

Montana State Veteran's Benefits



2021

The Montana's Veteran Affairs Division (MVAD) mission is to promote the general welfare of Veterans and their Families residing in the state. This they accomplish through a statewide network which provides services and assistance to all military veterans, their families, surviving spouses, and dependents, in coordination with associated federal and state agencies, veteran's service organization, private organizations and individuals. MVAD is responsible for the management, operations, and maintenance of Montana's state veteran's cemetery program, assisting and advising the public, governmental agencies, and elected officials regarding veteran's services, programs, initiatives, and policy. MVAD is located at 1956 Mt. Majo St., PO Box 4789, Fort Harrison, MT 59636 and can be contacted via email at MVAD@mt.gov or telephone at (406) 324-3742. For information on the services offered refer to their website <https://dma.mt.gov/MVAD/index>.

As of 31 DEC, 2020 the State's veteran resident community included:

- 3,793 active-duty service members
- 1,404 active-duty spouses
- 2,580 active-duty children
- 5,521 National Guard and reserve members
- 2,642 National Guard and reserve spouses
- 4,374 National Guard and reserve children

The state provides a number of veteran benefits/services which are expounded upon in this addschment's following categories:

- Housing
- Healthcare
- Financial Assistance
- Employment
- Education
- Recreation
- Driver and Vehicle Licensing
- Burial
- Taxation
- Women Veteran Program
- Homeless Vet Programs
- Other

Housing

Location and Function of Homes

Montana veterans' homes are located in Columbia Falls, Glendive, and the soon to open Butte home. Their primary function is to provide a home and subsistence for veterans. The department of public health and human services may also admit spouses or surviving spouses of veterans to the homes if space allows.

Montana Veterans' Home (MVH). This is a Medicare/Medicaid and Veterans' Administration certified facility with 105 intermediate/skilled-care beds and 12 domiciliary beds. It is located at 400 Veterans Dr, Columbia Falls, MT 59912. The nursing facility includes a 15-bed Alzheimer's unit. MVH has been providing services to Veterans since 1896. Most rooms are double occupancy including bath and shower facilities. Construction of the current facility began in 1970 with additions in 1974, 1984, 2002 and a remodel in 2009. The Montana Veterans' Home is located next to the Flathead River just minutes away from Glacier National Park. A large pavilion, walking paths and protected courtyards provide ample opportunities for outdoor access.

The facility offers individual and group activities, spiritual services, support group services and social services. The skilled and rehabilitative services include: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and dietitian services. Physician services are provided on site by North Valley Hospital of Whitefish. Admission to MVH nursing program is for honorably discharged veterans who have served in the armed forces of the United States and who qualify for skilled/intermediate nursing care or domiciliary self-care living. This is a non-smoking facility, but has a smoking program. Smoking is done in a structure designed for this purpose. Residents may not possess any smoking materials in the building. Each resident is evaluated for permission to smoke. Spouses of veterans will be admitted on a space-available basis. A veteran and spouse may be admitted together if they both qualify for nursing-home care or domiciliary living. MVH

has an open admission policy regardless of race, color, creed, age, national origin, medical diagnosis or handicap. Administrative Rules of Montana, Chapter 37.45 Residents pay on the basis of their ability. The Veterans' Administration contributes toward the cost of care for each veteran; spouses do not qualify for this benefit. Cost per day is less than what is charged in most private or nonprofit nursing homes. Montana Veterans Affairs.

Refer to <https://dphhs.mt.gov/sltc/homelivingoptions/montanaveteranshomes/cfmvh> for admission policy, cost, and applications. Contact the Director of Social Services at (406) 892-3256 x 261 for remainder of needed admission paperwork. You will be placed on the wait list. When an opening occurs, they will evaluate your medical status at that time to be sure they can meet your needs and will provide additional information about the rules and regulations of the Home. You will also be notified in writing if your application has been denied and reason for denial.



Columbia Falls Montana Veterans' Home 400 Veterans Dr, Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Eastern Montana Veterans Home (EMVH). This is an 80-bed Long Term Care facility, built by the State of Montana with the assistance of the Federal Veteran's Administration, with a 16-bed designated Special Care Unit for residents with special needs. It is located at 2000 Montana Dr., Glendive, MT 59330 Tel: 406-345-3306 and managed by Glendive Medical Center. EMVH offers a broad array of services and amenities to meet veteran's needs and provides a comfortable home for them or their loved ones. Services offered include Nursing, Activities, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Respiratory Therapy, Pharmacy Services, Special Care Unit - (Alzheimer's), Registered Dietician, Social Services, Discharge Planning, Spiritual Needs, Laundry Services, and Support Groups.

The admission policy of the Eastern Montana Veterans Home is to admit veterans from anywhere in the United States if they qualify for skilled and intermediate nursing care. Spouses and surviving spouses are admitted on a space-available basis. A veteran and spouse may be admitted together if they both qualify for nursing home care. EMVH has an open admission policy regardless of race, color, creed, age, national origin, medical diagnosis or handicap. An order from a medical provider is required for admission. For additional information refer to <https://dphhs.mt.gov/SLTC/HomeLivingOptions/montanaveteranshomes/easternmtvethome>



Eastern Montana Veterans Home, 2000 Montana Dr., Glendive, MT 59330

Southwest Montana Veterans Home (SWMVH). Located in Butte Montana, the Southwest Montana Veterans Home is currently under construction and scheduled for completion in spring of 2021 and first admissions starting in March 2021. It is a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) and will be home to 60 residents. There are currently five cottages with 12-bedrooms and a footprint for a sixth if funding becomes available in the future. Each cottage is designed to very “homelike” with private bedrooms and bathrooms, a central kitchen, dining and living rooms, and a spa/bath room. Southwest Montana Veterans' Home is a tobacco-free facility (smoking/chewing). Residents may not possess any smoking materials on the premises. The heart of the “neighborhood” is the Community Center with a large multi-purpose room, barber/beauty shop, physical therapy, reception area, medical exam room, and administrative offices.

The Don Harrington family generously donated the beautiful 10-acre plot at the foot of the Continental Divide under the watchful eye of the “Lady of the Rockies” and has beautiful views of the Highland Mountain range. More information and photos will be available at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/sltc/homelivingoptions/montanaveteranshomes/swmvh/February2021> as the project continues. At <https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/sltc/SWMVH/SWMVHApplication.pdf>, can be downloaded the Admission Application at For additional info contact Ms. Shyanne West, Admissions Director/Social Services Assistant at shyanne.west@swmvh.com.



Southwest Montana Veterans Home, 65 Veterans Circle, Butte, MT 59701

Financial

State Income Tax. Active duty and reserve/guard pay is not taxed by the state of Montana.

Property Tax Exemption

A residence, including the lot on which it is built, that is owned and occupied by a veteran or a veteran's spouse is exempt by the Montana Disabled Veterans (MDV) Assistance Program from property taxation if the veteran:

- Was killed while on active duty or died as a result of a service-connected disability; or
- If living, was honorably discharged from active service in any branch of the armed services; and is currently rated 100% disabled or is paid at the 100% disabled rate by the U.S. department of veterans affairs for a service-connected disability, as verified by official documentation from the U.S. department of veterans affairs.

The MDV reduction is based on income and marriage status as shown on the table below. For homes on agricultural or forest land, the benefit applies to the home and one-acre homes site. To qualify for MDV, you must:

- Own or currently be under a contract to purchase a home
- Live in the home as your primary residence for at least seven months of the year
- Have a letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) showing your current disability status is 100% for a service-connected disability
- Have a 2020 Federal Adjusted Gross Income (FAGI)—excluding capital income or loss—below the threshold:
 - Single: \$54,067
 - Married or Head of Household: \$62,385
 - Unmarried Surviving Spouse: \$47,136

A surviving spouse must also have a letter from the VA showing their deceased spouse died in active duty, or died from a disability related to service and was rated 100% disability at the time of their death. Also:

- If you are a new Montana resident, include a copy of your 2020 federal income tax return with your completed application.
- If you are married, include your spouse's income in your 2020 FAGI regardless of whether they are a co-owner of the home.
- If your only income is from social security, veterans' benefits and/or other nontaxable sources, include a copy of your social security statement and other income documentation with your completed application.

Depending on your marital status and income, the reduction is 100%, 80%, 70%, or 50% of the normal tax rate. You may use this table to find which level or reduction you will receive if you qualify for this program for tax year 2022. The income ranges are updated each year for inflation.

<u>Single</u>	<u>Married or HoH</u>	<u>Surviving Spouse</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
\$0 - \$41,590	\$0 - \$49,908	\$0 - 34,658	100%
\$41,591 - \$45,749	\$49,909 - \$54,067	\$34,659 - \$38,818	80%
\$45,750 - \$49,908	\$54,068 - \$58,226	\$38,819 - \$42,976	70%
\$49,909 - \$54,067	\$58,227 - \$62,385	\$42,977 - \$47,136	50%

- To apply for MDV, you must complete the Montana Disabled Veteran Property Tax Relief Application (Form MDV) and return it to your field office.
- Apply by April 15. If you miss the deadline, we will consider your application for the following year.
- You have to meet income and property ownership/occupancy requirements every year.
- As long as you own and live in your home, your application will remain active. A letter each year with your current Property Tax Assistance Program status will be sent to you.
- As long as you own and live in your home, your application will remain active. We will send you a letter each year with your current Montana Disabled Veterans Program status.

Montana Military Family Relief Fund

Offers grants up to \$2,000 for family members of Montana National Guard or a Reservists who are MT residents, have served under federal contingency orders for at least 30 consecutive days and whose pay grade is no higher than O-3 or W-3. There are several types of grants.

Employment

Point Preference in Hiring Veterans

Whenever a public employer uses a scored procedure, an applicant for an initial hiring, must have added to the applicant's score the following percentage points of the total possible points that may be granted in the scored procedure:

- 5 percentage points if the applicant is a veteran; and
- 10 percentage points if the applicant is a disabled veteran or an eligible relative.

A disabled veteran who receives 10 percentage points may not receive an additional 5 percentage points. Whenever a public employer uses a selection procedure other than a scored procedure, the public employer shall give preference to a disabled veteran, eligible relative, or veteran, in that order, over any non-preferred applicant holding substantially equal qualifications.

Military Waiver for CDL

Service members currently licensed and who are or were employed in the past year in a military position requiring the operation of a military motor vehicle equivalent to a commercial motor vehicle may apply for a skills test waiver for their commercial driver license (CDL). Written tests cannot be waived.

Available Services

Refer to the Montana Department of Labor & Industry website <https://montanaworks.gov> to:

- Job Search
- File for Unemployment'
- Find a job search location
- Apprenticeship Program Registration
- Return to work Bonus
- Obtain Labor Market Information

Education

Montana Honorably Discharged Veteran Tuition Waiver

The Montana Honorably Discharged Veteran Tuition Waiver eliminates tuition costs charged to a qualifying student. To qualify a veteran must:

- Be honorably discharged
- Used up all their federal GI bill benefits
- Be classified as in-state for admissions purposes
- Have served in a war zone (Vietnam, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq) and received a campaign or expeditionary medal

Montana War Orphan Tuition Waiver

For children under 25, whose parent was killed in action, or died as a result of combat related injury or disease. It covers 100 percent of the cost of resident tuition

Montana University System Veterans Services Website

The website www.mus.edu/veterans provides veterans a "one stop shop" location that includes all of the tools necessary for veterans to access and succeed in higher education. Veterans are able to find information on planning for college, veterans benefits, credit transfer, online learning and links to individual campus information including links to the veterans services offices and financial aid.

Veterans Upward Bound Program

The Veterans' Upward Bound Program is offering free statewide classes that prepare veterans for college and other post-secondary training. If you are a military veteran, we can assist you in achieving your educational goals. Veterans' Upward Bound is offering free classes in math, algebra, grammar, writing, computers, college survival and Spanish. A new law enacted for reservists activated after 9/11 are now eligible for educational benefits under Chapter 1607.

For Information Contact: Veterans Upward Bound 1500 University Drive, Cisel Hall 109, Billings, MT 59101 Tel: (406) 657-2075, Text: (406) 794-3244 or toll free 1-877-356-8387

1. Veterans Education Related Links:

- [VA Office of Economic Opportunity](#)
- [GI Bill Website](#)
- [Purple Heart Job Training Program](#)
- [Troops to Teachers](#)
- [Veterans Upward Bound MSU-Northern News Letter](#)
- [Guide to Online Military Student Resources](#)

2. Montana University / College Veterans Education Contact Websites:

- [University of Montana \(U of M\)](#)
- [University of Montana - Montana Tech - Butte](#)
- [Montana State University - Billings](#)
- [Montana State University - Bozeman](#)
- [Montana State University - Great Falls](#)
- [Montana State University - Northern](#)

3. Related Documents:

- [A list of Schools and contacts for them](#)

Grateful Nation Montana

Grateful Nation Montana was formed for the specific purpose of facilitating college educations for the children of soldiers killed while on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. Working with a combination of public and private resources, they link eligible students with the financial resources and non-monetary support they will need to have a successful college experience. Grateful Nation currently focuses solely on providing these resources and support to Montana military families. To date, 43 soldiers from Montana have been killed in these conflicts, leaving a total of 38 children behind.

Grateful Nation targets both the financial and educational needs of these children. Even with sufficient financial resources in place, the road to a successful college education may not be assured for these students, who face many hurdles growing up without a parent. Participating colleges and universities provide student tutoring and mentoring to eligible students during their high school years so that these students are academically and emotionally prepared to succeed in college. They also host an Annual Freedom Run in Bigfork, Montana on July 4th. All profits from the race registration go directly to the Grateful Nation Montana scholarship fund. To learn more about Grateful Nation Montana go to:

- The Grateful Nation Memorial <http://www.gratefulnationmontana.com/donate/donate-to-the-memorial-fund> – Montana’s official Iraq/Afghanistan war memorial
- Pledges of Support <http://www.gratefulnationmontana.com/news/quotes>
- Funding: College Education Costs <http://www.gratefulnationmontana.com/about/funding>

- Outreach: Including involvement in campus activities, tutoring, and counseling <http://www.gratefulnationmontana.com/about/outreach>
- Our Team <http://www.gratefulnationmontana.com/about/our-team>

Recreation

Hunting, Fishing, and Camping

- Persons with disabilities are entitled to fish and to hunt game birds, not including turkeys, with only a conservation license if they are residents of Montana not residing in an institution and are certified as disabled as prescribed by departmental rule.
- A person who has purchased a conservation license and a resident fishing license or game bird license for a particular license year and who is subsequently certified as disabled is entitled to a refund for the fishing license or game bird license previously purchased for that license year.
- A person who is certified as disabled pursuant to subsection (3) and who was issued a permit to hunt from a vehicle for license year 2000 or a subsequent license year is automatically entitled to a permit to hunt from a vehicle for subsequent license years if the criteria for obtaining a permit does not change.
- Disabled Montana residents may be eligible for 1/2 price hunting and fishing licenses. Please contact the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department at <http://fwp.mt.gov> for more information.
- Active duty non-residents and their families can buy hunting and fishing licenses for the resident rate.

Refer to <https://fwp.mt.gov/binaries/content/assets/fwp/hunt/hunter-faq-09-9-2021-final.pdf> for frequently asked questions from Montana hunters, <https://fwp.mt.gov/fish> for information germane to fishermen, <https://fwp.mt.gov/stateparks> for information on state parks and camping, and <https://fwp.mt.gov/buyandapply> for information on available licenses and permits.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing

Special Plates for Military Personnel, Veterans, and Spouses

Active military personnel, veterans, or the surviving spouse of an eligible veteran, if the spouse has not remarried, may be issued special military or veteran license plates.



Air Force Active Duty

Air Force Active Duty
No cemetery/renewal fee
\$30 production cost
The \$10 cemetery fee applies to all motorcycle plates



Air Force Reserve

No Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates



Air Force Veteran

\$10 Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates



Army Active Duty

Army Active Duty
No cemetery/renewal fee
\$30 production cost
The \$10 cemetery fee applies to all motorcycle plates



Army Reserve

No Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates



Army Veteran

\$10 Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates



Coast Guard Active Duty

Coast Guard Active Duty
No cemetery/renewal fee
\$10 production cost
The \$10 cemetery fee applies to all motorcycle plates



Coast Guard Veteran

\$10 Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates



Disabled Veteran

No Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates



Ex-Prisoner of War

No Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates



Gold Star Family

Use [Form MV57](#) to apply for this license plate
No Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$20 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates



Legion of Valor

\$10 Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates



Marine Corps Active Duty

Marine Corps Active Duty
No cemetery/renewal fee
\$30 production cost
The \$10 cemetery fee applies to all motorcycle plates



Marine Corps Reserve

No Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates



Marine Corps Veteran

\$10 Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates



National Guard

National Guard
No cemetery/renewal fee
\$10 production cost
The \$10 cemetery fee applies to all motorcycle plates



National Guard

No Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates.



National Guard Retired

\$10 Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates.



Navy Active Duty

Navy Active Duty
No cemetery/renewal fee
\$10 production cost.
The \$10 cemetery fee applies to all motorcycle plates.



Navy Reserve

No Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates.



Navy Veteran

\$10 Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates.



Nest of Kin of Deceased Personnel

Use **Form MV58** to apply for this license plate.
No Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates.



Pearl Harbor Survivor

\$10 Cemetery/Renewal Fee
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates.



Purple Heart Disabled Veteran

\$10 Cemetery/Renewal Fee
(Cemetery Fee waived if recipient has a 100% disability rating or is paid at 100% disability rating)
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates.



Purple Heart Veteran

\$10 Cemetery/Renewal Fee
(Cemetery Fee waived if recipient has a 100% disability rating or is paid at 100% disability rating)
\$10 Production Cost
The \$10 Cemetery Fee applies to all Motorcycle plates.

Plate Obtainment Notes:

- To apply for a “Purple Heart Disabled Veteran” plate, you will need to provide a letter from the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs stating that you are rated 50% or more disabled and provide a U.S. Department of Defense form DD-214 verifying you are a recipient of a Purple Heart
- To apply for a “Disabled Veteran” plate, you will need to Provide a letter from the U.S. Department of Veteran’s Affairs stating that you are currently rated 100% disabled or are paid at the 100% disabled rate for a service-related disability
- To apply for a Gold Star Family license plate, you will need to:

- Complete Application for Gold Star Family License Plate (form MV57) and submit it to the Montana Veterans Affairs Division
- Upon verification of eligibility, you will receive a letter from the Montana Veterans Affairs Division
- Present the letter of eligibility from the Montana Veterans Affairs Division at your local County Treasurer's Office to receive the Gold Star Family license plate

Veterans' Cemetery Fee for Special Veteran License Plates

An applicant for special veteran license plates shall pay \$10 for each set issued, renewed, or transferred, in addition to any other taxes or fees applicable. Fees collected under this section must be deposited in the state general fund and transferred to the special revenue account for state veterans' cemeteries.

Vehicle Registration Fee and Veterans' Cemetery Fee Waivers

Eligible persons are exempt from the veterans' cemetery fee for two sets of special veteran license plates and all motor vehicle registration fees for two motor vehicles that are not used for commercial purposes.

Vehicle Registration

You are eligible to have certain light vehicle registration fees reduced if you entered active duty in Montana and are currently active or in the reserves stationed in another state. To apply for a fee waiver, you will need to: Submit Application for Military Registration (form MV53) <https://media.dojmt.gov/wp-content/uploads/Application-for-Military-Registration-1.pdf> when registering a new vehicle or renewing registration for an existing vehicle.

Driver Licenses and ID Cards

- The length of a standard driver license (without REAL ID) for ages 16-63 has changed to 12 years for \$62.32. For each age year thereafter the fee is reduced by ~\$5. A replacement Montana driver license costs \$10.30. Montana law lets a qualified veteran add the word VETERAN to the front of their driver license or identification (ID) card.
- ID Cards must be obtained at your local driver license exam station through appointment scheduling. Fee is \$16.48 for a 8 year card if older than 21.

Military Waiver for CDL

Active duty members and veterans who are licensed and drove a military motor vehicle equivalent to a commercial one may have the skills portion of the CDL waived. Written tests cannot be waived.

Burial

State Veterans' Cemeteries

The State of Montana maintains three Veterans Cemeteries, they are located in Helena, Missoula, and Miles City. Spouses may be buried along with the Veteran for a fee. Nonresidents may also

be eligible. All fees as of SEP 2021 are listed at <https://dma.mt.gov/MVAD/MVAD-Documents/Cemetery-Program-Pricing-Sheet-Sept-2021.pdf>. Floral regulations can be found at <https://dma.mt.gov/MVAD/MVAD-Documents/Floral-Regulation.pdf>. The following documents are required for burial at the State Veterans Cemeteries:

Veteran:

- A copy of the death certificate.
- Discharge papers. (DD-214 or equivalent)
- Burial transit permit for full body burial or cremation certificate. This will be provided by the Mortuary.
- Headstone application: This will be filled out by the funeral home or the cemetery sexton. There is a charge to set the headstone at all three State Veteran Cemeteries.

Spouse:

- A copy of death certificate.
- Discharge papers. (DD-214 or equivalent)
- Fee for opening and closing of grave.
- Headstone application. This will be filled out by the funeral home or the cemetery sexton. There is a charge to set the spouses headstone at all three state veteran cemeteries.
- Burial transit permit for full body burial or cremation certificate. This will be provided by the Mortuary.



Fort Harrison



Missoula



Miles City

- **Montana State Veterans Cemetery**, Fort Harrison, Helena, MT Office - (406) 324-3740 Cemetery Sexton - (406) 324-3742 & 226-74599F or MVADCemeteries@mt.gov or <http://montanadma.org/montana-state-veterans-cemetery>
- **Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery**, 1911 Tower Street, Missoula, MT 59804 office - 406-721-2995 or MVADCemeteries@mt.gov or <http://montanadma.org/western-montana-state-veterans-cemetery>. Contact Matt Manning matt.manning@mt.gov.
- **Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery**, Cemetery Road, Miles City, MT 59301 Office - (406) 951-1325/232-2019F or MVADCemeteries@mt.gov or <http://montanadma.org/eastern-montana-state-veterans-cemetery>

Note: Refer to <https://dma.mt.gov/MVAD/MVAD-Documents/Cemetery-Administration> for forms and additional information.

Taxation

Sales Tax

- Statewide: None
- Counties cannot levy any sales tax.
- Gasoline Tax: 51.15 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local, and federal taxes)
- Diesel Fuel Tax: 54.60 cents/gallon (Includes all state, local, and federal taxes)
- Cigarette Tax: \$1.70/pack of 20
- Communities designated as resort areas may levy sales tax up to 4%.

Personal Income Tax

- Personal Income Tax Rate Range: Seven brackets from 1.0% to 6.9% on income greater than \$18,800.
- Standard deduction: Single Filers: \$4,830. Married Filing Jointly: to \$9,660.
- Personal Exemption Allowance: \$2,580. Dependent Exemption: \$2,580
- Itemized Deductions Allowed? Yes, subject to limitations
- Retirement Income
 - Social Security: Some or all may be taxable*
 - IRAs: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - 401Ks/Defined contribution employer retirement plans: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - Private pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - Public Pensions: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
- Military Pay
 - Active Duty Pay: Exempt, except for salaries for training or National Guard
 - Military Retirement Pay: Taxable at ordinary income tax rates*
 - Military Disability Pay: Exempt
 - VA Disability Dependency & Indemnity Compensation Benefits: Exempt
 - SBP/SSBP/RCSBP/RSFPP: Taxable to the extent included in federal Adjusted Gross Income (Exempt for survivors receiving death benefits from Montana National Guard member killed in action)

Income Tax Comments: *Retirement income of up to \$4,370 may be exempt if federal AGI less than \$36,420. Federal income tax deductible (limited to \$5,000).

Property Tax

- Local municipalities average .84% of the property's assessed value.
- Calculation of assessed value: 100% of fair market value, appraised every two years.

- Relief programs for:
 - Owner-occupied: Taxes can be reduced up to 80% on the first \$200,000 of the assessed value if income is less than \$22,711.
 - Over 62: Credit of up to \$1,000 if meet income and residency requirements.
 - 100% Disabled Veterans/Surviving Spouse: Up to 100% tax credit if income less than \$52,507.
- Personal Property Tax: Yes. Rates and exemptions vary.

Inheritance & Estate Taxes: None

Department of Revenue website: www.revenue.mt.gov

Women Veteran Program

No state programs. For federal programs refer to the Center for Women Veterans (CWV) website <https://www.va.gov/womenvet> & <https://www.benefits.va.gov/persona/veteran-women.asp>.

Homeless Vet Programs

Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)

The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supporting Housing program, or HUD-VASH, provides rental assistance in combination with case management and clinical services provided by local Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC) for homeless veterans. Homeless veterans and their families receiving HUD-VASH rental assistance must receive VA case management services until the VAMC determines that is no longer necessary. Veterans pay approximately 30 percent of their adjusted gross monthly income in rent, and a subsidy is paid directly to the property owner. The Montana Housing administers two HUD-VASH programs:

- HUD-VASH voucher, where veterans and their families select the rental home of their choice, subject to program requirements and landlord participation
- Project Based HUD-VASH at Freedom's Path at Fort Harrison

If a veteran is interested in participating in the HUD-VASH program, they should first contact their case manager at their local VAMC. The VA is responsible for referring eligible homeless veterans to Montana Housing. Montana Housing's contracted Field Agent will determine income eligibility and screen for life-time sex offender registration. For More Information on HUD-VASH

- Veterans Affairs Website <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/index.asp>
- HUD's Veteran Information Page <https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/HUD-VASH.asp>

Montana Veterans Foundation

The Montana Veterans Foundation (MTVF) is designed to assist homeless veterans (or veterans at risk of homelessness) by improving their quality of life and providing comprehensive support which enables veterans to achieve a greater level of self-sufficiency. The MTVF helps with:

- Housing: transitional and permanent (shelter, food, access to necessities)
- Employment
- Aligning benefits and resources
- Life skills, classes, recovery workshops
- Transportation
- Maintaining sobriety
- Regaining self-sufficiency and self-worth

The Foundation provides a safe place for veterans to call home, as well as personal and program assistance and access to a wide range of coordinated human services including mental health and medical treatment, addiction recovery, vocational support and job placement, mentoring, and life skills training. Created by veterans for veterans, the Montana Veterans Foundation's goal is to offer integrated, holistic, clinically sound, and fiscally responsible transition services to the veteran population. Refer to <https://mtvf.org> or call (406) 449-7666 for more information or support.

Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program

Volunteers of America Northern Rockies provides services to the homeless Veteran population in Montana in the cities of Helena, Great Falls, Bozeman and Missoula through the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP). This program is funded by the United States Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Services. HVRP has two core objectives: 1) to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force, and 2) to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans."

At Volunteers of American Northern Rockies they strive to meet these core objectives by ensuring that Veterans in their programs are finding employment that is meaningful to them, not just taking whatever job is available. This is a key foundation to help them transition into a community and build a healthy, happy life. They also network with other service providers in order to ensure that the complex needs of our Veteran communities are being met. To inquire about their transitional living programs contact them at Independence Hall , 710 Lake Elmo Drive , Billings, MT 59105 Phone: 406.259.5368 Fax: 406.248.991. For supportive services for veteran families go to:

- Billings, MT 59101 @ 219 N 30th Street
- Bozeman, MT 59718 @ 233 Edelweiss Drive, Suite 11E
- Butte, MT 59701 @ 130 N Main Street, Unit 2
- Great Falls, MT 59405 @ 625 Central Avenue West, Suite 102
- Helena, MT 59601 @ 2001 11th Avenue, Building B
- Missoula, MT 59804 @ 2801 S Russel Street, Suite 18

- Kalispell, MT 59901 @ 1203 U.S. Highway 2 West Suite 36

Montana Homeless Information

The HUD website <https://www.hud.gov/states/montana/homeless> provides source and contact information for those in need to obtain help in all issues related to homelessness.

Other

Veterans' Clubhouse Exemption -- Incompetent Veterans' Trusts

A clubhouse or building erected by or belonging to any society or organization of honorably discharged United States military personnel that is used primarily for educational, fraternal, benevolent, or purely public charitable purposes rather than for gain or profit, together with the personal property necessarily used in the building, is exempt from taxation. The exemption provided for in this section applies even if a business, intended primarily for the use of the members, is required to be open to the public and is operated in a portion of the building.

All property, real or personal, in the possession of legal guardians of incompetent veterans of U.S. military service or minor dependents of the veterans, when the property is funds or derived from funds received from the United States as pension, compensation, insurance, adjusted compensation, or gratuity, is exempt from all taxation as minor's own right on account of removal of legal disability.

Montana VAMC

Fort Harrison VA Medical Center

Facility notice: <https://www.va.gov/montana-health-care/operating-status>

3687 Veterans Drive, Fort Harrison, MT 59636-9703

Main phone: 406-442-6410 Mental health clinic: 406-447-6000

VA Health Clinic Locations

- Anaconda VA Clinic: 118 East 7th Street, Suite 2A, Anaconda, MT 59711-2953 Main phone: 406-496-
- Benjamin Charles Steele VA Clinic: 1766 Majestic Lane, Billings, MT 59102-6759 Main phone: 406-373-3500 Mental health clinic: 406-447-6000
- Browning VA Clinic: 5535 Haul Road, Blackfeet Eagle Shield Center, Suite 12, Browning, MT 59417-5412 Main phone: 406-873-9047
- Cut Bank VA Clinic: 8 Second Avenue Southeast, Cut Bank, MT 59427-2909 Main phone: 406-873-9047
- David J. Thatcher VA Clinic: 2687 Palmer Street, Suite C, Missoula, MT 59808-1710 Main phone: 406-493-3700 Mental health clinic: 406-447-6000
- Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow VA Clinic: 1775 Spring Creek Lane, Billings, MT 59102-6754 Main phone: 406-373-3500

- Glasgow VA Clinic: 630 2nd Avenue South, Suite A, Glasgow, MT 59230-2304 Main phone: 406-228-4101
- Glendive VA Clinic: 2000 Montana Avenue, Glendive, MT 59330-3700 Main phone: 406-377-4755 Mental health clinic: 406-447-6000
- Great Falls VA Clinic: 1400 29th Street South, Suite 1, Great Falls, MT 59405-5315 Main phone: 406-771-5800 Mental health clinic: 406-447-6000
- Hamilton VA Clinic: 299 Fairgrounds Road, Suite A, Hamilton, MT 59840-3199 Main phone: 406-363-3352
- Helena VA Clinic: 2271 Deerfield Lane, Helena, MT 59601-8643 Main phone: 406-447-7443
- Kalispell VA Clinic: 31 Three Mile Drive, Kalispell, MT 59901-1400 Main phone: 406-758-2700 Mental health clinic: 406-447-6000
- Lewistown VA Clinic: 629 Northeast Main Street, Suite 1, Lewistown, MT 59457-2082 Main phone: 406-535-4790
- Merrill Lundman Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic: 1753 US Highway 2 Northwest, Suite 3, Havre, MT 59501-3464 Main phone: 406-265-4304 Mental health clinic: 406-447-6000
- Miles City VA Community Living Center: 210 South Winchester Avenue, Miles City, MT 59301-4798 Main phone: 406-874-5600
- Plentywood VA Clinic: 440 West Laurel Avenue, Plentywood, MT 59254-1526 Main phone: 406-765-3719
- Travis W. Atkins Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic: 300 North Willson Avenue, Suite 703G, Bozeman, MT 59715-3551 Main phone: 406-582-5300 Mental health clinic: 406-447-6000

VA Service Offices

- Belgrade: (406) 388-4601 MVADBelgrade@mt.gov
- Billings: (406) 248-8579 MVADBillings@mt.gov
- Butte: (406) 533-0910 MVADButte@mt.gov
- Great Falls: (406) 452-2265 MVADGreatFalls@mt.gov
- Havre: (406) 265-4225 MVADHavre@mt.gov
- Helena: (406) 495-2082 MVADHelena@mt.gov
- Kalispell: (406) 755-3795 MVADKalispell@mt.gov
- Miles City: (406) 232-1203 MVADMilesCity@mt.gov
- Missoula: (406) 542-2501 MVADMissoula@mt.gov

Other Montana Vet Benefit Information Sources

- <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Benefit-Library/State/Territory-Benefits/Montanai> Army website.
- Mississippi Veterans Affairs (MSVA) <https://www.msva.ms.gov> website.

- MOAA's website <https://www.moaa.org/content/state-report-card/statereportcard> for current issues/legislation affecting veterans residing in the state.
- Military.com's <https://www.military.com/topics/veteran-benefits> for info on federal benefits.
- Call the 24 Hour Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 and Press 1 If emergency assistance is needed

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/montana-state-veterans-benefits> | November 2021 ++]