

Incarcerated Veterans

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Veterans involved in the criminal justice system resulting in incarceration may still be entitled to their VA benefits. It's important that each incarcerated veterans make contact with their Health Care for Re-entry Veterans Program or VA re-entry specialist. There is a specialist assigned to each state. It may be possible to get your compensation benefit (Disability Compensation or Pension) and health benefits establish while still incarcerated. The amount of benefits paid out to veterans who are incarcerated in a Federal, State, or local penal institution; depends on the type of benefit and reason for incarceration some benefits can be apportioned to the veteran's spouse.

Health Care for Re-entry Veterans Program (HCRV)

The Health Care for Re-entry Veterans (HCRV) Program is designed to address the community re-entry needs of incarcerated veterans. Contact for California: **George Kennedy** George.Kennedy@va.gov

- Outreach and pre-release assessments services for veterans in prison
- Referrals and linkages to medical, psychiatric, and social services, including employment services upon release
- Short term case management assistance upon release

County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO)

In California, the [County Veterans Service Officer](#) plays a critical role in the veteran's advocacy system and is often the initial contact in the community for veteran's services.

- Start/Continue claim for benefits if applicable
- Connect to housing
- Help connect with medical services

Local Interagency Network Coordinators (LINC)

[Local Interagency Network Coordinators \(LINC\)](#) has established collaborative partners that assist in the distribution of resources for veterans. LINC's have an extensive knowledge of the resources in their covered areas.

- Provide Resources for veterans
- Act as liaison between vets and direct service provider
- Available to answer questions as needed

Housing

[Health Care for Homeless Veterans Contracts \(HCHV\)](#) provides emergency housing, shelter and treatment through local community providers. Local VA facilities contract with community agencies for beds which are available to veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare. Provide healthy and safe places to live.

- Provide housing options
- Provide contacts for employment and education services

Employment/ Education

There are many different resources for employment and education. Veterans are encouraged to start at the Employment Development Department (EDD). EDD assists veterans and their eligible spouses maximize their employment and training opportunities. Veterans are entitled to many resources designed to help in their search for employment.

The EDD veterans' representatives specialize in assisting veterans in their efforts to return to work and are located in many local EDD offices. Services provided include a veteran 24-hour priority hold on all job listings, customized job search assistance, job fairs, employer recruitments, and other events and resources.

Veterans are encouraged to schedule an appointment with an EDD veterans' representative for personalized services and assistance to achieve professional goals.

Actions

- [EDD Resources](#)
- [Employer Resources to Hire Veterans](#)
- [Occupational Resources](#)
- [Women Veterans Resources](#)
- [Crisis Resources](#)

Additional Resources

- [CalVet Incarcerated Veterans](#)

Can A Veteran Receive VA Benefits While In Prison ?

VA can pay certain benefits to veterans who is incarcerated in a Federal, state or local penal institution. However, the amount pay depends on the type of benefit and reason for incarceration. This fact sheet provides information about the benefits most commonly affected by imprisonment.

How Will Your Imprisonment Affect The Payment Of:

VA Disability Compensation ?

Your monthly payment will be reduced beginning on the 61st day of your imprisonment, for a felony. 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.

Note: If you are released from incarceration – participated in a work release or half-way house program, paroled, and completed sentence, your compensation payments will not be reduced.

VA Disability Pension ?

If you are imprisoned in a Federal, State or local penal institution as the result of conviction of a felony or misdemeanor, such pension payment will be terminated effective on the 61st day of imprisonment following 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

VA can take all or part of the amount of compensation you are not receiving and apportion it to your spouse, child or children and dependent parents on the basis of individual need. Spouse should contact the nearest VA regional office for details on how to apply. They will be asked to provide income information as part of the application process.

Will Your Benefits Be Automatically Resumed When You Get Out Of Prison?

Your award for compensation or pension benefits shall be resumed the date of release from incarceration if the Department of Veterans Affairs receives notice of release within 1 year from following release. Depending on the type of disability, VA may schedule you for a medical examination to see if your disability has improved. You will need to visit or call your local VA regional office for assistance.

*Benefits Assistance Service (BAS) Incarcerated Veterans

The information provided on this sheet is for general information only regarding Incarcerated Veterans. For further information, please contact your local [Veteran Service Office](#).

Thank you.