



California Veterans Benefits Overview

May 8, 2025

Sean Campbell
California Department of Veterans Affairs
CalTAP Training Coordinator

Federal



State



County



Service Providers



my
CALVETCustom benefits and
services

Login

Register

Contact CalVet
1-800-952-5626
[Contact Us](#)

VA Benefits Hotline
1-800-827-1000

Veterans Crisis Line
Dial 988
Press 1

Find a CVSO
1-844-SERV-VET
(1-844-7378-838)



Veterans Homes of California



CA Veteran Driver License



CalTAP

[Veterans Resource Book \(PDF\)](#)[Strategic Plan \(PDF\)](#)[Veteran Homes Master Plans](#)[CalVet Jobs](#)[Minority Veterans](#)[Affected by Natural Disasters?](#)[Doing Business with CalVet](#)[Find Local CVSO](#)[CalVet Board](#)



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

VITO IMBASCIANI MD
SECRETARY, CALVET

CALIFORNIA Veterans Resource Book



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
1227 O STREET, SUITE 300 | SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

THE SECRETARY

Dear California Veterans and Families,

I am pleased to present the 8th edition of CalVet's California Veterans Resource Book. This book assists you in learning about and accessing the wide variety of services and benefits available to California veterans and family members.

Our goal is to provide information about all of the programs offered, plus how to find out if you qualify, who to contact, and how to apply. Whether you're interested in getting a veteran designation on your driver license, getting a discounted State Parks pass, or if you need assistance with the big concerns such as education, health care, disability benefits, employment, housing, or emergency assistance, you will find helpful information in this book.

I want to thank our partners: the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, County Veterans Service Offices, and Veterans Service Organizations as well as many agencies, organizations, and nonprofits supporting our state's 1.7 million veterans. We've included contact information for them in this book.

The California Veterans Resource Book is also available online at www.calvet.ca.gov where we update it regularly. I encourage you to take advantage of these benefits and services - if you served, you earned.

Sincerely,

Vito Imbasciani MD
Secretary



SCAN ME

CAL VET
California Department
of Veterans Affairs

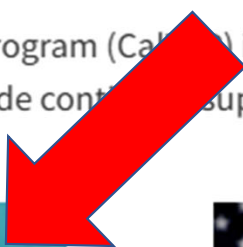
What is CalTAP?

Designed to **inform** and **connect** Veterans of all eras to their earned federal and state benefits as well as provide continued support and assistance as their needs change over time through five pathways:

- Core Curriculum
- Education
- Employment
- Entrepreneurship
- Service Providers

California Transition Assistance Program (CalTAP)

California Transition Assistance Program (CalTAP) is a program designed to inform and connect veterans of all eras to their earned federal and state benefits as well as provide continued support and assistance as their needs change over time through five unique pathways:



Core Curriculum Pathway

Veteran 101, CA Benefits, Financial Literacy



Education Pathway

Selecting a School, Educational Benefits, UC & State Schools



Employment Pathway

Apprenticeship, Job Search, State Employment



Entrepreneurship Pathway

DVBE, Business Centers, Business Resources



Service Providers Pathway

Attorneys, Employers, Primary Care, Supportive Housing

Request for Response

You can request information about:

Earned state and federal benefits
County Veteran Service Offices (CVSOs)
Pathways and curriculumns

[Start Response Request](#) 

Event Outreach Request

Community partners can request CalTAP for:


Informational workshops
Presentations
Resource tables

[Start Outreach Request](#)

Need something else? Email CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov.

Upcoming Workshops



Join us for our webinars or check out our [archives](#) of previously recorded webinars. Join CalTAP's free virtual and in-person workshops across California to stay informed and connected to your earned federal and state benefits. Discover valuable resources and support—learn more by visiting our [CalTAP Workshops](#) .

CalTAP Core Curriculum



Module 1: Introduction

Provides veterans with an understanding of the goals and learning objectives of the CalTAP program.



Module 2: Understanding Resilience

Provides veterans with the opportunity for self-assessment; understand the challenges of service on the family; connect to support networks that assist in the transition from servicemember to civilian.



Module 3: Healthcare

Provides veterans with an overview of the health care benefits available through the Veterans's Health Administration (VHA).



Module 4: Claims and Compensation

Provides veterans with an overview of the benefits available through the Veterans's Benefits Administration (VBA).



Module 5: California Benefits

Provides veterans with an overview of the benefits available through the California Department of Veterans Affairs.



Module 6: Protecting Your Benefits

Provides veterans with information on how to protect their benefits and avoid possible poaching scams.



Custom benefits and services

Login


Register

CalTAP

- [CalTAP Home](#)
- [Core Curriculum](#)
- [Education Pathway](#)
- [Employment Pathway](#)
- [Entrepreneurship Pathway](#)
- [Service Providers Pathway](#)

Spotlight

 [College Fee Waiver](#)

 [Women Veterans](#)

Veteran Dependents: College Tuition Fee Waiver

- Waives tuition and specified fees at any state funded (public) school
 - Community Colleges, CSU, and UC eligible to apply through your doctorate
- Four categories of eligibility
- Student must be a resident as defined by learning institution
- Provides California veterans with over 35 million dollars per year
- Does not cover books, parking, or dorm/meal fees

For additional info see Veteran Resource Guide page 120

College Tuition Fee Waiver For Disabled Veterans' Dependents

Plan A

- **Vet is** Totally Service Connected
- Unmarried Children 15-26
- Spouse of Wartime Vet

Plan B

- **Vet has** 0 – 100% DVA Rating
- Child Dependents
- Child Income Boundaries

Plan C

- **Vet had** CNG Active State Service
- Any CNG Dependent
- Unmarried Surviving Spouse

Plan D

- **Vet earned** Medal of Honor
- Recipient & Children Under 27
- Undergraduate Degrees Only

California Veteran DMV Programs

- Veteran Designation on your driver license or ID card
- Honoring veteran license plates
 - Veteran organization license plates – See the [full list](#) here
 - Special recognition license plate (including gold star)
 - Disabled veteran license plates
 - Registration fee waiver
 - FasTrak® waivers for selected bridges, lanes, or toll roads
- Commercial DL – “Even Exchange” Program
- Real ID Compliant identification is May 7th, 2025

DMV Programs Website



Fishing and Hunting Programs

Veterans with a 50% or higher VA disability rating can enjoy reduced annual fees for fishing and hunting licenses in California.

Active duty service members receiving medical care are also eligible to apply for reduced fee.

Free Fishing Days in California

Saturday of July 5th, 2025

Saturday of August 30th, 2025

Free Hunting Days in California

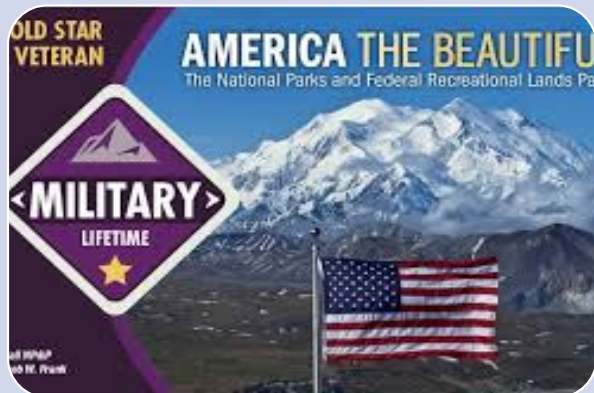
Saturday, November 23, 2024

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Please visit their website to explore all rules and regulations

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Fishing/Free-Fishing-Days>





63 Parks w/2000 Sites

Annual Pass \$80

Veteran Lifetime \$10



279 State Parks

Annual Pass \$195

Free Entry –
On Veterans Day
Library Parks Pass
Veteran 5 Year Pass



El Dorado County

Discounted Vehicle
Pass

Reduced Cost For East
Long Beach Park

Business and Tax Programs

- County programs for business license, tax and fee reductions
- County programs for disabled veteran property tax reductions
- Tax Assistance with VITA, TCE, Miltax programs
- Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program (DVBE)

CalVet Home Loans Division

- CalVet combines your federal and state VA home loan benefits
- CalVet manually underwrites every loan
- Qualified veterans finance closing fees up to 3 percent of the loan amount
- No down payment option for qualified veterans
- Compare our [interest rates](#)





WE WANT TO SAY YES! The CalVet Veteran Home Loan Program has been saying YES to veterans in California since 1921. We've been lending to veterans for over 100 years! Our team's primary mission is to help you say YES to home ownership.

I was in the service over 25 years ago. Can I apply for a CalVet loan?

YES, all veterans who served on active duty can apply. Any age, any state of enlistment.

Is it easy to apply for a CalVet pre-approval?

YES, apply online by visiting the CalVet Home Loans website at www.calvet.ca.gov/homeloans to start the streamline pre-approval process. After you have submitted an application online, a CalVet representative will contact you and guide you through the process.

I want to use my VA loan benefit. Should I consider a CalVet Home Loan?

YES, CalVet is able to combine your federal loan benefit with benefits offered by the state of California to create home financing that is an excellent value for our veterans.

I used the CalVet program once before. Can I use it again?

YES, you can use CalVet home loans again and again. If you had a CalVet home loan in the past and it has been paid in full, you may apply for another loan.

What if I want to build a home? Can CalVet help?

YES, we offer construction loans as well as other specialty loans such as rehabilitation purchase loans and home improvement loans.

I hear CalVet has an excellent property insurance program for most of its loans?

YES, CalVet offers outstanding fire and hazard insurance coverage along with disaster coverage including earthquake and flood protection.

My credit score is too low for my bank to help. Can CalVet work with me?

YES, all loans are manually underwritten to maximize flexibility and improve home ownership opportunities for all veterans. Although we have credit standards, we do not have a minimum credit score requirement.

If I had a short sale, foreclosure, or bankruptcy in the past can I get a CalVet loan?

YES, CalVet loans are manually underwritten; thus, we often are able to help veterans obtain a CalVet VA loan after a short sale.

Women Veterans

California is home to nearly 163,000 women who served in our U.S. military. They are veterans, family members, friends, business owners, professionals, community leaders, and advocates. Women Veterans served in every major U.S. conflict and in peacetime since our Revolutionary War. For this they are owed a great debt of gratitude.

#CalVetWomenVoices



Join U.S. Olympian and Army Sharpshooter, SPC Sagen Maddalena, in a campaign to feature the diversity and the extent California women served and sacrificed for our country. These dynamic and short stories of California women will establish a visible and more accurate narrative of how women served so future generations can follow, aspire to, and be inspired to continue breaking barriers and stereotypes.

Services

[Resources](#)
[Women Veterans Roster](#)
[Women Veterans Reception](#)
[Women Veterans Event Archive](#)
[Women Veterans Leadership Council](#)

Minority and Underrepresented Veterans

California is a richly diverse state with an equally diverse veteran population. Of the 1.6 million veterans in California, 754,831 self-identify as an ethnic minority. While minority veterans comprise approximately 47% of the total California veteran population, as a group, they are less likely to access their veterans benefits than non-minority veterans.

Vision

The Minority and Underrepresented Veterans Division will ensure that all veterans have equal access to their earned benefits, regardless of race, ethnic origin, religion, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.



Outreach and Resources



LGBT Veterans



Hispanic /Latinx Veterans



Native American Veterans



Citizenship



Minority and Underrepresented Veterans Roster



Black / African American Veterans



Asian and Pacific Islander Veterans



CalVet Veteran Homes

Provides veterans with long-term care, including housing, medical, dental, pharmacy, rehabilitation, and social activities

Eight (8) locations:

Barstow

Redding

Chula Vista

Ventura

Fresno

Los Angeles

Lancaster

Yountville



CalVet Burial Benefits

Benefits for veterans and families include:

- Gravesites

- Headstones

- Markers

- Burial flag

- Perpetual care

California has nine (9) federal veteran cemeteries

California has three (3) state veteran cemeteries



Burial Benefits

CalTAP Continued Support Options

- Non government emails to **CalTAP@calvet.ca.gov**
- Register for MyCalVet
- Find us on social media
- Attend webinars
- Fill out today's webinar survey



California Department of Veterans Affairs

800.952.5626

www.calvet.ca.gov



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