



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Women Veterans/Inclusion Program
An Outreach and Advocacy Program

Focus Group



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Roslyn Jones

Women Veterans/Inclusion Program Manager

roslyn.jones1@maryland.gov

410-260-3871



Agenda

- Introduction and Overview of Session (Housekeeping)
- Overview (MDVA Programs)
Dana Burl - Director of Outreach and Advocacy
- Overview – (Women Veterans/Inclusion Program)
Roslyn Jones – Program Manager
- Group Discussion
- Next Steps



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs



**Department Briefing
Dana Burl, Director
Outreach and Advocacy Program**



Maryland Veterans: Who are they?

Maryland is home to:

- 380,000 veterans
- 55,000 women veterans
- 83,730 veterans receiving disability compensation
- 30,000 active duty service members
- 18,000 reservists/national guard
- 130,000 veteran households with children

KEY: Only about 40% of Maryland Veterans are enrolled in VHA



Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Created by the State Legislature in 1999

Mission of assisting veterans, active duty service members, their families and dependents, in securing benefits earned through military service

The Department's origin follows the history of the Maryland Veterans Commission back to 1924, when the Soldiers' Relief Fund Commission was formed to administer relief to disabled veterans of World War I



Core Programs

- Service and Benefits Program
- Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
- Cemetery and Memorial Program
- Outreach and Advocacy Program
- Maryland Veterans Trust Fund

Detailed information on our programs can be found
veterans.maryland.gov



Service and Benefits Program

- Veterans Benefits Specialists are accredited by the USVA to prepare and represent service members, veterans and survivors to the USVA
- Veterans Benefits Specialists ensure claims are complete prior to filing and follow the claim all the way to adjudication
- Since October 15, 1979, the Service Program is also a repository for DD214s for Maryland Veterans released from active duty



Contacting the Service and Benefits Program

Baltimore Regional Office (call to find your local office or visit our website below)

31 Hopkins Plaza

Baltimore, MD

800-446-4926, ext 6450

Offices located statewide and are open for appointment only, Monday-Friday, call your local office to verify hours

Find your local office by visiting the MDVA website
veterans.maryland.gov



Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

- Opened in 1985, located in St. Mary's County
- A total of 454 beds, 286 skilled nursing, 168 assisted living
- Veterans and eligible spouses may apply for admission to Charlotte Hall
- Admissions: 301-884-8171, ext 409 or email admissions@charhall.org



Cemetery and Memorial Program

Five State Veteran Cemeteries

- Crownsville
- Rocky Gap
- Cheltenham
- Eastern Shore
- Garrison Forest

Memorials

- World War II (Annapolis)
- Vietnam War (Baltimore)
- Korean War (Baltimore/Canton)
- Gold Star Families Memorial Monument (Annapolis)
- War Memorial Building (shared operations with Baltimore City)

*To contact
a cemetery visit
veterans.maryland.gov,
“MDVA Programs”*



Outreach and Advocacy

Mission: to find innovative ways to reach service members, veterans and families (SMVF) and educate on VA benefits, resources and programs

Responsible for the website, social media, newsletter, media engagement, public briefings, resource table staffing, and a number of other programs:

- Women Veterans/Inclusion Program (Roslyn Jones, Program Manager)
- Veterans Services Specialist Program
- Maryland Veterans Service Animal Program
- Governor's Customer Service Initiative
- Maryland State Library Partnership



Outreach and Advocacy

Actively participate on:

Governors Commission on Suicide Prevention

Governor's Challenge to Prevent Service Member, Veteran and Families
Suicide (co-lead)

College Collaboration for Student Veterans Commission

Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness

Balance of State Continuum of Care Board

Governor's Workforce Investment Board



Maryland Veterans Trust

- Provides grants to veterans and their family members who are experiencing temporary financial difficulties
- 100% of donations are returned back to veterans who are in need
- Assistance is one time only and not designed to address chronic financial difficulties or emergency situations
- For more information and contact information, visit veterans.maryland.gov, “MDVA Programs”
- Mark Hendricks, Administrator, 800-446-4926, ext 6460



State Benefits/Programs

Military Retirement Pay Income Tax Deduction

State Property Tax Exemption*

Hunting & Fishing Licenses/State Park Admission

Drivers License/State ID Veteran Designation

Disabled Plates Lifetime Registration

Military Plates

**Certain Counties have enacted their own local ordinances allowing for tax exemptions when a veteran is rated less than 100% disabled, see veterans.maryland.gov for information*

Maryland's Commitment to Veterans Behavioral Health Administration

Connects service members, veterans and families to behavioral health services, information and referral, crisis funding
877-770-4801

Maryland Higher Education Commission

Scholarship Information
410-767-3300



US Department of Veterans Affairs

Three administrations:

1. Healthcare Administration, includes but not limited to homeless services, women veterans program, suicide prevention, social work, geriatric care, care in the community
2. Benefits Administration, includes but not limited to disability compensation, pension, home loan guaranty program, education benefits, adaptive housing grants
3. Cemetery Administration, provides dignified resting places for eligible veterans and dependents

Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs

Contact Information

<https://veterans.maryland.gov/>
mdveteransinfo@maryland.gov
410-260-3838

Dana Burl, Director
Outreach and Advocacy Program
dana.burl@maryland.gov

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Women Veterans/Inclusion Program

Advocacy and
Outreach
Program

Established
June 12, 2021

Governor Larry Hogan
Proclamation



Program Purpose

Increase outreach and raise awareness of programs for women veterans as well as other underserved veterans in Maryland

Identify disparities and inequalities then locate the resources to provide solutions

Ensure more veterans have and are aware of the benefits earned through military service

Recognize the accomplishments & contributions of women veterans and those who have served

Demographics?



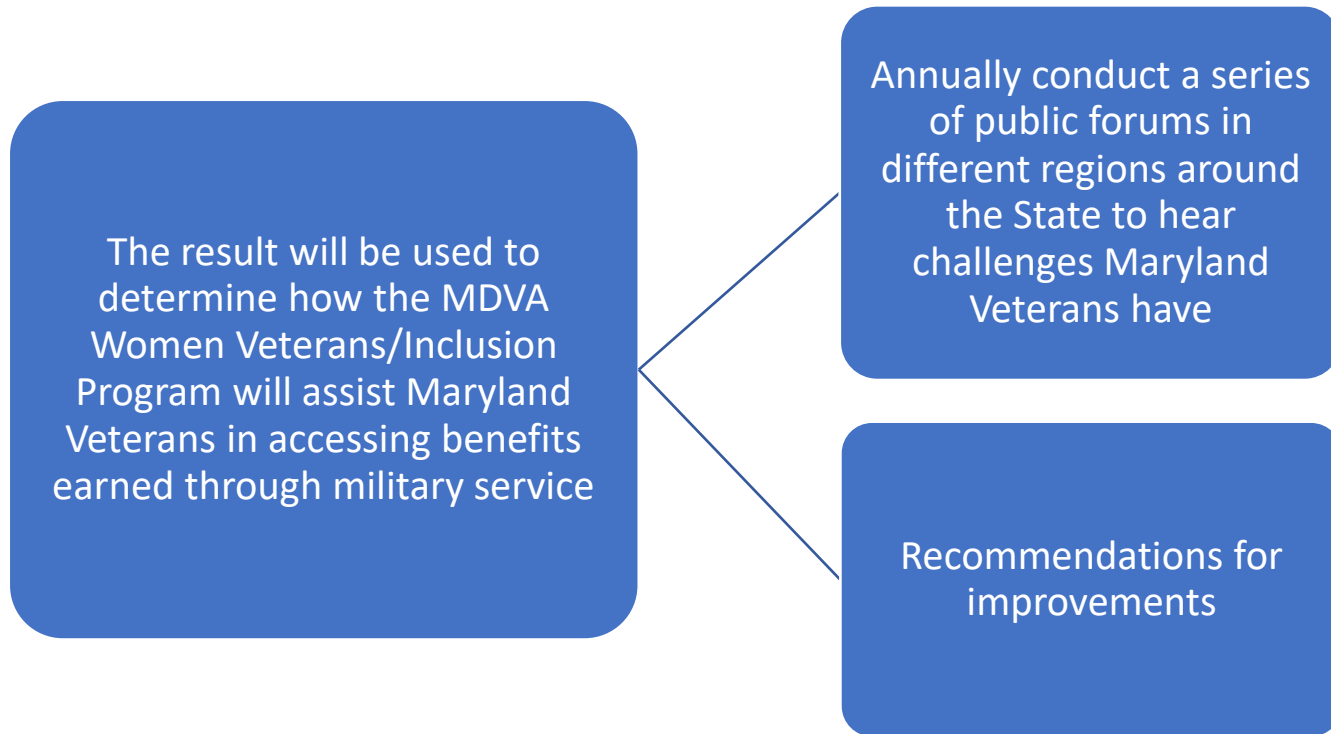
location

accessibility

veteran
population

other
factors

Focus Group Purpose



Focus Group Session Process

Discussion

Prioritize the Issues

Develop Solutions

The MDVA WVIP Advisory Group

A component of the Women Veterans/Inclusion Program that will assist the program manager in assuring the needs of women and other underserved veteran populations are being met.

