



2014 City Council of Philadelphia



Veterans Advisory Commission



Veterans Resource Guide

City Hall, Room 127
Philadelphia PA 19107
215-686-3256
Director– Scott C. Brown



Welcome Home Check Checklist!

Upon your return home the following checklist are benefits that will help your transition

- 1.** Receive your DD 214
Have your DD 214 recorded in the County Recorder's Office for free
 - Safeguard all your records. You will need them again!
- 2.** Visit your County Director of Veterans Affairs or Accredited Service Organization Representative for Free
- 3.** Take a copy of all your records with you for your appointment
 - Service Medical Records
 - Personnel File
 - Dental Record
 - Have your County Director of Affairs or Accredited Veterans Service Officer review your records and advise you on the benefits you qualify for.
- 4.** File for disabilities through an accredited Veterans Service Officer.
- 5.** Fill out VA form 10-10 EZ for VA Healthcare Benefits
- 6.** Go to your local VAMC to turn in Form 10-10 EZ and schedule an appointment.

CONTINUED

7. You qualify for 5 years of free healthcare through the VA from your separation date.

8. When you are ready to buy a home inform your lender you are a Veteran and that you are interested in using the VA Home Loan Guaranty.

9. Provide a copy of your DD 214

- Disabled veterans have the funding fee waived
- You can include the down payment in the loan

10. Visit your local Career Link Office

- Ask to speak with the Veterans Employment Representative
- File for unemployment
- Get help finding a job
- Attend classes to help in your search for employment
- Military skills that be used in civilian life are identified

11. Visit Colleges you are interested in/use the GI Bill

- Ask to speak with the Veterans Representative on campus
- Always identify yourself as a Veteran and inquire about Yellow Ribbon funding in addition to GI Bill payments for college
- Many non-traditional programs are included in the Post 9-11 GI Bill

“A Message from Council President”



Throughout the history of the United States of America, veterans and active duty military personnel have fought and bled for the freedoms most of us take for granted. The Veterans Advisory Commission and Philadelphia City Council continue to have a long standing commitment to the support of these selfless and brave individuals. The purpose of this resource guide is to aid veterans and their families in gaining access to the vast network of resources available to them, here in Philadelphia.

As veterans come home and once again transition into a civilian lifestyle, the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia City Council, and the Veterans Advisory Commission remain focused on highlighting existing resources and providing additional services to help ease the often difficult transition back into the civilian world.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank all active-duty military personnel, veterans from all military braches, the families of our veterans, and anyone who has ever served, or made a personal sacrifice for our great country. Without your commitment, your sacrifice, and your personal integrity, this City and this country would truly be a different place. Again, thank you and God bless America!

*Darrell L Clarke
Council President*

“A Message from the Director”

As the Director of the Veterans Advisory Commission, my daily routine involves continuing the excellent, honest and strong constituent service to Veterans that this office has been administering for many years. Past Directors and staff have built a vibrant office willing and ready to SERVE those who SERVED. Council President Clarke has made it his priority to assure the Veterans of Philadelphia that their issues and concerns are being appropriately addressed by this City. Since 1957, the Advisory has diligently, efficiently and proudly met the needs of all who come to the office.

The office has begun to earn the reputation as the “one stop shop” for all Veterans. I am committed to work everyday to keep the needs of our Veterans on the front burner. Our office serves Veterans of all branches, enlisted and officers, young and matured and some who served a short enlistment and those who made a career out of the military.

Council has designated 2014 The Year of the Veteran, as evidence of the importance of Veterans matters in this City. Use the Resource Guide to aid you through the system. Please never hesitate to call or email me at Scott.C.brown@phila.gov or 215-686-3256. I am honored to be a Veteran, proud to be a citizen of Philadelphia and humbled to be the Director of the Veterans Advisory Commission!

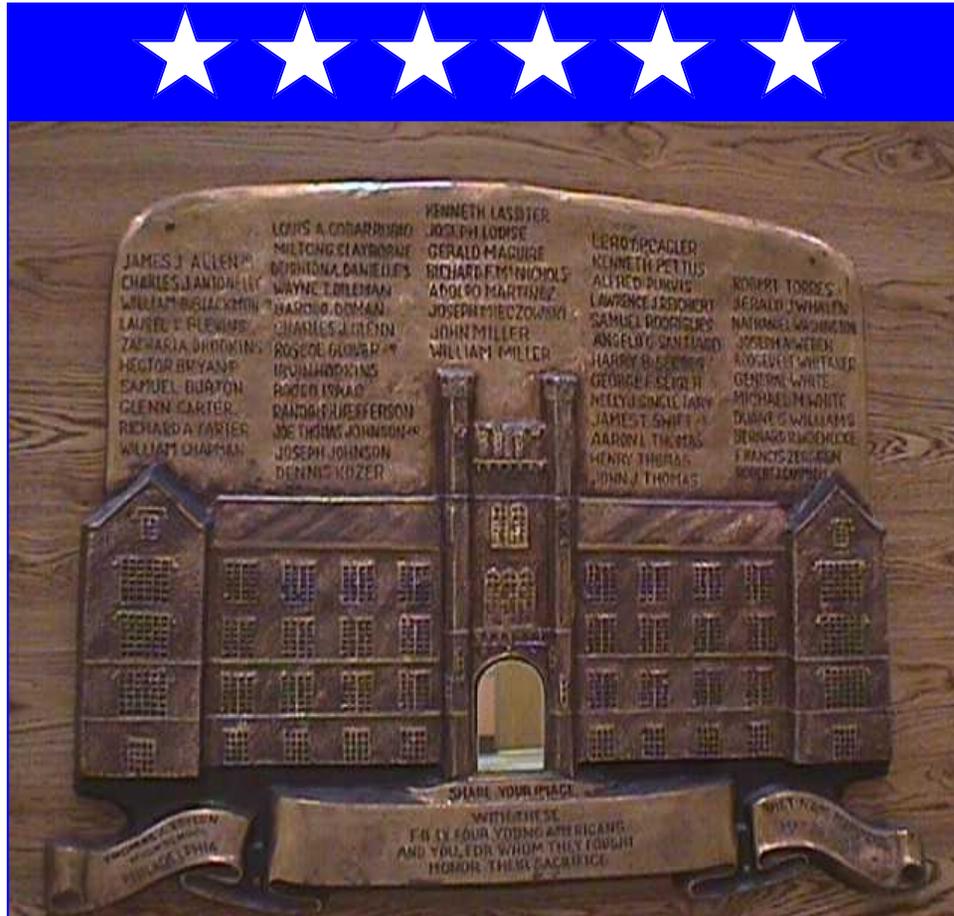
“Building this City, one Veteran at a time.”

*Scott C. Brown
Director*



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City Council of the City of Philadelphia
Honors
the
Edison High School Fallen Soldiers
of the
Vietnam War

**THE VETERAN ADVISORY COMMISSION
OF PHILADELPHIA**

ADMINISTERS THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS

Blind Veterans' Pension

Provides for a pension of \$150 per month.

Eligibility:

- Served in the military honorably.
- Resident of PA upon entering the military.
- Suffered a service-related injury or incurred a disease which result in loss of vision: Visual acuity with the best correcting lens is 3/60 or 10/200 or equivalent, or less normal vision in the better eye. Includes circumstances where the widest diameter of the visual field of the better eye has contracted to an angular distance of not great than 20°.

Real Estate Tax Exemption

Any honorably discharged veteran who is a resident of the Commonwealth shall be exempt from the payment of all Real Estate taxes levied upon any building, including the land upon which it stands, occupied by him/her as his/her principal dwelling, provided that all eligibility criteria is met.

Eligibility:

- Veteran must be a resident of the Commonwealth.
- An honorably discharged veteran.
- Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Veterans must have 100% permanent and total service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Dept. of VA.
- Veterans must occupy the real estate as his/her principal dwelling.
- Upon the death of qualified veteran, tax exemption may pass on the unmarried surviving spouse if financial need can be shown.
- Veteran must proved financial need according to the criteria established by the State Veterans' Commission.

Veterans' Emergency Assistance

Provides financial aid in an emergency on a temporary basis to veterans and their beneficiaries who reside in Pennsylvania for the necessitates of life.

Eligibility:

- An honorably discharged veteran.
- Must show a loss of income, through no fault of the applicant, within 180 days prior to the date of application.
- Served during established war service dates as determined by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Upon the recent death of a veteran, their spouse or orphaned children are eligible provided the veteran would have qualified prior to his/her death.

Educational Gratuity

Educational gratuities are for children of honorably discharged veterans who have wartime service-connected disabilities or children of veterans who die or died in service during a period of war or armed conflict.

Eligibility:

- Death during a period of war or armed conflict or, War service-connected disabilities.
- Rated as totally and permanently disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Children must be between the ages of 16 and 23, living within the Commonwealth five years prior to application and must attend a school within the Commonwealth.

Paralyzed Veterans' Pension

Provides for a pension of \$150 per month.

Eligibility:

- Served in the military honorably during an established period of war or armed conflict.
- Resident of PA upon entering the military.
- Suffered an injury or disease resulting in the loss or loss of use of two or more extremities. Rated 100% disabled by the U.S. Department of VA.

Burial Allowance

County Burial allowances are provided to veterans and spouses of deceased veterans as indicated in the County code. The allowance is provided whether or not the person died in the county or was buried in the county. Application for the burial allowance must be made within one year after date of his/her death.

Grave Markers

A county grave marker is provided to deceased veterans as indicated in the County Code. The initial grave marker is provided free of charge by the county in which the deceased service person had legal residence at the time of death, whether or not the veteran died in the country or was buried in the country. Future replacements or deteriorated or missing markers may be replaced by the county in which the veteran is buried.

Government/Private Headstones

County headstone allowances are provided for qualified veterans as indicated in the County Code. The one-time expense shall be borne by the county in which the veteran had legal residence at the time of death, whether or not the veteran died in the county, or was buried in the county. There is no time limit to apply for this benefit.

Marriage & Divorce Records

Certified copies of marriage and divorce records are issued without cost to disabled wartime veterans. Members of the armed forces of any war or armed conflict may obtain these documents for free, as may any dependent of any such veteran, or member of the armed forces.

Discharge Certificates

Honorable discharge certificates are recorded free at the Court House of the County seat.

State Educational Grants and Financial Aid for Veterans

Toll Free: 800-692-7392

Website: <http://www.pheaa.org/specialprograms/FinancialAidForVeteransandNationalGuardMembers.shtml>

Veterans' Preference in State Civil Service

For info. contact the Civil Service Commission at 717-787- 6039
Civil Service Commission
PO Box 569
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0569

Birth and Death Records

For information contact the Division of Vital Records
at 724-656-3100

Veterans License Plates/Placards

Applications can be obtained at your County Director of Veterans Affairs office, any state Bureau for Veterans Affairs.

State Retirement

Honorably discharged veterans employed by the Commonwealth for a period of 3 years may be eligible to purchase credit for active military duty time.
Toll Free: 800-633-5461

Veterans Employment

Veterans Employment Representatives at all PA Career Link offices or participating agencies provide free job counseling, training referrals, and placement services to veterans.
For assistance contact your local Job Service Office.

Free Hunting/Fishing Trapper License for Certain Disabled Veterans

Application can be made at your county treasurer.

Antlerless Deer License

Application can be made at a county treasurer of their choice, regardless of the county allocation.

Website: <http://www.pqc.state.pa.us>

Persian Gulf Veterans Bonus Program

www.milvet.state.pa.us

Eligible current or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, the reserve or the Pennsylvania National Guard, or their beneficiaries may receive a one-time benefit of \$75 for each month of active service in the first Persian Gulf War, up to \$525. An additional \$5,000 benefit is available for those who were a prisoner of war or died on active service.

Veterans must have:

- Served on active duty in the Persian Gulf Theatre of Operations from August 2, 1990 to August 31, 1991
- Received the Southwest Asia Service Medal for the same period
- Been a legal resident of PA during the time of active duty in the Persian Gulf Theatre of Operations.
- Been honorably discharged, if not currently on active du



CITY RESOURCES FOR VETERANS

General Services

American Red Cross	215-299-4085
Salvation Army	215-568-5111
Impact Service	215-739-1600
Philadelphia. Corporation for Aging	215-765-9000
Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service And Education Center	215-923-VETS

Health & Wellness

Bebashi	215-769-3561
Magee Rehabilitation	215-587-3117
Philadelphia. Department of Health	215-686-5000
Behavioral Health & Disabilities	215-685-4732
Philadelphia VA Medical Center	215-823-5800
Women's Health Clinic (V.A.)	215-823-4496



Adjutant General's Office of Pennsylvania

*Veterans Administration Center
Wissahickon Avenue & Manheim Street
P.O. Box 42938, Pennsylvania PA 19101-3339
215-381-3040, Toll Free: 1-844-754-8637
Fax: 215-381-3492*

Jewish War Veterans

*Philadelphia County Council
7716 Summerdale Avenue, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia PA 19111
215-725-6537 or 215-725-4938*

American Veterans (AMVETS)

*State Headquarters: 717-761-4060
Philadelphia: 215-381-3294*

AMVETS has a proud history of assisting veterans and sponsoring numerous programs that serve our country and its citizens. Over the years, AMVETS launched programs that are related to serving homeless veterans, funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and veterans employment and training.

Disabled Am Vets

*5000 Wissahickon, Philadelphia PA 19144-4867
215-381-3065*

Marine Corps League

1-800-779-7309

Military Order of the Purple Heart

215-381-3064

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat. Although membership is restricted to the combat wounded, the Military Order of the Purple Heart support all veterans and their families with a myriad of nation-wide programs by Chapters and National Service Officers.

Paralyzed Vets of America

215-381-3057

United Spinal Association

215-381-3037

TOLL FREE SERVICES

Benefits Information & Assistance

1-800-827-1000

CHAMPVA (Civilian Health & Medical Program)

1-800-733-8387

Education & Training

1-800-442-4551

Direct Deposit

1-877-838-2778

Health Care

1-877-222-8389

Headstones

1-800-697-6847

Helpline

Agent Orange, Gulf War, Ionizing Radiation, Luicite, Mustard Gas, Project SHAD

1-800-749-8387

Office of Service Members' Group Life Insurance

1-800-419-1473

Telecommunication Device for Deaf (TDD)

1-800-829-4833

Education & Training

1-800-442-4551

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

The department provides a wide range of benefits including disability; education and training; vocational rehabilitation and employment; home loan guaranties dependent and survivor benefits; medical treatment; life insurance and burial benefits.

Pennsylvania's Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

The department is responsible for providing resources and assistance to Pennsylvania's one million military veteran and their families.

Philadelphia County

*Division of Veteran Services
City Hall, Room 494.
Broad and Market Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-686-3256. Fax: 215-563-3162*

Montgomery County

*Division of Veteran Services
Montgomery County Human Services
P.O. Box 311
1430 DeKalb Street, Norristown PA, 19401-0311
610-278-3285. Fax: 610-278-5935*



COMMUNITY SERVICES

The American Legion

*3924 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA
215-386-3656*

The American Legion is the nation's largest veterans' service organization, committed to mentoring and sponsorship of youth programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans. See website for other Philadelphia locations.

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States/ Department of Pennsylvania (VFW)

The PA Department leads the nation with more than 104,000 combat vets belonging to 500 local VFW posts. "Honoring the Dead by Helping the Living", the VFW serves veterans, military families, and the community at large through a <http://us-flag.net/pictures/wallpapers/american-flag-wallpaper.jpg>variety of service activities.



EDUCATION

Educational Gratuity

1-800-54-PA-VETS

Children of honorably discharged veterans are granted educational gratuities. To be eligible, veterans must be certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having wartime service-connected disabilities rated as totally or permanently disabling. Children of veterans who died in service during war or armed conflict are also eligible. Children must be between 16 and 23, a resident of PA for a period of 5 years immediately preceding the application date and attending a PA school to be entitled to the gratuity.

Grants for Veterans and POW/MIA Dependents

1-800-54-PA-VETS

Qualified veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible for state grants while they are full-time undergraduate students. Veterans must comply with PA's residency requirements and other requirements of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. Dependent children of members or former members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served on active duty after Jan. 31, 1955, who are or have been listed as missing in action or prisoners of war are also eligible for state grants.

The deadline for submitting applications for this bonus is August 31, 2015.

Center for Literacy

*636 S. 48th Street
Philadelphia PA 19143
215-474-1235*

In response to the need in the West Philadelphia community for adult basic literacy instruction, CFL began as a volunteer tutoring program in 1968. It later expanded to other areas of Philadelphia. The Center for Literacy provides GED preparation classes and offers neighborhood classes in donated space at public libraries, elementary schools, churches and community centers.

College Access Program

4601 Market Street
Philadelphia PA
215-476-2227

The College Access Program provides information and assistance applying for college and locating scholarships. It helps Philadelphia's financially needy undergraduate students attend eligible public and private colleges and universities, proprietary schools, and technical colleges.

Star Career Academy

2371 Welsh Road
Philadelphia, PA
215-969-5877

Provides performance-based occupational training to prepare veterans for entry-level employment in allied health fields, cosmetology professional cooking and baking and hospitality fields.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Operation Home front of Pennsylvania and Delaware

1-800-779-5892

Email: pa@operationhomefront.net

Serving active duty, Reserve, National Guard and veteran service members, this national organization provides emergency assistance in the form of checks paid directly to mortgage lenders, auto mechanics, contractors, hospitals, doctors, dentists, and other providers. Emergency financial assistance is also available for food, home repairs, infant products, and other needs.

Philadelphia VA Medical Center

3900 Woodland Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19104

215-823-5800 or toll free 1-800-949-1001

The center, part of the VA Healthcare Network, provides health care to veterans in Philadelphia and six surrounding counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey and serves as an acute referral center for VA healthcare facilities in eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware and Southern New Jersey.

Vets First

www.vetsfirst.org

A program of the United Spinal Association helps veterans and their eligible family members obtain the benefits and their eligible family members to obtain the benefits they are entitled to, deserve, and need by providing free assistance, resources, and representation for veterans struggling to navigate the intricate and confusing VA claim process. They advocate for all generations of veterans, including individuals living with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic spinal cord and brain injuries.

EMPLOYMENT

Philadelphia Office of Human Resources

*1401 JFK Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-686-0880*

Civil Service Preference

*Pennsylvania Civil Service Commission
P.O. Box 569
Harrisburg, PA 17108
717-782-3058*

Honorably discharged veterans receiving a passing score on a Philadelphia Civil Service examination are given an additional 10 points on initial appointment only. Widows of veterans and spouses of disabled service-connected veterans are also extended the same preferential rating.

ESGR Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve

*1708 Stenton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19141-1433
215-298-4161*

National Guard and Reserve liaison between those being deployed and redeployed and their employers.

Greater Philadelphia Veterans Network

www.gpvn.org

This nonprofit organization provides pre-employment education services to transiting military service members and local veterans. Programs include mentorships and workshops for local companies, on hiring veterans.

State Retirement

1-800-633-5461

Honorably discharged veterans employed by the state for three years or more may buy back their time spent in the U.S. Armed Forces for retirement purposes.

Veterans Hiring

*Philadelphia/PA Region
Veterans' Employment and Training Service
U.S. Department of Labor
170 S. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3310
215-861-5390. Fax: 215-861-5389*

Veterans employment representatives will help veterans with job counseling and placement information. Veterans who are disabled, who served on active duty in the Armed Forces during specified time periods or in military campaigns are entitled to preference over others in hiring for virtually all federal government jobs. If they have a 5 or 10 point veterans' preference rating, or are unsure if they have veterans' preference points, representatives will assist them.



TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Philadelphia Veterans Centers

*801 Arch Street Suite 502
Philadelphia PA 19107
215-627-0238*

The Veterans Centers offer re-adjustment counseling through a wide range of psycho-social services for eligible veterans and their families to assist in their effort to make a successful transition from military to civilian life.

The Fresh Start Foundation

*3023 Frankford Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19134*

With facilities in Philadelphia and Coatsville, this multi-service organization operates transitional and emergency housing programs for veterans with a history of chemical dependence and/or mental illness.

Philadelphia Veterans House

*4108 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19104
267-292-2052*

Comfort House provides shelter, meals and a helping hand to US military veterans who are either homeless or undergoing serious medical treatment at our local VA hospital.

The Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, Inc.

*213-217 North 4th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-923-2600*

This nonprofit center is dedicated to assisting our nation's honorably discharged veterans by providing coordinated and comprehensive services, eliminating barriers for successful transition and addressing needs for independent reintegration into their community. Other responsibilities include providing job training and placement, permanent, and transitional housing services, legal counseling referrals, and in depth knowledge of the VA medical system and VA disabilities claims and entitlements.

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Women's Veteran's Center

*213-217 North 4th Street
Philadelphia PA 19106
215-923-2600 Ext. 171*

The Women's Veteran's Center provides assistance and representation for Female Veterans through workshops, events as well as activities. This center offers a support system for Returning Female Soldiers and Veterans Monday through Friday. Through the center we resources are made available such as clothing, housing referrals, employment avenues and benefit support.

The Veterans Group

*3029 Baring Street
Philadelphia PA 19104
215-222-4379*

The Veterans Group has provided shelter and rehabilitation services to homeless veterans since 1946.

Pointman Heart Soldiers Ministries

*2801 Frankford Avenue (lower level)
Philadelphia, PA 19134
215-475-6035*

The Pointman Soldiers Heart Ministry (PSHM) is a tax-exempt Veteran Service Organization based in faith that is a search and rescue resource ministry. Our purpose is to secure benefits and healthcare for vulnerable veterans using voter education to maintain their dignity and honor as citizens.

HOUSING

Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA)

*12 S. 23rd St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-684-4000 (follow prompts)
www.pha.phila.gov*

As an independent agency, PHA owns and operates more than 14,000 affordable housing rental units and serves more than 80,000 Philadelphians. As the nation's fourth largest public housing authority, PHA builds and manages public housing residences, oversees the Housing Choice Voucher Program (formerly known as Section 8) and offers homeownership opportunities.

Project H.O.M.E.

*1515 Fairmount Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19130
215-232-7272*

Project H.O.M.E. is committed to assisting the poor and homeless in Philadelphia. They provide supportive services for veteran families.

Redevelopment Authority of the City of Philadelphia (RDA)

*1234 Market St., 16th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-854-6500
www.phila.gov/rda*

The RDA is the lead housing finance agency for the City of Philadelphia. It provides financing for the production of affordable rental and homeownership housing. Its responsibilities include project evaluation for feasibility, project underwriting, loan closing and construction oversight. It also provides home-improvement loans for homeowners.

PHIL-Plus

This loan is specifically designed for homeowners with less-than-perfect credit. The loan must be used toward home improvements although leftover funds may be used to pay off existing consumer debt. Income guidelines apply. Free counseling is provided by participating housing counseling agencies (see pages 61-65). Homeowners can borrow up to \$25,000 for large home repairs and take up to 20 years to repay. Applicants can apply for a one-percent rate reduction after 24 consecutive on-time monthly payments.

UESF

UESF assists Veterans who are homeless or at risk of losing their homes. Work with homeless, families and individuals at risk of eviction or utility termination or experiencing financial burden due to disability or medical conditions

215-972-5170

L&I

Rental Complaints and Inspection Requests

*Municipal Services Building
1401 JFK Blvd., 11th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102 . 215-686-2463
www.phila.gov/li*

The City's Department of Licenses and Inspections (L&I) handles rental complaint and inspection requests and outlines the responsibilities of owners, tenants and landlords for maintaining houses and apartments in a safe and clean condition. L&I enforce the City of Philadelphia's Housing Code and investigate complaints about code violations. L&I addresses problems such as fire safety, basic equipment and facilities in rental properties, water and sewage systems, heating and repairs.

Emergency Fund for Older Philadelphians

215-765-9040 . www.pcacares.org

Offers small grants to elderly over age 60 to meet emergency energy, food, housing and medical needs. This program is a last resort. All other resources must be exhausted. Provides assistance to low-income applicants over age 60 who have a utility shut-off or whose utilities will be shut off in five working days or less. Also delivers heating oil to eligible clients whose supply is depleted or near exhaustion.

Homeless Advocacy Project

215-523-9595

The Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP) meets the legal and advocacy needs of homeless individuals and families in Philadelphia. They collaborate with shelter providers, homeless advocates, community service providers and the legal community to provide homeless clients with legal representation and to connect them with other social services.

The Perimeter

215-923-2600

The Perimeter, which is operated by the Philadelphia Veteran's Multi-Service Center, is a drop-in center for homeless veterans. Over the years, the Perimeter has assisted with placing veterans in substance abuse residential programs, domiciliary programs, transitional residences, independent housing, and in personal care/nursing homes. They also provide meals to homeless Veterans.

Philadelphia Comfort House

4108 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19104
267-292-2052

Comfort House provides shelter, meals and a helping hand to US military veterans who are either homeless or undergoing serious medical treatment at our local VA hospital

Safe Haven

2331 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19132
267-639-4105

Safe Haven is a form of supportive housing serving hard to reach homeless veterans with severe mental illness and drug abuse problems. The miss

St. Francis Inn Ministries

*2441 Kensington Ave.
Philadelphia PA 19125
215-925-4584*

St. Francis Inn Ministries ministers the poor and homeless of Philadelphia. They meet the immediate daily needs of the people by serving them with food, clothing, and hospitality. They are



NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Share Food Program

*2901 Hunting Park Avenue
Philadelphia PA 19129
215-232-2220*

SHARE operates through Host Organizations which are run by churches, community centers, schools, businesses, senior centers and tenant councils. Host Organizations have two responsibilities: the first is to register people for purchases of SHARE packages and to offer them ideas about community service; the second is to send participants to help bag food, and to pick up and distribute food on distribution day at their Host Organization.

Farmers Market Trust

*1201 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia PA 19107*

The Food Trust strives to make healthy food available to all. Working with neighborhoods, schools, grocers, farmers and policymakers, we've developed a comprehensive approach that combines nutrition education and greater availability of affordable, healthy food.

Greater Philadelphia Food Bank

*302 W Berks Street
Philadelphia PA 19122
215-739-3050*

Founded in 1981, the Greater Philadelphia Food Bank maintains the mission to solicit, collect, store, and distribute surplus food to organizations that care for the needy throughout southeastern Pennsylvania. Since the organization began, it has distributed more than 140 million pounds of donated food to charities that feed needy families. As a central clearinghouse for food, every day the Food Bank distributes sixteen tons of food among almost 800 non-profit organizations in order to help fight hunger. Nearly 400,000 low income and poor families are served each year in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties through the Food Bank.

also empowered to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty and address structural injustices.

Philabundance

*3616 S Galloway St
Philadelphia PA 19148
215-739-7394*

Philabundance is the region's largest hunger relief organization. In 2011, they acquired 21 million pounds of food, distributed 19 million pounds in our service area and exported 2 million pounds of food to assist other area food banks.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Nutritional Development Services (NDS)

*222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-895-3470*

NDS provides government-supported meals to schools, childcare centers and other organizations serving children. It also collects and provides food to organizations serving the poor.

Old First Reformed Church of Philadelphia

*151 N 14th Street
Philadelphia PA 19106*

They are committed to welcoming people of every race, language, age, gender, ethnicity, economic status, mental or physical ability, and sexual orientation into the full life and ministry of the church.

Aces Museum

*5801 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19144
(215) 842-3742*

Aces Museum honors the African American and minority Veterans of World War II. It promotes positive educational role models and encourages creative and educational studies.

American Legion

*2369 Orthodox Street
Philadelphia PA
215-744-5211*

The American Legion is a social and mutual aid veterans' organization. It is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization with great political influence perpetuated by its grass-roots involvement in the legislation process from local districts to Capitol Hill.

United Spinal Association

*5000 Wissahickon Avenue
Philadelphia PA
215-991-1828*

United Spinal Association's mission is to improve the quality of life of all people living with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D). United Spinal was founded in 1946 .

Impact Service Corporation

*1952 E. Allegheny Avenue
Philadelphia PA 19134
215-739-5763*

Since 1974, Impact Services Corporation has worked in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia to rekindle hope in the hearts of Philadelphians who have seen factories close, jobs disappear, and life chances dim.

Parkway Memorial Post 7650

*757 N 24th Street
Philadelphia PA
215-236-3970*

Parkway Memorial Post 7650 in Philadelphia, PA was established in 1946 and incorporated in Pennsylvania. It is a private company categorized under Veterans' and Military Organizations.

Paralyzed Veterans of America

*5000 Wissahickon Ave
Philadelphia PA
215-834-5998*

Paralyzed Veterans of America fight for better health care and benefits, aid in the search for a truly satisfying career, and provide the path to adventure through adaptive sports. They are committed to ongoing care by educating clinicians about spinal cord injury, and are deeply invested in the future for a cure for paralysis.

Impact Services Veterans Services

*174 W Allegheny Avenue
Philadelphia PA
215-425-0599*

Helping homeless and disadvantaged veterans reclaim their lives and self-sufficiency is the responsibility of Impact. It was awarded Philadelphia's first Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program grant from US Department of Labor in 1993.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

*5212 Race Street
Philadelphia PA
215-474-8000*

The VFW had been instrumental in establishing the Veterans Administration, creating a GI bill for the 20th century, the development of the national cemetery system and the fight for compensation for Vietnam vets exposed to Agent Orange and for veterans diagnosed with Gulf War Syndrome. In 2008, VFW won a long-fought victory with the passing of a GI Bill for the 21st Century, giving expanded educational benefits to America's active-duty service members, and members of the Guard and Reserves, fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Salvation Army

*5501 Market Street
Philadelphia PA 19139
215-474-1009*

The Salvation Army is a Christian church that is well known for their thrift work and charity. Their programs include job training, youth services, provision of AIDS/HIV resources, and alcohol and drug recovery.

Veteran's Administration

*VAMC 116
Philadelphia PA 19104
215-823-5800*

The Veteran's Administration provides a full range of VA benefits and services to veterans from Philadelphia. They also assist veterans with health care services.

Philadelphia Veterans Memorial Society Inc. (PVMSEC)

*4720 Mercer Street
Philadelphia PA
215-535-0643*

PVMSEC was founded to address the multiple needs of all honorably discharged Veterans experiencing difficulty transitioning back into the mainstream of society. Initially, our organization was formed to help Vietnam Veterans who were having trouble making that transition. Since 1980, our services have grown and diversified to encompass needs from Veterans of all wars and conflict, up to and including the current Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans.

Veteran Guard Third Regiment

*2700 Southampton Rd
Philadelphia PA
215-677-4404*

The Veteran Guard, Third Regiment Infantry National Guard of Pennsylvania, is a Historical and Ceremonial Unit of the National Guard of Pennsylvania.

Hosts for Hospitals

*4719 Pine Street
Philadelphia PA
610-660-6667*

Hosts for Hospital has a purpose of providing free lodging and supporting at volunteer-host homes as a caring response to the housing needs of patients and their families who come to the Greater Philadelphia area for specialized medical care.

Philadelphia VA Medical Center

*3900 Woodland Avenue
Philadelphia PA 19104
215-823-5800*

The Philadelphia VA Medical Center provides health care to Veterans living in America's fifth-largest metropolitan area, including the city of Philadelphia and six surrounding counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. The Philadelphia VAMC is part of the



CONTACT INFORMATION

Arts & Culture

Mural Arts	215-685-0705
ACES Museum	215-842-3642
Warrior Writers	

City Government Services

City Hall	311
Mayor's Commission on Aging	215-686-8450
Mayor's Commission on Literacy	215-686-5253
Mayor's Commission on Disability	215-686-2798
Mayor's Office of Community Serv.	215-696-7590
Mayor's Office of Consumer Affairs	215-686-7590
Revenue Department	215-686-6400

Education

Berean Institute	215-763-4833
Free Library of Philadelphia	215-686-5322
Philly Goes 2 College	215-686-0315
Veterans Upward Bound Program	215-898-6892

Food and Nutrition

SHARE	215-223-2220
Food Hotline	215-430-0556
Philabundance	215-238-8061

Housing

Fair Housing	215-686-4670
TURN	215-940-3900
PHDC Weatherization	215-448-2134
PHDC Basic System Repair	215-448-2160
Diversified Housing Solutions	267-386-8267
Office of Supportive Housing	215-686-7175
Philadelphia Housing Authority	215-684-4000
Project HOME	215-232-7272
UESF	215-972-5174

Legal Assistance

Community Legal Service	215-981-3700
Defender Association	215-568-3190
District Attorney	215-686-8000
Homeless Advocacy Project	215-523-9595
Lawyer Referral	215-238-1701
Philadelphia Legal Assistance	215-981-3800
Veterans Court	215-686-5125
Victim Service	215-686-8027
Senior Law Center	215-988-1244

Neighborhood Improvement and Community

Philadelphia More Beautiful	215-685-3968
Block Party Permits	215-686-5510
Recycling	215-686-5069
Zoning Complaints	215-686-2463

Records

Birth/Death Certificates	215-560-6011
Driving Records	800-932-4600
Criminal Records	215-683-7505
GED Records	717-787-5532
Marriage Records	215-686-2234
Name Change	215-686-7401

Police and Fire Reports	215-686-2266
Probate Records	215-686-6250
Recorder of Deeds	215-686-1483
School Records	215-400-4000
Traffic Citations	215-686-1675

Transportation and Parking

Department of Motor Vehicles	800-932-4600
Para transit	215-580-7720
Parking Authority	215-686-9600
SEPTA	215-580-7661

Utilities

PECO	215-841-4000
PGW	215-235-1000
Utilities Commission	215-965-3721
Water Department	215-685-6300
Water Revenue Bureau	215-686-6880
USEF	215-972-5170

Voter Registration

Board of Elections	215-686-1500
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Philadelphia City Council Contacts

DARRELL L. CLARKE..... 490 CITY HALL 686-2070

President:

AT-LARGE

BLONDELL REYNOLDS-BROWN..... 581 CITY HALL 686-3438/39 686-1926

WILLIAM K. GREENLEE 506 CITY HALL 686-3446/47 686-1927

W. WILSON GOODE, JR. 316 CITY HALL 686-3414/15 686-1928

DAVID OH 597 CITY HALL 686-3452/53 686-1925

JAMES F. KENNEY 330 CITY HALL 686-3450/51 686-2013

AT-LARGE..... 312 CITY HALL 686-3420/21 686-1930

DENNIS O'BRIEN..... 582 CITY HALL 686-3440/41 686-1929

DISTRICT

1ST MARK SQUILLA 332 CITY HALL 686-3458/59 686-1931

2ND KENYATTA JOHNSON..... 580 CITY HALL 686-3412/13 686-1932

3RD JANNIE L. BLACKWELL..... 408 CITY HALL 686-3418/19 686-1933

4TH CURTIS JONES, JR...... 404 CITY HALL 686-3416/17 686-1934

5TH DARRELL L. CLARKE..... 313 CITY HALL 686-3442/43 686-1901

6TH BOBBY HENON..... 484 CITY HALL 686-3444/45 686-1935

7TH MARIA D. QUIÑONES SÁNCHEZ. 592 CITY HALL 686-3448/49 686-1936

8TH CINDY BASS 594 CITY HALL 686-3424/25 686-1937

9TH MARIAN B. TASCO 577 CITY HALL 686-3454/55 686-1938

10TH BRIAN J. O'NEILL..... 562 CITY HALL 686-3422/23 686-1939

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!!!!



Welcome Home!

and

Thank You for Your Service!

*Veteran Coordinators
Accredited Service Officer*

Wanda Pate-Dennis

Joyce McKeown



NOTES



In 1957, the Philadelphia City Council introduced legislation that created the Veterans Advisory Commission. The language in the legislation and its intended purpose were clear, it stated that:

“Whereas, many veterans were unaware of the benefits which are distributed through various departments and agencies of the city and to which are legally entitled; and

Whereas, the City desires to establish a Veterans Advisory Commission which would apprise veterans of the benefits to which they are entitled and consult with and advise City departments and agencies engaged in the distribution of such benefits.”

Since its inception, the Veterans Advisory Commission served as a one-stop shop for veterans in need and as a resource to City Council members. Each year, the Veterans Advisory Commission helps hundreds of veterans with issues ranging from real estate tax exemption application to employment.