

# Services & Resources for Older Adult Veterans at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center

*Nam-Ha Brown, MD, Cincinnati VAMC*  
*Jena Stugmyer, MSW, LISW-S, Social Worker, Cincinnati VAMC*  
*Elise Henning, MD, MEd, Cincinnati VAMC*

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## Objectives

- ▶ Identify current and new/future resources for older adult veterans at the Cincinnati VAMC in the inpatient and outpatient settings
  - ▶ Acute care
  - ▶ Community Living Center (CLC)
  - ▶ Geriatric Evaluation Center (GEC)
- ▶ Review referral opportunities, VA benefits of current programs for veterans.

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## Acute Care

- ▶ Inpatient geriatric consultation
  - ▶ Delirium
  - ▶ Cognitive impairment/dementia
  - ▶ Polypharmacy
  - ▶ Decision making capacity
  - ▶ Disposition planning
  - ▶ Frequent hospitalizations
  - ▶ Frailty
  - ▶ Goals of Care discussions
  - ▶ Self neglect or elder abuse
  - ▶ Functional decline
  - ▶ Advance care planning

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## Geriatric Evaluation Center

- ▶ Focus: to identify, evaluate and address the biophysical status of severely disabled and frail older persons
- ▶ Goal: to optimize the Veteran's health, functional status and ability to live as independently as possible
- ▶ Setting: outpatient clinic
- ▶ Interdisciplinary team members complete evaluations and give recommendations in their area of specialty

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## Geriatric Evaluation Center

- ▶ Who do we see?
  - ▶ Age 65 or older
  - ▶ Lives in the community
  - ▶ Must have at least 1 caregiver present at appointment
  - ▶ Multiple medical, functional or psychosocial problems
  - ▶ High risk for further decline and/or institutional placement
  - ▶ One or more geriatric syndromes (dementia, delirium, functional decline, urinary incontinence, polypharmacy, elder abuse, unsteady gait or falls, malnutrition, depression)
  - ▶ Older adults who want to focus on health promotion and disease prevention

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## Geriatric Evaluation Center

- ▶ Interdisciplinary team
  - ▶ Geriatric medicine
  - ▶ Geriatric psychiatry
  - ▶ Occupational therapy
  - ▶ Pharmacy
  - ▶ Physical therapy
  - ▶ Neuropsychology
  - ▶ Nutrition
  - ▶ Social Work

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## Beyond Home Health

- ▶ Home Based Primary Care - HBPC
- ▶ Hospital in Home (HIH)

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## Available Benefits

- ▶ Community Living Center
  - ▶ Long term care
    - ▶ Veteran must meet eligibility criteria
  - ▶ Short term rehabilitation
    - ▶ Open to all Veterans
    - ▶ 90 day STR benefit
  - ▶ Respite
    - ▶ Open to all Veterans
    - ▶ 30 day annual benefit
  - ▶ Hospice
    - ▶ Open to all Veterans
    - ▶ 90 day benefit for inpatient hospice

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## Available Benefits

- ▶ Contract Nursing Home
  - ▶ Long term care for eligible Veterans
  - ▶ Short term rehabilitation for eligible Veterans
  - ▶ 8 contracted facilities in Ohio
- ▶ Contract Adult Day Care
  - ▶ Open to all Veterans with eligibility based on functional status or cognitive impairment
  - ▶ Some Veterans have copays for ADC service
  - ▶ 8 contracted facilities in Ohio and Kentucky
- ▶ Home Health Services
  - ▶ Skilled care- PT/OT/ST/SN
  - ▶ Non- skilled HHA for HMK/PC/in-home respite
- ▶ Lifeline Medical Alert System

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## Available Benefits

- ▶ Home safety evaluation
- ▶ Equipment
  - ▶ Cane, walker, wheelchair
  - ▶ Grab bars, ramp, lifts
  - ▶ Compression stockings, shoes and inserts
  - ▶ Raised toilet seat
  - ▶ Shower chair or bench
  - ▶ Special utensils and bath aids
- ▶ Driving Evaluation through community agency
- ▶ Advance Directives
  - ▶ Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare
  - ▶ Living Will

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## Available Benefits

- ▶ Caregiver Support Program
  - ▶ Peer mentoring, education, online courses, referrals for services or equipment
  - ▶ Caregiver Support Line: 1-855-260-3274
- ▶ REACH Program
  - ▶ Resources for Enhancing All Caregiver's Health
  - ▶ CG are taught disease specific problem solving skills and stress management techniques
    - ▶ For CGs of Veterans enrolled in VA care with:
      - ▶ Dementia
      - ▶ Spinal cord injury
      - ▶ PTSD
      - ▶ Multiple Sclerosis
      - ▶ ALS

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## Future Endeavors

- ▶ Geriatric outpatient clinic- collaboration with outpatient primary care and specialty care clinics
- ▶ Hospital-wide delirium education through Simulation Lab
- ▶ E-consults for Community-Based Outpatient Clinics
- ▶ Telemedicine for Geriatric Evaluation Center follow-up
- ▶ Dementia/behavioral long term care unit
- ▶ Geriatric psychiatry inpatient unit expansion
- ▶ Acute Care for Elders Unit (ACE)
- ▶ Geriatric Emergency Department Initiative (GEDI)/GEM (Ger Emerg Med)

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Thanks for Serving Our Country



**Butler County Veterans Service Commission**  
**(513) 887-3600**

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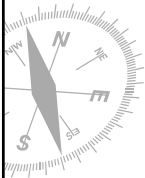
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## Butler County Veterans Service Commission



Main Office Located in Hamilton  
315 High St. 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.  
Hamilton, Ohio 45011  
(513) 887-3600

Middletown Office  
78 North Breiel Blvd.  
Middletown, Ohio 45042  
(513)425-8600

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## General Note

- ▶ We are not the VA.
- ▶ We are advocates working on behalf of Veterans, Surviving Spouses, Dependent Children, and Veterans Parents.
- ▶ We are here to serve you.



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## The Role of the Veterans Service Commission

- ▶ Assist veterans in obtaining benefits available from federal, state, and local levels of the government.
- ▶ To assist with **temporary** financial aid for basic living needs.
- ▶ To provide transportation to local VA and VA funded medical appointments.



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## Eligibility for Financial Assistance

- ▶ Individual must be a veteran, or the spouse, surviving spouse, dependent parent, minor child, or ward of a veteran or active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, and a current resident of Butler County.
- ▶ Veteran must have been discharged under honorable conditions.



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## Basic Needs

- ▶ Mortgage / Rent
- ▶ Mortgage Insurance & Property Tax
- ▶ Utilities
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Clothing
- ▶ Telephone (basic) / Internet
- ▶ Automobile repair



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## Documents to Bring

- ▶ DD 214 or Orders of Active Duty.
- ▶ Driver License / State Identification.
- ▶ Marriage License / Birth Certificate/ SS cards.
- ▶ Current/Bank Statements, Checking & Savings.
- ▶ Mortgage / Rent / Property tax & Insurance payments due.
- ▶ Utility bills.
- ▶ Report of all household income.
- ▶ Telephone bill.
- ▶ Vehicle payments due.
- ▶ Call the office to make an appointment for "Financial Assistance".

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## Processing time

- ▶ Ohio Revised code allows 30 days to process the application. Our office usually takes about 10 days from the application date, (assuming proper documentation accompanies application).
- ▶ Application is good for 30 days.
- ▶ Additional application can be filed after 30 days of prior decision.

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## Assistance

- ▶ Assistance will be granted or denied accordingly to Ohio Revised Code Title 5901
- ▶ If approved we will contact you by telephone to let you know how the assistance will be distributed.
- ▶ Denied applications are forwarded directly to the Veterans Service Commission Board.

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## Transportation to VA Medical Appointments

- ▶ Our office can provide cost free transportation to VA scheduled medical appointments and VA funded appointments private providers.

### ▶ Eligibility:

- Honorable Discharge
- Butler County Resident
- Must have a VA medical appointment



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## Transportation to VA Medical Appointments Continued

- ▶ Our office must be notified of the appointment a minimum of 48 business hours prior to the appointment.
- ▶ An adult companion may accompany the rider.
- ▶ We cannot provide transportation for emergency situations.

- To schedule please call our office at 513-887-3600.

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## VA Health Care Benefits

- ▶ Eligible veterans are placed in 1 of 8 priority groups depending on their disabilities, income, and needs.
- ▶ Veterans that are rated at 100% totally and permanently disabled are in priority group 1
- ▶ Veterans with a service connected disability are placed in priority group 3 or higher.
- ▶ The best method of obtaining health care benefits is to allow our office to assist you in completing an application.

- ▶ This is not the only benefit that may be available to you!

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## Service Connected Disability

- Compensation may be granted for current conditions that you suffer from that originated or were aggravated by your time on active duty in the United States Military.
- The condition does not have to be combat related!



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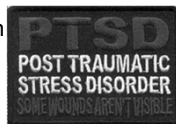
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## Service Connected Disability

- We will need to prove to the VA that:
  - 1) You have a current diagnosed condition.
  - 2) An event occurred while on active duty.
  - 3) There is a link or nexus between 1 & 2.

Ultimately this is your claim. It is essential that you provide the VA with what they need for you to receive a positive result.



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## Service Connection Through Presumption

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a list of presumptive conditions for "In Country" Vietnam Vets, Radiation Exposure, POW's, Korean War Vets, Camp Lejeune Water Vets, Gulf War Vets, and Iraq/Afghanistan Vets.



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## Non-Service Connected Disability Pension

- Non-Service Connected Disability Pension Requirements:
  - Discharged under other than dishonorable conditions
  - At least 90 days of active duty prior to 09/07/1980 or at least 24 months or the full period called to active duty
  - One day of active duty service during a war time era
  - Must be disabled or over the age of 65
  - There is an annual income and asset threshold




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## Death/Survivors Pension

- Requirements:
  - Discharged under other than dishonorable conditions
  - At least 90 days of active duty prior to 09/07/1980 or at least 24 months or the full period called to active duty
  - One day of active duty service during a war time era
  - Surviving spouse, dependent children under age 18 or 23 if enrolled in full time college, dependent children who were totally disabled prior to age 18
  - Surviving Spouse must have been married to the Veteran at the time of their passing and not have remarried since
  - There is an annual income and asset threshold
- Amount received may vary from claimant to claimant dependent upon income and medical expenses

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## Housebound and Aid & Attendance Status

- These are additional benefits that can be added to pensions dependent on the claimants health
- This increases the annual income threshold and allows for the claimant to count additional medical expenses for medical care
  - Housebound – an individual is substantially confined to their premises due to permanent disability
  - Aid & Attendance – an individual who is a resident of a nursing home or requires daily attendance of another person

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## Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

- ▶ Monetary benefit granted if the Veteran passes away from a service connected condition or was continuously rated at 100% service connected for a period of 10 years prior to passing.
- ▶ Who's eligible:
  - Unremarried Surviving Spouse (they may remarry after the age of 57)
  - Unmarried children under the age of 18
  - Children between the ages of 18 & 23 if they are attending a VA approved school
  - Low income parents of the Veteran

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## Burial Benefits

- ▶ Headstone and grave markers
- ▶ Burial Flag
- ▶ Burial reimbursement (if veteran was receiving benefits at time of death, died from a service related condition, or died in a VA medical facility.)
- ▶ There are various benefits that apply to many veterans depending on qualifying factors

**Not all veterans will qualify for the same benefits**




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## Indigent Burial Assistance

- ▶ This benefit is available to eligible claimants to assist in the dignified internment of the deceased if the Veteran/Family do not have the financial means to provide these services.
- ▶ Up to \$1,000.00 may be granted to the funeral home.
- ▶ This benefit is available to:
  - Veterans
  - Veterans Spouse / Surviving Spouse
  - Veterans Parent
  - Veterans Children are not eligible




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## Medals & Records

- ▶ We can assist you with obtaining your military medals and ribbons.
- ▶ We can also assist you in obtaining your military records such as your discharge, service medical records and personnel file.
- ▶ We can assist with requests for upgrade of character of discharge or for corrections.




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## High School Diplomas

- ▶ WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Vets may be eligible to receive their High School Diploma if they meet the criteria and service dates.

- 1) Must have left school to serve in the military.  
or
- 2) Must have left school due to family circumstances and subsequently entered the military.  
and
- 3) Must have received an Honorable Discharge.

Spouses of service members may also be eligible.

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## Ohio Veterans Bonus

- ▶ Veterans, Active Duty service members, or the family of deceased Veterans or Active Duty service members are eligible
- ▶ Service members who served during:
  - Afghanistan Era Oct 7, 2001 – ongoing
- ▶ Resident of Ohio when entered active duty
- ▶ Current resident of Ohio
- ▶ Discharged Under Honorable Conditions

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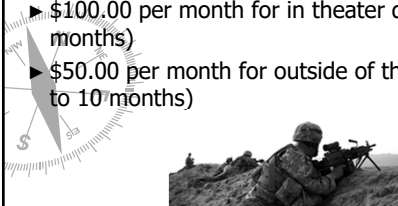
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## Ohio Veterans Bonus

- ▶ Has not received a bonus for this period from another state
- ▶ Served at least 90 days on active duty outside of training
- ▶ \$100.00 per month for in theater duty (up to 10 months)
- ▶ \$50.00 per month for outside of theater duty (up to 10 months)



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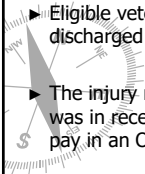
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## Military Injury Relief Fund (MIRF)

- ▶ Provides grants to soldiers injured while serving in country under Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation New Dawn (OND).
- ▶ Eligible veterans include those who were honorably discharged and have a combat-related injury.
- ▶ The injury must have occurred while the service member was in receipt of hazardous duty, combat, or hostile fire pay in an OEF/OIF/OND theater of operation.



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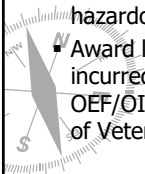
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## Military Injury Relief Fund (MIRF)

- ▶ Proof of Injury
  - The awarding of the "Purple Heart"
  - Documentation of any incident in which the service member is injured while receiving hazardous duty, combat, or hostile fire pay.
  - Award letter of service-connected disability incurred while serving in country under OEF/OIF/OND as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs.



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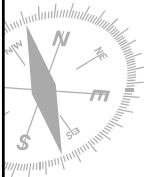
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## Thank You For Your Time

- ▶ Please tell every veteran you know and/or meet about our services.
- ▶ Our passion is to serve each veteran and their family.



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## Questions.....



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## Thanks for Serving Our Country



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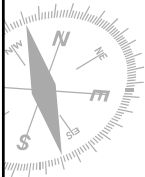
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