for low
income families.

Key Training Center
1344 N. James Page Point
Lecanto, FL 34461
(352) 795-5541

Services for developmentally
disadvantaged adults with
housing and counseling.

Lions Club
3705 S Indiana Terrace
Homosassa, FL
(352) 628-4442 or (352) 628-2461

Assists with eye glasses and
vision aids. Congregate dining
in Homosassa.

Meals on Wheels
206 Washington Ave
Hernando, FL
(352) 726-6350

Delivers meals to homebound persons.

Mid-Florida Community Services
Hwy 44 – Treetops Plaza
Lecanto, FL
(352) 527-3809

Rent, electric, and Rx assistance.
Mobile home repairs if income eligible.

Promise Village
650 N 10th Avenue
Crystal River FL
(352) 795-7887

Help families that have kids in the Citrus County School system find resources for economic, medical, counseling, parenting and other needs.

Salvation Army of Citrus County
3975 W Grover Cleveland Blvd
Homosassa, FL
(352) 621-5532

One nights lodging, food, and financial assistance. Gifts & food through Angel Tree.
Career clothing assistance.

Senior Care Services
1300 S Lecanto Hwy
Lecanto, FL
(352) 527-7640

Meals, household help, errands, multi-purpose senior center, personal and respite services.

The Path of Citrus County
27 S Melbourne St
Beverly Hills
(352) 527-6500/746-6746

Provides a Christian living environment for homeless in Citrus County.

The Sanctuary
(352) 621-3277

Christian faith shelter for adults Self awareness programs

Veterans Relief
8856 W Veterans Dr
Homosassa, FL
(352) 795-5012

Assists veterans with various needs.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services
3635 N. Hwy. 491
Beverly, Hills, FL 34465
(352) 746-7787

Offers a wide variety of services to disabled Floridians that want to work, but physical or mental disabilities are hindering them to secure employment.

Suncoast Second Harvest
(813) 929-0200

Call to find out locations and dates as they vary.

WIC
(352) 795-2261
(352) 527-8490
(352) 726-5222

Assists pregnant women,
children under 5, and nursing
by providing milk, cheese,
cereal and juice.

Housing

Government Subsidized:

Candlewood Court	344-1010
Crystal River Apts.	795-1700
Greenleaf Forest Apts.	795-7793
Gatehouse Apts.	726-6466
Heron Woods	726-1113
Raintree Apts.	726-4330
Ridgeview Apts.	563-1283
Habitat for Humanity	563-2744
County Housing Division	
HUD / Section 8	527-5377

AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING ASSISTANCE IN

LEVY COUNTY.

United Way of North Central Florida

6031 NW 1st Place · Gainesville, FL 32607-2025 Land Line 2-1-1

Cell 352-331-2800 (tel) · 352-331-2111 (fax)

Nature Coast Transit	Bronson	1-352-486-3485
Child Care Resource	Chiefland	1-352-493-6813
Head Start	Bronson	1-352-486-5530
Children's Home Society	Gainesville	1-352-334-0955
Gilchrist Co. Public Health	Trenton	1-352-463-3120
Levy Co. Housing Authority	Bronson	1-352-486-5420
Salvation Army	Gainesville	1-352-376-1743
Child Support Enforcement	State of FL	1-800-622-5437
Levy Co. Public Health Dept	Bronson	1-352-486-4300
	Chiefland	1-352-493-3245
Community Action Agency	Williston	1-352-528-9575
	Gainesville	1-352-373-7667
Medicaid Medipass	Local	1-352-418-5350
	Statewide	1-800-803-3245
Medicaid Options	Change of Physician	1-888-726-3223
Voc Rehab	Chiefland	1-352-493-6722
DCF	Chiefland	1-352-493-6050
Domestic Violence	Statewide	1-800-500-1119
Meridian Behavioral	Bronson	1-352-486-5310
Levy County Job Corps	Local	1-352-732-1700 x 120
	Statewide	1-800-779-1767

e-VETS Now On Line

Internet Portal Links to Veterans' Services Web Sites

Active duty military personnel, veterans, reservists, National Guard members, and their families are now just one click away from hundreds of web sites containing information about programs and services available to them, thanks to a new Internet gateway developed by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Known as the e-VETS Resource Advisor, users can choose from categories such as job search skills and tools, employment listings, career assessment tools, entrepreneurship, federal employment, education and training providers, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, State veterans benefits, military records, veterans service organizations, housing, and financial assistance.

e-VETS allows users to customize their selections by selecting personal categories including whether they are a disabled or military conflict veteran, their branch of service, their sex and/or age, and if they have any barriers to employment. This information allows e-VETS to produce a list of Web site links of specific interest to an individual user.

Website: <http://www.dol.gov/elaws/vets/evets/evets.htm>

War Related Issues

1. **VETERANS OF ENDURING FREEDOM/IRAQI FREEDOM**

Please visit for the following website for more information:

Website: <http://www.vba.va.gov/EFIF/>

2. **POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD) COUNSELING**

The VA provides treatment for PTSD. Characteristic symptoms involve re-experiencing the traumatic event, a numb response to the external world, reduced involvement with society and a variety of depressive symptoms. If you feel you have experienced any of these symptoms, please contact the VA Mental Health Hospital, Gainesville, FL.

Non VA Website: <http://www.patiencepress.com/>

3. **AGENT ORANGE**

Vietnam Veterans with questions or concerns about Agent Orange contact VA's Gulf War/Agent Orange Helpline. The national toll-free telephone number is 800-749-8387. A great deal of information is also available on their website.

Website: <http://www.va.gov/agentorange>.

Vietnam veterans (plus veterans who served in Korea in 1968 or 1969), and other veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides elsewhere during the testing, transporting or spraying of herbicides for military purposes and who are concerned about possible long-term health effects of Agent Orange exposure – contact the nearest VA medical center and request an Agent Orange Registry health examination. More than 300,000 Vietnam veterans have already participated in this program.

Vietnam veterans who need medical treatment for conditions that may be related to their exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides used in Vietnam – contact the nearest VA medical center for eligibility information and possible medical treatment.

Vietnam veterans with illnesses that they believe were incurred or aggravated by exposure to Agent Orange or other aspects of military service – contact a VA veterans service representative at the nearest VA regional office or health care facility and apply for disability compensation. The counselors have information about the wide range of benefit programs administered by VA. The national toll-free number is 1-800-827-1000.

Vietnam veterans who encounter difficulties at a VA medical center – contact the “patient advocate” at that facility for assistance in resolving the problem. Ask the medical center telephone operator for the patient advocate or representative.

Vietnam veterans with children who have spinal bifida – contact the VA national toll-free hotline at 1-800-820-1756 or the nearest VA regional office by calling toll-free: 1-800-827-1000. Additional information on spinal bifida is available from the Spinal Bifida Association of America at 4590 Mac Arthur Blvd., Suite 250, Washington, DC 20007-4226; toll free telephone: 800-621-3141;

To apply for VA reimbursement of health care costs, call 1-800-733-8387.

Do not be discouraged by someone from the VA who tells you not to apply. INSIST on submitting a claim in WRITING! The sooner you apply, the sooner the monthly compensation and health care cost reimbursement can begin.

After you apply, the VA should send you a form to fill out and return. Along with this form, it may be helpful to send VA copies of the veteran’s DD214, the child’s birth certificate, and medical records showing the child has spinal bifida.

As with any VA claim, it is best to get representation from a knowledgeable veterans service officer, either through a veterans organization or a state or county veterans agency. As with all things, take part in this process; and ask questions if you don’t understand. Make copies of EVERYTHING you mail/submit/whatever for your file and protection.

E-mail address: spinabifida@aol.com

Website: www.sbaa.org.

Representatives of the following veteran service organizations have been very helpful to Vietnam veterans seeking disability compensation.

American Legion	1-800-433-3318
http://www.legion.org/	
Paralyzed Veterans of America	1-800-424-8200
http://www.pva.org/	
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States	1-800-VFW-1899
http://www.vfw.org/	
Disabled American Veterans	1-877-426-2838
http://www.dav.org/	
Vietnam Veterans of America	1-800-882-1316
http://www.vva.org/	

Resources for homeless veterans

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
(800) VET-HELP

Website: <http://www.nchv.org/>

National Coalition for the Homeless
(202) 737-6444

Website: <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/>

National Alliance to End Homelessness
(202) 638-1526

Website: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/>

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
(202) 638-2535

Website: <http://www.nlchp.org/>

Health Care for the Homeless
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
(888) 439-3300

Website: <http://www.prainc.com/hch/>

HUDVET — Veteran Resource Center
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
(800) 998-9999

Website: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet/index.cfm>

Emergency Food and Shelter Program
Federal Emergency Management Agency
(703) 706-9660

Website: <http://www.fema.gov/rrr/efs.shtm>

Department of Veterans Affairs
(800) 827-1000

Website: www.va.gov

Local Homeless Veterans help

Hank Whittier

Vets Helping Vets Ocala FL (352) 401-9788

VetSpace 13th Street Office (352) 955-2245 x 117
Gainesville, FL.
www.vetspace.org

Vianne Marchese

VA HCMV Rep

(352) 258-6251 cell

VA Homeless program

Gainesville

(352) 376-1611 x 7461

Bailey Village (VOA Program) Gainesville

(352) 377-9440

Pine Grove Apts. (Elderly/disabled Homeless
Veterans shelter/program) Gainesville

(352) 373-1213

Hunger and Homeless Coalition of Citrus Co.

(352) 628-4357

Employment Protection for Reservists, National Guard Members and Veterans

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) of 1994 provides employment/reemployment protection for Reservists, National Guard Members, as well as some recently separated veterans returning to their previous civilian jobs. The USERRA Law includes the following benefits:

- National Guard and Reserve members are entitled to a leave of absence from their civilian private and public sector employers for the period necessary to perform military service, whether that service is voluntary or involuntary. They are not required to use their earned personal vacation during the period of service;
- Employees are entitled to restoration in employment following military service, with seniority, status, and rate of pay as if continuously employed;
- Persons are not to be discriminated against in hiring, retention in employment, promotions, or other benefits of employment because of past or present military affiliation or obligations, or because of an intent to join the military, whether it be Active, Reserve or National Guard; and
- Non-career active duty military members are entitled to reemployment rights with their previous civilian employers.

Additional and specific USERRA information can be retrieved by contacting the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) at (850) 245-7199 in Tallahassee, (904) 798-0060, ext. 2191 in Jacksonville, (407) 741-5293 in Orlando, and (954) 677-5818 in Ft. Lauderdale. VETS are tasked with the enforcement of USERRA. Information on USERRA is also available via the following VETS website:

www.dol.gov/vets/.

The Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialists, Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVER), Business Marketing Representatives assigned to the Workforce offices will also serve as marketing conduits for the provision of USERRA information. LVER/DVOP staff and other associates will not attempt to resolve a USERRA dispute between an employer and a reserve force member or veteran, as this is the responsibility of VETS. Interested Reservists, National Guard members and veterans and their families will also be exposed to the complete menu of services available via the DOL VETS Representatives, contact your local DVOP or LVER for information.

Various Other Websites of Interest

http://www.gcflearnfree.org/	Learn to use Micro-Soft programs for free
https://www.employflorida.com	Florida employment website
http://www.clmworkforce.com/	CLM main website
http://www.bls.gov/	DOL Bureau of Labor Stats
http://www.americasjobexchange.com/	Replaces AJB website
http://www.jobsin911.com/	911 jobs listed on line
www.pbqcareers.com	Pepsi Bottling Group website for jobs/apps
http://www.ocalafl.org/	City of Ocala HR web site
www.marioncountyfl.org	Marion Co. Employment Web site
www.marionso.com	Marion County Sheriffs Office
http://personnel.ifas.ufl.edu/pjobs.html	U. of Florida HR web site
http://www.santafe.cc.fl.us/	Santa Fe. CC web site
www.cfcc.cc.fl.us	CFCC web site
http://www.veteransfund.org/	Iraq/Afgan vet ed funding
http://www.saintleo.edu/SaintLeo/Templates/Home.aspx?durki=47&pid=47	Saint Leo's University web site
http://www.va.gov/jobs/	various VA jobs nationwide
www.cox.com	Cox Communications home web site
www.shands.org	Shands Healthcare HR web site
www.staples.com	Staples web site
http://smarthunt.com/	search engine for jobs
www.allretailjobs.com	Retail Jobs state/nationwide
www.healthcareers.com	Healthcare Careers Online
www.hirehealth.com	Hire Health field web site
www.financialjobs.com	Financial Jobs
www.ftc.gov	Federal Trade Commission
www.careerbuilder.com	Various jobs state/nation wide

www.careersite.com	Career site web site
www.taonline.com	e-recruiting site military-to-civilian web site
www.vetjobs.com	former military-to-civilian web site
www.government-jobs.biz	Government Jobs Unlimited
www.chsfl.org	Children's Home Society of FL. Web site
www.dol.gov/	Dept. of Labor Vets employment web site
http://www.gijobs.net/gijobs/	Various websites and other info for veterans
http://www.militaryhire.com/	Military Hire website
http://www.computerjobs.com/homepage.aspx	Computer jobs nationwide
http://computerwork.com/	Computerwork.com
http://www.constructionjobstore.com/	Construction jobs nations wide
http://www.sba.gov/vets/	US Small Business Admin Vets info website
www.L-3GSI.com	L-3 Communications, Government Services website, lots of good government jobs.
http://www.halliburton.com/careers/index.jsp	overseas jobs (various counties)
www.urscorp.com	Lear Siegler/Iraq job openings
http://blackwaterusa.com/	Blackwater USA Security Positions worldwide
http://www.overseasjobs.com/	Overseas jobs Express
http://www.labormarketinfo.com/	Current Labor Market Info for this area/state
www.military.com/jobs	Military personnel wanted
http://www.floridavets.org/	Florida Dept. of Veterans Affairs website
https://www.cool.navy.mil/	US Navy credentialing website (free/refund)
http://www.gibill.va.gov/	GI Bill (Education Benefits info)
www.va.gov/healtheligibility	Dept. of the VA, eligibility & Benefits (Determine your eligibility for services)
http://www1.va.gov/opa/fact/	Various links to VA Benefits and info
http://www.dol.gov/vets/	Dept. of Labor Veterans Website
www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vetguide.asp	US Govt. OPM Vet guide website
http://www.navyjobs.com/	US Navy website

http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp	2008 Federal benefits for Veterans & Dependents booklet
http://www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm	VA Website to file claims online
http://www.cem.va.gov/	VA Burial & Memorials Home website
http://www.sprint.com/hr/military/	Sprint Military Recruitment Program
http://www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer	Serving the Families of Those Who Serve Military info website
http://www.teachinflorida.com/Jobs/Search_default.asp	Teaching jobs in FL.
http://www.gleim.com/	employer with various IT jobs in Gainesville
http://www.adeco.com/Channels/adecoNewVI/home/home1.asp	Staffing Service (temp to hire)
www.equistaff.com	Staffing Service (temp to hire)
www.spherion.com	Staffing Service (temp to hire)
www.maryk.com	Staffing Service (temp to hire)
www.laborfinders.com	Day labor jobs
www.bocc.citrus.fl.us	Citrus Board of County Comm.
www.clerk.citrus.fl.us	Citrus County Clerk of the Courts
www.citrus.k12.fl.us	School Board of Citrus County
www.co.alachua.fl.us/	Alachua County Home page
http://www.cityofgainesville.org	City of Gainesville HR web site
www.sbac.edu/	Alachua Co. School Board
www.alachuasheriff.org	Alachua Co. Sheriff's web site
www.levycounty.org	Levy County home page
http://uploads.levyclerk.com/levycounty/jobs.htm	Levy County job openings
www.levy.k12.fl.us	School Board of Levy County
www.levyso.com	Levy County Sheriff's Office

www.floridahousing.org	home loan help for people with poor credit
www.veteranscorp.org	FASTRAC Business Training Programs
http://www.hireheroesusa.org/ www.hospiceofmarion.com	National OIF/OEF website for disabled vets Hospice of Marion County, employment and other related senior information.
www.vetsuccess.gov	The VA's VR&E Voc Rehab program and other related employment issues resource center for veterans website
http://www.transitionassistanceprogram.com/register.tpp	TAP online information website
http://www.bernielittle.com/	Bernie little website (truck driving/warehouse jobs in Ocala)
www.teachinflorida.com	Florida Troops to Teachers, FDOE website
http://www.civilianjobnews.com	Military/Civilian Job news listings
http://www.bellsouth.com/employment/Military/MilitaryRelations.htm	BellSouth employment website
http://www.cretecarrier.com/	OTR Truck driving positions
http://www.dhl-usa.com:8081/HR/jobshome.asp?nav=Careers	DHL positions
http://www.harris.com/harris/careers/	Harris Corp. (Palm Bay Fl.)
http://84lumber.com/	84 Lumber home page
http://gp.com/careers/	Georgia-Pacific Home page
http://lockheedmartinevents.com/military/	Lockheed-Martin Military recruiting webpage
http://www.progress-energy.com/aboutus/employment/index.asp	Progress Energy employment website
http://www.aarp.org/featuredemployers	AARP website which also lists employers of older workers.
http://www.militaryconnection.com/	Military Connection website, Large list of employers and related websites to aid military and families in job search and other needs.
http://www.milspouse.org/Base/State/Florida	Website for the spouse of vets
http://www.dma.state.fl.us/family/	Fl Air National Guard and Spouse info website

<http://acinet.org/>

Career Info Net website. Helps figure out types careers you might be interested in.

<http://www.taps.org/>

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, website for families who have lost a services member.

<http://www.homefrontamerica.org/>

Homefront America, Inc., is an "all volunteer" 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization comprised of military service members, veterans, their spouses, and families who understand the hardships and challenges of our military families that are left behind when a service member is away serving our country

<http://www.thanksusa.org/main/index.html>

ThanksUSA is a non-partisan, charitable effort to mobilize Americans of all ages to "thank" the men and women of the United States armed forces by providing college, technical and vocational school scholarships for their children and spouses.

<http://www.recruitmilitary.com/>

Job fairs and job listings website

<http://www.floridadiscountdrugcard.com/>

Florida Seniors discount drugs info website.

<http://www.usacares.us/>

USA Cares exists to provide military families with financial support and other critical resources in their time of need. Great Website

<http://www.jan.wvu.edu/>

Job Accommodation network for Disabled job seekers.