

## About Us

Established in 2011 by County legislation, the Howard County Veterans and Military Families Commission is comprised of 13 members. The Commission aims to support veterans and military families by strengthening Howard County's capacity to care for them. By connecting them to available resources, promoting educational and employment opportunities, and continuing community outreach efforts, we are committed to honoring our veterans and military families.

*"The Howard County Veterans and Military Families Commission strives to improve the quality of life and enhance existing government services for the veterans and military families that reside or are employed in Howard County."*

—Howard T. Mooney Jr., MG, USA, RET (Retired U.S. Army General and Commission Co-Chair)

## Focus Areas

- Strengthen Howard County's capacity to care for Veterans and Military Families
- Promote educational and employment opportunities for Veterans and Military Families
- Expand available resources to support Veterans and Military Families
- Promote veteran-friendly hiring practices within the County
- Expand veteran and military family outreach efforts through community and business partnerships
- Establish a nonprofit organization to provide financial support for Commission initiatives
- Recruit and retain veterans and military families to live, work and play in Howard County

American Legion Post 156 in Ellicott City and Post 300 in Columbia are proud supporters of veterans and military families. <https://sites.google.com/site/americanlegionpost300/calendar>

# Relocate... Retire.... Relax!

## Information and Resources for Veterans and Military Families Living and Working in Howard County



**Howard County**  
Veterans and Military  
Families Commission



Howard County, ranked among “American’s Best Places to Live” by MONEY magazine, boasts a blend of suburban communities, urban lifestyle, pastoral farms and historic towns. Strategically located between Baltimore and Washington, the County offers a thriving business environment, top-rated schools, extensive recreational opportunities, as well as access to renowned healthcare and wellness services. Howard County embraces its military families and veterans with employment, educational and other County and regional support services and programs. We believe that our veterans “quality of life should be commensurate with their quality of service”.

## Resources

### Health and Wellness

- **Baltimore VA Medical Center**- eligibility and enrollment for veteran benefits. 1-800-463-6295 [www.maryland.va.gov/facilities/baltimore\\_va\\_medical\\_center.asp](http://www.maryland.va.gov/facilities/baltimore_va_medical_center.asp)
- **Fort Meade Outpatient Veterans Clinic** - [www.maryland.va.gov/locations/Fort\\_Meade\\_VA\\_Outpatient\\_Clinic.asp](http://www.maryland.va.gov/locations/Fort_Meade_VA_Outpatient_Clinic.asp)
- **Howard County General Hospital** - provide services under the Johns Hopkins Family Health Plan. 1-800-801-9322 [www.hopkinsmedicine.org/usfhp](http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/usfhp)
- **Howard County Mobile Crisis Team (MCT)** - responds with the police to behavioral health related emergencies, and other traumatic events in the community, to provide an on-site evaluation and consultation by licensed mental health professionals. MCT can be accessed by contacting the Grassroots Crisis Hotline at 410-531-6677, and is available 9am - 11pm daily.
- **Maryland Department of Veteran Affairs (MDVA)** - provides a wealth of resources, benefit and employment information, as well as a bi-weekly newsletter. [veterans.maryland.gov](http://veterans.maryland.gov)

### Employment

- **Columbia Workforce Center** - provides employment and training services to job seekers and businesses, in addition to dedicated veteran staff working exclusively with veterans. 410-290-2600 [www.dllr.state.md.us/county/howard/](http://www.dllr.state.md.us/county/howard/)
- **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)** - is dedicated to preventing and resolving employer/employee conflicts that directly impact the retention of reserve component Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen. 410-234-3809 [www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/maryland.aspx](http://www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/maryland.aspx)
- **Operation Hire Maryland** - a program which supports employers as they develop or expand upon their veteran hiring and retention initiatives. [veterans.maryland.gov/operation-hire-maryland/](http://veterans.maryland.gov/operation-hire-maryland/)

### Human Services

- **Department of Citizen Services** - includes Office of Children’s Services, Office of Consumer Affairs, and the Office on Aging. Also provides Disabilities Services, the Community Service Partnerships program and Homeless Services. 410-313-6400 [www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=4294967714](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=4294967714)

- **Fort Meade Morale Welfare and Recreation** - is a comprehensive network of support and leisure services designed to enhance the lives of soldiers (Active, Reserve, and Guard), their families, civilian employees, military retirees and other eligible participants. 301-677-5590 [www.ftmeademwr.com/acs.php](http://www.ftmeademwr.com/acs.php)
- **Howard County Community Action Council** - nonprofit with strong community partnerships provides a hand-up to those in need of energy, housing, weatherization, and food assistance. 410-313-6440 [cac-hc.org/](http://cac-hc.org/)
- **Military OneSource** - a confidential DoD-funded program providing comprehensive information on every aspect of military life at no cost to active duty, National Guard, and reserve members, and their families. 1-800-342-9647 [www.militaryonesource.mil/](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/)
- **Neighbor Ride** - enhances the health and quality of life for Howard County’s seniors by providing affordable, volunteer-based supplemental transportation. 410 -884-7433 [neighborride.org/wordpress/](http://neighborride.org/wordpress/)

### Education

- **Howard Community College** - recognized as a “military-friendly” college, HCC offers waived application and transcript evaluation fees, resident tuition rates, deferred payment plan for GI Bill and tuition assistance recipients, and a dedicated military and veteran student lounge. 443-518-1000 [www.howardcc.edu/admissions-aid/apply-for-admission/records-registration/veterans-military/index.html](http://www.howardcc.edu/admissions-aid/apply-for-admission/records-registration/veterans-military/index.html)
- **Howard County Public School System** - is a nationally ranked model and consistently ranks as one of Maryland’s top school districts. [www.hcpss.org](http://www.hcpss.org)
- **University of MD Extension Howard County** - programs include crop and animal production, fruit and vegetables, family resources, business and home management, water quality, food, nutrition and health, 4-H youth development, fair and livestock shows, gardening and horticulture. 410-313-2707 [extension.umd.edu/howard-county](http://extension.umd.edu/howard-county)

### Housing

- **Grassroots** - a multi-service crisis intervention center providing 24-hour crisis intervention services, emergency and transitional shelter, and community education. 410-531-6677 [grassrootscrisis.org](http://grassrootscrisis.org)
- **Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development** - works to provide affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate income residents. Working with a range of Federal, State, and County funded programs providing opportunities for affordable home ownership, loans and grants for special needs housing programs, rental assistance, community facilities, and programs. 410-313-6320 [www.co.ho.md.us/Departments.aspx?ID=2232](http://www.co.ho.md.us/Departments.aspx?ID=2232)
- **Howard County Association of Realtors** – home and real estate information. 410-715-1437 [hcar.org](http://hcar.org)

### Recreation

- **Howard County Recreation and Parks** - Regional and community parks, golf courses, lakes, more than 200 miles of walking, hiking and biking trails. 410-313-4700 [www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=4294969779](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=4294969779)