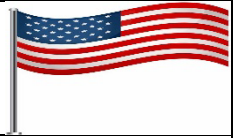


VET NEWS



AUGLAIZE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE COMMISSION

Vol. 31
Issue 5

Phone: 419-739-6750
Fax: 419-739-6751

NOV-DEC 2024

Veteran Care Overview

VA provides health care for Veterans from providers in your local community outside of VA. Veterans may be eligible to receive care from a community provider when VA cannot provide the care needed. This care is provided on behalf of and paid for by VA. Community care is available to Veterans based on certain conditions and eligibility requirements, and in consideration of a Veteran’s specific needs and circumstances. Community care must be first authorized by VA before a Veteran can receive care from a community provider. As with care provided directly by VA, Veterans are charged a copayment for nonservice-connected care. Learn how to pay your bill and alternative payment options. In addition, VA may bill Veterans’ health insurance for medical care, supplies, and prescriptions related to treatment of nonservice-connected conditions.

<https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/index.asp#types>

Mental health copay exemptions

Eligible Veterans may not have to pay an outpatient care copay for their first 3 visits in a calendar year with a qualified mental health care provider at a VA facility or in our VA community care network. The visits must be between June 27, 2023, and December 29, 2027. <https://www.va.gov/resources/mental-health-copay-exemptions/>

VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

If you’re the surviving spouse, child or parent of a service member who died in the line of duty or the survivor of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness, you may be able to get a tax-free monetary benefit called VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. <https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/survivor-compensation/dependency-indemnity-compensation/>.

CHAMPVA benefits

Are you the spouse or surviving spouse of or a child of a Veteran with disabilities or a Veteran who has died? If you do not qualify for TRICARE (the Department of Defense’s health care program for active duty and retired service members and their families), you may be able to get health insurance through CHAMPVA. Through this program, VA covers the cost of some of your health care services and supplies. This is called cost sharing. Find out if you qualify for CHAMPVA and how to apply. <https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/health-and-disability/champva/>.

Understanding VA benefits and Character of Discharge

When VA receives a claim from a former service member, it reviews their character of discharge to determine if they meet basic requirements to be eligible for VA benefits. Any discharge under honorable conditions satisfies the character of discharge requirement for basic eligibility; however, certain types of discharges—and certain circumstances—may prevent an individual from receiving benefits. These claims require an additional review to determine eligibility for benefits. Read more here:

<https://news.va.gov/135111/more-service-members-eligible-for-benefits-after-va-amends-character-of-discharge-barriers/>



Text 838255 How It Works

1. **Available 24/7; Dial 988 then Press 1, chat live, or text 838255.**
2. **A caring, qualified responder will listen and help.**
3. **Your call is free and confidential, and you decide how much information to share.**
4. **Support doesn't end with your conversation. Our responders connect you with resources that can help when you're in distress.**

**VA Healthcare
Lima Community Based
Outpatient Clinic**

The Lima CBOC provides many services outside of primary care to Veterans who qualify for VA healthcare. Eligible Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare can work through their primary care manager to schedule specialty care.

Services provided at the Lima VA Clinic include:

Primary Care

Specialty Care Services

Mental Health Services

Audiology – Ear Care

Podiatry – Foot Care

Optometry – Vision Care

Laboratory Services

Social Work

Telehealth

750 West High Street, Suite 350

Lima, Ohio 45801

419-229-3300

Monday – Friday 7:30am – 4:00pm

Please call our office to schedule an appointment to verify your eligibility and get enrolled; not all Veterans will qualify for VA healthcare.



Financial Assistance

If you are, or know, a Veteran or Widow of a Veteran who is struggling with monthly expenses, call the office to set up an appointment for financial assistance. We can help with mortgage/rent, utilities, and food.

There are residency and other requirements you will be screened for to verify you are eligible to receive assistance through the Auglaize County Veterans Service Commission. As well, as documents that you will need to bring to the appointment with you.

All financial assistance candidates are interviewed, a debt to income ratio is completed, and if warranted, the case is presented to the Veterans Service Commission Board for decision at the regular monthly meeting on the 3rd Thursday each month.

The Veterans Service Commission Board makes all decisions regarding financial assistance.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



November 2024– 2

December 2024- 0

VA TRANSPORTATION
November-December 2024

Veterans to Dayton VA – 29
Veterans to Cincinnati – 0
Veterans to Wright-Patterson – 1
Veterans to Columbus – 14
Veterans to Urbana – 0
Veterans to Miamisburg – 1
Dependents – 0
Total Trips – 45

Veterans to Lima Area – 39
Veterans to Ft. Wayne – 1
Veterans to Toledo – 0
Veterans to St. Mary's – 27
Veterans to Wapakoneta – 0
Veterans to Ann Arbor, MI – 0
Dependents – 0
Total Trips – 67

Transportation requests **must** be made through the Veterans Service Commission Office at (419)739-6750. After hours/weekend, instructions are on the voicemail message.

VA SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS ONLY
(Includes Community Cares appointments.)

Please call our office as soon as you know your next appointment time, so we can schedule your ride.

A Veteran's dependent may also ride the van, as long as there is room on the van.



**Auglaize County Veterans
Service Commission Office**
Located at:
**209 S. Blackhoof St., Rm 202
Wapakoneta, Ohio 45895**

Monday – Friday 8:00 - 4:30
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
Phone (419) 739-6750
Fax (419) 739-6751

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
VSC Board meets every
3rd Thursday of the month in the
Veterans Service Commission Office
@ 5:00p.m., unless otherwise posted.

Commissioners
Ron Zenz, AMVETS
Mike Borges, VVA
Jeanne Goodes, VFW
John Schwarck, DAV
Michael Suchland, AL

Staff
Robert Wiss - Director/ CVSO
rwiss@auglaizecounty.org
Preston Keith - Veteran Service Officer
preston.keith@auglaizecounty.org
Joe Vires, Jr - Veteran Service Officer
joe.vires@auglaizecounty.org
Joni King - Admin/Benefits Counselor
jking@auglaizecounty.org

Van Drivers
Ace Ambos
Robert Jones, Jr
Greg Maines
Gary M Celroy
Terza Engle

***“America was not built on fear.
America was built on courage, on
imagination, and an unbeatable
determination to do the job at hand.”***
– Harry Truman

Auglaize County Veterans Service Commission held its annual Veterans Holiday Brunch on 15 December 2024.



A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL WITH 173 VETERANS AND FAMILIES IN ATTENDANCE. THANKS TO ALL THE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS THAT MADE THE BRUNCH A HUGE SUCCESS!