



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
NVLSP Training Schedule**

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 8:20 a.m.	Introduction and IDVA-NVLSP MOA	(20 min)
8:20 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Role of a VSO	(10 min)
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	VA Disability Compensation Overview Benefit of the doubt, Duty to assist; Veteran status; Current disability; Nexus / 5 theories of service connection; Disability ratings; TDIU; SMC; Rating reductions; Effective date; Ancillary benefits	(60 min)
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Break	(15 min)
9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	VA Disability Compensation Overview (cont'd)	(30 min)
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Non-Service-Connected Disability Pension Basics / Eligibility; MAPR and countable income; Medical expense deductions; Net worth; Assets; Asset transfer and penalty periods; Other issues	(30 min)
10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break	(15 min)
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Non-Service-Connected Disability Pension (cont'd)	(60 min)
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	(90 min)
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	VA Benefits for Survivors of Veterans DIC; Survivors pension; Accrued benefits and substitution; VA burial and memorial benefits	(90 min)
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break	(15 min)
3:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Navigating the AMA Review System Types of claims; Rating decisions; Supplemental claims; Higher-level review; BVA appeals; other issues	(105 min)



Wednesday, April 15, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Ethics for VSOs	(60 min)
9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	Break	(10 min)
9:10 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Initial Claim Development/Preparation Interviewing the claimant, Reviewing the record; Obtaining supporting evidence; Special issues to lookout for	(90 min)
10:40 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Break	(10 min)
10:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Legal Research for VSOs and Effective Strategies for Oral and Written Advocacy Before the VA	(70 min)
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	(90 min)
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Small-Group AMA Practical Exercises	(90 min)
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break	(15 min)
3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.	Presumptions of Service Connection	(90 min)



Thursday, April 16, 2026

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	Special Monthly Compensation	(75 min)
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Break	(15 min)
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Understanding CRSC and CRDP	(60 min)
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break	(15 min)
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Discharge Upgrades and Character of Discharge Determinations	(75 min)
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	(90 min)
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Pre-Test Review	(60 min)
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Break	(15 min)
2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	Open Note, Multiple Choice Test	(60 min)
3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Hand Out Certificates, Complete Travel Vouchers	(45 min)