



# COMPASS

News and Information from your VA Medical Center  
Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System

## VA helps Veterans seeking employment *Vocational Rehabilitation gets Veterans geared up during pandemic*



Arkansas Veterans looking for jobs and careers can look to Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System's Vocational Rehabilitation program for help getting geared up for gainful employment, especially during the current pandemic.

Veterans receiving health care through CAVHS can ask their provider to submit a request to our

Vocational Rehabilitation team. A face-to-face or telehealth appointment will get them quickly on their way to a new career.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program implements unique programs designed to give Veterans individualized and person specific assistance tailored to individual needs as they work to help Veterans obtain and maintain competitive community employment.

Some of the services we provide include help applying for federal jobs and jobs within the Veteran's community, help with developing a resume' that can be used for online job applications, and assisting Veterans who may have other barriers to gaining employment such as a legal background that has become an obstacle to getting hired.

The pandemic has made job seeking more difficult and the CAVHS Vocational Rehabilitation program will help Veterans find and keep good jobs.

CAVHS is also encouraging local business owners who are interested in hiring Veterans to contact our Vocational Rehabilitation program manager Sabrina Floyd at [Sabrina.Floyd@va.gov](mailto:Sabrina.Floyd@va.gov) or 501-257-1824.

## VA research study shows Veterans trust VA during pandemic

Veterans and their caregivers say the VA is prepared to handle the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a VA research study published in the prestigious Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

A team of researchers from Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System (CAVHS) and the South Central VA Health Care Network studied the perspectives of 51 Veterans and caregivers currently enrolled in VA and National Institutes of Health ongoing clinical trials.

Questions included participant's perception of safety when visiting a VA medical facility, the level of panic among the general public, the medical center's preparedness in handling the pandemic, the safety associated with the extra screening at entrances and if they would recommend others keep their in-person appointments. Two additional questions probed participants major sources of information on the pandemic, and whether they prefer in-person visits or telehealth.

Most of the participants – 78% -- said they felt safe coming to their

## Open positions at CAVHS

**Security Assistant**

**Registered Nurse**

Nurse - Case Manager

Motor Vehicle Operator

Licensed Practical Nurse

Police Officer

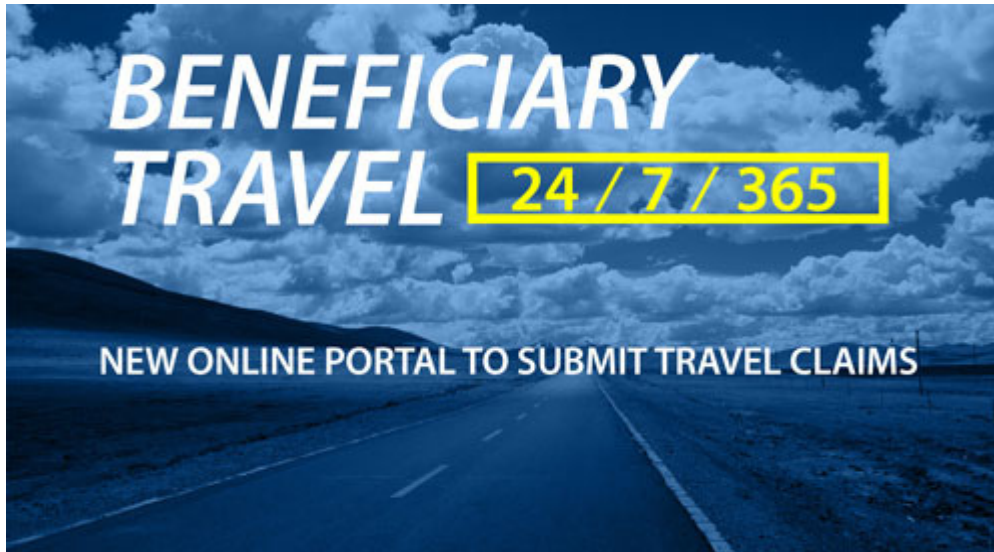
Telephone Operator

Housekeeping Aid

scheduled appointments, and 82% felt that their VA medical center was either prepared or very prepared for the pandemic.

---

## New Beneficiary Travel Portal



Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System is a secure [web-based portal](#) that will simplify how [eligible Veterans and beneficiaries](#) claim mileage reimbursement for travel to and from both VA health care (or VA authorized non-VA health care service locations).

The Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System is VA's preferred method for processing travel claim reimbursements. A new or updated profile is required to file a claim online and to process previously submitted kiosk and hard copy claims. Log in to create your profile.

**Visit AccessVA and select the Veteran Travel Claim Entry icon to get started.**  
<https://access.va.gov>

---

### WHAT IS VA TRAVEL CLAIM REIMBURSEMENT?

VA travel pay reimbursement through the Beneficiary Travel program pays eligible Veterans back for mileage and other travel expenses to and from approved health care appointments.

### AM I ELIGIBLE FOR TRAVEL PAY?

VA offers two types of travel pay reimbursement: general health care travel and special mode transportation. As a Veteran, you may be eligible for one or both. A Veteran may be eligible for beneficiary travel services if the

following criteria are met:

- have a service-connected (SC) rating of 30 percent or more, or
- are traveling for treatment of a SC condition, or
- receive a VA pension, or your income does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate, or
- are traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension, or if not otherwise eligible as noted above, and
- have a vision impairment, spinal cord injury or disorder, or a double or multiple amputation who's travel in connection with care provided through a VA special disabilities rehabilitation program (including programs provided by spinal cord injury centers, blind rehabilitation centers and prosthetics rehabilitation centers) if such

care is provided on an in-patient basis or during a period in which you are provided with temporary lodging at a facility of the Department to make such care more accessible.

### **WHAT'S THE FASTEST WAY TO SUBMIT A NEW CLAIM AND GET FASTER PROCESSING OF A PENDING CLAIM?**

For new claims and any pending claims, log in to Beneficiary Travel Self-Service System (BTSSS) and create a profile. An updated profile is required now to file a claim online and to process previously submitted kiosk and hard copy claims. Visit AccessVA and select the Veteran Travel Claim Entry icon to get started.  
<https://access.va.gov>.

---

## **Drive-through Veteran baby shower big success**

To safely honor and support Veterans getting ready to welcome new babies into their families, CAVHS held a fall drive-through baby shower October 23 in Little Rock. Each expecting family received: a wellness bag containing resources and educational materials focusing on Veterans; baby items such as diaper bags, diapers, wipes, blankets, bottles and more; a sibling bag that included coloring books, crayons, books, snacks and gift cards; a desert for the mom-to-be.



Volunteer Kathy Balkman presents a cake to a Veteran mom-to-be at the CAVHS drive-through baby shower. Volunteers from the Daughters of the American Revolution helped out during the drive-through Veteran baby shower.

Volunteer Margaret Robinson loads baby shower goodies into a Veteran mom-to-be's trunk. Margaret is loading diapers, wipes, blankets, bottles and other baby items as part of the drive-through Veteran baby shower.



Michael Dobbs, chief of Voluntary Services, helps load baby shower goodies into the back of a Veteran mom-to-be's SUV.

Maternity care benefits are included in the basic medical benefit package for women Veterans who are eligible to receive their healthcare through the Veterans Healthcare Administration. The care is coordinated through the Maternity Care Coordinator and Care in the Community programs.

The Maternity Care Coordinator, Social Work Service, Volunteer Service, Women's Health Program, Veterans Service Organizations, and Volunteers have hosted baby shower events for our currently pregnant or recently delivered Veteran moms since 2009. With the growing number of Women Veterans within the child bearing age, we have expanded the baby shower to two events a year. The events are normally held as a support group focusing on issues related to Veterans and pregnancy/new parents (i.e. postpartum depression, breastfeeding, pregnancy experience, new mom experience, medical and mental health, etc.). This setting provides the Women Veterans a safe environment to share their unique experiences, build connections, and provide support for each other.



**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veterans Health Administration

*Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System*

Keep updated & let us know how we're doing.



You have received this message because you are subscribed to Veterans Health. Access your [Subscriber Preferences](#) to make changes to your subscription or [Unsubscribe](#). Get this as a forward? [Sign Up](#) to receive updates from Veterans Health. Having questions or problems? Please visit [subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com](http://subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com) for assistance.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration



**Choose VA**

Sent to Email Address on behalf of US Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration · 810 Vermont Avenue, NW · Washington, DC 20420 · 877-222-VETS (877-222-8387)