



# MVAA'S SERVICE TO VETERANS

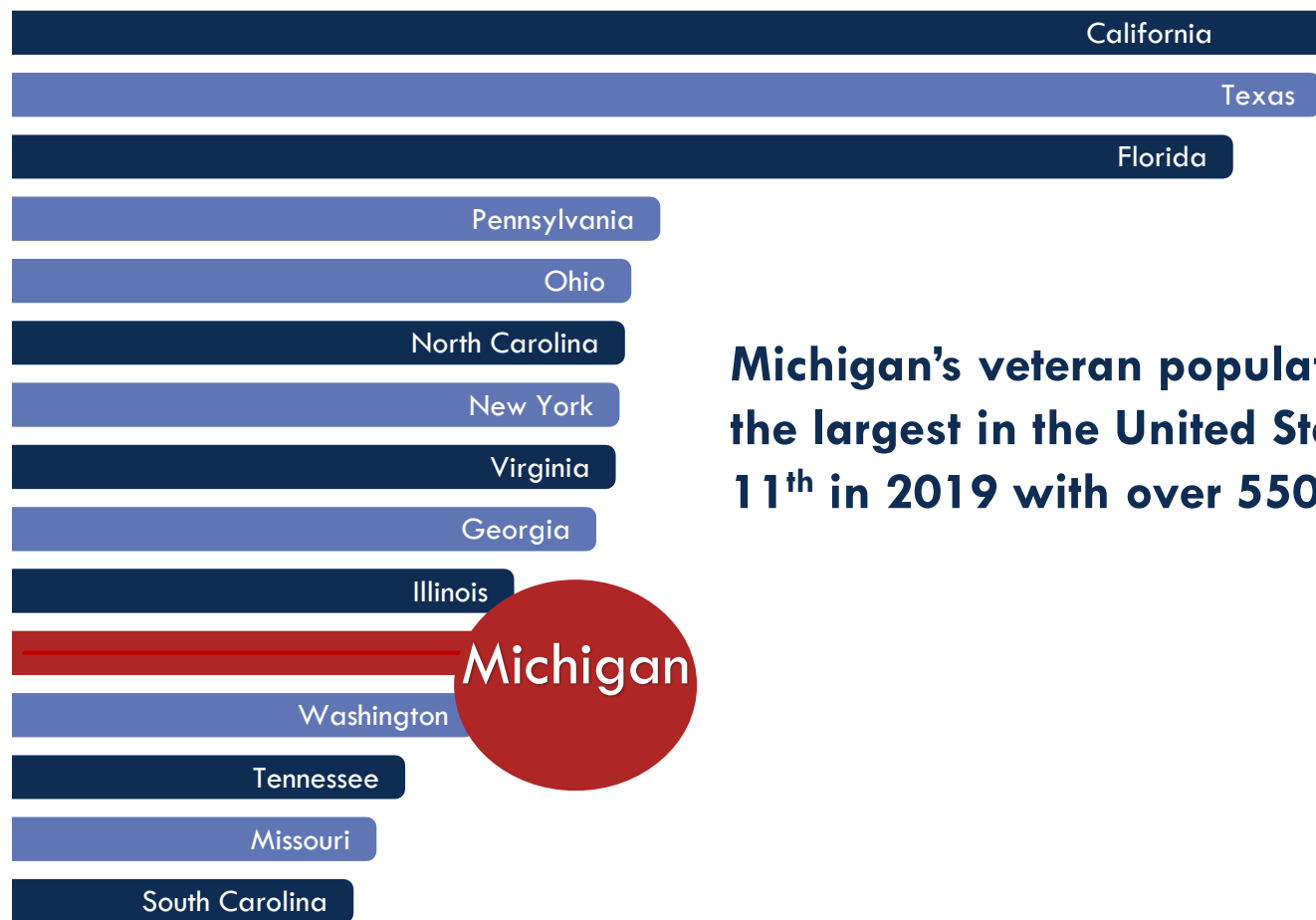
August 2020

Director Zaneta Adams, J.D.



# Michigan Veterans - Demographics

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**Michigan's veteran population is one of the largest in the United States, ranking 11<sup>th</sup> in 2019 with over 550,000 veterans**

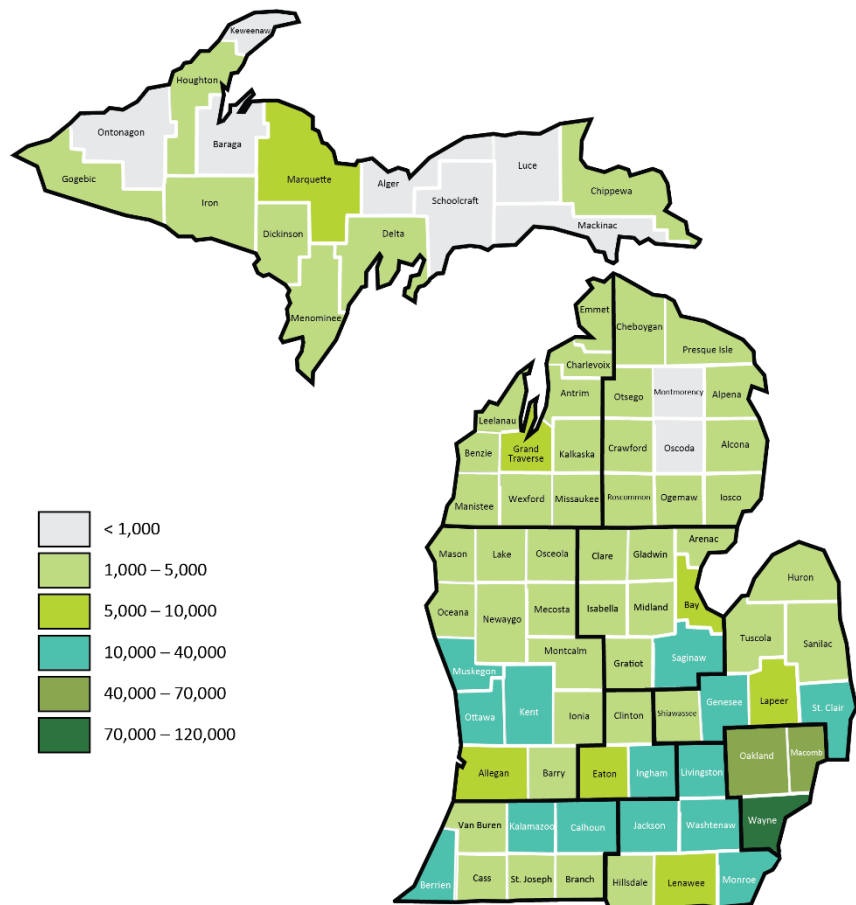


# Michigan Veterans - Demographics

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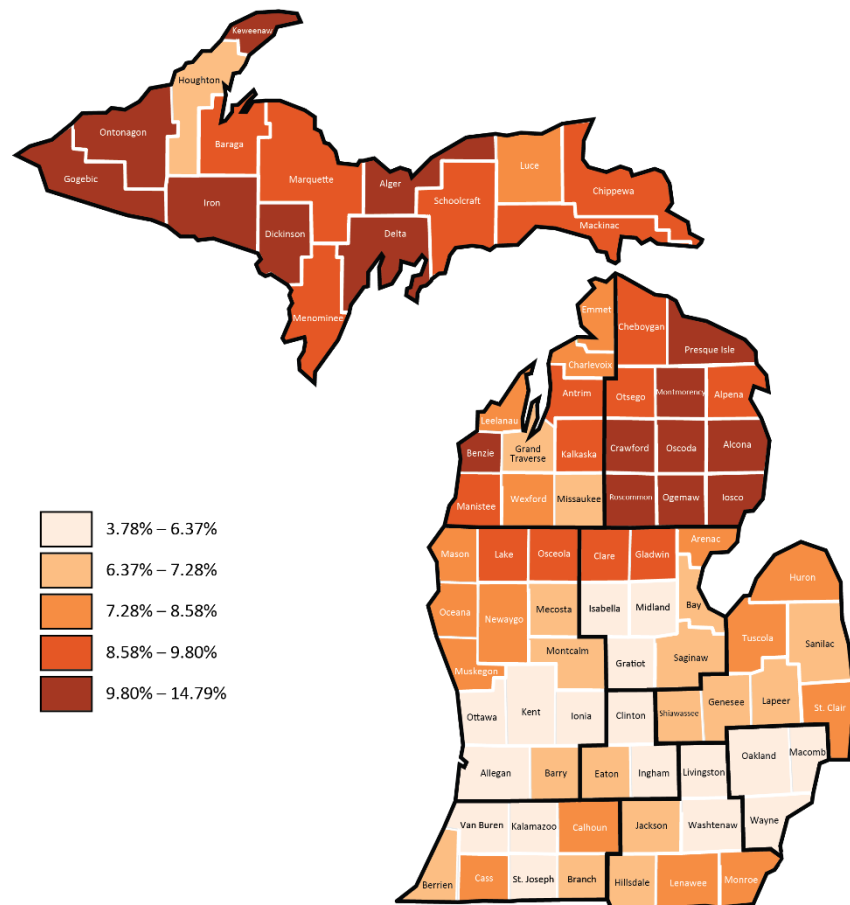
## Michigan's Veteran Population

As of June 23, 2020



## Veterans as a Percent of County Population in Michigan

As of FY2017



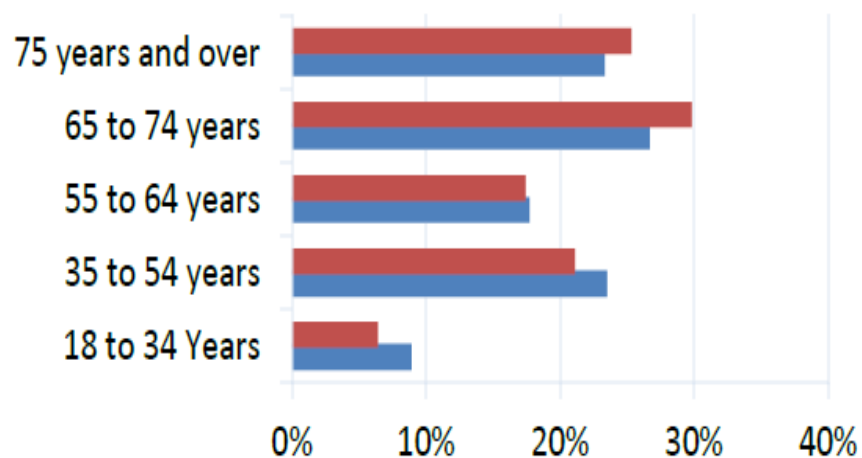


# Michigan Veterans - Demographics

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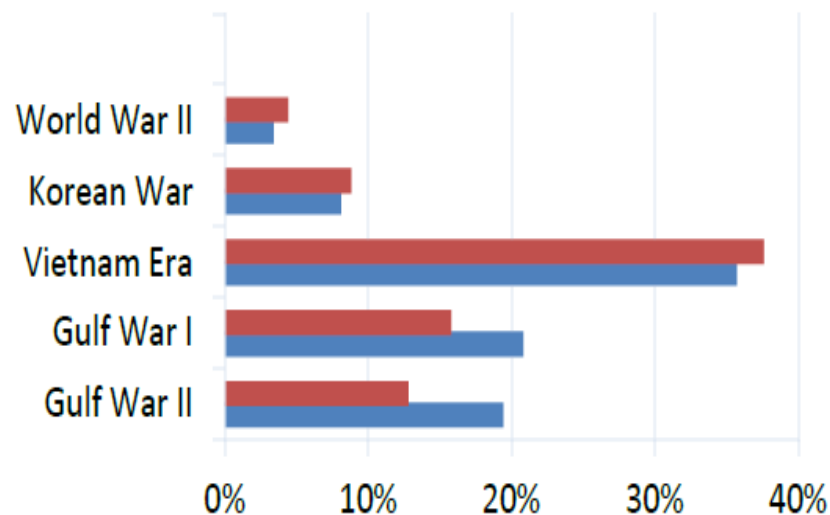
## Age Distribution

■ Michigan ■ National



## Period of Service

■ Michigan ■ National



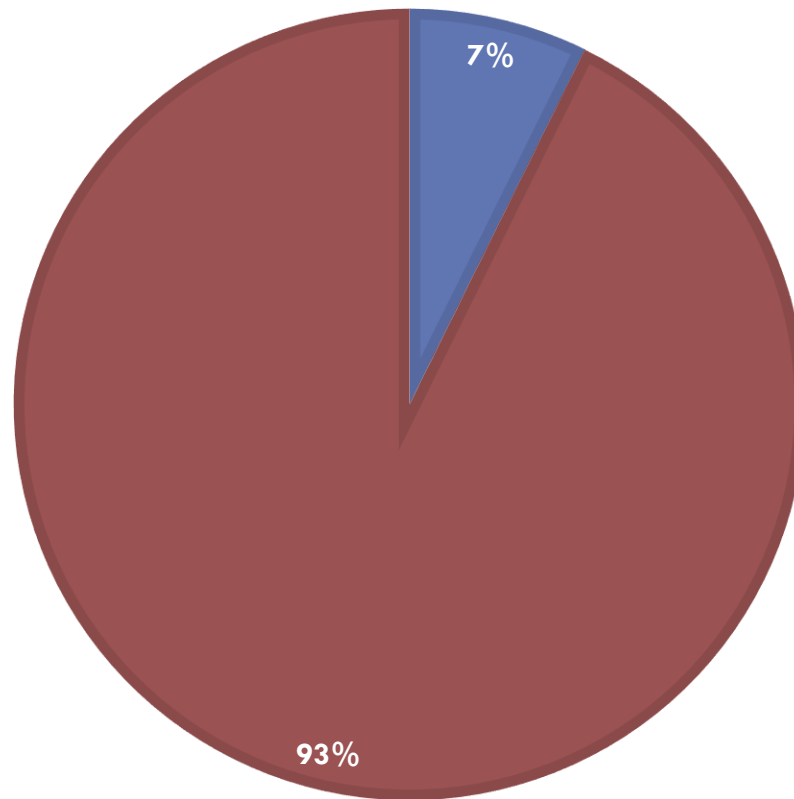
**Michigan's veteran population is older than that of the U.S. veteran population, with a significantly higher proportion of Vietnam veterans residing in the state.**



# Veteran Gender Demographics

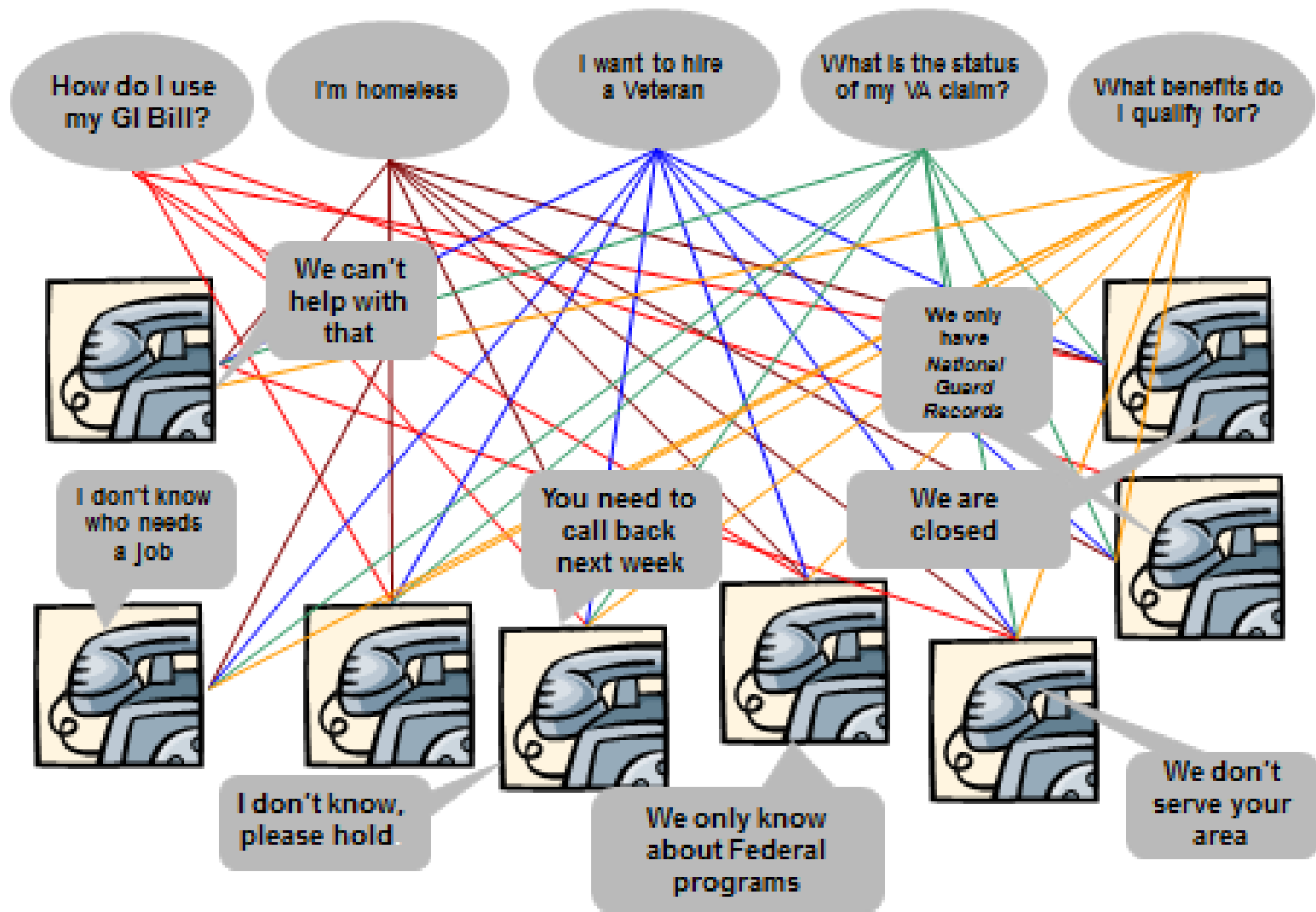
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■ Female Veterans    ■ Male Veterans



# Challenge: Where do veterans turn for assistance?

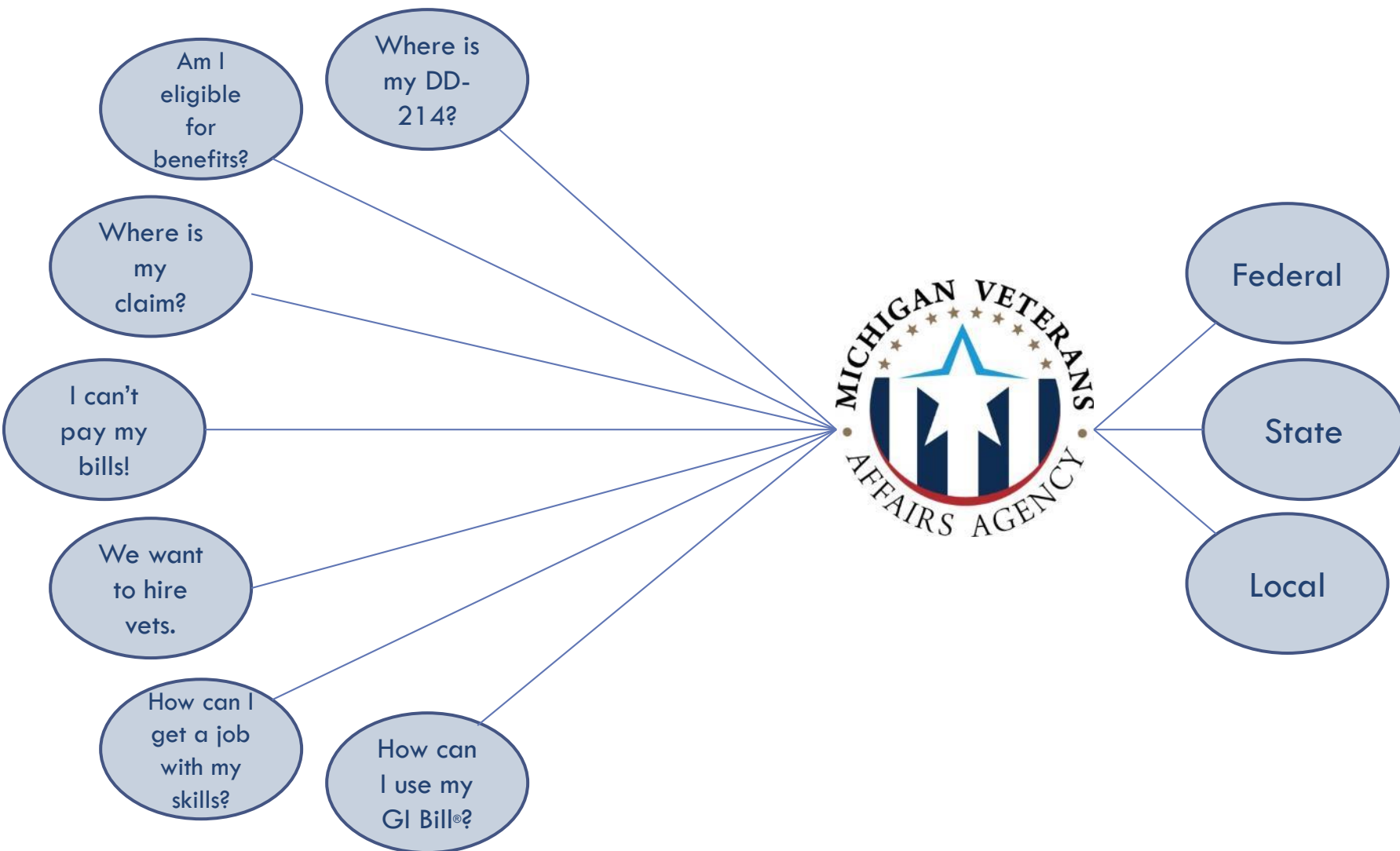
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# Solution: MVAA

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# Who is a Veteran?

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Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations defines a veteran as “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.”







# Vision: Veterans Choose Michigan

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- Responsive to WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War and Cold War veterans
  - ▣ Health care, state veterans homes, quality of life
- Attractive to Gulf War and Post-9/11 veterans
  - ▣ Education, employment, quality of life





# State Benefits: Employment

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## Veteran-Friendly Employer Program

- 400+ certified VFEs
  - ▣ MVAA offers employer trainings and webinars
  - ▣ More than 30,000 veterans hired

## Transition Counselor Expos

- Partnership with MEDC
  - ▣ Reaches transitioning veterans nation-wide
  - ▣ Answers “Why Michigan?”





# State Benefits: Employment



## □ Teaching Specific

- ▣ Troops to Teachers
- ▣ Reimbursement of military cert. fees
- ▣ Cert. extension for those called to AD

## □ Licensing and credentialing

- ▣ Includes spouses
- ▣ Examples of licensing resources and benefits:
  - Utilizing military experience toward licensing
  - Exempt from renewal fees and CE requirements while active duty
  - Temp. license for AD spouse
  - Waiver for initial application processing fee, initial license and/or initial registration fee for veterans
  - Reimbursement from USDVA for required and paid for exam fees

Teacher Specific – information provided from the Chief of Staff, Michigan Dept. of Education

Licensing – information gained from [https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-10573\\_95401---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-10573_95401---,00.html)



# State Benefits: Education

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- **Veteran-Friendly School Program**
  - Postsecondary institutions approved to receive VA educational benefits eligible to apply
  - Certified as Gold-, Silver-, or Bronze-level
  - Certifications based on seven criteria
    - Established process for identification of current student veterans
    - Veteran-specific website
    - Active student veteran organization or club
    - Veteran-specific career services, resources, advising, and/or outcome monitoring
    - On-campus veterans coordinator and/or designated point of contact
    - System to evaluate and award academic credit based on prior military training and experience
    - Monitoring and evaluation of student veteran academic retention, progress, and graduation rates





# State Benefits: Education

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- Veteran-Friendly School Program
  - ▣ 61 Veteran-Friendly Schools for 2019-2020 academic year
  - ▣ Represent 11,143 service members and veterans
  - ▣ 53 evaluate military experience for academic credit
  - ▣ Interactive online Veteran-Friendly Schools Dashboard released 2019-2020



# State Benefits: Quality of Life

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- ❑ Check on MI Vet
- ❑ Virtual Coffee Hours
- ❑ Mental Health Resources for Veterans During COVID-19
- ❑ Veteran Justice
  - ▣ 27 Veteran Treatment Courts
  - ▣ Veteran Treatment Court Manual

## Check on MIVet





# State Benefits: Veterans Homes

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- Grand Rapids Home for Veterans
  - 188 Members
- Jacobetti Home for Veterans
  - 151 Members



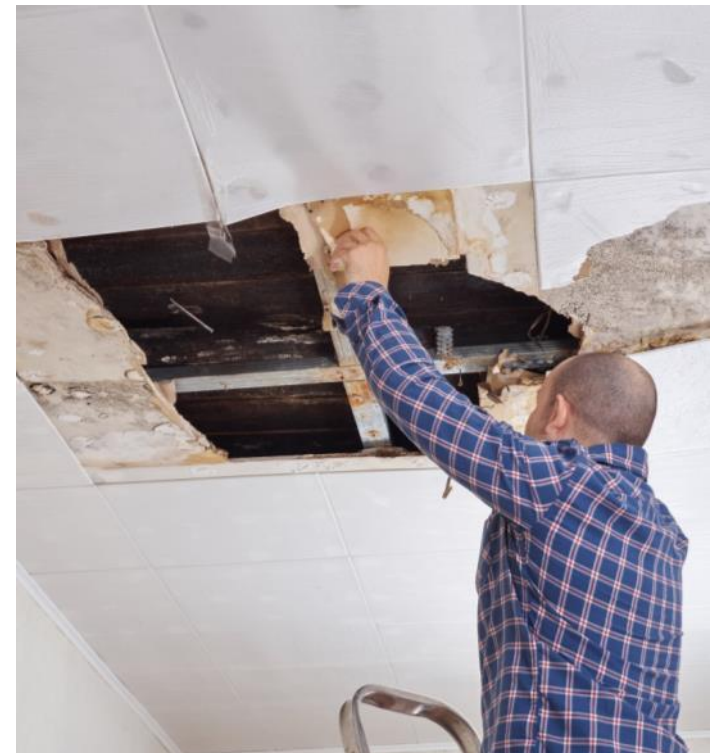


# State Benefits: Emergency Assistance

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- Michigan Veterans Trust Fund
  - ▣ \$50 million trust fund est. after WWII
  - ▣ For emergent needs
  - ▣ For war-time era veterans

- FY 2019
  - ▣ Served 1,679 veterans and their families
  - ▣ \$1,259,082 in grants awarded
  - ▣ Highest identified needs:
    - Shelter - \$708,702
    - Utilities - \$278,827
    - Transportation - \$221,654







# Federal (VA) Benefits

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- Veterans Health Administration
  - ▣ 38 facilities in Michigan
    - 5 VA Medical Centers (Detroit, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Iron Mountain, Saginaw)
    - 18 VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinics
    - 8 VA Outpatient Clinics
    - 8 Vet Centers
- Veterans Benefits Administration
  - ▣ Detroit Regional Benefit Office
- National Cemetery Administration
  - ▣ Active: Fort Custer and Great Lakes National
  - ▣ Historic: Mackinac Is. and Port Huron



# Federal (VA) Benefits

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- ❑ Compensation and Pension
  - ▣ Funds go directly to veterans
- ❑ Education and Employment
  - ▣ GI Bill®
  - ▣ Veteran Readiness and Employment Programs
- ❑ Medical Care
  - ▣ 39% of Michigan veterans are enrolled





# How Veterans Connect to Benefits

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## ❑ Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

### ▣ 5 Veteran Service Officers

- 1 each at GRHV and DJJHV
- 1 in Lansing office
- 2 at Detroit Regional Benefits Office

## ❑ County Veterans Counselors

### ▣ 138 Accredited Counselors in 73 Counties

## ❑ Michigan Veterans Coalition

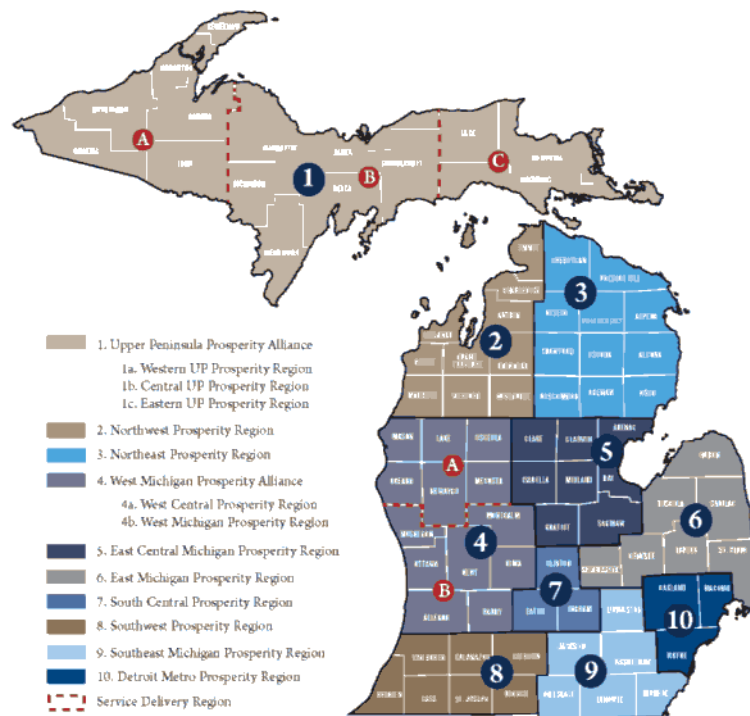
### ▣ 60 Accredited Veteran Service Officers



# How Veterans Connect to Benefits

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- Veterans Community Action Teams (VCAT)
- Community Outreach and Regional Engagement (CORE)
  - ▣ Senior Veteran Community Engagement Officers
  - ▣ Buddy to Buddy Veteran Mentorship Initiative
  - ▣ Speakers Bureau

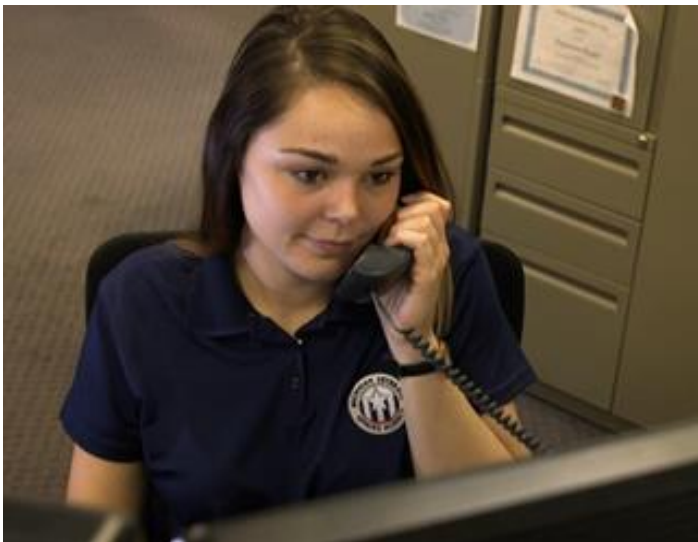




# How Veterans Connect to Benefits

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- Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center
  - ▣ 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838)
  - ▣ MichiganVeterans.com
- 24/7 access for veterans and their families





**1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838)**

**[MichiganVeterans.com](http://MichiganVeterans.com)**

Facebook: /MIVeterans

Twitter: @MIVeteran

LinkedIn: /MIVeteran