

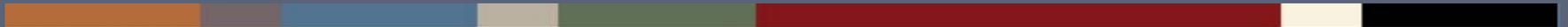
ND Cares

Briefing to the
Government Services Committee

16 January 2014

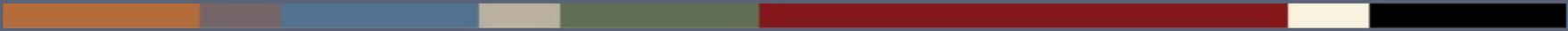
AGENDA

- Overview
 - ✓ Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee
 - ✓ ND Cares
- Update on ND Cares Activities
- Next Steps



ISFAC Definition

The Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC) is a voluntary military cooperative partnership organized to provide multi-service networking for training and assistance to ensure Total Force Family Readiness. Their purpose is to provide assistance to families regardless of service component. The goal of the ISFAC is to strengthen existing family and service member delivery systems in the event of mobilization, deployment, or natural disaster through the interaction of committee members.

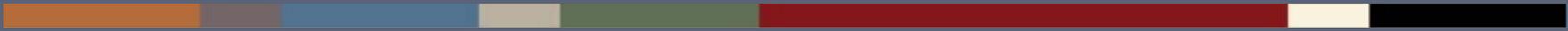


The North Dakota ISFAC has recently focused on key topics to include;

- Statewide Homelessness with a Veteran Focus
- Suicide Issues, Impacts and facts surrounding Veterans and Service Members

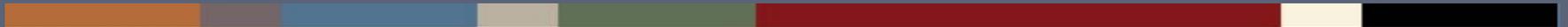
How ISFAC Functions

➤ Many issues surrounding quality of life and family well-being can only be addressed at the state level. Many state leaders share our concern for the welfare of our Veterans, Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve service members and their families living within their borders, and the ISFAC will work towards making significant contributions in the future.

- 
- ✓ Education
 - ✓ Networking
 - ✓ Issue Identification

ISFAC History

- The first meeting of the ND ISFAC was held 13 June 2006
- The ISFAC meets on a quarterly basis at dates/times selected by the committee
- Have provided a network for training and assistance to ensure family readiness and service member welfare for all branches of service
- To enable all military families and service members to receive assistance from closest source
- Worked towards expanding communication and establish a network among family and service member providers
- Identified a need to reduce duplication of services and efforts



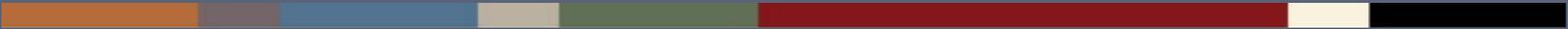
Tangible Triumphs

➤ ND 211 (2008)

- ✓ This statewide information, referral, and crisis management service is FREE and operator-serviced 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and has a special Veteran focused referral process

➤ Community Covenants (2009-2010)

- ✓ 283 Community Covenants signed across North Dakota
- ✓ Partnered with ND League of Cities
- ✓ Formal commitment of support by state and local communities to Service Members and Families of the Army - Active, Guard and Reserve



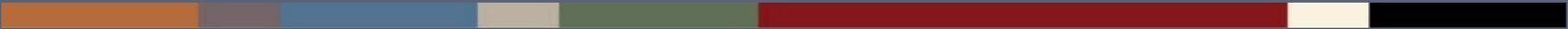
Over 85 different organizations represented

North Dakota National Guard; Army Integrated Family Support Network; Army Reserve - 96th Regional Readiness Cmd; ; United States Army Reserve (USAR); Employer Support Guard/Reserve (ESGR); Airman and Family Readiness Center – GFAFB; Family Readiness Center - Minot AFB; NDSU Extension Service; National Guard Retiree Advisory Board; 4th Marine Division; Department of Veterans Affairs; United Tribes Technical College (UTTC); ND Department of Human Services; North Dakota State University; Veteran's Center; State Treasurer's Office; Job Service; UND School of Medicine Rural Health; Congressional Delegation Staffers; Tri-West Healthcare Alliance (TRICARE); North Dakota University System; US Naval Operation Support Center; Navy Reserve Forces Command; Foster County Veterans Service Office; Walsh County Veterans Service Office; Grand Forks County Veterans Service Office; Trail County Veterans Service Office; Troops to Teachers; ND Red Cross; Wives of War; UND Counseling Department; East Grand Forks Military Affairs Committee; VA OEF/OIF Program; Heartsprings;

ND Cares

(formerly SAMHSA)

- May: ND sent 11 participants to Baltimore MD, to the SAMHSA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration) Service Members, Veterans and their Families “Policy Academy”.
- June: Developed a statewide representation of organizations
- July: Developed organizational Chart
- August: Initial Strategic Plan is drafted
 - ✓ GOAL 1: DEVELOP A LEADER NETWORK TO SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS
 - ✓ GOAL 2: INTEGRATE EXISTING PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT SERVICE SYSTEM FOR SFVS
 - ✓ GOAL 3: CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS



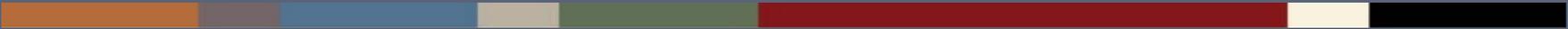
ND Cares Mission:

“Creating an Accessible Seamless System of Support for
Service Members, Veterans, Families and Survivors”
2013-2014 Priorities: Suicide and Homelessness

ND Cares cont...

(formerly SAMHSA)

- October: Developed meeting schedule and priority of work
- November: Identified "SUICIDE" and "VETERAN HOMELESSNESS" as core priorities for the near term
- December: Hired a "Vista" employee (start in Mar 14)
- January 2014: Designed initial communication chart
 - ✓ THIS WILL TAKE A "VILLAGE" TO EDUCATE FOR MAXIMUM EFFORTS
 - ✓ CREATE A FRAMEWORK THAT UTILIZES ALL "OUTREACH" CAPABILITIES



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NGB Vista
Coord

NDCares Coordinator
- Laura for 1 year
- FTE potential

VISTA
(Laura)

Admin Supervisor
(GF – Curtis Shelton)
-- State Vehicles
-- Laptop
-- Internet
-- Telephone
-- Office
-- Office Supplies

VAD Supervisor
(NON-MILITARY)
- On paper only
-- NDNG Outreach
Worker?

NDNG Responsibility
* Travel

Betsy
Chair

Kathleen Vice-Chair
Connie Vice-Chair

ISFAC
- Education
-- Networking
-- Issue Identification

Davina- Co-State Coord/Strat Plan Management
Brenda – Co-State Coord
Billie Jo –PA (One message-One Voice)

NDVA

County Veteran
Service Officers
(CVSO's)
- Every County

Data

Needs &
Services

Ldrshp

Grants

Legi-
slation

NG

NG Outreach
- GF
- Minot
-- Fargo
-- Bis (x2)

NG Family
Assistance
centers
- Bis
-- VC
-- Fargo
-- Minot
-- DL
-- GF

Strategic Plan
- Execution Timeline
- Projects
* Update Community Covenants
- GIS Info
* NG Outreach/FAC's/CVSO's/
- "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program" (MN)
- Youth Connections

Communication and Outreach Plan

- Newsletter
- Internal
- Stakeholders
- NDCares Communities
- Other
- Service Organizations
- NDSU extension Agents
- SOS "Survivors"



~ Supporting All Who Have Served ~

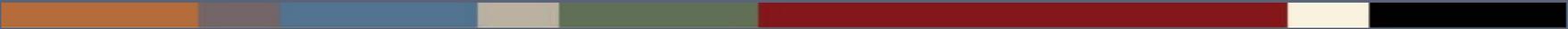
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2013-2014 Priorities: Suicide and Homelessness

Three Challenges

- The existing Veteran community is having significant challenges in outreach to members, finding that traditional methods of communicating are not working, and that the benefits and services available to Veterans are not being communicated effectively.
- Lack of education of North Dakotans about related issues.
- We cannot hope to help transitioning Veterans if we are not coordinating with existing organizations and helping to ensure the optimal delivery of benefits to our existing Veteran, Service Member, family and Survivor population.

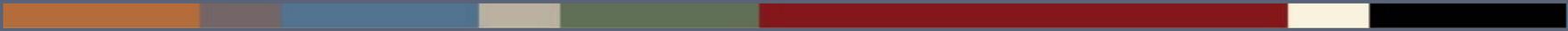


ND Cares Mission:

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2013-2014 Priorities: Suicide and Homelessness

Next Steps

- Connect fragmented systems in order to ensure an integrated response to the needs of Veterans, creating a strong, adaptive and connected system to serve Veterans.
- Conduct a GAP Analysis to identify what benefits and services are available and what the Veterans, Service Members, families and Survivors need.
- Continue to develop the ND Cares concept
- Officially adopt ND Cares “Brand”
- Brief stakeholders and partner with agencies and organizations that commit to prioritizing and weaving Service Members, Veterans, Families and Survivors into the very fabric of North Dakota.

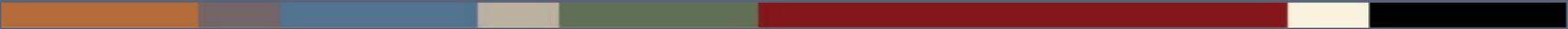


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2013-2014 Priorities: Suicide and Homelessness

Now What?

- Take existing benefits and see if they are meeting the needs of the Veteran, Service Member, Family and Survivor communities
- Collect pertinent data
- Rejuvenate the Community Covent commitments
- Gather and analyze comparison benefit data (ie. State Report Cards)
- Plan and Conduct a ND Cares Summit
 - Stakeholders
 - Providers

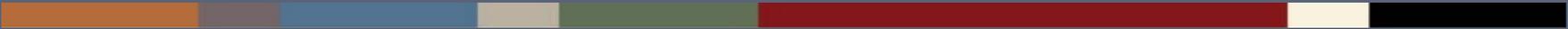


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2013-2014 Priorities: Suicide and Homelessness

Thoughts

- We have so many assets to deploy in this fight to improve outcomes for Veterans, Service members, Families and Survivors, including the incredible political, social, and community “will” to ensure that this community is thriving.
- We know that if we can marry up the state and national best practices with local assets and position these partnerships for investment, we will build the system we need, and success will be felt as a whole.

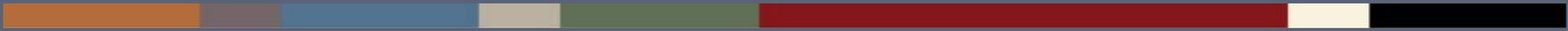


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Facts

- North Dakota is a fiercely independent state and highly entrepreneurial as well. We value the individual in North Dakota, as well as the collective, and as we prioritize these issues, we will focus on the individual returning home.
- Thriving Service Members, Veterans, Families and Survivors, by definition, means every single person connected to that original Individual who volunteered to serve their country.
- By Identifying and filling the Gaps, and to align our system of government and community to advance the goal of solving a problem, the system will be easier to manage.

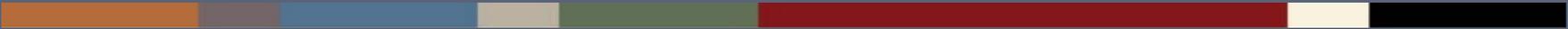


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2013-2014 Priorities: Suicide and Homelessness

Conclusion

- In order to address complex social issues, we must build systems that can respond, adapt, evolve, and inform that are built by local leaders and stakeholders.
- ND Cares believes that the most powerful way to solve these problems is by connecting and networking the existing programs and organizations across the state that are already service this population, thereby building something greater than simply the sum of our parts.



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2013-2014 Priorities: Suicide and Homelessness



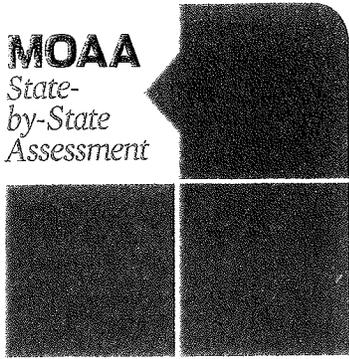
~ Supporting All Who Have Served ~

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2013-2014 Priorities: Suicide and Homelessness

MOAA
State-
by-State
Assessment



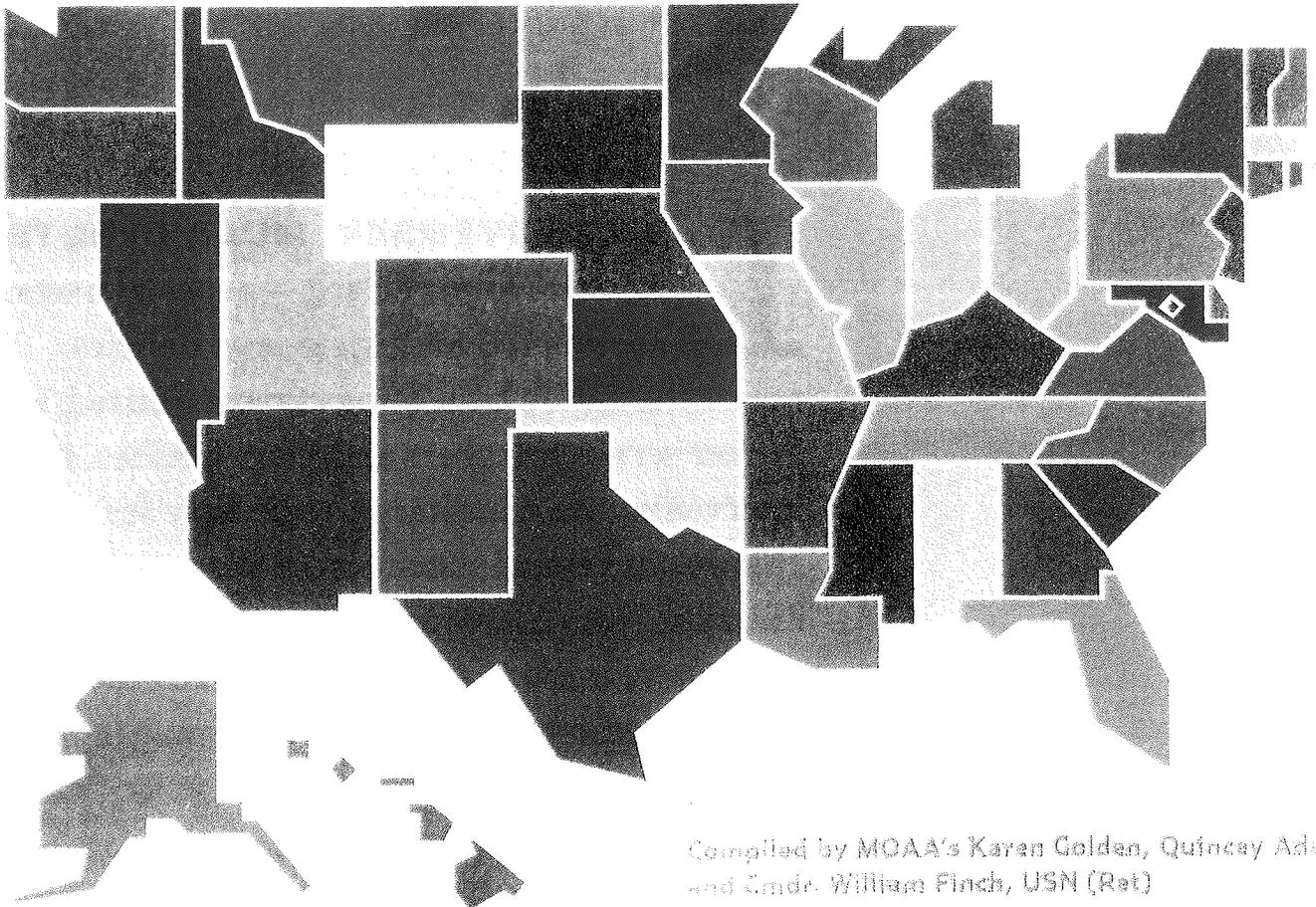
Subject State-level programs and policies affecting military retirees, veterans, and family members

Comments Use this guide to inspire and inform your advocacy at the state level for changes benefiting members of the military community.

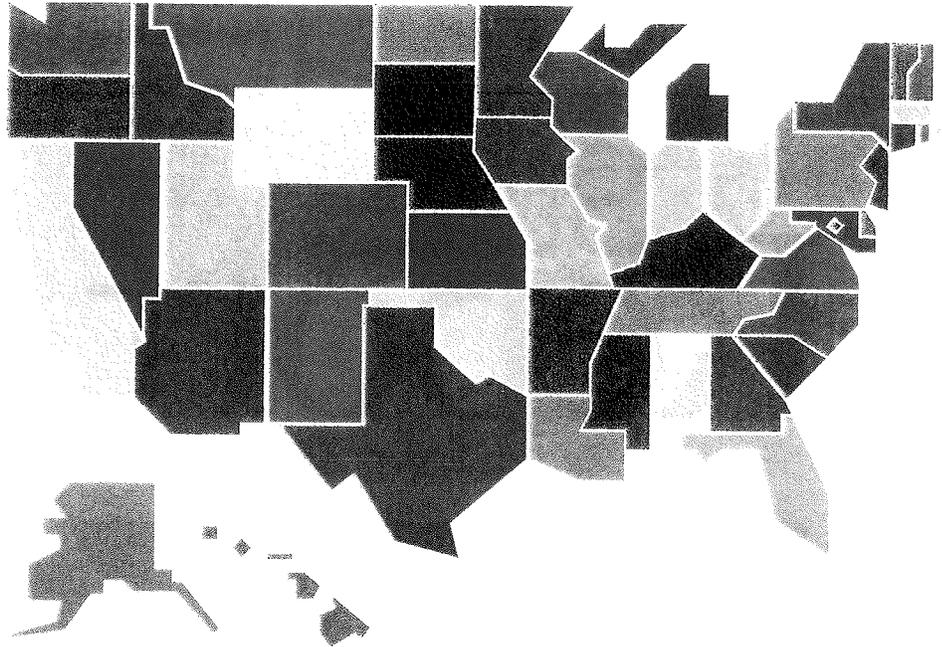
Grade Dependent on your effort

State Report Card

for military families, veterans, and retirees



Compiled by MOAA's Karen Golden, Quincey Adams, and Cmdr. William Finch, USN (Ret)



LAST NOVEMBER, MOAA DEBUTED its State Report Card — a special magazine section tracking state-level policies across the nation benefiting current, retired, and former servicemembers and their families. In the intervening year, military people have seen positive changes in several states across the nation. For example, from Alabama to Wyoming, 24 additional states have made it easier for servicemembers to receive credit for their military training in the state licensure process. This policy change facilitates veterans finding appropriate employment when they leave military service, improving the quality of

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The information in this guide is, to the best of our knowledge, correct as of Oct. 1, 2013.



At time of publication, only four states ... have yet to join the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

life for their families — and potentially reducing the instance of veteran homelessness (which often is a result of veteran unemployment).

Also since MOAA's State Report Card was last published, four additional states have joined the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. The compact provides military dependent students consistent transition procedures when they transfer to schools in different states.

This helps ease educational burdens facing children in service families required to undergo interstate school transitions. At time of publication, only four states (Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, and Oregon) have yet to join the compact.

What can I do to help?

Progress like this doesn't happen by itself. MOAA members, affiliated chapters, and state councils play a vital role in these victories. This State Report Card is intended to aid those efforts by helping members identify areas where their state might improve.

Cmdr. John Chernoski, USN (Ret), a member of MOAA's Green Valley (Ariz.) Chapter, was "absolutely" motivated by the 2012 State Report Card to work the issue of servicemembers receiving credit in the state licensing process for their military training.

"We had some success" on the issue in the 2013 legislative session, Chernoski says, "and we hope to have better success in 2014."

If, like Chernoski, you're motivated to work for change in your



STATES NOW CREDIT veterans' military training and experience toward civilian licensure or certification — 24 more than at this time in 2012.

state, see "6 Tactics to Take Effective Action," page 78, for practical tips on how you can be a stronger grassroots advocate for military retirees and veterans and their family members in your community.

To maximize the impact of your efforts, connect with other MOAA members. Visit www.moaa.org/chapterlocator to find your local chapter.

What's different this year?

In addition to changes on the legislative front, the State Report Card itself has changed in order to help you use it more effectively.

Staff experts amended the categories on the "Veteran and Retiree Benefits" chart, consolidating the homestead- and property-tax-relief categories and eliminating the "Monetary Incentives" category (which applied in very few states). These revisions made room for information about in-state tuition policies and preference for veterans in-state hiring.

The criteria regarding state tax exemptions also have been updated to make each state's "grade" (green, yellow, or red) more meaningful.

Military Officer welcomes member feedback regarding these changes, as well as your suggestions for other categories we might incorporate in future editions of this guide.



Military Retirement Pay Exempt

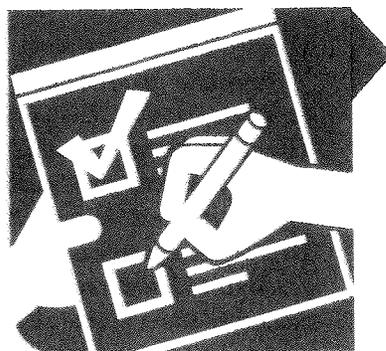
From State Taxes: Some states allow military retirees to exempt a specific amount, a percentage, or full military retired pay from state income taxation. Note that Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming have no state income tax, while Tennessee and New Hampshire tax only dividend and interest income.

Veterans also might receive exemptions for disability pay, and spouses might be able to receive exemptions for their survivor benefits.

Property Tax Exemptions: Most states offer veteran homeowners either property tax exemptions or homestead exemptions, which limit the amount at which their property can be assessed for tax purposes. These exemptions may be based on age and/or disability rating.

Most states also offer some kind of property tax relief, which might

VETERAN



& Retiree Benefits Criteria

freeze the assessed value of a home after a veteran homeowner reaches a certain age. In addition, many counties and municipalities have their own, separate tax-relief programs for veterans.

Veterans' Preference in State Hiring: Some states offer veterans an advantage (such as additional points on a required exam, a guarantee of an interview, or similar provision)

in the hiring process for state government jobs. Specifics vary widely from state to state; check with your state's department of veterans affairs. State requirements might include proof of honorable discharge or a disability rating from the VA. Most states that extend preference to family members require a veteran to be permanently and totally disabled or killed in action.

In-State Tuition for Nonresident Veterans: Under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, the VA will pay only up to the cost of in-state tuition at public colleges. Twenty-eight states allow veterans applying as nonresident students to pay in-state tuition rates at their public colleges.

Veteran Status Noted on Driver's License/State ID: Most states now have passed legislation adding veteran's designation to driver's licenses and state-issued ID cards, thereby enabling veterans to prove their status (for veteran's discounts, for example) without carrying around their discharge papers.

About Veteran and Retiree Disability Pay

Most states determine what income is subject to taxation based on a filer's federal tax return.

Retirees who entered the military before Sept. 24, 1975, and servicemembers receiving disability retirement based on combat injuries or who could receive disability payments from the VA are covered by laws giving disability broad exemption from federal income tax —

and therefore from state taxation, in those states that follow the federal tax return.

Most military retired pay based on service-related disabilities also is free from federal income tax, but there is no guarantee of total protection.

If you are uncertain about your specific situation, consult a tax expert in your state.



ALABAMA
ALASKA
ARIZONA
ARKANSAS
CALIFORNIA
COLORADO
CONNECTICUT
D.C.
DELAWARE
FLORIDA
GEORGIA
HAWAII
IDAHO
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
IOWA
KANSAS
KENTUCKY
LOUISIANA
MAINE

EXEMPT FROM STATE TAXATION

Military Retired Pay



Survivor Benefit Plan



PROPERTY TAXES



VETERAN'S PREFERENCE



IN-STATE TUITION

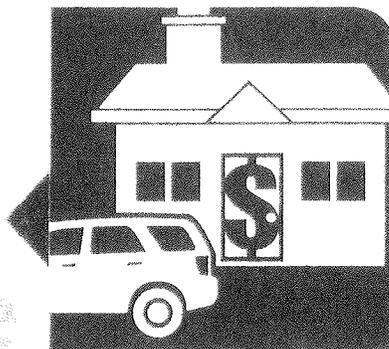


VETERAN STATUS ON LICENSE/ID



These policies and programs generally benefit servicemembers who have separated or retired from the military.

Veteran
& Retiree



BENEFITS

Additional Information

ARKANSAS

- 100-percent homestead exemption for disabled veterans
- ⊙ At select Arkansas State University campuses

COLORADO

- First \$20,000-\$24,000 of Social Security and other retirement income exempt
- ⊙ Colorado National Guard eligible for tuition assistance up to 100 percent at 35 schools

CONNECTICUT

- 50 percent of pay exempted

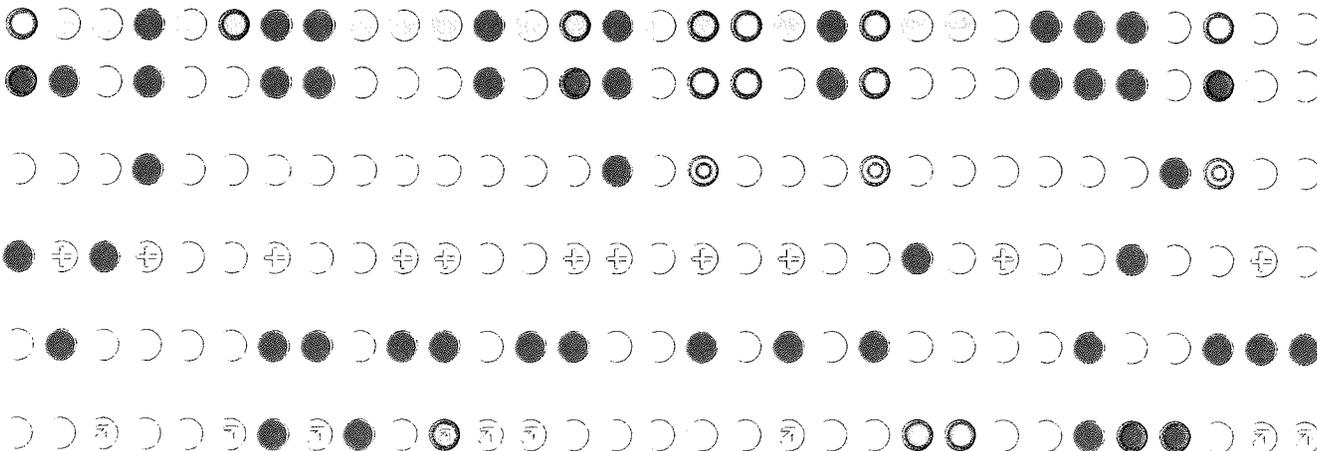
DELAWARE

- Immediately upon proof of residency

GEORGIA

- \$35,000 exempt, ages 62-64 or totally disabled; \$65,000 exempt age 65 and older

MARYLAND MASSACHUSETTS MICHIGAN MINNESOTA MISSISSIPPI MISSOURI MONTANA NEBRASKA NEVADA NEW HAMPSHIRE NEW JERSEY NEW MEXICO NEW YORK NORTH CAROLINA NORTH DAKOTA OHIO OKLAHOMA OREGON PENNSYLVANIA RHODE ISLAND SOUTH CAROLINA SOUTH DAKOTA TENNESSEE TEXAS UTAH VERMONT VIRGINIA WASHINGTON WEST VIRGINIA WISCONSIN WYOMING



State laws are subject to change; contact your state's department of veterans affairs for up-to-date information.

- IDAHO**
 ○ \$40,000 retired pay deduction, age 65 and older (age 62 if disabled)
 ◎ Effective Nov. 10, 2014
- ILLINOIS**
 ○ Effective July 2015
- IOWA**
 ○ \$6,000 retired pay exemption (\$12,000 joint) for those age 55 and older or disabled or surviving spouses
- KANSAS**
 ○ Effective July 2014
- KENTUCKY**
 ○ Not taxed if retired before 1997; otherwise, subject to tax if pay is greater than \$41,000
- MARYLAND**
 ○ \$5,000 deduction; other exclusions for some age 65 and older or disabled
- MISSOURI**
 ○ 60 percent of military pension income exempt from state taxes as of Jan. 1, 2013; deduction increases 15 percent-age points annually, with all military pension income tax-free Jan. 1, 2016

- NEW JERSEY**
 ○ Effective March 2015
- NORTH CAROLINA**
 ○ Retired pay tax-exempt with five years' credible service; others and survivor benefits allowed a \$4,000 deduction
- OKLAHOMA**
 ○ Greater of 75 percent or \$10,000 exempted
 ◎ If homeowner is 100-percent disabled
- OREGON**
 ○ Retirees and surviving spouses may be able to exempt pay due to service prior to Oct. 1, 1991
- SOUTH CAROLINA**
 ○ Up to \$3,000 of total retired pay exempt; age 65 and older receive up to \$10,000; reserve-component retirement pay not taxable
 ◎ Up to \$50,000 for homeowners age 65 and older
- SOUTH DAKOTA**
 ○ With exceptions

- TENNESSEE**
 ○ When licenses are redesigned
- VIRGINIA**
 ○ State-specific ID cards
- WASHINGTON**
 ○ S.B. 5775 pending
- WEST VIRGINIA**
 ○ \$2,000 exempt, up to \$20,000 deductible
 ◎ With exceptions

Symbols mean ...

- ◎ GAIN
- YES
- LIMITED/CONDITIONAL
- NO/MINIMAL
- ⊕ MAY INCLUDE SURVIVING SPOUSES OR FAMILY MEMBERS



ALABAMA
ALASKA
ARIZONA
ARKANSAS
CALIFORNIA
COLORADO
CONNECTICUT
D.C.
DELAWARE
FLORIDA
GEORGIA
HAWAII
IDAHO
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
IOWA
KANSAS
KENTUCKY
LOUISIANA
MAINE

SERVICEMEMBER
State License Credit/Military Training



SPOUSE
Portable State License



SPOUSE
Unemployment

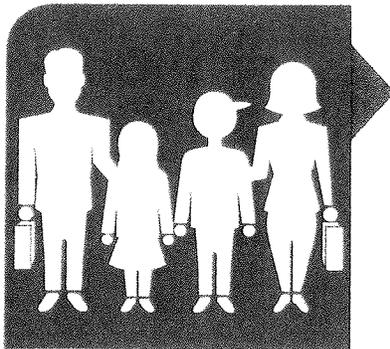


CHILD
Interstate Compact



Symbols mean ...

- GAIN
- YES
- LIMITED/CONDITIONAL
- NO



Currently
Serving
Family

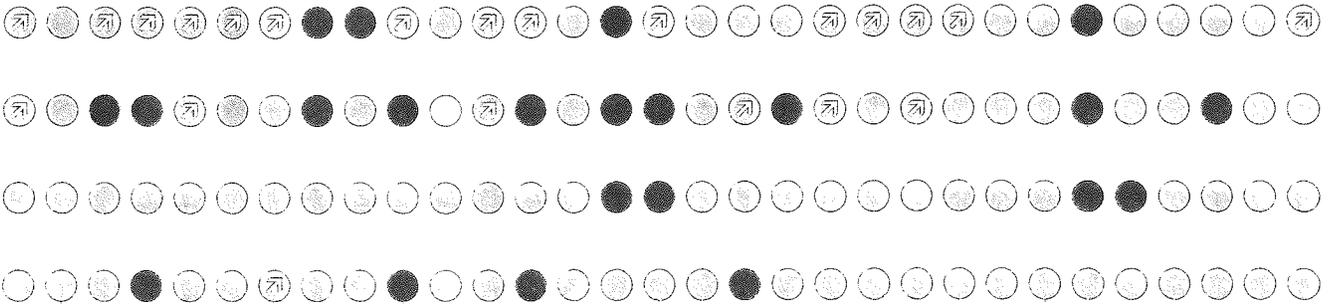
BENEFITS

These policies and programs generally benefit currently serving military members and their families.

Servicemember Credit Toward State Licensure/Certification for Military Training: To date, 44 states have passed legislation counting military education, training, and experience toward professional licensure and certification requirements. Veterans in these states can show licensing boards and academic institutions their transcripts of military service issued by DoD when they apply for professional licenses or certification.

Portability for Military Spouse Licensure: Because licensing requirements can vary widely between states, PCS moves can inhibit career development of military spouses

MARYLAND
 MASSACHUSETTS
 MICHIGAN
 MINNESOTA
 MISSISSIPPI
 MISSOURI
 MONTANA
 NEBRASKA
 NEVADA
 NEW HAMPSHIRE
 NEW JERSEY
 NEW MEXICO
 NEW YORK
 NORTH CAROLINA
 NORTH DAKOTA
 OHIO
 OKLAHOMA
 OREGON
 PENNSYLVANIA
 RHODE ISLAND
 SOUTH CAROLINA
 SOUTH DAKOTA
 TENNESSEE
 TEXAS
 UTAH
 VERMONT
 VIRGINIA
 WASHINGTON
 WEST VIRGINIA
 WISCONSIN
 WYOMING



State laws are subject to change; contact your state's department of veterans affairs for up-to-date information.

in professions requiring licensure. To date, 39 states have adopted legislation to ease this problem. Note certain professions such as teaching, law, and others might not be covered in many states; be sure to check your state's provisions.

Unemployment Compensation for Military Spouses: Military spouses often must quit their jobs to follow their military sponsors. Forty-four states now permit military spouses in this situation to receive unemployment compensation while seeking work at their new duty stations.

Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children: Adopted in 46 states, the compact helps military children overcome educational challenges associated with frequent interstate moves. States that participate follow common guidelines when handling issues such as records transfer, class placement, and graduation requirements.

"Patriots Landing is a community...full of love and beauty, compassion and friendship. Our lives transformed forever!"



MSGT Reverend Charlie L. Williams
 USAF (Ret) and Dr. Elta O. Williams

*Cottages
 Luxury Independent Living
 Individualized Assisted Living
 Secured Memory Care*



PATRIOTS Landing

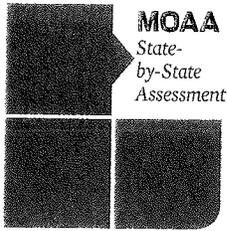
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 DuPont, WA 98327
www.patriotslanding.com
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Deficiency Free State Survey - 2012

*You've Served Us!
 Now Let Us Serve You!*

The Northwest's Premier Military Senior Living Community



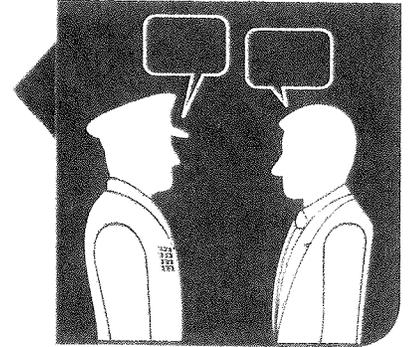


You've identified a policy change in your state that could benefit military retirees, veterans, or family members. What's next? To make a difference at the state level, you need to be an effective grassroots advocate. Use these six tactics to take action and cultivate more supporters for your cause:

1. Go online. Visit MOAA's on-line advocacy center at www.moaa.org/contactcongress. You can pinpoint the top legislative issues using the State Report Card and use MOAA-crafted language from the advocacy center to write an email to your state-level representatives; most elected officials have an online constituent contact form so you can send your message through electronically.

2. Have a conversation. Identify like-minded supporters in your

Six Tactics to Take Effective



ACTION

Grassroots advocacy is key to making legislative gains at the state level for veterans and others.

personal networks at work, church, your neighborhood association, or other local organizations you're a part of, and talk to them about the issues you've identified and why

they're important to your community, military people, or the nation.

Give supporters the phone number or email address for their state legislators and ask them to make contact and share their thoughts on the issue. It only takes a minute to tell your elected officials how you feel, quickly and politely.

When it comes to advocacy, numbers matter. The more constituents your state elected official hears from, the more powerful your voice will be.

3. Be creative. Host a letter or postcard-writing campaign at your home, a public library, or a local café and invite friends, family, and other supporters. You can use the template language from MOAA's online action center to help constituents craft personalized messages to their local legislators.

For greater impact, ask them to share their stories about how they've been personally affected by

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the issue at hand. Make the event fun, and take pictures, then write a blog post about your event or post a photo to Facebook and ask others to join in the campaign with you.

4. Sharpen your pencils. Start a letters-to-the-editor program. It's easier to get a letter printed in a local newspaper than in a large, national paper; just be sure to follow the submission guidelines the newspaper provides on its website.

Connect your local or personal issue to its bigger, national impact to encourage your audience to see how everything fits together.

If your letter is published, try to find a link to your letter online so you can share it easily with other supporters using social media and via email.

5. Go public. Hold a tabling event to share information on your legislative issues at a high-traffic location, such as a farmer's market or an outdoor shopping center.

Ask supporters to share their contact information with you, and then have them write a short postcard to their state representative (you can provide blank postcards for them to write on), or have them call their elected official right there if they have a cellphone. You can leave a voice mail for most state legislators on the weekend or after hours.

Be sure to get permission from the location before setting up your table, and use signs (homemade ones are fine) on your table to identify your group. This encourages interested parties to come to you, so you won't always have to approach people cold.

Don't forget to follow up with potential volunteers by sending them links to contact their state representatives directly; include information on future organizing events.

Connect your local or personal issue to its bigger, national impact to encourage your audience to see how everything fits together.

6. Grow your network. Train your fellow advocates on the how-tos of contacting their state-level representatives, and then ask them to do the same with their own friends and family. The goal is to replicate your effectiveness and create other issue advocates who can reach out to their own networks.

Grassroots activism from military community members across the nation helped create the gains noted in this year's State Report Card. Jump in and do your part to make your state more military-friendly. **MO**