

La Plata County Veterans Services
By: Richard S Schleeter

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The main objective of the Veterans Service Office is to provide prevention, protection, advocacy and support services to veterans and their families so they can maximize their quality of life, well-being and potential. The La Plata County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) provides information and assistance to veterans and their families. There is a wide range of benefits available for our nation's veterans. Every veteran is encouraged to contact the CVSO to find out more about their VA benefits. Your CVSO can assist you in any matter pertaining to the Department of Veterans Affairs. These services are free of charge. Please visit the La Plata County web site at <http://www.co.laplata.co.us/> for more information about what the La Plata County Veterans Service Office can do for you.

The La Plata County Veterans Service Office is co-located with the Durango VA Clinic at 1970 E. 3rd Avenue, Suite 102, Durango, CO. 81301. For clinic appointments, call 970-247-2214. The Veterans Service Office phone number is 970-759-0117. Office hours are 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 5 pm, Monday – Friday, except holidays, and appointments are encouraged. Call (970) 382-6150 to schedule an appointment with the Veterans Service Office

Have you considered VA health care?

VA health care meets the Affordable Care Act's standard for minimum health care coverage with no monthly premiums. The Durango VA Contracted Community Based Outpatient Clinic has a highly knowledgeable staff available to serve all your primary health care needs and has availability for more veterans to receive free or low cost primary health care.

Veterans deserve access to quality health services. As the Veteran population grows in number and many veterans migrate far from VA facilities, it becomes a challenge to provide innovative health care of the highest caliber to our nation's heroes.

The Durango VA Contracted Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) is designed to deliver primary care services to eligible veterans. Services available at the CBOC include blood draws (by appt. only), routine lab tests, EKGs (electrocardiograms), social work services, mental health services, and evaluations by doctors and other health care providers.

The VA provides a robust medical benefits package of health services that are available to all enrolled veterans. The benefits include preventive care services, hospital services, prescription drugs, home health care services, long term care benefits, and nursing home benefits.

If you are a veteran reaching retirement age and you are now on Medicare, or a veteran without health insurance, or just out of the service and are having a difficult time finding a primary care provider, then VA health care may be an option for you. VA health care is available to all veterans discharged under honorable conditions. There is no time limit to

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apply and combat service is not a requirement. If you served honorably in the Armed Forces, no matter when and where, you can apply for VA healthcare benefits.

With VA health care being considered creditable coverage under the Affordable Care Act, now is a good time to apply for enrollment in this program. Enrollment in the VA health care system provides veterans with a safety net against being fined or penalized under the Affordable Care Act for not having any form of health care insurance. This is a great thing for veterans who cannot afford to purchase health care coverage.

Veterans currently enrolled in the VA health care system must be seen at least once every 12 months to maintain enrollment. If you are not seen by the VA once a year, you will be required to re-enroll in the VA health care system before the VA will provide any health care services. This is important to remember because for those who cannot afford to purchase additional health insurance, loss of your VAHC benefits means the loss of your health care safety net.