Partial List* of Contacts to Get VA Benefits Information

Department of Veterans Affairs  
www.va.gov

Benefits: 1-800-827-1000

Education (GI Bill): 1-888-442-4551

Life Insurance: 1-800-669-8477

Healthcare: 1-877-222-VETS

Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-TALK, Press 1 for Veteran

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans: 1-877-4AID-VET

American Veterans for Equal Rights  
www.averchicago.org  
1-773-732-0058

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN)  
www.sldn.org  
1-800-538-7418

“Freedom to Serve: The Definitive Guide to LGBT Military Service” may be downloaded from SLDN website.

Lambda Legal  
www.lambdalegal.org  
1-866-542-8336

*List not all inclusive

VA Regional Office
2122 W. Taylor St  
Chicago, IL 60612  
1-800-827-1000

Chicago Area Medical Centers
Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital  
5000 S. 5th Avenue  
Hines, IL 60141  
708-202-8387

Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center  
3001 Green Bay Road  
North Chicago, IL 60064  
847-688-1900

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center  
820 S. Damen Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60612  
312-569-8387

Each facility also has Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) with various services available.

Information for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersex and Transgender Veterans at Hines VA

Hines Online  
www.hines.va.gov

Hines on Facebook  
www.facebook.com/HinesVAHospital

Hines on Twitter
twitter.com/#!/hinesvah
Nearly 1 Million Gay and Lesbian Americans are Veterans

- More than 36,000 gay men and lesbians are on active duty.
- Nearly 65,000 men and women in the service are likely gay or lesbian. This includes the National Guard and Reserves.
- In Illinois, there are 26,788 gay and lesbian Veterans.
- Chicago has about 18,000 gay and lesbian Veterans.


VA's Commitment

VA is committed to ensuring that all Veterans are treated with honor, dignity and respect. VA has policy regarding the respectful delivery of healthcare to lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex and transgender Veterans. Hines VA has an LGBT Special Emphasis Program.

VA Benefits Policy

Guidelines on Eligibility include:
- 2 years of active duty service
- Deployment in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn (OEF/OIF/OND)
- Military sexual trauma
- Many special eligibility criteria

Some Services VA Offers

- Medical and specialty care
- Women's health
- PTSD treatment
- Addiction and recovery
- Treatment for sexual trauma
- Suicide prevention
- Individual, family and couples counseling
- Post deployment adjustment counseling
- Weight management programs
- My HealtheVet website
- Prescription refills
- Burial services: Cemetery services; headstones and markers; nationwide gravesite locator; burial flags, and allowances

Each Veteran is unique. More information on VA health care eligibility and benefits is at:
- www.va.gov
- 1-877-222-VETS (toll-free)
- Hines Eligibility: 708-202-7968

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan..."

~Abraham Lincoln

The No Fear Act

The NO FEAR Act exists to protect Veterans. It protects your right to speak up about discrimination or harassment based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity. VA will not tolerate such discrimination.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) was the law that prevented LGB service members from openly serving. The law was repealed on 9/20/11. The military is no longer allowed to discharge someone based on sexual orientation. The repeal of DADT does not change the medical regulatory ban for those who identify as transgender. It also does not change the policy regarding HIV-positive service members.

You can get more information on DADT and other laws and policies that are important to LGBT service members and Veterans. Download "Freedom to Serve: The Definitive Guide to LGBT Military Service." It is available at www.sldn.org.