

FREE LEGAL SERVICES AVAILABLE  
FOR ELIGIBLE LOW-INCOME VETERANS

# Veterans' Rights: Education Benefits

Information Needed When Applying for Services from Legal Aid:  
Current Household Income Information  
Social Security Number  
Documents related to your case (to the extent possible)



## Do any educational benefits provide a housing allowance?

The Post 9/11 GI Bill, effective for training on August 1, 2009, will pay tuition and fees not to exceed the maximum in-state tuition and fees at a public institution, a stipend of \$1,000 for books and supplies, a one-time rural benefit for eligible individuals and for an E-5 with dependents at the location of the school, a monthly housing allowance. To be eligible, an individual must have 90 days aggregate service after 9/11/2001 or 30 days, if discharged with a services connected disability.

## Do veterans and their families have to meet residency requirements to receive in-state tuition?

If a person is eligible for Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance and files a letter of intent to establish residence in Texas and will reside in Texas while enrolled in a state institution, they will be eligible for in-state tuition without regard to the length of time they have lived in Texas. Spouses and children, including stepchildren, are also eligible for in-state tuition.

## Are veterans' children exempt from paying tuition?

Yes. If a member of the Armed Forces who is entitled to pay resident tuition is deployed on combat duty outside the United States, a dependant child, including stepchild, is exempt from paying tuition for any semester or academic term during which the service member is deployed.

## Additional information regarding education benefits for Texas veterans can be found at:

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
(514) 427-6456 or (800) 242-3062

Texas Veterans Hot Line  
(800) 252-8387

Texas Veterans Commission  
<http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/Education.html>

Texas Veterans  
<http://veterans.texasonline.com>

TexasWorkforce  
[http://www.twc.state.tx.us/tvlp/tvlp\\_education.html](http://www.twc.state.tx.us/tvlp/tvlp_education.html)

GI Bill Home – U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs  
<http://www.gibill.va.gov>

Department of Veterans Affairs  
(888) GI-BILL-1 (442-4551)

## For direct legal services, contact your closest Legal Aid:

Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas  
(800) 955-3959  
[www.lanwt.org](http://www.lanwt.org)

Lone Star Legal Aid  
(800) 354-1889  
[www.lonestarlegal.org](http://www.lonestarlegal.org)

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid  
(888) 988-9996  
[www.trla.org](http://www.trla.org)

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## **Is there any type of financial assistance for education purposes for Texas Veterans?**

Yes. The Hazelwood Act provides financial assistance to Texas veterans and their dependents at public colleges and universities in Texas. The Hazelwood Act provides an exemption from the payment of any tuition, dues, fees, and charges, including fees for correspondence courses, but excludes property deposit fees, student service fees, and any fees or charges for lodging, board, or clothing. The exemption can be used by qualified students for up to 150 credit hours. Please see

<http://www.tvc.state.tx.us/Education.html>.

## **What criteria do I need to meet in order to be eligible to receive this type of financial assistance?**

Honorably discharged veterans who (i) served at least 180 days of active duty military service; (ii) were a Texas resident at the time they entered the service; (iii) are not in default on federal education loans or student loans made or guaranteed by the State of Texas; and (iv) have exhausted all available federal educational benefits to receive an exemption from the payment of tuition and some fees are eligible. Keep your DD214 in a safe place. The county clerk in each Texas county is required to record, free of charge, the official discharge of each veteran of the Armed Forces.

## **Are children of veterans eligible to receive financial assistance for school?**

Children of veterans who (i) are residents of Texas; (ii) have a parent who was a resident of Texas at the time of entry into the service and who died or became totally disabled for purposes of employability as a result of service-related injury or illness and (iii) are not in default on federal education loans or loans made or guaranteed by the State of Texas are eligible to receive an exemption from the payment of tuition and

some fees. The dependent must have resided in the state for at least 12 months immediately preceding the date of registration with the college or university.

## **Do these education benefits apply to orphans (both parents deceased) of the National Guard and Texas Air National Guard?**

Yes. Certain orphans of members of the US armed forces, the Texas National Guard and the Texas Air National Guard killed since January 1, 1946, while on active duty in the service either of Texas or of the United States, are eligible to receive an exemption from payment of tuition and some fees. The children must have lived in the state of Texas for at least 12 months immediately preceding the date of registration with a college or university.

## **Do these education benefits apply to children of veterans from all wars?**

Children of veterans who were killed or died as a result of service in WWI, WWII, Korea or since February 1, 1955 are eligible to receive an exemption from the payment of tuition and some fees. The children must have resided in the state of Texas for at least 12 months immediately preceding the date of registration with a college or university.

## **Do these education benefits apply to children of prisoners of war and persons missing in action?**

Dependent children of Texas military personnel who are either a prisoner of war or missing in action are eligible to receive an exemption from the payment of tuition and some fees at public colleges and universities. The student must be under 21 years of age, or a person under 25 of age who received the majority of his support from his parent(s). The college/university has the option to offer tuition exemptions for continuing education courses.

## **Is there any tuition assistance program for members of the Texas National Guard?**

Yes. Active, drilling members of the Texas National Guard, Texas Air Guard or the State Guard who are Texas residents may be eligible to receive an exemption from the payment of tuition at public and private colleges or universities in Texas. Individuals may receive tuition assistance for up to 12 semester hours. Tuition may be used for undergraduate, graduate, vocational, or technical courses. If the student attends a private college, the award is based on public university tuition charges for 12 semester credit hours at the resident rate.

## **Is there any sort of "work-study" program for veterans?**

Yes. If you're a full-time or 3/4-time student in a college degree program, or a vocational or professional program, you can "earn while you learn" with a VA work-study allowance. The VA work-study allowance is available to persons training under the following programs:

(i) Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty, (ii) REAP Participants, (iii) Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve, and (iv) Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program. Services you perform under a VA work-study program must be related to VA work. Examples of acceptable work are: processing VA paperwork at schools or VA offices, performing outreach services under the supervision of a VA employee, and/or performing services at VA medical facilities or the offices of the National Cemetery Administration. Please see <http://www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/wkstud.htm#INTRO>.