



## 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 rightfully entitled. Iowa has 99 County Veterans Affairs offices, 2 Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs offices, and partnerships with the Iowa Veterans Home, Iowa Veterans Service Organizations, the Federal VA Benefits Administration, the Veteran Healthcare Administration, three Vet Centers, and 13 Community-based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs). The mission of each of these entities is to provide benefits and care to our veterans.

### County Benefits

Get to know your local county veterans affairs officials by finding them in your local phone book or by going to the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs website: <https://dva.iowa.gov/county-veteran-service-offices>.

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

**Always keep your DD214 in a safe place – such as a safety-deposit box or safe – and be sure to file your DD214 with your respective county recorder.**

### IDVA State Benefits

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. Department of Veterans Affairs and specialize in federal as well as state VA benefits. They can be reached at: 800.838.4692 or 515.252.4698. Also visit IDVA's website for information: <https://va.iowa.gov>.

- **Disabled Veteran's Homestead Tax Credit:** This benefit provides an exemption of property taxes for 100% service-connected disabled veterans, Individual Unemployable (IU) veterans, and family members receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) as certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. For more information and an application, visit: <https://tax.iowa.gov/disabled-veteran-homestead-property-tax-credit>.
- **Military Tax Exemption:** This legislation exempts federal retirement pay received for military service and survivor benefits from state individual income tax.
- **Veterans' License Plates:** Honorably discharged veterans are eligible to purchase specialty license plates available for an additional charge through the Iowa Department of Transportation. In 2014 the Special plate issuance fees charged for the first set of plates associated with military service have been eliminated. *Note:* This is the *issuance* fee and *not* the registration fee. Visit: <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/vehicleregistration/vehicleregistration/plates/> for details.
- **Veterans Designation on Iowa Drivers Licenses and IDs:** Honorably discharged veterans may request the "Veteran" designation be placed on their driver's license or non-operator identification card. Veterans must present a copy of their DD214 or applicable discharge document to the County or State Veterans Affairs Office to have their eligibility certified and then complete an Iowa DOT Application form. The application is available here: <https://iowadot.seamlessdocs.com/f/CO19111000127824508>.
- **Property Tax Exemption:** This benefit reduces a veteran's assessed home value for property tax purposes by \$1850. 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 their county assessor; once accepted, exemption is ongoing. For more information, visit: <https://tax.iowa.gov/tax-credits-and-exemptions#Military>.
- **Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License for Disabled Veterans:** Disabled veterans and/or POWs (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: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/fishing/fishing-licenses-laws/license-applications>.
- **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. Visit <https://www.iowafinance.com/homeownership/mortgage-programs/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/iowa-veterans-trust-fund>.
- **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/injuredveterans> or call IDVA's office: 800.838.4692.
- **Branstad-Reynolds Scholarship Fund:** This scholarship fund provides post-secondary educational scholarships for children of deceased military service members who died while in an active military status after September 11, 2001. The Scholarship is administered by IDVA and the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. Visit: <https://va.iowa.gov/media/edb427fc-f0b6-4a4b-a0c1-3f95de416a8c>.
- **War Orphan Tuition Assistance:** Children of Iowa veterans killed in action following September 11, 2001 are eligible for up to \$11,844.00 per year in tuition assistance at an Iowa post-secondary institution. Children qualify up to the age of twenty-six (26). Dependents of those killed in action prior to September 11, 2001 are eligible for \$600 per year with a maximum of \$3,000. Residency is required to receive this benefit. Visit: <https://va.iowa.gov/media/3f12e104-3568-4952-b05c-754bf855da3b>.
- **High School Diploma:** "Operation Recognition" furnishes an *honorary* high school diploma to qualifying honorably discharged veterans who did not complete high school due to armed service enlistment. An application form can be found on the IDVA website: <https://va.iowa.gov/media/6da68d52-6080-47eb-9d7c-6bfef26207e3>.
- **Repository:** The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs serves as a repository for military discharges, veterans' grave registrations, and state service compensation records. Contact the Camp Dodge office for more information.

### 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/cemetery> 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 health care for veterans of all ages. More information can be found here: <https://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 veterans and information regarding educational support for children of military personnel. Visit: <https://educateiowa.gov/adult-career-and-community-college/veterans-military-education>.

### Iowa Workforce Development

**Home Base Iowa** Home Base Iowa connects Iowa businesses with qualified veterans and their spouses looking for career opportunities. The program also provides resources to help connect veterans and their families with education and in transitioning to a new community. <https://www.homebaseiowa.gov/>

**Iowa Workforce Development Veteran Employment Services** IWD 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: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/veteran-employment-services>.

### Iowa 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/SitePages/Index.aspx> for additional information.