



History of the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services

The Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services has been providing services and benefits to veterans and to their dependents since the Revolutionary War.

Today, we are committed to assisting our veterans, their dependents, and surviving spouses with the same concern and compassion that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established so many years ago.

Hingham Veterans' Services provides the following:

- VA Healthcare applications
- VA Disability Claim applications
- VA Widow Pension applications
- VA Widow/Survivor Benefit applications
- VA Burial Benefits applications
- Veteran Cemetery applications
- VA Grave Marker applications
- MA Veterans' Benefits applications
- Obtain Military discharge/records
- Obtain Military medals/decorations
- Ceremonies: Memorial Day & Veterans Day
- Decoration of Veterans' graves
- Collect worn and tattered American Flags
- Support of local Veterans' Organizations

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS
AND THEIR FAMILIES!**

Important Phone Numbers

MA Dept. of Veterans' Services	617-210-5480
Veterans Affairs	800-827-1000
VA Education:	888-442-4551
VA Headstone & Markers	800-697-6947
VA National Cemetery; Bourne	508-563-7113
VA Home Loans	888-244-6711
VA Life Insurance	800-669-8477
DFAS	800-321-1080
TRICARE	877-874-2273
Plymouth CBOC	800-865-3384
Quincy CBOC	800-865-3384
Social Security	877-319-0728

Massachusetts VA Hospitals

VAMC Bedford	800-422-1617
VAMC Brockton	508-583-4500
VAMC Jamaica Plain	617-232-9500
VAMC West Roxbury	617-323-7700

Massachusetts National Organizations

American Legion	617-303-5695
Veterans of Foreign Wars	617-303-5688
Disabled American Veterans	617-303-5675

Websites

Veterans' Affairs	www.va.gov
MA Veterans' Services	www.state.ma.us
TRICARE	www.tricare.mil
DFAS	www.dfas.mil

Freedom is not Free

Town of Hingham Massachusetts



Department of Veterans' Services

Hingham Town Hall
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

Phone: 781-741-1440
Fax: 781-804-2442
www.hingham-ma.gov/veterans

Key Program Goals in Hingham

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 115 Benefits

The Commonwealth is the only state in the Union that has made generous provisions by state law that provide veterans in need of EMERGENCY financial assistance with food, housing, clothing, employment, medical, and burial assistance.

MGL Chapter 115 is a **needs-based**, means tested program run by the MA Department of Veterans' Services.

It is available for veterans and dependents who require **financial assistance** for any of the following resources:

Public Assistance Heating and Fuel Assistance Housing and Shelter Medical Reimbursement

If you believe you or your loved one is eligible based on **financial need** please call the office for more information.

The following is criteria needed for your initial assessment:

- * DD214
- * Valid State ID
- * Marriage Certificate
- * Death Certificate of veteran; if applicable
- * Health Insurance Cards
- * Medicare/Medicaid Cards
- * Income Statements
- * VA Award Letter
- * Social Security Letter
- * Retirement: Pension, IRA, Investments
- * State Aid: SNAP, LIHEAP, CSED
- * 3 months of financial bank statements
- * Rent or Mortgage Statements
- * Property Tax, Water, Fuel bills
- * Homeowners Insurance Statement

Key Program Goals in Hingham

Individual Service

To provide eligible veterans and their dependents with services under state and federal law utilizing all available resources.

Outreach

To provide leadership and expertise to improve knowledge of, access to, and information concerning services and/or benefits.

Special Events

To hold ceremonial events that recognize and pay tribute to Veterans.

State and Local Benefits

To be considered a Veteran in the State of Massachusetts, a person must have served in the military:

- ◆ At least 180 days as defined by M.G.L. ch. 4, s. 7, cl. 43
- ◆ OR 90 days as applicable to certain wartime periods

To be considered a dependent of a veteran, a person must be:

- ◆ A veteran's spouse or widow(er)
- ◆ A veteran's child under age 18, between 19-23 and attending full time schooling; or considered totally disabled before turning 19
- ◆ A veteran's parent who is more than 50% dependent on the veteran

Property Tax: There are a number of exemptions available to certain disabled veterans or their survivors.

Sales and Excise Tax: Certain disabled veterans are eligible for motor vehicle sales and excise tax exemptions.

State Annuity: There is a \$2,000 annuity available for 100% service connected disabled Veterans; spouse of, or parents of, a service member whose death occurred as a result of injury sustained during active service.

Key Program Goals in Hingham

State and Local Benefits - cont'd

Veteran's License Plates: A variety of veterans license plates are available through the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Record Retention: The Hingham Department of Veterans' Services provides a repository of local records. Veterans are urged to provide copies of their discharge/separations papers to this office for safe keeping.

Educational Assistance: Veterans are eligible to attend state colleges/universities tuition free on a space available basis. Massachusetts National Guard Veterans who served in Iraq/Afghanistan are also eligible for free fees. Contact the financial office at the state college/university.

Soldiers' Homes: The Soldiers' Homes provide a variety of services to veterans, such as, acute hospital, domiciliary, long-term care, physical and occupational therapy, and more.

Homeless Services: A network of Veteran Outreach Centers and housing facilities provide graduated levels of shelter, care, guidance, and counsel.

Massachusetts Veterans' Cemeteries: The Agawam and Winchendon State Cemeteries are now open and available to inter the Commonwealth's Veterans and their dependents.

Public Housing: Elderly Veterans and their spouses or widow(ers) are given preference for state-aided public housing through Hingham's Housing Authority.

Employment: Veterans are given preference for employment. MassHire Quincy Career Center provides workshops for Veterans and assists in finding job placement. 617-745-4000

Welcome Home Bonus: Additional information and applications are available at this office.