



Anoka County

MINNESOTA

Veteran Services

Government Center
2100 3rd Avenue, Suite 216
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 324-4500

VETERANS ADVOCATE

Winter 2025-26

VA HEALTH CARE: A RELIABLE OPTION AS MEDICARE PLANS SUNSET

With UCare announcing the closure of its Medicare Advantage and supplemental insurance plans effective December 31, 2025, many Veterans may be concerned about how this impacts their health coverage. It's important to remember that VA health care is a separate and comprehensive benefit available to eligible Veterans, regardless of changes to private insurance plans like those offered by UCare.

Veterans enrolled in VA health care can continue to receive care at VA facilities without needing a Medicare Advantage or supplemental plan. While Medicare and VA benefits do not coordinate, they can complement each other—VA covers care at VA facilities, and Medicare covers care at non-VA providers. If you're unsure about your current VA enrollment status or eligibility, now is a good time to contact your local VA office or visit VA.gov to review your options.

If you were relying on UCare for coverage outside the VA, you may want to explore other Medicare options during the Annual Enrollment Period (Oct. 15 – Dec. 7) or use your Special Enrollment Period (through Feb. 28, 2026) due to the plan closure. For help navigating your choices, you can contact the Minnesota Senior LinkAge Line at 1-800-333-2433 or speak with a VA representative to ensure you maintain the coverage you need.

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING EDUCATION TABLE

General information available for other advance care planning topics can be reviewed such as, services available through the VA and outside of the VA to help support planning for the future. When: Every 1st Wednesday of the month, 9:00am to 12:00pm. Where: Main Flag Atrium, One Veterans Drive, Minneapolis, MN

The next meeting will be held:
Wednesday, December 3, 2025 - 12:00 PM
Minneapolis VA Medical Center
Main Flag Atrium
1 Veterans Drive
Minneapolis, MN

****Event repeats 1st Wednesday of every month**

VA TO RESTORE GI BILL FOR SOME DISCHARGED OVER VACCINE REFUSAL

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that thousands of veterans who were discharged from military service for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine may now be eligible to have their GI Bill education benefits restored.

This follows Executive Order 14184, issued in January 2025, which directed the military departments to review and potentially upgrade the discharge status of service members who were separated solely for declining the COVID-19 vaccine. Veterans whose discharges were

previously classified as less than fully honorable may have been ineligible for certain benefits, including the GI Bill.

What Veterans should know:

Veterans who believe they were discharged inappropriately or believe their military personnel records still reflect an error or injustice (for example, separation under the COVID-19 mandate) may request review from a Discharge Review Board or Board for Correction of Military or Naval Records. For more information, visit the Military Department Review Boards website at <https://www.milreviewbds.mil/>.

Once Veterans receive official notification that their discharge status has been upgraded to fully honorable, they can submit a new education benefits claim to VA.

MEALS ON WHEELS FOR VETERANS

Metro Meals on Wheels has funding to provide healthy, home-delivered meals to Veterans thanks to a grant from the Minnesota Legislature. In addition to receiving nutritious meals prepared at a local kitchen, the program provides regular connection with a volunteer driver.

To be eligible, veterans must be:

- age 60+ or,
- experiencing food insecurity or,
- unable to obtain food because of a medical or mental health condition.

Information about our meals can be found online at www.meals-on-wheels.com. Veterans should call Metro Meals on Wheels at 612-623-3363 to find out more and enroll.

ANOKA COUNTY VETERANS SUPPORT NETWORK

Similar to how the Veterans Advisory Board operated, there will be quarterly meetings with stakeholders, and the Anoka County Veteran

Services Office will serve as a facilitator for these meetings. This group allows for all local Veteran Service Organizations, support groups, and stakeholders to collaborate and ensure that the needs of our local Veterans are met. Please help us spread the word to ensure that any interested groups or individuals can attend.

The next meeting will be held:
****Monday, December 15, 2025 - 2:00 PM****
Anoka American Legion Post 102
400 W. Main Street
Anoka, MN 55303

LOCAL VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION MEETING SCHEDULE

Anoka American Legion Post 102
Meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM
400 West Main Street
Anoka, MN 55303

Blaine VFW - SGT John Rice Post 6316
Meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM
1374 109th Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55434

Coon Rapids American Legion and Auxiliary Post 334
Meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Anoka American Legion
400 West Main Street
Anoka, MN 55303
Auxiliary meets at 7:00 PM at the Coon Rapids VFW
1919 Coon Rapids Blvd NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Lino Lakes American Legion Post 566
Meeting on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Lino Lakes American Legion
7731 Lake Drive
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

Coon Rapids VFW Post and Auxiliary Post 9625

Meeting on the second Monday of each month.
Auxiliary meets at 6:30 PM and VFW Post meets at
7:00 PM at the Coon Rapids VFW
1919 Coon Rapids Blvd NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Anoka DAV Chapter 39

Meeting on the second Thursday of each month at
6:30 PM at the Coon Rapids VFW
1919 Coon Rapids Blvd NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Columbia Heights VFW Post and Auxiliary Post 230

VFW Post meets on the second Tuesday of each
month at 6:00 PM and the Auxiliary Post meets on
the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM at
the Columbia Heights VFW
4446 Central Ave NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 470

Meets at 7:00 PM on the first Wednesday of each
month at the Anoka American Legion
400 West Main Street
Anoka, MN 55303

Palmer Lake VFW Post #3915

Meeting on the second Wednesday of each month
at 7:00 PM at the Palmer Lake VFW
2817 Brookdale Drive
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Shaddrick and LaBeau American Legion Post #303

Post/Aux - First Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM
SAL - Second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM
Riders - Second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM
7365 Central Ave NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon NE Metro


Meetings held on the 3rd Wednesday of each
month from 12:15 to 12:45 va Zoom. Email
radermacher.dorothy@gmail.com to be added to
the meeting invite list.

**If your organization's meeting information is

not listed here, email the dates and times of your
meetings to veterans@anokacountymn.gov



We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit serving the NE
portion of the Twin Cities Metro Area.

 651-321-4722

 btyrmetro.org

 Beyond the Yellow Ribbon NE Metro

We've got the back of our military community.

2025-26 ANOKA COUNTY HOLIDAYS

The Anoka County Veteran Services Office will
be closed on the following dates in observance of
Federal Holidays:

November 27-28, 2025 - Thanksgiving

December 25, 2025 - Christmas Day

January 1, 2026 - New Year's Day

January 19, 2026 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 16, 2026 - President's Day

May 25, 2026 - Memorial Day

June 19, 2026 - Juneteenth

ABOUT ANOKA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES

Our hours of operation are:

Monday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Tuesday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Wednesday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Thursday - 8:00am - 4:00pm

Friday - 8:00am - 3:00pm

Closed on all Federal Holidays

Phone: (763) 324-4500

Fax: (763) 324-1040

Email: veterans@anokacountymn.gov

Website: www.anokacountymn.gov/veterans

VETERANS CRISIS LINE

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.



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