

Iowa State Veteran's Benefits



January 2019

The state of Iowa provides several veteran benefits. Below is a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- Housing
- Employment
- Education
- Recreational
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Veteran Housing Programs

Iowa Veterans Home

IVH opened its doors to Iowa veterans and their spouses in 1887 as the Old Soldiers Home. From that time, the Home has belonged to the people of Iowa, guided by the Iowa Legislature and the Iowa Commissioners of Veterans Affairs. Today, IVH is one of the largest of the 148 state-owned facilities for veterans in the nation. As in the past, IVH maintains its loyalty and dedication to American veterans. It is a true community, comprised of residents, staff, volunteers and visitors. The beautiful campus spans almost 150 acres, with four main resident care buildings. It is located at 1301 Summit St, Marshalltown, IA 50158 Tel: 641-752-1501 Fax: 1-800-645-4591. Refer to <https://youtu.be/id9dkWDHpoo> for a video on the home.



Sheeler Bldg



Loftus Bldg.



Malloy Hall



Dack Bldg

IVH utilizes the person-centered care philosophy. The concept provides expanded opportunities for the resident to participate more with decision-making, socializing, and with their own care. IVH staff began

embracing this philosophy in 2006. Staff continue efforts towards more individualized care for each resident based upon their needs and wants. IVH has a total of 755 beds available of which 113 beds are residential and 642 are nursing beds. Presently, the home provides personalized medical, nursing, rehabilitative care, mental health, pharmacy and dietary services, along with many other services. All the services help make the lives of residents engaged and fulfilling.

Honorably discharged veterans, their spouses, and/or widowed spouses who demonstrate either medical or financial need, meet Iowa residency requirements, and veteran eligibility for admission to VA are qualified for admission. Eligible veterans, their spouses, and/or widowed spouses are admitted without regard to their financial status. The rate of payment is based on the cost of care and the individual's ability to pay using available resources. IVH wants everyone interested in their facility to have an opportunity to visit and learn more about it. When you call the IVH Tours Hotline: 1-800-645-4591 you will be directed to a call processing menu where you'll get three options to choose from. Depending on the nature of your tour request, the designated department either will take down your information or return your call to arrange for your visit. Refer to <http://ivh.iowa.gov> for additional information on the home.

Homeownership Assistance

The Military Homeownership Assistance Program provides eligible service members and veterans with a \$5,000 grant for down payment and closing costs on a qualifying home purchase. Eligible service members may access the Military Homeownership Assistance Program to be used with a qualifying mortgage or cash purchase transaction. The Military Homeownership Assistance grant may also be combined with a Plus grant for a total of \$7,500 of down payment and closing cost assistance for borrowers who qualify for both programs. Borrowers are limited to one-time use of a Plus grant and one-time use of a Military Homeownership Assistance grant.

Eligibility criteria is:

- Have served 90 days active duty between August 2, 1990 and April 6, 1991 or September 11, 2001 to present. Active duty need not be consecutive; it may be cumulative. Inactive Duty Training, Annual Training and Active Duty for Training may not count toward active duty; or
- Is a federal status injured service person having served in active duty August 2, 1990 and April 6, 1991 or September 11, 2001 to present; or
- Is a surviving spouse of said eligible service person, all who have had a discharge other than dishonorable.

AND

- Receives prior approval before closing on a qualified home.
- Utilizes an IFA Participating or Facilitating Lender and IFA first mortgage (if financing the purchase).
- Utilizes an IFA Participating Lender to receive a non-IFA first mortgage if IFA deems it economically feasible and financially advantageous. At this time, IFA will approve a grant with non-IFA financing if the lender demonstrates that such financing is a fixed rate, permanent, fully amortizing mortgage loan that is at least 25 basis points lower APR* than the most comparable IFA mortgage product available at the time the applicable Good Faith Estimate is issued.

Eligible Home Criteria:

- The home must be located in the state of Iowa and must be purchased by the eligible service member.
- The home must be immediately occupied by the service member/spouse as the borrower's primary residence.

- Single-family residences (including “stick-built” homes, modular homes or manufactured homes).
- Condominiums
- Townhomes
- A property containing up to four units, if one of the units will be the primary residence of the service member

Use the eligibility quick check at <http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/home/quickcheck> to see if you maybe eligible

Application Process:

Contact a Participating Lender at <http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/Home/sfcontactlisting> to determine eligibility and begin the application process. Typical forms usually needed to establish military service include:

- A copy of a valid DD Form 214 (Member 2 Form or higher)
- Four months of leave and earnings statements or other documentation that may be required and government issued photo ID. Cash financing is also available, please contact the military homeownership team for details.

Property Tax Exemption

This benefit reduces a veteran’s assessed home value for property tax purposes by \$1,852. In order to qualify, a service member must have served on active duty during a period of war or for a minimum of 18 months during peacetime.

Disabled Veteran’s Homestead Tax Credit

Originally adopted to encourage home ownership for disabled veterans. The current credit is equal to 100% of the actual tax levy.

Eligibility: Veterans with 100% service-related disability status qualify for this credit. Veterans also qualify who have a permanent and total disability rating based on individual Unemployability paid at the 100% disability rate. The veteran must own and occupy the property as a homestead on July 1 of each year, declare residency in Iowa for income tax purposes and occupy the property for at least six months each year. Persons in the military or nursing homes who do not occupy the home are also eligible. A surviving spouse of a disabled veteran receiving DIC payments also qualifies. The surviving spouse as a beneficiary of the estate of a veteran who received the credit may continue to receive the credit as long as the spouse resides in the qualified homestead and does not remarry.

Filing Requirements: Claim must be filed on or before July 1. A current Benefits Paid letter and a DD214 must be included with your application. To file use the Application for Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Credit form at <https://tax.iowa.gov/sites/files/idr/forms1/DisabledVeteranHomestead%2854049%29.pdf>. For a list of commonly asked questions refer to <https://tax.iowa.gov/disabled-veteran-homestead-property-tax-credit>.

Financial Assistance

Injured Veterans Grant Program

The legislative intent of this program is to provide immediate financial assistance to a veteran so that family members of the veteran may be with the veteran during the veteran’s recovery from an injury received in the line of duty in a combat zone or in a zone where the veteran was receiving hazardous duty pay after

September 11, 2001. Treatment or services must be provided in a location that is not the veteran's home of record. The veteran shall remain eligible for the grant after discharge from the military so long as the veteran continues to receive medical treatment or rehabilitation services for the specific injury or illness.

Grant amounts. Grants will be paid by the Iowa department of veterans affairs in increments of \$2,500 up to a maximum of \$10,000 in the following manner:

- \$2,500 - When veteran is medically evacuated from the combat zone following a combat-related injury.
- \$2,500 - 30 days after evacuation date if still hospitalized, receiving medical treatment or rehabilitation services by the military or Veterans Administration; does not include follow-up appointments.
- \$2,500 - 60 days after evacuation date if still hospitalized, receiving medical treatment or rehabilitation services by the military or Veterans Administration; does not include follow-up appointments.
- \$2,500 - 90 days after evacuation date if still hospitalized, receiving medical treatment or rehabilitation services by the military or Veterans Administration; does not include follow-up appointments.

Eligible veterans. For purposes of this program, the term "veteran" means:

- a. A resident of Iowa who is or was a member of the national guard, reserve, or regular component of the armed forces of the United States who has served on active duty at any time after September 11, 2001, and, if discharged or released from service, was discharged or released under honorable conditions; or
- b. A nonresident of this state who is or was a member of a national guard unit located in this state prior to alert for mobilization who has served on active duty at any time after September 11, 2001, was injured while serving in the national guard unit located in this state, is not eligible to receive a similar grant from another state for that injury, and, if discharged or released from service, was discharged or released under honorable conditions.

In addition an eligible veteran must meet all of the following conditions:

- The veteran must have sustained a combat-related injury in a combat zone or hostile fire zone; and
- The combat-related injury was serious enough to require medical evacuation from the combat zone to a military hospital or the injury required at least 30 consecutive days of hospitalization at a military hospital; and
- The combat-related injury was or is considered by the military to have been received in the line of duty, based upon the circumstances known at the time of evacuation or injury.

Veterans Trust Fund

The State of Iowa has established a \$5 million fund to provide certain services to veterans. Beginning in December 2007, interest from this fund has been available to provide relief for Iowa veterans and their families. Trust fund expenditures are approved through the Iowa Veterans Commission. These rules establish the requirements for veterans, spouses or dependents to receive benefits from the veteran trust fund.

Definition. "Veteran" means resident of Iowa who served honorably in the armed forces of the United States, completing a minimum of 90 days of active duty, other than training.

Income. Shall not exceed 200% of poverty guidelines.

Resources. Available liquid assets of the veteran cannot exceed \$15,000.00, means cash on hand.

Benefits Available to veterans and spouses:

- Travel – For wounded veterans directly related to follow-up medical care.

- Unemployment Assistance – Must have a service connection causing their unemployment. \$3,000.00 in a twelve month period, with a lifetime maximum of \$6,000.00.
- Job Training or Education Assistance – Lifetime maximum of \$3,000.00.
- Individual or Family Counseling – Up to \$5,000.00 in a twelve month period.
- Dental – Up to \$2,500.00 in a twelve month period.
- Audiology – Up to \$1,500.00 per ear in a twelve month period.
- Emergency Housing Repairs – Up to \$3,000.00 in a twelve month period.
- Emergency Vehicle Repairs – Up to \$2,500.00 in a twelve month period.
- Emergency Room – Lifetime maximum of \$5,000.00.
- Durable Medical Equipment – Lifetime maximum of \$2,500.00.

The application process starts at your local VA office. To locate go to <https://va.iowa.gov/counties>. To apply submit the form at <https://va.iowa.gov/media/07e7d4a4-0527-4a79-aa04-18504a8a71b4> Applications are reviewed once a month by the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs. A decision is made at the time of review. Applicants are notified via letter of the decision with instructions on how to proceed.

Education

Education

The 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. Program approval is a function of the State not the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The Iowa State Approving Agency (SAA) has been contracted by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to approve GI Bill programs in the State of Iowa for veterans and other eligible persons. Each state has a SAA whose function is to inspect, approve, and supervise qualified educational programs as well as on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs for GI Bill purposes. Recently, approval has extended to include required licensure and certification tests. The State's approval is necessary before veterans and other eligible persons can receive their GI Bill benefits. For more on the GI Bill refer to <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill>. For additional information on Iowa's Education Benefits go to <https://educateiowa.gov/adult-career-and-community-college/veterans-military-education>. To contact the department for any reason go to:

- Michael Dommer, Consultant - Michael.Dommer@iowa.gov Phone: 515.281.3516
- Rebecca Griglione, Assistant Rebecca.Griglione@iowa.gov Phone: 515.281.3317 Ext. 3317

War Orphans 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. For more information on the program go to <https://va.iowa.gov/media/3f12e104-3568-4952-b05c-754bf855da3b>. To apply complete the application at <https://va.iowa.gov/media/143d0091-9c2b-4b46-a0ca-dd1f4a00ea1a>.

Operation Recognition High School Diploma

This program furnishes an honorary high school diploma to qualifying veterans who did not complete high school (in Iowa) 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. To apply complete the form at <https://va.iowa.gov/media/6da68d52-6080-47eb-9d7c-6bfef26207e3>.

Branstad/Reynolds Scholarship Fund.

The Branstad-Reynolds 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 the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. For more information and application refer to <https://va.iowa.gov/media/edb427fc-f0b6-4a4b-a0c1-3f95de416a8c>.

National Guard Tuition Benefits.

Present Iowa National Guard members in good standing are eligible for up to \$2,700 per semester for full time enrollment. Part-time students are eligible for \$196 per semester hour. Additionally, Guard members who are mobilized will receive a tuition refund. To learn more call 515-252-4579 or refer to <https://www.iowanationalguard.com/Family%20and%20Services/Education/Pages/Home.aspx>

Recreational

Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License

Veterans in receipt of at least a 0% service connected disability can receive a lifetime hunting or fishing license for a \$7.00 fee. In order to qualify, the Iowa resident must have served on active federal service and was disabled as a result of that service.

Other State Veteran Benefits

Military Tax Exemption

This recently-enacted legislation (2014) exempts federal retirement pay received for military service and survivor benefits from state individual income tax.

License Plates

Honorably discharged veterans are eligible to purchase specialty veteran license plates for their vehicle. These special plates are available for an additional charge through the Iowa Department of Transportation. Refer to <http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/ovs/plates/plates.htm> for more info on the process and obtainment of plates.



Bronze Star



Ex-Prisoner of War



Gold Star



Iowa National Guard



Legion of Merit



Air Force



Army



Navy



Pearl Harbor



Purple Heart



Retired Air Force



Retired Army



Retired Coast Guard



Retired Marine



Retired Navy



Air Force Cross Medal



Airmen's Medal



Service Cross Medal



USN/USMC Medal



Navy Cross Medal



Soldier's Medal



Silver Star



Veteran's Plate



Disabled Veteran

Vietnam Conflict Bonus

Iowa residents who served on active duty for at least 120 days between July 1, 1973 and May 31, 1975 are eligible for this bonus program. Veterans who served in Vietnam will receive \$17.50 for each month served. Veterans that served outside of Vietnam during this time will receive \$12.50 for each month of service. The maximum bonus amount is \$500 for veterans who served in Vietnam and \$300 for those who were not in country.

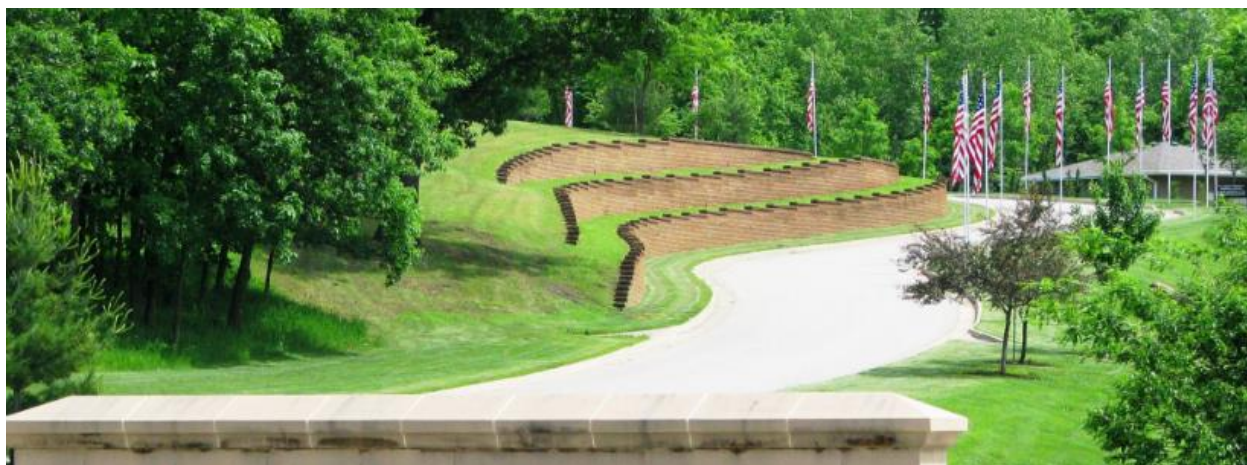
The State of Iowa Veterans Cemetery



The Iowa Veterans Cemetery began operation on July 3, 2008. It is located 10 miles west of Des Moines, near Van Meter at 34024 Veterans Memorial Drive, Adel, IA 50003-3300. The Iowa Veterans Cemetery operates under United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) operational standards. Eligibility for burial is the same as those for burial at national cemeteries. Basically, that means any veteran separated from the service other than dishonorably, the veteran's spouse, and eligible dependent children may be interred at the cemetery. There is NO requirement to be a resident of Iowa. If you are unsure of your

eligibility, please contact the cemetery for a determination. In general, the military service requirements for burial in the Iowa Veterans Cemetery are:

- Discharged from “active duty” under conditions other than dishonorably, or
- Died while on “active duty”, or
- Served at least 20 years in the National Guard or Reserves and qualified for military retirement pay (or would have qualified except death occurred before age 60), or
- Reserve component personnel qualify if they otherwise served in a Presidential call-up during their Reserve Component military service. Active duty for training of Reserve Component personnel does not qualify as active service



Burial Fees: There is no charge for the burial of an eligible veteran. Burial options include in ground burial of caskets and cremated remains and above ground placement of remains in a columbarium niche (next available -- no pre-selection). A standard government upright granite headstone/niche market is provided at no cost to an eligible veteran. There is a \$300 interment fee for an eligible spouse and dependent child. An eligible veteran’s spouse or dependent will be interred with (and alongside the veteran in the case of a third burial unless other arrangements are made). Fees collected for burial are placed in a fund used for future physical expansion of the cemetery and infrastructure improvements. Perpetual care of the gravesites and grounds are maintained by cemetery personnel at no cost to the veteran or his/her family.

Pre-Registration: A Pre-Registration for Burial Determination application is required to assist cemetery personnel in determining eligibility for burial in the Iowa Veterans Cemetery. Completion of the application is required at the time of need (death) or may be used for a pre-need determination. The application is available for download at https://va.iowa.gov/images/cemetery_application.pdf. Pre-need determination allows a veteran to establish in advance, his/her eligibility for interment at the cemetery. There is no cost for pre-need determination, and it does not obligate the veteran to be interred at the cemetery. Pre-need determination is intended to simplify and assist the veteran's next-of-kin at the time of death (or the non-veteran spouse if the veteran elects to be interred at the cemetery). By taking a few minutes to complete a pre-registration application and mail it with the supporting documentation, veterans and their families can plan their interment and gain peace of mind. It is a form of pre-estate planning. Funeral Directors are required to complete and submit to the cemetery an Application for Interment (submitted at the time of need).

Application: Available for download at https://va.iowa.gov/vetcemetery/funeral_home_app.pdf. After you open the application you will be able to type the required information into the appropriate areas. After

filling in all appropriate information, print it and return the completed form, with all supporting documentation (do not send originals, send copies only) to: Iowa Veterans Cemetery, 34024 Veterans Memorial Drive, Adel, IA 50003-3300 Tel: (515) 996-9048; Fax: (515) 996-9102.

The federal government maintains the Keokuk National Cemetery at 1701 J Street, Keokuk, IA 52632 Tel: 319-524-1304 Fax: 319-524-8118. Refer to <http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/keokuk.asp> for information on burial there if desired.

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Visit the Iowa Veteran website <https://va.iowa.gov> to learn more about the benefits and services they offer.

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/iowa-state-veterans-benefits.html>
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