



ARIZONA —————
DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS' SERVICES

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Overview

Presented By:
Director John Scott

About ADVS

- The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services is a state agency that serves and provides advocacy to Arizona service members, Veterans and their families.
- We work in conjunction with other state and federal agencies and community partnerships to ensure that all Veterans, service members and their families will have no barriers to the benefits and services they have earned.

Our Mission:

We are the driving force in response to the needs of Arizona's Veterans, Service Members and their families, by ensuring timely access to benefits.



What We Do at ADVS

Programs

Financial Assistance:

- Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF)
- Transition in Place Program (TIP)
- Arizona Veterans' Donation Fund (VDF)
- Homes for Heroes (H4H)

Education Assistance:

- Honorary Diploma
- Tuition Waiver
- Arizona Veteran Supportive Campus (AVSC)

Other:

- Minority Veterans Program
- Staff Sergeant Fox Grant

Veteran Benefits Counselors

State Approving Agency

State Veteran Homes

- Skilled nursing facilities for Veterans and spouses in Tucson, Phoenix, Flagstaff and Yuma

Veteran Memorial Cemeteries

- Bellemont, Marana and Sierra Vista

Other

- Veteran Toolkit
- Gold Star Military Medal
- Action Plan to End Homelessness

Services

Veteran Benefits Counselors

- Veteran Benefits Counselors (VBC) advocate for Arizona's service members, Veterans and their families with receiving federal and state Veteran benefits.
 - VBCs are dual-accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion
- VBCs work around the state, including in each of our Arizona State Veteran Homes
 - Veterans and families can meet with a VBC virtually, in-person or on the phone.
- As of March 2026, our VBCs are bringing in \$113.2 million per month in benefits for our Arizona Veterans

VBCs Assist Clients By:

- Educating them on eligibility requirements for benefits
- Preparing and submitting VA compensation and pension applications
- Appealing VA decisions
- Representing claimants at VA hearings
- Preparing and submitting survivor benefits applications
- Applying for discharge upgrades
- Referring claimants to other agencies for potential benefits
- Requesting military service records and certifying DD-214s (discharge paperwork)
- Discussing State Veteran Benefits

To make an appointment with a VBC, call 602-535-1215 or visit our website (dvs.az.gov)



Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries

- ADVS has three Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries (AVMC) that provide a lasting final benefit to honor our Veterans and their families.
- The cemeteries offer burials to all eligible members of the Armed Forces, including National Guard and reservists and Veterans discharged from active duty under Honorable conditions
 - Eligible military dependents may also be laid to rest for a fee. For a full list of eligibility requirements, visit azdvs.gov
 - Cemeteries are located in Bellemont, Marana and Sierra Vista



Arizona Veterans' Memorial
Cemetery at Camp Navajo



Arizona Veterans' Memorial
Cemetery at Marana



Southern Arizona Veterans'
Memorial Cemetery

Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries

- We recently held our 10-year anniversary celebration at AVMC-Marana this past month, marking a decade of service since our first interment at the cemetery on March 14, 2016.
- Our are also growing! Thanks to several multi-million dollar grants from the Department of Veteran Affairs, we have three expansions in the works at our AVMC- Marana and SAVMC.



Arizona Veterans' Memorial
Cemetery at Camp Navajo



Arizona Veterans' Memorial
Cemetery at Marana



Southern Arizona Veterans'
Memorial Cemetery

Arizona State Veteran Homes (ASVH)

- ADVS runs four State Veteran Homes in Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma. Our newest home in Flagstaff opened Fall 2024, where we have 25 residents in our care
- Arizona State Veteran Homes serve the long-term and rehabilitative needs of Arizona Veterans
 - An energetic and caring staff provide skilled nursing, therapeutic recreation, social services, variety of therapies
 - Each home allows residents to enjoy an independent lifestyle with services customized to their needs.



Arizona State Veteran
Home-Phoenix



Arizona State Veteran
Home-Tucson



Arizona State Veteran
Home-Yuma



Arizona State Veteran
Home-Flagstaff

Arizona State Veteran Homes

- Each home has long-term care, a memory care unit and Medicare/rehab-focused unit
- Residents have a private room with onsite bathroom
 - Every room comes with furniture, private telephone, TV with free cable and a DVD player
- The homes have their own special amenities available for the residents including:
 - Library
 - Movie theater
 - Meditation Room
 - Gift Shop
 - Barbershop
 - And more!

Arizona State Veteran Homes: A Breakdown

- **Phoenix-104-bed facility**
 - Located at 4141 North S. Herrera Way, next to the Phoenix VA Hospital
- **Tucson-120-bed facility**
 - Located at 520 E. Ajo Way, next to the Tucson VA campus
- **Yuma-80-bed facility**
 - 6051 E. 34th Street
- **Flagstaff-80-bed facility**
 - Located at 2100 N. Gemini Road

For eligibility requirements and admissions information, visit azdvs.gov



Women Veterans Coordinator

- We are excited to introduce our new Women Veterans Coordinator: Heather Alaniz!
 - ADVS hasn't had this position since pre-COVID and we are excited to bring it back again to focus on addressing the needs and concerns specific to our female Veterans.
- Our mission is to honor the strength, resilience, and sacrifice of women veterans by empowering them to thrive, amplifying their voices, and ensuring they are seen, supported and celebrated in every community across our state.
 - We want to identify gaps in service, elevate the unique needs of women Veterans and collaborate with key stakeholders to drive meaningful change.



Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF)

- MFRF helps provide financial assistance to currently deployed service members, Veterans and their families that have experienced hardships caused by a deployment.
 - This can also include hardships caused by service-connected disabilities
- MFRF applicants have a lifetime financial assistance limit of \$20,000.
 - They can also apply to receive emergency assistance of up to \$3,000 once in a lifetime

Applicant Eligibility:

Service members and Veterans discharged under honorable conditions who meet all of the following:

- Deployment of the service member or Veteran
- Arizona Residency (includes claiming Arizona as home of record while in service, deployed with AZ National Guard or Reserve unit, deployed from an Arizona military installation or established at least one year of residency in Arizona with proof)
- Must demonstrate that military service caused current financial hardship or that surviving families need travel and living expenses if a service member or Veteran died or was wounded in the line of duty.

Veterans' Donation Fund (VDF)

- The VDF assists community programs, organizations and initiatives that benefit Veterans and their families.
- It supports AZ Veterans through small grants (\$4,999 or less) and large grants (\$5,000-\$100,000) that programs and organizations can apply for.
 - Last year, we increased our VDF-Large Grant total from \$1 million to \$2 million yearly
- Funding comes from:
 - Tax-deductible charitable donations
 - Purchases of the Veteran, Women Veterans or Freedom Arizona license plates



Homes For Heroes

- Homes for Heroes is a multi-million dollar program from the state of Arizona and Governor Katie Hobbs, aimed at preventing and ending Veteran homelessness in the next 10 years.
 - This is the first time the state has moved forward with an exciting initiative like this
- This initiative includes two vital components necessary to help us take the next steps towards ensuring all of our Veterans have a safe, stable place to lay their head at night:
 - Grant funding for organizations offering direct services to Veterans experiencing homelessness, focused on place-based housing and comprehensive support.
 - A dedicated team focused on creating a 10-year strategic plan to move forward with recommendations and steps towards ending Veteran homelessness.



Homes For Heroes Grant Awardees

This year, \$750,000 was awarded to four Arizona organizations delivering vital housing and support services to Veterans experiencing homelessness across the state:

- Axiom Community of Recovery – \$200,000
 - Axiom will create 30 new transitional housing beds, offering same-day placement and detox services if needed. The project focuses on immediate stabilization and care for Veterans in crisis.
- Scottsdale Recovery Center – \$150,000 (partial award)
 - Scottsdale Recovery will serve up to 39 Veterans in dedicated transitional housing beds, with same-day detox, pet boarding, and focused outreach to incarcerated Veterans. The program emphasizes accessibility and rehabilitation.
- U.S.VETS – Prescott – \$200,000
 - U.S.VETS will provide comprehensive housing plans for 100 Veterans, utilizing new transitional housing inventory at the Fort Whipple campus, opening in January 2026. This expansion significantly enhances services in Northern Arizona.
- Esperanza en Escalante – \$200,000
 - This Tucson-based program will serve 32 Veterans, offering same-day detox, emergency housing, pet boarding, and personalized housing plans. Veterans will receive a comprehensive evaluation upon intake to ensure individualized care.

These awards reflect Arizona's ongoing commitment to ending Veteran homelessness by expanding access to housing and supportive services across all regions of the state.



Join the Roundtable Waitlist!

Scan me to request access!

A Homes for Heroes community here. 🏠

Join a network built for the people doing
this work every day!

Connect with service providers across
Arizona, share resources, and never miss
an urgent update.

Scan. Request. Get connected.



Questions?

