

Montgomery County, MD - Veterans Network Directory

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis)

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This is a project of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs. To submit an update, add or remove a listing, or request an alternative format, please contact: MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov, 240-777-1252 (V), MD Relay 711.

ALS Association

Email: alsinfo@als.org

1-800-782-4747 (Toll Free – General Info and Referral Resources)

www.als.org/navigating-als/military-veterans

Mission is to discover treatments and a cure for ALS, and to serve, advocate for, and empower people affected by ALS to live their lives to the fullest. The ALS Association works with Veterans Service Organizations to assist veterans with applying for benefits.

Bridging Voice

<https://maryland.bridgingvoice.org/>

410-314-9476 (V)

Bridging Voice has launched a statewide initiative in Maryland, thanks to a partnership with Maryland Department of Aging. This program will provide Bridging Voice communication services and mobility equipment from the Maryland Durable Medical Equipment Re-Use program free of charge to every ALS patient in Maryland.

I AM ALS – Veterans Team

<https://iamals.org/action/veterans-team/>

Raise awareness about veteran-specific ALS issues, educate the public about ALS and veterans, connect veterans with resources to improve their quality of ALS care and accelerate the development of and access to treatments and cures. ALS Support Specialists can help by connecting you with practical resources, sharing relevant medical and research information, and supporting you emotionally.

National ALS Registry

www.cdc.gov/als/ALSJoinALSRegistry.html

The National ALS Registry is a program to collect and analyze data about persons living with ALS. It includes data from existing national databases and information provided by persons with ALS who choose to take part. Researchers can use Registry data to look for disease pattern changes over time. They can also try to identify whether there are common risk factors among individuals with ALS. By joining the Registry and taking the risk factor surveys, individuals living with ALS will help provide a better picture of who gets ALS and risk factors for the disease.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – ALS

<https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf>

1-800-827-1000 (VA Benefits)

In 2008, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implemented regulations to establish a presumption of service connection for ALS. If you served continuously for at least 90 days and are diagnosed with ALS after discharge, you can establish service connection for the disease and receive financial and medical support. The VA offers a full range of health care benefits, including prescriptions, medical supplies, prosthetic items, and home improvement and structural alteration grants to pay the cost to make the home more accessible. In addition, there are a variety of other benefits available to veterans, spouses, and children. Some benefits are available even if the veteran with ALS has passed away, such as dependency and indemnity compensation, which is a monthly payment to eligible survivors. Other veteran and family benefits include insurance benefits for dependents, special adaptive housing grants, automobile grants, adaptive equipment, and aide and attendance allowance to pay for care providers. An overview of veterans' benefits is available at www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp.

VA Caregiver Support Program

[www.caregiver.va.gov/Tips by Diagnosis/ALS.asp](http://www.caregiver.va.gov/Tips_by_Diagnosis/ALS.asp)

202-745-8000 x 57797 (DC VA Medical Center)

1-855-260-3274 (VA Caregiver Support Line)

Caregiver Support Line Hours:

Monday to Friday 8am to 10pm ,Saturday 8am to 5pm (EST)

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Caregiver Support Program (CSP) offers clinical services to caregivers of eligible and covered Veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. CSP is a national program with local offices and teams located within VA facilities. The program's mission is to promote the health and well-being of family caregivers who care for our Nation's Veterans, through education, resources, support, and services. VA's National Caregiver Support Line is a toll-free number for caregivers, family members, friends, Veterans, and community partners to contact for information related to caregiving and available supports and services.