

## Iowa Appreciates Veterans!

The State of Iowa is dedicated to ensuring that ALL veterans and their dependents receive the full measure of county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled. Iowa has 99 County Veterans Affairs offices, 2 Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs offices, and partnerships with Iowa Veterans Service Organizations, the Federal VA Benefits Administration, the Veteran Healthcare Administration, Vet Centers, and 14 Community-based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs).

### County

Get to know your local county veterans affairs officials by finding them in your local phone book or by going to IDVA's website: <https://va.iowa.gov/counties/index.html>.

Each county VA office has an accredited service officer trained to assist veterans and their families with:

- Application for compensation & pension
  - Service-connected disability/compensation
  - Non-service-connected disability pension
  - Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
  - Death pension for surviving spouse & dependent children
  - Aid & Attendance/housebound benefits
- Application for Iowa Veterans Home
- Certificates of eligibility for home loans
- Obtaining military records & medals/ribbons
- Grave markers
- Headstones

Some counties have dedicated funds to assist veterans with emergency services. These may include:

- Temporary shelter & utilities
- Food & health supplies
- Transportation assistance
- Funeral expenses

**Important: Always keep your DD214 in a safe place — such as a safety-deposit box, safe, “important papers” file. This document is used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to secure veteran benefits and may be requested by employers should a person indicate he or she has served in the military.**

### State

The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs serves as a source of information on veterans' benefits. IDVA's benefit specialists are accredited by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs and specialize in federal as well as state VA benefits. They can be reached at: 800-838-4692 or 515-242-5331. Also visit IDVA's website: <http://va.iowa.gov>.

IDVA administers the following programs:

- **Veterans' License Plates:** Honorably discharged veterans are eligible to purchase specialty license plates for their vehicle. These special plates are available for an additional charge through the Iowa Department of Transportation. Visit: <http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/ovs/plates/plates.htm> for details and availability.
- **Property Tax Exemption:** This benefit reduces a veteran's assessed home value for property tax purposes by \$1852. Military veterans who (1) served on active duty and were honorably discharged or (2) members of the reserve forces or Iowa National Guard who served at least 20 years qualify for this exemption. The veteran must apply with the local assessor; once accepted, exemption is ongoing. For more information, visit: <http://www.iowa.gov/tax/educate/78573.html>.
- **Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License for Disabled Veterans:** Disabled veterans (at least 0% service-connected) can receive a lifetime hunting or fishing license for a \$7.00 fee. A DNR application can be found here: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/license/files/542-1412.pdf>.
- **Military Service Member Home Ownership Assistance Program:** This program provides eligible service members and veterans with a \$5,000 grant that may be used toward down payment and closing cost assistance on a qualifying home purchase. Eligible service members may access the Military Homeownership Program Assistance to be used with

a qualifying mortgage or cash purchase transaction. Contact a participating lender to determine eligibility and begin the application process. Forms usually needed to establish military service include a copy of a valid DD214 or four months of leave and earnings statements and government issued photo ID. For more information, call: 800.432.7230 or visit: [http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/en/for\\_home\\_buyers/military\\_homeownership\\_assistance\\_program](http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/en/for_home_buyers/military_homeownership_assistance_program).

- **Veterans Trust Fund:** The State of Iowa has established a multi-million dollar fund to provide certain services to veterans. Currently, funds are used for unemployment or underemployment assistance (due to service-related causes), emergency housing, car repairs, dental, and other items as funds are available. For a complete list, go to: <https://va.iowa.gov/benefits/index.html>.
- **Injured Veterans Grant:** This grant provides assistance to veterans who were seriously injured in the Iraq or Afghanistan theatre of operation after September 11, 2001. For information on required documentation and eligibility visit the IDVA website: <https://va.iowa.gov/benefits/index.html> or call IDVA's office: 800-838-4692.
- **High School Diploma:** "Operation Recognition" furnishes an *honorary* high school diploma to qualifying veterans who did not complete high school due to armed service enlistment. The application form is used by the IDVA and the Department of Education to establish eligibility for honorably discharged veterans. An application form can be found on the IDVA website: <https://va.iowa.gov/benefits/index.html>.
- **Repository:** The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs serves as a repository for military discharges, veterans' grave registrations, and state service compensation records.

### Iowa Veterans Cemetery

The Iowa Veterans Cemetery is centrally located approximately 10 miles west of Des Moines near Van Meter. The Cemetery is available to eligible veterans and eligible spouses/dependent children for interment. Honorably discharged veterans are interred at no charge and spouses/dependents are interred for a \$300 fee. For further information contact the cemetery staff: 515-996-9048, or visit their website: <https://va.iowa.gov/vetcemetery> for details and applications.

### Iowa Veterans Home

The Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, Iowa is available for honorably discharged veterans, as well as their spouses or widows for long-term care needs. IVH is dedicated to providing professionally managed. More information can be found here: <http://ivh.iowa.gov>.

### Veteran and Military Education – Iowa Department of Education

The Iowa Department of Education has been designated by the governor of the state of Iowa as the location for the Iowa State Approving Agency. The State Approving Agency is responsible for approving all GI Bill programs in Iowa for veterans and other eligible persons. Military education staff provides educational and career assistance for veterans and other eligible persons. For more information, call the department: 515-281-3317 or visit IDVA's webpage for a link to programs approved by the Veteran and Military Education Unit for Iowa veteran and information regarding educational support for children of military personnel.

### Iowa Workforce Development

Iowa Workforce Development has 15 regional offices located across Iowa. Each Regional Workforce Development Center has a Veteran's Employment Representative coordinating all specific services provided to veterans within the Iowa Workforce system, including working closely with clients of VA Vocational Rehabilitation. For more information or to find the closest office, go to: <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/veterans/index.htm>.

### National Guard

The Iowa National Guard has a full-spectrum webpage that details National Guard benefits, including educational, medical, and employment benefits. Visit: <http://www.iowanationalguard.com> for additional information.

