



Are you getting ready to leave a military career for civilian life? If so, it's important to familiarize yourself with the benefits and services that are available to you.

The first thing you want to do is contact your local [Veteran Service Officer \(VSO\)](#) . VSOs provide FREE assistance to veterans, their dependents and survivors, when applying for benefits at both the federal and state level. They also provide resources on permits, transportation, education and training, and employment options.

Another very important aspect of getting started is getting all information possible regarding [health care](#). Veterans that served in the active military and are separated under any condition other than dishonorable can be qualified to receive health care benefits. While some veterans may qualify for cost-free health care services, others may be required to cover a co-pay. It is important to ensure that there is not a long gap in your health care coverage. The VA also provides programs for prescription coverage, crisis prevention, mental health, PTSD, and other specific healthcare services. Check out the [Health Benefits](#) pages on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website for specific program options and details.

Don't forget about registering for [pension benefits](#). Supplemental income is a tax-free monetary benefit for low-income wartime veterans to assist you and your family. There are pensions for both veterans and survivors, as well as other aid information. Your local Veteran Service Officer (VSO) can assist you with the process of applying for pension benefits and the specifics of eligibility.

If you are a veteran that is rated at 10% disabled or higher as a result of disease or injury incurred or aggravated during active military service you may be eligible for [disability compensation](#). The amount of benefit will depend on the degree of your disability using a scale from 10-100%. There are other grants, and insurance possibilities, that are connected to disability compensation. It is important to know what is available to help overcome challenges you may face.

One benefit that isn't often thought of immediately is [home loan benefits](#). VA home loans provide veterans with a home loan guaranty benefit and other housing-related programs. These loans can be customized to your situation. You can also work with your local bank, loan company, or credit union as they have specific knowledge about VA loans and their availability in your area.

When looking for employment, your Local Veterans' Employment Representatives and Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists can provide intensive services to veterans and eligible spouses, to facilitate their transition into meaningful civilian employment. [Contact your local Job Center](#) to see how they can help.

Most benefits or compensation have specific eligibility requirements to review before applying. Get started today by taking advantage of the programs and benefits that you may be eligible for because of your service.



For additional information about Missouri Division of Workforce Development services, contact a Missouri Job Center near you. Locations and additional information are available at jobs.mo.gov or 1-888-728-JOBS (5627).



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