

## County Veterans Service Office's

County Veterans Service Offices are unique to the State of Ohio. Each county in the state has one and they can assist with several different benefits you may be eligible for. One thing to keep in mind is although any county office can assist with federal benefits only the county that you have established residence with for 90-days prior to being incarcerated can help with financial assistance and other county specific benefits.

Most counties, if you are a resident, can assist with rent/mortgage, food and utilities among other items. Your spouse and eligible family members may also be eligible even while you are incarcerated.

Once released your local County Veterans Service Office can assist with contacting the VA in order to avoid a prolonged period of homelessness.



If you have any questions in regards to your VA benefits or need the contact information for your county of residency, feel free to contact us for help.

Medina County Veterans Service Office  
PH: (330) 722-9368  
FAX: (330) 722-9378  
[veterans@medinacountyveterans.org](mailto:veterans@medinacountyveterans.org)

## Do's and Don'ts

**DO**, immediately tell the VA if collecting compensation or pension and become incarcerated for more than 60-days. Failing to do so may create an overpayment and a debt on your benefits. This can result in not having your benefits available when you are released and when you will need them most.

**DO**, encourage your eligible family members to apply for an apportionment if needed while you are incarcerated. This will allow them to continue to manage their expenses while you are incarcerated.

**DO**, stay in touch with your local county veterans office or VJO to ensure that your benefits are stopped and to apply for new benefits once you are released.

**DO**, contact the VA when you are released to have your benefits reinstated, this is not automatic.

**DON'T**, think not informing the VA of your incarceration will pay-off. The department of corrections informs the VA of your incarceration at some point. The longer that takes the more money you will owe back to the VA when you are released from prison and need the money the most.

**DON'T**, think not reporting that you are a veterans or collecting VA benefits will help you or avoid a debt. Your social security number gets reported across multiple state and federal agencies.

**DON'T**, think that your not eligible for veterans benefits because your were not in the past. Laws and rules change periodically and you may be eligible today. Ask during your incarceration and when released.



*Camaraderie  
Among Those  
Who Served*

## Medina County Incarcerated & Justice Involved Veterans



### Medina County Veterans Service Office

*Service for those that served, and their families.  
"Because we are family"*

PH: (330) 722-9368  
FAX: (330) 722-9378  
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210 Northland Dr.  
Medina, Ohio 44256



## You're Not Alone

For some veterans incarceration may seem like the end of the road. The impact incarceration has on veterans goes well beyond the loss or reduction of VA benefits. The life behind bars, while dealing with PTSD, addiction, mental and physical health problems, can become overwhelming for even the strongest of veterans.

It is important justice-involved Veterans are familiar with VA benefits including what VA benefits they may still be eligible to receive, what happens to the VA benefits they are already receiving if they become incarcerated, and what programs are available to assist them with reintegrating back into the community once released from incarceration.

1. What is available to me while I am serving my sentence?
2. What should I expect when I am released?
3. Can my family get some of my benefits while I am incarcerated?

These are all good questions and ones that can help ease the burden on you and your family while you are serving your sentence.

This brochure is designed to help you understand the different benefits from the County, State and Federal Government (VA) that you can access either while incarcerated or after your release.

We care about our veterans here in Medina County. It is our goal to ensure you don't lose any of your benefits or create a debit while incarcerated, all while acting in accordance with the law.

### How Incarceration Affects Eligibility for VA Benefits

VA can pay certain benefits to Veterans who are incarcerated in a Federal, State, or local penal institution; however, the amount depends on the type of benefit and reason for incarceration.

## VA: COMPENSATION & PENSION

### Disability Compensation

VA disability compensation payments are reduced if a Veteran is convicted of a felony and imprisoned for more than 60 days. Veterans rated 20 percent or more are limited to the 10 percent disability rate. For a Veteran whose disability rating is 10 percent, the payment is reduced by one-half. Once a Veteran is released from prison, compensation payments may be reinstated based upon the severity of the service-connected disability(ies) at that time. Payments are not reduced for recipients participating in work release programs, residing in halfway houses (also known as "residential re-entry centers"), or under community control. The amount of any increased compensation awarded to an incarcerated Veteran that results from other than a statutory rate increase may be subject to reduction due to incarceration.

### Pension

Veterans in receipt of VA pension will have payments terminated effective the 61st day after imprisonment in a Federal, State, or local penal institution for conviction of a felony or misdemeanor. Payments may be resumed upon release from prison if the Veteran meets VA eligibility requirements. Failure to notify VA of a Veteran's incarceration could result in the loss of all financial benefits until the overpayment is recovered.

### Apportionment to Spouse or Children

All or part of the compensation not paid to an incarcerated Veteran may be apportioned to the Veteran's spouse, child or children, and dependent parents on the basis of individual need. In determining individual need, consideration shall be given to such factors as the claimant's income and living expenses, the amount of compensation available to be apportioned, the needs and living expenses of other claimants as well as any special needs, if any, of all claimants.

### Additional Information:

VA will inform a Veteran whose benefits are subject to reduction of the right of the Veteran's dependents to an apportionment while the Veteran is incarcerated, and the conditions under which payments to the Veteran may be resumed upon release from incarceration.

VA will also notify the dependents of their right to an apportionment if the VA is aware of their existence and can obtain their addresses.

No apportionment may be made to or on behalf of any person who is incarcerated in a Federal, State, or local penal institution for conviction of a felony.

An apportionment of an incarcerated Veteran's VA benefits is not granted automatically to the Veteran's dependents. The dependent must file a claim for an apportionment.

## VA: HEALTHCARE

### Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) Initiative

The VJO initiative is designed to help Veterans avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration by ensuring eligible justice-involved Veterans receive timely access to VA health care, specifically mental health and substance use services (if clinically indicated) and other VA services and benefits as appropriate.

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### Health Care for Re-entry Veterans (HCRV) Program

The HCRV Program is designed to help incarcerated Veterans successfully reintegrate back into the community after their release. A critical part of HCRV is providing information to Veterans while they are incarcerated, so they can plan for re-entry themselves. A primary goal of the HCRV program is to prevent Veterans from becoming homeless once they are reintegrated back into the community.

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