



RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS COALITION

"Proudly Serving our Local Heroes"



DIRECTORY OF LOCAL RESOURCES FOR VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

Rensselaer County Veterans Service Agency

1600 7th Avenue, 4th floor, Troy ~ (518) 270-2760 ~ www.rensco.com

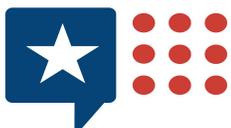
- Benefits:** provides information on available benefits, eligibility standards, and we assist in the completion of necessary paperwork. Call to schedule an appointment with a VA Benefits Counselor.
- Medical Van Transport:** transportation to morning appointments at the VA for Veterans who do not have access to other transportation. Call to request transport at least 5 days in advance; space is limited.
- Additional services:** Provides additional support for accessing death benefits, applying for medals, property tax exemption, etc. Please visit the website for a comprehensive list of services.
- Honor-A-Veteran:** ceremonies are held on the 2nd Monday of each month (with some exceptions). Please visit the website to complete an application in memory of a deceased Veteran.

Albany Stratton VA Medical Center

113 Holland Ave ~ Albany ~ (518) 626-5000 ~ www.albany.va.gov

- Enrollment:** the VA offers comprehensive healthcare services to veterans with honorable discharge (if discharged after September 1980, they must also have 2 years of active duty service); call 626-6717
- Primary Care:** veterans receive free care for deployment-related illness/injury for 5 years; call 626-6500
- Dental:** free exam to eligible vets; call 626-6570 within 180 days of discharge date
- Behavioral Health:** provides a range of inpatient/outpatient services, including diagnosis, medication management, case management, individual and group therapy and psycho-education; call 626-5339
- PTSD and TBI:** assessment and individual and group treatment; contact Jessica Rippel at 626-5436
- Family Services:** including couples groups (focusing on topics such as PTSD, family relationships, anger management), drug/alcohol awareness workshops; contact Cat Lynch at 626-5433
- Homeless:** provides treatment and rehabilitation services to veterans with inadequate housing or income, as well as emergency housing, vouchers and case management services; call 626-5150 or 1-800-VET-HELP
- Vocational Services:** provides vocational rehabilitation and support to employers; call 626-5150
- Substance Abuse:** provides assessment, education and treatment (inpatient/outpatient); call 626-5388

Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255

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Veterans Crisis Line

Veterans in crisis can receive confidential support 24/7, 365 days a year regardless of whether or not they are registered with the VA.

Hotline: trained veterans will respond to the call, provide crisis intervention if needed or make referrals for resources local and relevant to the caller's needs.

Chat: veterans can chat live with a counselor at www.veteranscrisisline.net

Text: veterans can text live with a counselor at 838255; phone messaging fees may apply but the VA does not charge for texting.

The **RENSSELAER COUNTY VETERANS COALITION** is a group of community-based agencies whose primary objective is to provide Veterans and their families with information which will help navigate through networking with local agencies that will provide information to facilitate in alleviating stressful complications in obtaining essential veteran oriented services. *If you are interested in joining the coalition, please call (518) 270-2760.*

Off-Site Services of Albany Stratton VA Medical Center

Vet Center: provides individual and group counseling, sexual trauma counseling, alcohol/drug abuse counseling, bereavement counseling, and readjustment services, such as benefits assistance, education and employment, to combat veterans and families; located off of Wolf Rd in Albany; call 6265130
Troy Clinic: provides primary care medical services, laboratory and prevention services, smoking cessation support and behavioral health services; located at 295 River St in Troy; call 274-7707.

Services for Female Veterans

Hotline: a new hotline has been established for Women Vets' Health Care; call 1-855-VA-WOMEN
Guardian House: provides temporary housing for homeless female veterans; located in Ballston Spa.

Community-Based Resources

Heroes at Home provides peer support to veterans and their families in Rensselaer County, and works to educate the community about PTSD and issues related to reintegration. Call 279-7861 to volunteer or meet with a mentor or visit www.heroesathomerensco.com for more information.

Albany Housing Coalition provides employment and pro bono legal services, peer support teams and housing assistance (transitional, permanent and emergency). Call 465-5251 or visit www.ahcvets.org.

Loyola Recovery Foundation is an inpatient detox center located inside Stratton VA Medical Center. Loyola is not a service of the VA, therefore, they can accept veterans with a less than honorable discharge. Once admission is scheduled, they will send staff and a vehicle to provide transport. Call 689-3094; this number is staffed 24 hours a day by a registered nurse or visit www.loyolarecovery.com

Altamont House provides emergency and transitional shelter for homeless veterans, as well as educational and vocational support. Contact Ralph Bell at ralphbell63@yahoo.com or 463-1121 x105.

TRICARE is a healthcare program serving active-duty members of the armed forces, retirees and their families. Contact Von Ahouse at von.ahouse@martinspoint.org or 588-4441.

Voice of a Vet in Hoosick Falls sponsors activities and events where veterans and their families are recognized, honored and served; where they can have a voice, convey needs, connect with comrades, and support one another. Contact Gail Smith pray4you@wildblue.net or 686-9888.

American Red Cross provides emergency communication services to deployed service members, financial assistance, information and referrals, training and support to military families before, during and post-deployment. Visit www.redcross.org/find-help/military-families or call 1-800-272-7337.

Higher Education institutes are particularly sensitive to the needs of returning Veteran students. For Empire State College, contact Chuck Van Vorst at chuck.vanvorst@esc.edu. For Hudson Valley Community College, contact Carrie Farley at c.farley@hvcc.edu. For RPI, contact Robert Hill at hillr4@rpi.edu. For Sage College, contact David Milford at milfod@sage.edu.

12-step meetings can be found by visiting www.abcdrna.org for NA meetings or www.aaalbanyny.org for AA and Al-Anon meetings. In addition, Hoosick Falls Community Alliance Church (686-3269) and Victorious Life Church in Troy (272-4237) offer **Celebrate Recovery**, a faith-based 12-step recovery program for anyone with hurts, habits and hang-ups.

Pro Bono Legal Service and Consultation are available through the *Veterans' Rights Pro Bono Project*, sponsored by Albany Law School. They hold regular clinics with free legal advice/services several times a year. For information, contact Josh Bennett at jbennett@albanylaw.edu. In addition, *The Legal Project*, provides monthly clinics throughout the Capital Region. Call 435-1770 to make an appointment.

Return the FAVOR is a discount program for honorably discharged Veterans and widows/widowers in Rensselaer County. Call the Rensselaer County Clerk's office at 270-4080 for application information.

Call United Way 2-1-1 for additional resources; tell them you are looking for Veteran-specific support.

On-line National Educational Resources

National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - www.ptsd.va.gov

Military One Source - www.militaryonesource.mil

American Legion - www.legion.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars - www.vfw.org