

Obtain a Commercial Driving License (CDL)

Department of Transportation (DOT) Service Centers: Veterans who would like to have their military driving experience considered in order to receive a CDL will need to provide the following to a DOT Service Center. A letter from the current/past unit of assignment addressed to the DOT asking for consideration of converting military experience to allow the veteran to obtain his/her CDL. The letter or accompanying documents should identify specific vehicle type, weight, information about airbrakes, hazmat, etc; hours that veteran drove the particular vehicle/s, any other information that may help a DOT reviewer to make a positive determination to award a CDL. Upon submitting the required documentation, the service center will conduct a review and then notify the veteran regarding their decision. If a determination is made that the veteran is eligible for a CDL, he/she will still be responsible for appropriate charges for the license as determined by DOT.

Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Job Centers -
Dislocated Worker Program: Veterans looking to obtain funding to assist with obtaining a CDL license through professional training should visit their local job centers, identify this need and ask to speak with an employee from the Dislocated Worker Program. Each work force area board determines what type of funding is available for CDL training or other training programs based on the local labor market area for that type of employment. There is a shortage of truck drivers across the country so at this time there may appropriate training funds from the job centers. Veterans who apply and are turned down for this funding by the local Dislocated Worker Program should contact the Office of Veterans Services for further assistance.

WDVA Retraining Grant: If a veteran is turned down for CDL training funds by the local job center, he/she may want to consider applying for the WDVA Retraining Grant. Veterans will need to contact their local County Veteran Service Office (CVSO) who will verify that the veteran meets the eligibility requirements for the grant and then assist with initiating the required form. The form should then be taken by the veteran to the local job center where one of the Office of Veterans Services Staff; DVOP or LVER, will assist with obtaining appropriate signatures at the job center and then forwarding page 4 of the form to WDVA for their determination.