

# Veteran Services Office

## California College Fee Waiver Program



For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (805) 477-5155



### Making college affordable

*We help surviving family members determine whether they are eligible for the College Fee Waiver Program, which provides financial benefits to attend California State Universities, University of California campuses, and California Community Colleges.*

## Affording a College Education

*The Veteran Services Office is here to help*

For the family of a veteran who became disabled or was fatally wounded in a service-related incident, there may be additional financial strain when the dependents are ready for college. To help families of veterans off-set educational costs, a grateful State of California offers a College Fee Waiver Program, which is administered by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA).

Those who may be eligible to receive benefits under this program include dependent children, a spouse, or the un-remarried surviving spouse of a veteran with a service-connected disability or of a deceased veteran whose death was service connected.

## Eligibility

*College Fee Waiver Program*

To qualify for these benefits, a student must be a resident of the State of California. The fee waiver program applies only at California State Universities, University of California campuses, and California Community Colleges. Eligible students are awarded benefits on an academic-year basis, and they are required to reapply each year for continued benefits.

## Requirements

Students must meet all the requirements of at least one of the following plans:

### *Plan A*

- The student must be a child, spouse, or un-remarried surviving spouse of a veteran who is disabled or has died of service-related causes.
- The veteran must have served during a qualifying "war period."
- There is no income limit.
- A child must obtain basic eligibility before the age of 21, and cannot be over 26 years of age, unless the child is also a veteran.
- There is no age limit for a spouse or for an un-remarried surviving spouse.

- The student cannot receive benefits under this plan and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Chapter 35 benefits during the same academic year.

### *Plan B*

- The student must be a child (no age limit) of a veteran who is disabled or has died of service-related causes.
- The child's annual income cannot exceed a specified limit of approximately \$13,300. The child's annual income is defined as the total of the adjusted gross income and the value of support provided by a parent during the previous calendar year.

### *Plan C*

- The student must be a dependent or un-remarried surviving spouse of a member of the California National Guard who was killed in the line of duty while in the active service of the state, who is permanently disabled due to an event that occurred while in the active service of the state, or who died from a disability resulting from an event that occurred while in the active service of the state.
- "Active service of the state" means a member of the California National Guard activated pursuant to section 146 of the Military and Veterans Code.

## Applications & Required Forms

To apply for the College Fee Waiver Program, the student needs to submit the application form, along with a copy of their previous year's federal income tax form 1040 or state income tax form 540. If the student had no reportable income and did not file a tax return, a statement from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or Franchise Tax Board (FTB) must be provided. To obtain the statements, call the IRS office at (800) 829-1040 or the FTB at (800) 852-5711, after April 15.

If you or someone you know may be eligible to receive benefits through the College Fee Waiver Program, please contact the Ventura County Veteran Services Office for more information at (805) 477-5155. Or, call the California Department of Veterans Affairs at (800) 952-5626.

We help veterans, people who have lost a spouse or parent in military service, and people whose spouse or parent has served in the military and is now disabled. Every veteran, dependent, and survivor is encouraged to contact our office to receive a full assessment of their entitlements. All services are provided through the County of Ventura and therefore are free of charge.



COUNTY OF VENTURA

Toll-Free:

(866) 904-9362

[www.vchsa.org/veterans](http://www.vchsa.org/veterans)