**Do you have a history of U.S. military service? YES NO**

**If yes, refer the veteran to the Statewide Advocacy for Veterans’ Empowerment (SAVE) team. They can assist with accessing every available veteran resource.**

**Call: 617-210-5743or e-mail: save@massmail.state.ma.us.**

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**Important to know:**

1. **Is the veteran eligible for VA Healthcare?**

 **YES:** Explore VA resources. <http://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/benefits_summary_materials.asp>

**NO:** Ask if they have ever actually checked with the VA and if they are certain they are not eligible (many people are eligible but unaware). If not, recommend that they contact the VA Health Eligibility Center to find out.

**DON’T KNOW**: Many veterans are unsure if they are eligible for VA or *incorrectly assume that they are not*. Recommend that they contact the VA Health Eligibility Center to find out.

**VA Health Eligibility Center: 1-877-222-8387. The veteran needs to be the one to call to give name, social security number, and date of birth. The center will be able to tell them if they are eligible for VA health care and/or if they are already enrolled.**

**If they are eligible but not enrolled, they will need to complete a 2 page Health Benefit Application called the 1010 EZ. The Health Eligibility Center will send this form to the veteran with instructions for completion, but this form can also be easily found with an internet search (type in “VA form 1010EZ”)**

**Completed forms should be sent to: VA Medical Center 421 N. Main St. Leeds, MA 01053 ATTN: Business Office**

1. **Is the veteran eligible for Massachusetts Veterans Benefits and Services?**

**YES:** Recommend that the veteran contact the Veteran Service Officer (VSO) in their town to inquire about eligibility for chapter 115 benefits, given their current housing situation.

**NO:** Ask if they have ever checked and if they are certain they are not (many people are eligible but unaware.) If not, refer the veteran to the SAVE team (see above.)

**DON’T KNOW:** Refer to the SAVE team (see above).

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**Contact information for all VSO’s by town can be found at** [**www.mass.gov/veterans**](http://www.mass.gov/veterans)

1. **IS the veteran eligible for Supportive Services for Veterans and Families (SSVF)?**

**YES:** Contact Soldier On at 866-406-8449 or Veterans Inc at 800-482-2565. Veterans Inc. also serves ME, VT, NH, CT, and RI. Soldier On also serves NY, NJ, PA, and MI.

**NO:** Ask if they have ever checked with Soldier On or Veterans Inc. An individual who served in the military is most likely eligible for SSVF assistance even if they are not able to access VA or DVS resources.

**DON’T KNOW**: Many veterans assume that if they don’t meet VA criteria that they are not eligible for veteran services. **Any individual who served 1 day of federal active duty and received a discharge other than dishonorable is eligible for SSVF**.