DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DELAWARE VETERANS HOME

100 DELAWARE VETERANS
BOULEVARD MILFORD,
DELAWARE 19963
(302) 424-6000

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) Admissions Policy

1. **Purpose Statement**
   The Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) is proud to serve those who have served our nation. Our highly qualified staff provides exceptional, specialized care with the dignity, respect, and compassion our residents deserve. ***At DVH, our residents always come first.***

2. **Scope**
   This policy applies to eligible applicants who desire residency at DVH and medically need long-term care that DVH is licensed to provide.

3. **Policy**
   For consideration of admission, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:
   - Any person, categorized as a veteran per federal statute regardless of service duration; **OR**
   - Active duty (peacetime or wartime) servicemember for a period of at least 180 days; **OR**
   - Served within the National Guard for a minimum of 180 days of overseas active federal service; **OR**
   - Served within the Reserve component for a minimum of 180 days of active federal service; **OR**
   - Any Reservist or National Guard member who is eligible for retirement pay at the age of 60 (also known as "20 years letter"); **OR**
   - Any Reservist or National Guard member who does not meet the 180 days of active federal service requirements listed above **(*not eligible for federal stipend*); OR**
   - A spouse of a qualified servicemember **(*not eligible for federal stipend*); OR**
   - A Gold Star family member **(*not eligible for federal stipend*).** For purposes of admission, a "Gold Star Family Member" shall mean an individual eligible under the federal Gold Star lapel button requirements.

   AND

   - **Be a Delaware resident for at least 1 year prior to applying.** Exceptions may be considered and are approved or denied by the Secretary of the Delaware Department of Veterans Affairs;
   - **Have a medically determined need for a long-term level of care that DVH is licensed to provide;**
   - **Participate in pre-admission assessments; and**

- **Eligible applicants must be enrolled in VA Health Care at the time of application or during the admissions process.**

If any federal or state laws, regulations or orders change regarding the service criteria and provisions above, this policy may be updated in writing by DVH or interpreted by DVH for consistency and compliance with those changes.

DVH cannot admit or provide care to non-eligible applicants.

4. Administrative and Financial

- Submission of a completed application, placement on a waiting list, or satisfaction of eligibility requirements does not guarantee admission to the Delaware Veterans Home. The Delaware Veterans Home reserves the right and in its sole discretion to withdraw placement from the waiting list or withdraw or change a determination of eligibility based upon information received or in the best interests of the facility.
- The DVH Home Administrator may temporarily suspend admissions to DVH due to outbreaks, staffing shortages, emergency conditions, regulatory requirements, or other circumstances affecting resident safety as the Home Administrator determines in their sole discretion.
- Applications are valid for **90 days** from the date DVH receives them. If the application is not completed within the 90-day period, the application will be closed, and the **applicant must restart the process by submitting a new application and documentation**.
- Waiting List Management
    - Applicants on the waiting list may be required to periodically confirm to DVH of their continued interest and eligibility. Failure to respond timely to DVH may result in removal from the waiting list.
- **Medical urgency may accelerate or change the order of placement as determined by the Home Administrator**. In general, applications are considered on a first come, first serve basis. However, priority of admission supersedes application submission date when applicable, where priorities are as follows:
    1. Delaware resident veteran requiring skilled nursing care
    2. Delaware resident combat veteran with service-connected disability
    3. Delaware resident non-combat veteran with service-connected disability
    4. Delaware resident combat veteran
    5. Delaware resident Guard/Reserve retiree

6. Delaware resident veteran
7. Delaware resident who has served within the Uniformed Services not meeting the federal statute veteran criteria
8. Gold Star family member
9. Spouse of veteran
10. Exception applicants

- Admissions Appeals Process:
  - Applicants may appeal a denial of admission within 30 calendar days of DVH's notification. Appeals shall be reviewed by the Home Administrator and a designee of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Residency costs at DVH vary and are dependent on the potential future resident's VA disability rating.
- Financial disclosure requirements:
  - Applicants must demonstrate an ability to meet anticipated financial obligations associated with residency.
  - A copy of the applicant's long-term care insurance plan shall be provided during the admission process, if applicable.
  - Any other information or documentation to show the applicant's ability to satisfy anticipated financial obligations, as DVH reasonably requests.
- Medical history release of records for the last 6 months of medical care is required.
- DVH will accept residents with a current diagnosis for which the facility is licensed. The Home Administrator shall retain the authority and discretion to approve or disapprove any admission or withdraw any offer of admission based upon the facility's licensed services, clinical capabilities, resident safety considerations, and applicable state and federal regulations. **DVH reserves the right to deny or withdraw an offer of admission when the applicant's clinical health, behavioral health, supervision needs or other relevant factors as DVH determines, exceeds the facility's licensed capabilities.**
- Admission to the DVH is voluntary. Admission shall be made without discrimination as to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, marital status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, assets, or income.

5. Special Considerations

- End of life care

- Applicants requiring hospice or end-of-life care may receive priority consideration or expedited admission when appropriate space and clinical capability exist as DVH determines in its discretion.

6. Final Authority Clause

- The Secretary of Veterans Affairs retains final authority regarding the interpretation of the admissions policy, residency exceptions, and admission determinations not otherwise addressed by this policy.

7. Authority

- This policy is implemented pursuant to applicable federal and state laws governing the operation of State Veterans Homes and long-term care facilities including but not limited to:
  - 38 U.S.C. § 1741
  - 38 CFR Part 51
  - 38 CFR Part 17
  - 10 U.S.C. § 1126
  - 16 Del. Chapter 11
  - 29 Del. Chapter 88
  - 30 Del. Chapter 11
  - Applicable Delaware long-term care licensing and regulatory requirements
  - Applicable federal and state resident rights requirements