

**MERCER COUNTY
VETERAN SERVICES GUIDE**



**Mercer County
Veterans Task Force**



Serving those who have served us!!!!



A MESSAGE FROM MERCER
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
BRIAN M. HUGHES



Dear Mercer County Veteran:

I hope that you will find this Veterans pamphlet to be helpful and informative. In this time of conflict, many Mercer County residents have left families, jobs, and the security of life behind at home, and it is my priority to assist in this difficult time whenever possible.

Our servicemen and women are heroes, and when they return, those of us in government will do everything possible to make their transition back to civilian life as smooth and efficient as possible. As County Executive, this is the commitment that I make to all of our veterans, regardless of if their service was during peacetime or wartime.

To that end, I have created our Veterans Task Force, charged with establishing a directory of veterans' services in conjunction with veterans' organizations throughout the county, and this pamphlet will provide an overview of those services for all Mercer County veterans. We will continue to ensure that the needs of our veterans are represented in government, and that they receive all entitled benefits. Additionally, I was proud to officially open our five-unit affordable housing veterans residence on Hamilton Avenue on the grounds of the Mercer County Geriatric Center last fall.

For veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, we will work closely with our partners to ensure opportunities are available to meet their physical, emotional, and employment needs. We will continue to serve those who have served us, and I thank you for your sacrifice.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Hughes
Mercer County Executive

**Mercer County One-Stop Career Center
Veterans Services**

The New Jersey Department of



Labor & Workforce Development

26 Yard Ave, 1st Floor
Trenton, New Jersey

For further information, please contact:

Lois Bunch

lois.bunch@dol.state.nj.us

609-292-3059

Thomas Thorn

thomas.thorn@dol.state.nj.us

609-292-0656

We provide all facets of one-on-one job search assistance.

Services include:

- √ Referrals to Employers
- √ Employment Counseling
- √ Resume & Cover Letter review
- √ Employment & Training Plans
- √ Orientation to Veterans Preference for State & Federal Employment
- √ Veteran Workshops for Employment, Resumes and Benefits

One-Stop Services are:

- √ Seminars for
 - Interviewing
 - Resume Writing
 - Labor Market Information & Effective Job Search
- √ Information on State & Federal Funding for Training
- √ Laboratory for PC Based Training to Raise Literacy Level

Referrals to Local community, State & Veteran Administration Services

MERCER COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES

Brian M. Hughes
County Executive

MERCER COUNTY SERVING OUR VETERANS

SERVICES

- Write VA claims for Compensation/Pension
- Disability Claims and Education
- Burial registration at Greenwood and Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Cemeteries
- Assist in Survivor Benefits
- Provide Burial Plots at no charge and Mausoleums at a reduced cost at Greenwood Cemetery
- Conduct County wide Ceremonies (Veterans Day, Pearl Harbor Day, Memorial Day)
- Transitional Housing

REFERRAL SERVICES

- Transportation to and from VA medical facilities
- Employment—Vocational Rehab—Mercer County One Stop Career Center
- Social Services
- War Veterans Re-Adjustment Counseling
- Affordable Housing
- Emergency and Transitional Housing
- Vet Center Clinic

OFFICE HOURS

8:30 am TO 4:30 pm
Monday—Friday

LOCATION

2280 Hamilton Avenue
Hamilton, NJ 08619
Phone# (609) 989-6120
Fax# (609) 396-5438

Edward Mazzeo
Veteran Service Officer

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Mercer County Board of Social Services



200 Woolverton Street, Trenton, NJ - 609-989-4320

The Mercer County Board of Social Services (MCBOSS) serves the citizens of Mercer County, including our veteran population, through the many programs it administers. These range from providing food and shelter to programs of self-sufficiency. Services and programs are means tested.

Public Assistance Programs

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- General Assistance (GA)
- Food Stamp Program

Support Programs/Activities

- Emergency Assistance
 - Housing
 - Security Deposits
 - Furniture
 - Food
 - Homeless Hotline phone # in Mercer County is 278-1481.
- Adult Protective Services
 - Investigation of and assistance to at risk adults
- Transportation
 - Roads to Success (TANF) - This program purchases cars, assists with insurance, restores licenses and provides on the road training.
 - License restoration is available for GA recipients with a job.

Work Programs

- Activities are available for all levels of work readiness. Programs include education, on the job training, work experience and employment directed activities. MCBOSS partners with the Mercer County One Stop.

Medicaid

- Medicaid pays medical bills for eligible, needy persons. There are many programs each with different rules and regulations and levels of service.
- Medical transportation is available.

Child Support Program

- Location
- Enforcement
- Child Support Order Establishment
- Paternity Establishment

TRENTON VET CENTER

VET CENTER SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Individual readjustment counseling
- Screening for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Substance Abuse counseling
- Sexual Trauma counseling
- Referral for VA benefits

- Group readjustment counseling
- Counseling for PTSD
- Marital and family counseling
- Community education and liaison
- Employment Assistance

TRENTON VET CENTER STAFF:

Jose Burgos, Outreach Coordinator

Rawle V. Gaskin, Counselor

Darryll Johnson, Counselor

Burnice Rice, Trenton Vet Center Office Manager

Tamara Thompson, Family Therapist

Jennie Rosetti, Counselor

Kathy O'Grady, Counselor

All services provided to veterans and their families are at no cost and clients' rights are protected by HIPAA 2003. For more information call (609) 882-5744.

TRENTON VET CENTER

934 Parkway Avenue, 2nd Flr.

Ewing, New Jersey 08618

Ph# (609) 882-5744

Fax# (609) 882-5743

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday

8:00 am TO 4:30 pm

Wednesday—Thursday

Extended Hours by Appointment

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

DIVISION OF VETERANS PROGRAMS

SERVICES

- Assist, advise and write VA claims
- Assist in Survivor Benefits
- Provide Limited Transportation to VA Medical Hospitals in New Jersey
- Referral Services to Agencies as needed

OFFICE HOURS

**8:00 am TO 4:30 pm
Monday—Friday
Appointments Recommended**

LOCATION

**28 West State St.
5th Floor, Rm. 514
P.O. Box 671
Trenton, NJ 08625
Phone# (609) 292-5880**

Bill McDonald
Veterans Service Officer

Theresa Tomecheck
Secretary

Mercer County T.R.A.D.E.

MERCER COUNTY TRADE TRANSPORTATION

**Brian M. Hughes
County Executive**

Eligibility

TRADE Transportation provides transportation to seniors (age 60+) and people with disabilities who are residents of Mercer County. TRADE provides transportation Monday through Friday. Veterans who are age 60+ or veterans with disabilities may contact TRADE Transportation to request transportation to locations throughout Mercer County.

Services

Demand-Response service is available with advance notice for a variety of trip purposes (i.e., medical, education, nutrition, shopping and recreation). Reservations must be made in advance (preferably 5-7 days), up to 14 days in advance, and all trips are reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Appointment time slots are available from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Subscription trips are available for customers who travel to destinations on a regular basis (i.e., dialysis, employment, shopping).

Customers should call TRADE between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at 609-530-1971, to request service.

Services to Veterans—Trips to VA Hospitals in Lyons and East Orange

In cooperation with the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (DMVA), TRADE Transportation will offer weekly transportation to veterans who need to travel to Veteran Administration (VA) hospitals in East Orange and Lyons, NJ.

TRADE Transportation will pick-up veterans in Trenton on Tuesday mornings for round-trip transportation to the VA hospital in Lyons, NJ. TRADE Transportation will also pick-up veterans in Trenton on Wednesday mornings for round-trip transportation to the East Orange VA hospital. There will be no charge to veterans for the service.

Veterans who are interested in this service can contact the DMVA, Division of Veterans Programs, at 609-292-5880 or 609-292-5881. The Division of Veterans Programs is located at 28 West State Street, Room 514, in Trenton. Reservations for the transportation to Lyons VA Hospital and East Orange VA Hospital need to be made in advance by calling 609-292-5880 or 609-292-5881. Information about the pick-up location (162 West State Street, Trenton) can also be obtained by calling 609-292-5880 or 609-292-5881.

**New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
Division of Veterans Programs-Veterans Benefits Bureau
Veterans Services & Veterans Healthcare Services**

1. Determine Veterans Status for Preference and pension status. Veteran's preference for hiring in New Jersey Civil Service and Veterans status for pension purposes.
2. The NJ Veterans and Spouses Catastrophic Entitlement Program.
3. Grants and Aids - POW/MIA/War Orphan/Veterans Tuition Credit Program, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Transportation.
4. NJ Property Tax Deduction/Exemption Program: Work hand in hand with tax assessors with determination of eligibility for the property tax benefit.
5. New Jersey Medal Program: New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal, Meritorious Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Korean Service Medal and replacement of State Medals.
6. Operation Recognition Program (NJ High School Diploma)
7. Stand Down Operations - North and South Jersey
8. Reconstitution Program for demobilized soldiers
9. Counseling Hotline 1-866-VETS-NJ 4 U
10. Veterans Service Offices located throughout the state of New Jersey, responsibilities include:
 - VA claims for compensation/pension/disability/education
 - Burial registration
 - Assist surviving spouses/children with benefits
 - Transportation arrangements/PTSD referrals
 - Employment/Vocational Rehabilitation referrals
 - Community Outreach/participation on Veterans Organizational events
 - Reconstitution Follow-up
 - Educational Benefits
11. State Approving Agency- GI Bill Programs, College, Grad School, OJT, Apprenticeship Programs.
12. Veterans Haven - Transitional Housing Program
13. Three State of the Art Veterans Memorial Home
14. BG William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery
15. Employee Support for Guard and Reserve

1-888-8NJ-VETS



Mercer County One-Stop Career Center

26 Yard Avenue

PO Box 8068

Trenton, New Jersey 08650

(609) 989-6523

www.mercercounty.org/one_stop

The Mercer County One-Stop Career Center provides services to individuals in preparation for entry or re-entry into the workforce and to employers seeking workers.

- **Access to America's Job Bank and NJ's Job Bank**
- **Post resumes on the Internet**
- **Access to current labor market information**
- **Resume writing & interviewing skills workshops**
- **Phone and fax available for job search assistance**

Learn about our FREE services at orientation:

Monday, Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. & 1:15 p.m.

Friday at 9:00 a.m.

FREE Parking across the street in Arena Parking Lot #4

Mercer County One-Stop Career Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer with Equal Opportunity Programs. Auxiliary aids are available to all individuals with disabilities.

Brian M. Hughes

County Executive

Elizabeth Maher-Muoio

Director, Economic Development and Sustainability

TASK AND
CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF TRENTON

Coming together

Helping the Hungry and Homeless of Mercer County



- Daily hot meals
- Computer Classes
- Patron's mailing address
- Social Services:
 - case management
 - advocacy
 - referrals
- GED classes
- Patron's telephone
- A-Team Cooperate Artists
- Pro-bona attorney



Catholic Charities/Emergency Services

- Food pantry
- Transitional housing
- Financial Assistance:
 - utilities shut-off
 - rent eviction
 - mortgage foreclosure
- Clothing room
- Holiday programs
- Case management

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
72 ½ Escher Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08605
(609) 695-5456, ext. 104 - FAX (609) 695-1225



COUNTY OF MERCER
McDade Administration Building
640 South Broad Street
P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, New Jersey 08650-8068
Telephone: (609) 989-6518
Fax: (609) 278-4819

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