

## DBH Facts

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR VA BENEFITS

*For your convenience in understanding VA benefits, the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH), in partnership with the Missouri Behavioral Health Alliance (MO BHA), has developed this info sheet.*

*These links will take you out of the DMH website. DMH and MO BHA do not endorse or take responsibility for the content of other organization's websites.*

We HIGHLY encourage everyone to connect with the VA and to apply for your VA health benefits. <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/online/>

**Note: The following only summarizes VA eligibility; it is only to assist you in deciding if you may be eligible. Please visit the VA website or the nearest VA Medical Center to confirm eligibility.**

### ▼ **Veteran Eligibility.**

For the purposes of VA health benefits and services, a person who served in the active military service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable is a Veteran.

*Basic Eligibility:* If you served in the active military service and were separated under any condition other than dishonorable, you may qualify for VA health care benefits. Current and former members of the Reserves or National Guard who were called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty may be eligible for VA health benefits as well. **Note: Reserves or National Guard members with active duty for training purposes only do not meet the basic eligibility requirement.**

*Minimum Duty Requirements:* Most Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to Veterans who were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, for a hardship or "early out," or those who served prior to September 7, 1980. Since there are a number of other exceptions to the minimum duty requirements, VA encourages all Veterans to apply so that we may determine their enrollment eligibility.

### ▼ **Active Duty Service Members.**

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Active Duty Service Members who have received their separation and/or retirement orders may apply for enrollment in VA health care system. If eligible, Service Members become enrolled upon separation or retirement.

### ▼ **Family Members of Veterans.**

Under certain circumstances, family members of Veterans are eligible for health benefits. Some of the programs offered include the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA), Spina Bifida (SB), Children of Women Vietnam Veterans (CWVV), Foreign Medical Program (FMP) and Caregiver. Using these programs may reduce or eliminate your cost for medical supplies, office visits or prescriptions.



For more information, contact the nearest community mental health center or the Missouri Department of Mental Health,  
Division of Behavioral Health  
P.O. Box 687  
1706 East Elm  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
573-751-8017  
[dmh.mo.gov](http://dmh.mo.gov)