



American Red Cross
West Virginia Region

Service to the Armed Forces

The American Red Cross...around the clock...around the world – helping military families.



As a service member, you and your family has access to many valuable Red Cross services. The Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces (SAF) network helps service members, veterans and their families cope with military life. Red Cross services include emergency communication, access to emergency financial assistance, information and referral as well as resiliency, coping and reintegration education. The American Red Cross West Virginia Region has also created the Veterans Service Initiative which is the first of its kind in the country.

Veterans Service Initiative (VSI)

A wide variety of benefits are available to veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Sometimes, however, a veteran may need assistance with accessing the benefits that he or she has earned. The Red Cross assists veterans and their family members in preparing, developing and obtaining documentation for benefits through:

+ **Advocacy through Veterans Service Officers (VSOs)**

- Advocate for Veterans throughout the benefits claim process
- Identify what benefits are available
- Determine what the eligibility criteria is to receive a particular benefit
- Identify which government agency is in charge of each benefit
- Provide assistance with employment such as resumes, job searches and referrals
- Ensure that all resources are provided to veterans who are homeless or at risk
- All VSOs are veterans who care and understand



+ **Boots on the Ground with Mobile Outreach:** Trained volunteers with mobile technology kits can upon request come to any event in the community or to an individual Veteran

+ **Peer Support:** VSOs trained to offer peer to peer support

+ **Reconnection Workshops:** offered by licensed counselors

+ **Community Partnerships:** Collaborative partnerships with other nonprofit and government entities that serve veterans and their families

+ **Follow Up and Follow Through:** Establishing and maintaining a relationship with each veteran.

American Red Cross West Virginia Region
113 Lakeview Drive, Charleston, WV 25313
Phone: (304) 340-3650 ~ Fax: (304) 340-3657
Web: redcrosswv.org ~ Facebook: [RedCrossWV](https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossWV) ~ Twitter: [@ARCWV](https://twitter.com/ARCWV)