Resources for Veterans – San Mateo County

GENERAL

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
To find your local Department of Veterans Affair office, visit https://www.va.gov/find-locations.

Veteran Services Office (VSO) – Helps veterans access state and Federal benefits that they and their family are entitled to.
550 Quarry Road
San Carlos, CA 94002
Website: https://www.smcgov.org/hsa/veterans-services-office
Phone: (650) 802-6598 | Email: veteranservices-smc@smcgov.org
Hours:
Mon./Wed./Fri.: Phone or Virtual Appointments Only
Tues./Wed.: 8 am – 4pm, In-Person Appointments

LEGAL

VetLex – Platform that provides veterans with an online tool for obtaining pro bono counsel.
Website: https://vetlex.org/

Bay Area Legal Aid – Provides free legal assistance to veterans concerning benefits, character of discharge determinations, discharge updates, SSDI, SSI, housing preservation, consumer law, domestic violence prevention, and health care access.
Website: https://baylegal.org/what-we-do/our-clients/veterans-project/
Phone: (800) 551-5554

Form MIL-100 – Veterans can file Form MIL-100 to alert the Court of their veteran status and help them gain access to resources and benefits for Veterans.
Form: https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/mil100.pdf

Disabled Veterans' Exemption – Reduces the property tax liability on the principal place of residence of veterans who, due to a service-connected injury/disease, have neem rated 100% disabled of are being compensated at the 100% rate due to unemployability.
Website: https://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/dv_exemption.htm#Description (general info.) | https://smcacre.org/assessor/veterans-exemption-forms (forms)

ABA Free Legal Answers for Veterans – Website that allows income-eligible individuals to submit questions about civil legal issues and receive answers from pro bono lawyers.
Website: https://abafederal.freelegalanswers.org/ (general information) | https://abafreelegalanswers.org/ (main site)

Veterans Treatment Court – Specialized court available to current or former members of the U.S. Military involved in the criminal justice system. Graduates from the program may qualify to have their fines reduced, have probation terminated early, and/or have their conviction expunged or dismissed.
Eligibility requirements: https://www.smcgov.org/probation/veterans-treatment-court-0
General information:
https://www.sanmateo.courts.ca.gov/divisions/criminal/collaborative-court/veterans-treatment-court-vtc

Military Diversion - Pretrial program for current or former members of any branch of the U.S. Military charged with misdemeanor crimes.
Forms/more information: (650) 298-4000 (Private Defender Program) or (650) 363-4244 (Probation Department)
Website: https://www.sanmateo.courts.ca.gov/divisions/criminal/collaborative-court/military-diversion

For a general list of legal resources, visit: https://www.smcgov.org/hsa/legal
Contact: Veteran Services Office
Phone: (650) 802-6598
Email: veteranservicessmc@smcgov.org

HEALTH CARE

Information on How to Apply for VA Healthcare
Website**:** https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/
There are four ways you can apply for VA health care:

1. Apply by phone by calling (877) 222-8387, Monday through Friday, 5 a.m. – 5 p.m. PT to get help with your application
2. Fill out an Application for Health Benefits (VA From 10-1-EZ): https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-10-10ez/. Send your completed application to:
   Health Eligibility Center
   2957 Clairmont Rd., Suite 200
   Atlanta, GA 30329
3. Apply in person by going to the nearest VA medical center or clinic. You can find the nearest center or clinic by going to this website: https://www.va.gov/find-locations/. Bring a signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ) with you.
4. Apply with the help of a trained professional, such as the Veteran Services Office

https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction

Palo Alto VA Medical Center-Menlo Park (VA Health) - Provides primary care and specialty health services, including addiction and substance abuse treatment, mental health care, physical and occupational therapy, suicide prevention, and more.
795 Willow Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025-2539
Website: https://www.va.gov/palo-alto-health-care/locations/palo-alto-va-medical-center-menlo-park/
Phone: (650) 614-9997, ext. 22234

San Bruno VA Clinic - Provides primary care and specialty health services, including social work, podiatry, audiology, outpatient mental health services, and more.
1001 Sneath Lane
Suite 300
San Bruno, CA 94066-2349
Website: https://www.va.gov/san-francisco-health-care/locations/san-bruno-va-clinic/
Phone: (650) 615-6000 (main) | (650) 615-6030 (mental health)

TRANSITION SUPPORT

Operation Healing Forces - Special Operations Additional Resources Program (S.O.A.R)
Offers employment services, financial planning and a legal assistance program.
Website: https://operationhealingforces.org/programs/
Phone: (727) 631-9713
Email: info@ophf.org

Wounded Warrior Project – Serves veterans and service members who sustained a physical or mental injury, illness, or wound while serving in the military on or after September 11, 2001. Family members are also eligible for their programs. These include their resource center, peer support groups, mental/ physical health and wellness programs, financial education initiatives, and support to severely wounded warriors.
Website: https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/mission (general information)
https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/media/ie2enyin/wounded-warrior-project-program-directory.pdf (program information)
Phone: (832) 6997

Disabled American Veterans – Provides a variety of free services to veterans, including assistance with navigating VA benefits, transportation to and from VA medical facilities, and support with finding a job.
Website: https://www.dav.org/
Various Locations: https://www.dav.org/find-your-local-office/

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Operation Surf – Free six day (two days of travel and four days of adaptive surfing) rehabilitative program that promotes wellness and introduces new tools and resources to the military and veteran community. The program includes peer-to-peer support, daily yoga, and mindfulness.
80 San Francisco St.
Avila Beach, CA 93424
Website: https://operationsurf.org/
Phone: (805) 544-7873

Semper Fi Fund – Provides immediate financial assistance to combat wounded and critically ill injured members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.
Website: https://thefund.org/about-us/
Phone: (760) 725-3680

American Legion - Service organization dedicated to uplifting the veteran community through sponsorship of programs in local communities.
Various Locations
American Legion Post 82: 130 South Blvd, San Mateo, CA
Phone: (650) 345-7388
Email: alpost82@aol.com
Website: http://www.alpost82.com/about/
American Legion Post 105: 651 El Camino Real, Redwood City, CA 94063
Phone: (650) 365-1337
Website: https://americanlegionpost105rwc.org/

NATIONAL HOTLINES

National Vet Center Call Center: 1 (877) 927-8387

Veterans and Military Crisis Line: Dial 988 then Press 1
To text: 838255
To chat: https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1 (800) 273-8255
To text: 988
To chat: https://988lifeline.org/chat/

The National Crisis Text Line
Text 'HOME' to 741741

National Homeless Veteran Call Center: (877) 424-3838

Alcoholics Anonymous: 1 (866) 412-3167
Website: https://www.aa.org/

Narcotics Anonymous: 1 (818) 773-9999
Website: https://www.na.org/