

History of Department of Veterans Services

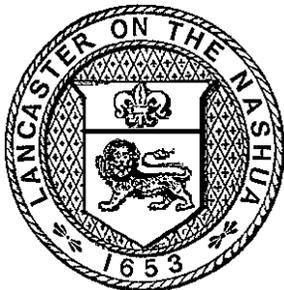
The Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services has been providing services and benefits to veterans and to their dependents since the Revolutionary War.

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.

Lancaster Veteran Services

provides the following:

- VA Healthcare applications
- VA Disability Claim applications
- VA Widow Pension applications
- VA Widow/Survivor Benefit applications
- VA Burial Benefits applications
- VA Veteran Cemetery applications
- VA Grave Markers/Symbols
- State Veterans Benefits applications
- Obtain Military discharge/records
- Obtain Military medals/decorations



Freedom is not Free

Lancaster Hours

Tuesday: 0800—1200

Lancaster Community Center

39 Harvard Rd

Behind the Library and War Memorials
Lancaster, MA 01523

**Appointments are available at the Leominster
Office by calling 978 534 7538**

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS
AND THEIR FAMILIES!**

Town of Lancaster Veterans Services Department



Administered by

Leominster Department of
Veterans' Services
100 West Street
Leominster, MA 01453

Phone: (978) 534-7538
Fax: (978) 534-7518
Email: rvoutour@leominster-ma.gov
jconstant@leominster-ma.gov
Website: <http://www.leominster-ma.gov>
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Key Program Goals

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.



“A man who is good enough to serve his country is good enough to get a square deal afterwards. More than that no man is entitled to, and less than that no man shall have.”

- Theodore Roosevelt

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Veterans Affairs:	1-800-827-1000
VA Education:	1-888-442-4551
VA Life Insurance:	1-800-669-8477
DFAS:	1-800-321-1080
TRICARE:	1-877-874-2273
Bedford VA Hosp	1-800-422-1617
Social Security:	1-877-319-0728
Fitchburg VA Clinic:	1-413-584-4040 extension 6200
Veteran Hospice:	(978) 353-0234
Career Center:	(978) 534-1481

Benefits

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.

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, parents of a son or daughter whose death occurred as a result of injury sustained or disease contracted during active service in time of war, insurrection, or to a spouse whose husband or wife died as a result of injury sustained or disease contracted during active service in time of war, insurrection.

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

Record Retention: The Leominster 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. Please call (413) 532-9475 for Holyoke or (617) 884-5660 for Chelsea.

Benefits

Homeless Services: A network of Veteran Outreach Centers and housing facilities provide graduated levels of shelter, care, guidance, and counsel. Contact this office for additional information.

Massachusetts Veterans' Cemeteries: The **Agawam** and **Winchendon** State Cemeteries are now open and available to inter the Commonwealth's Veterans and their dependents. Additional information is available at this office.

VA National Cemetery: VA Massachusetts National Cemetery is located in Bourne on Cape Cod. For additional information contact the Cemetery at (508) 563-7113.

Public Housing: Elderly Veterans and their spouses (or widows/widowers of Veterans) are given preference for state-aided public housing through Leominster Housing Authority. For an application contact LHA at (978) 537-2861.

Employment: Veterans are given preference for employment. The Career Center at 100 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA also holds various workshops, and grant money is available for training/certification. For additional information contact the Career Center at (978) 534-1481.

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

USEFUL WEBSITES

U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs: www.va.gov

Mass Dept. of Veteran Services:

www.state.ma.us/veterans

Leominster Veteran Services:

www.leominster-ma.gov

TRICARE: www.tricare.mil

Defense Accounting and Finance Service:

www.dfas.mil

Combat Related Special Compensation:

www.crsc.army.mil