State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
Erica Borggren, Director

State of Illinois Benefits for Veterans

Serving Those Who Have Served

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
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1-800-437-9824
www.veterans.illinois.gov

Pat Quinn, Governor
State of Illinois

Throughout my life in public service, it has always been important to me to honor the men and women who bravely and selflessly put their lives on the line to serve our nation in the United States Armed Forces. As Governor, it has remained a priority to ensure that Illinois is the most "veteran-friendly" state in the nation.

I'm proud that through the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, our state's 1.3 million Veterans receive the most comprehensive services possible in accessing the federal and state benefits they have earned and richly deserve.

From our Operation Home Front website (www.standingupforillinois.org/homefront), which provides local and federal resources for reintegrating service members and their families, to the more than 100 Veterans Service Offices located statewide to assist veterans firsthand with benefits information, our goal has always been to empower Veterans with gaining full access to every benefit and to help them achieve their educational and career goals.

This comprehensive booklet, "Serving Those Who Have Served" is yet another important tool toward that goal. It provides the most current web addresses, telephone numbers and service office locations available to help you get started.

Illinois Veterans answered the call to defend our freedom worldwide; we will always defend their rights at home.

Pat Quinn, Governor
State of Illinois

Erica Borggren, Director
Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

Our veterans have borne a tremendous burden for our country over the years. After they return home, we have no more sacred obligation than to serve and care for them. That's exactly what we at the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) stand ready to do.

Our mission at IDVA is to empower Illinois' veterans to thrive. We do this, in partnership with other government entities and with veterans' non-profit and service organizations, not only because we owe an extraordinary debt of gratitude to those who have served. We also do it because veterans are among our most proven, dedicated, and sacrificial public servants; communities across Illinois stand to benefit from Veterans' skills, experiences, and commitment to service after they return home.

We would encourage all veterans to tap into the extensive network of benefits and programs here to help you thrive. Our Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) stand ready to assist. They are true experts who can help you apply for federal, state, and local benefits ranging from healthcare and employment services to disability compensation, tax exemptions, and theater-specific bonuses. Visit our website at www.veterans.illinois.gov to start now.

Even for those veterans who feel they are not currently in need of assistance, we would encourage you to "Stand Up and Be Counted" by stopping by and registering with your local VSO. Do it not for just you, but for the battle buddies who fought on your left and right. You'll help us to plan services, seek federal funding, and better understand the needs of the veteran community we serve.

To all who have served in uniform: thank you for stepping forward and serving when duty called. Our duty to you calls now, and we at the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs are honored to be here for you.

Erica Borggren, Director
Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

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The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs has Veteran Service Officers located throughout Illinois and are the subject matter experts when it comes to federal, state and local benefits and programs. The offices are listed by county. This information can also be found online at www.veterans.illinois.gov.

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Service Office Locations

County	City
Adams	**Quincy** 217-222-8641 ext 259
Champaign	**Champaign** 217-278-3388
Christian	**Taylorville** 217-287-7474
Coles	**Mattoon** 217-234-4776
Cook	**Downtown Chicago** 312-814-3326 **Southwest of Downtown Chicago** 312-980-4512 **South Side Chicago** 773-363-9851 **Northwest Side Chicago** 773-292-7894 **Chicago Heights** 708-754-6403 **Blue Island** 708-396-9840 **North Riverside** 708-447-0416/0420 **Palatine** 847-485-2772
Cook	**Orland Park** 708-403-2011 **Des Plaines** 847-294-4664
DuPage	**Wheaton** 630-690-9449 **Lombard** 630-495-9460

County	City
Effingham	**Effingham** 217-342-8493
Franklin	**Benton** 618-435-3678
Henry	**Kewanee** 309-852-0227
Jackson	**Murphysboro** 618-684-2966
Jefferson	**Mt. Vernon** 618-246-2910 ext 73404
Kane	**Elgin** 847-608-0138 **Aurora** 630-585-5372
Kankakee	**Manteno** 815-468-6581 ext 230
Knox	**Galesburg** 309-343-2510
Lake	**North Chicago** 847-689-4153
LaSalle	**LaSalle** 815-223-0303 ext 210
Lawrence	**Lawrenceville** 618-943-6189
Livingston	**Pontiac** 815-842-2294
Macon	**Decatur** 217-362-6644
Macoupin	**Carlinville** 217-854-6451
Madison	**Alton** 618-465-3216
Marion	**Salem** 618-548-6929
McDonough	**Macomb** 309-836-2243
McHenry	**Woodstock** 815-338-9292
McLean	**Bloomington** 309-827-5811

County	City
Morgan	**Jacksonville** 217-245-0551
Peoria	**Peoria** 309-671-3179
Rock Island	**Rock Island** 309-793-1460
St. Clair	**E. St. Louis** 618-583-2065 **Belleville** 618-233-5140
Saline	**Harrisburg** 618-253-2005
Sangamon	**Springfield** 217-782-6645
Stephenson	**Freeport** 815-233-5092
Vermillion	**Danville** 217-442-1711
Whiteside	**Rock Falls** 815-626-2468
Will	**Joliet** 815-730-4334
Williamson	**Marion** 618-997-3309
Winnebago	**Machesney Park** 815-633-7840

Compensation and Pension

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs helps Veterans, family members and survivors in filing claims for both federal and state benefits. We also provide assistance with record gathering and appeals in case of denial. Meet our accredited, professional Veteran Service Officers at one of the offices located near you. Our web site is www.veterans.illinois.gov.

Disability Compensation

Disability compensation is a tax free benefit paid to a veteran for disabilities that are a result of, or made worse by, injuries or diseases that happened while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. Disability compensation is also paid to certain Veterans disabled from VA health care.

You may be eligible for disability compensation if you have a service related disability and you were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Disability Pension

Disability Pension is a benefit paid to wartime Veterans with limited income, who are permanently and totally disabled or age 65 or older. You may be eligible for this benefit if:

- you were discharge from service under other than dishonorable conditions, AND
- you served 90 days or more of active duty with at least one day during a period of war time, AND
- your countable family income falls below a yearly limit set by law, AND
- you are permanently and totally disabled, OR
- you are age 65 or older

Protected Pension

Pension beneficiaries, who were receiving a VA pension on December 31, 1978 and did not elect the Improved Pension, must continue to meet eligibility requirements such as permanent and total disability.

Death Pension

Death pension is a benefit paid to eligible dependents of deceased wartime Veterans. You may be eligible if:

- the deceased Veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, AND
- he or she served 90 days or more of active duty with at least one day during a period of war, AND

- you are the surviving spouse or unmarried child of the deceased Veteran, AND
- your countable income falls below a yearly income limit set by law.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for Service Connected Deaths

This is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of a:

- military service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR
- Veteran whose death resulted from service-related injury or disease, OR
- Veteran whose death resulted from a non-service-related injury or disease, and who was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling:
  - for at least 10 years immediately before death, OR
  - since the Veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, or
  - for at least one year before death if the Veteran was a former Prisoner of War who died after September 30, 1999.

Aid and Attendance or Housebound

A Veteran or surviving spouse who is a resident in a nursing home or who needs regular aid from another person may qualify for this benefit.

Aid and Attendance (A&A) is a benefit paid in addition to monthly pension. This benefit may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for A&A when:

- The veteran requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature,
- adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting himself/herself from the hazards of his/her daily environment, **OR**,
- The veteran is bedridden, in that his/her disability or disabilities requires that he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, **OR**,
- The veteran is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, **OR**,

- The veteran is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

Housebound is paid in addition to monthly pension. Like A&A, Housebound benefits may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for Housebound benefits when:

- The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100percent disabling **AND**, due to such disability, he/she is permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises, **OR**,
- The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100percent disabling **AND**, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling.

A veteran cannot receive both Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits at the same time.

Agent Orange

Veterans who served in the Vietnam War between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides. Eleven illnesses are presumed to be service connected by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to afflict Vietnam Veterans. They include any form of chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, soft tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, respiratory cancers, nonHodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, and acute and sub acute peripheral neuropathy, type 2 diabetes, and chronic lymphocytic leukemia. For more information, please contact the nearest service office. (see pages 5-7 for local service office listings)

Line of Duty Compensation

This is a benefit administered by the Illinois Court of Claims. It provides approximately $300,000 for surviving next of kin of Illinois service members killed in the line of duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Your local service office will be able to assist in filling out the application. (see pages 5-7 for local service office listings)

Gulf War Veterans

Gulf War Veterans may receive compensation for chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses and medically unexplained chronic multi symptom illnesses. The symptoms must have appeared during the Gulf War, or to a degree of at least 10 percent at any time since then through December 31, 2011.

Prisoners Of War

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs presumes that former POWs who were imprisoned for any length of time during military service could suffer from the following service connected conditions: psychosis, anxiety, dysthymic disorder, residuals of frostbite, post-traumatic osteoarthritis, heart disease or hypertensive vascular disease, stroke and residuals of stroke. Former POWs who were imprisoned for at least 30 days are presumed to have the following: avitaminosis, beriberi, chronic dysentery, helminthiasis, malnutrition, pellagra, irritable bowel syndrome, peptic ulcer disease, peripheral neuropathy and cirrhosis of the liver. For more information or to apply for this monetary benefit please contact the nearest service office. (see pages 5-7 for local service office listings)

Atomic Veterans

Veterans who participated in atomic tests and suffer from leukemia, cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary tract, brain, bone, lung, colon, and ovary, bronchiole alveolar carcinoma, multiple myeloma, lymphomas and primary liver cancer, may qualify for this benefit. If you participated, contact our nearest service office for more information. (see pages 5-7 for local service office listings)

Concurrent Retirement/Disability Payments (CRDP)

This program went into effect January 1, 2004, and is available to military retirees who served a minimum of 20 years creditable service, including service in the National Guard and Reserves. CRDP restores some or all of the military retired pay that was deducted due to receipt of VA service connected disability compensation.

Retirees must be rated 50 percent or more disabled by the VA and, unlike Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC), the disabilities do not have to be combat related. Retirees are not required to apply for this benefit; enrollment is automatic.

Combat Related Special Compensation

CRSC went into effect June 1, 2003, and is available to military retirees (including National Guard or Reserve retirees) who have 20 years of service. Guard and Reserve retirees with a “20 year letter” became eligible as of January 2004. It is payable for combat related

disabilities only. Qualified Reservists will not receive CRSC until they begin to receive military retired pay at age 60. Retirees must apply with their branch of service to participate in this program; enrollment is not automatic.

Documentation

Discharges, Service Records and Medals

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs will assist any Veteran in obtaining their discharge papers (DD214), service records, medical records, medals, ribbons and awards.

Discharge Upgrades

We assist Veterans in applying for discharge upgrades and corrections. However, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs will not represent Veterans before the branches of the military for any reason. This includes the boards for correction of military records and discharge review boards.

Bonuses

The State of Illinois offers a onetime bonus for Veterans who served honorably during a time of war. Certain medals are needed to qualify. Veterans or their survivors may apply at their nearest service office. Check out web site www.veterans.illinois.gov/.

World War II Bonus

A bonus of $10 per month for Domestic Service and $15 per month for Foreign Service is payable for those who served on active duty between September 16, 1940 and September 3, 1945 and received an honorable discharge. Survivors are entitled to a benefit of $1,000, if the veteran's death was service-connected and as a result of hostile action with unfriendly forces.

Korean War Bonus

A $100 Korean War bonus is payable to Veterans who served between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1953, received the Korean Service Medal, and were a resident of Illinois 12 months immediately prior to entering the service and discharged honorably.

Vietnam War Bonus
The Vietnam War bonus is payable to Veterans who served between January 1, 1961 and March 28, 1973 and those who served in Operation Frequent Wind, Vietnam, April 29 and 30, 1975. The Veteran must have received either the Vietnam Service Medal or Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Vietnam, and were a resident of Illinois 12 months immediately prior to entering the service and discharged honorably.

Persian Gulf War Bonus
A $100 Persian Gulf War bonus is for those who served between August 2, 1990 and November 30, 1995, and received the Southwest Asia Service Medal, honorably discharged and were a resident of Illinois 12 months immediately prior to entering the service and discharged honorably.
(Individuals currently on active duty who served in the Persian Gulf War may apply)

Global War on Terrorism (new)
A $100 bonus is available to those who served on or after September 11, 2001 and who received either the Global War on Terrorism expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal or the Iraq Campaign Medal, served at least 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days of foreign or sea service and Individuals currently on active duty under Global War as well as a resident of Illinois 12 months immediately prior to entering the service and discharged honorably.

Vietnam Survivors Compensation
Survivors are entitled to a payment of $1,000 if the Veteran's death is service connected or the direct result of service connected disabilities incurred in the period specified. A separate application is required.

Global War on Terrorism Survivors Compensation
Compensation of $3,000 is available to survivors of persons killed by terrorist acts or hostile activities during performance of military service in periods not recognized as wartime by United States campaign or service medals. You must have been a resident of Illinois 12 months immediately prior to entering the service and discharged honorably.

POW Compensation
Persons on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or employed by the U.S. Government on or after January 1, 1961, and who were residents of Illinois 12 months prior to entry and who were taken and held prisoner by hostile forces in South East Asia are entitled to a $50 bonus for each month or portion thereof while being held captive.

Education and Training

Montgomery GI Bill
The Montgomery GI Bill may be used while on active duty. Veterans with a general discharge do not qualify and eligibility expires after 10 years. All participants must have a high school diploma. The full time rate for training, college, technical or vocational school is $1,368 a month for those who served three years or more or two years plus four years in the Selected Reserve. For those who served less than three years, the monthly rate is $1,111 as benefits are reduced for part time training. The maximum number of months veterans can receive payments is 36 months at the full time rates or the part time equivalent.

Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)
For Veterans who served on active duty on October 9, 1996, participated in VEAP and contributed money to an account, or elected the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) by October 9, 1997 and paid $1,200. Veterans who participated in VEAP on or before October 9, 1996 through April 1, 2000, elected MGIB by October 31, 2001, and contributed $2,700 to MGIB.

Post 9/11 GI Bill The Post 9/11 GI Bill is a new education program for service members and Veterans who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. To be eligible, the service member or Veteran must serve at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 10, 2001, and remain on active duty or be honorably discharged from active duty status, released from active and placed on the retired list or

temporary disability retired list; released from active duty and transferred to the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve; released from active duty for further service in a reserve component of the Armed Forces. Veterans may also qualify if they were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after Sept. 10, 2001.

Generally, service members or Veterans may receive up to 36 months of entitlement. Eligibility expires 15 years from the last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days. If released for a service-connected disability after at least 30 days of continuous service, eligibility ends 15 years from when the member is released for the service-connected disability.

Once the service member chooses to receive benefits under the New GI Bill, the individual will no longer be eligible to receive benefits under the relinquished program.

Based on the length of service, eligible participants are entitled to receive a percentage of the following:

- Cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed the most expensive in-state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher education (paid directly to the school)
- Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to an E5 with dependents, determined by the zip code of the primary school. (Paid directly to the Veteran)
- Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to $1,000 per year paid to the veteran and a onetime payment of $500 paid to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas.

To apply or for more information please visit: www.gibill.va.gov or call 1-888-442-4551

Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program

This program assists eligible students with payment of their tuition and fees in instances (private school) where costs exceed the most expensive in state undergraduate tuition at a public school. Student must be eligible to receive 100 percent of the benefits provided under the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

Work Study Program

Veterans who are fulltime or 3/4 time students in a college degree program, or a vocational or professional program, can “earn while you learn” with a VA work-study allowance. The VA will select students for the work-study program based on different factors including:

- Disability of student
- Ability of student to complete the work-study contract before

the end of education benefits

- Job availability within normal commuting distance to the student
- VA will give highest priority to Veterans with service connected disability or disabilities rated by VA at more than 30 percent.

The number of applicants selected will depend on the availability of VA related work at your school or VA facilities in your area. For more information, please visit www.gibill.va.gov/ pamphlets/wkstud.htm.

Troops to Teachers

The Illinois Troops to Teachers Program can help eligible veterans with at least six years of honorable service transition from a military background to K12 public school teaching. The Illinois Troops to Teachers office provides:

- Educational and teaching career advisement
- Information resources for earning state teacher certification
- Job hunting assistance

Illinois Troops to Teachers can also provide financial assistance of $5,000 to eligible veterans enrolled in a certification program or a bonus of up to $10,000 for teachers who serve a three-year commitment in any high-needs school across the state. For more information, call the Illinois Troops to Teachers Program manager at 866-372-3157 or email at Troops.Teachers@illinois.gov or visit www.iltroops.org or www.proudtoserveagain.com

Illinois Veteran Grant

The Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) provides 120 units at any state supported college or university to Veterans who entered military service from the State of Illinois and returned to Illinois within six months following discharge.

For more information or to apply, please visit the Illinois Student Assistance Commission at: www.collegezone.com/ giftassist/753_1216.htm

Illinois National Guard Grant
Provides any enlisted person or lieutenant and captain with at least one year of service in the Illinois National Guard, with eight semesters or 12 quarters of fulltime or part-time undergraduate study at any state controlled university or college. Please visit the Illinois Student Assistance Commission website for more information at: www.collegezone.com/studentzone/1381.htm

Children of Veterans Tuition Waiver
Each county is awarded annually one honorary scholarship at the University of Illinois, for the benefit of children of Veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam War periods, the Gulf War and the War on Terror with preference being given to the children of deceased and disabled Veterans. Please visit their website at: www.osfa.uiuc.edu/aid/scholarships/waivers_COV.html

Bright Start Fallen Heroes Scholarship
The State will deposit $2,500 in a Bright Start account for each child of a fallen service member who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom upon the request of a surviving family member.
For more information, please call your nearest service office or visit: www.treasurer.il.gov/programs/scholarships/fallenheroes.aspx

Educational Aid for children 10-18 years old
Aid is available annually from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs for children between the ages of 10 and 18 of a Veteran who died or became totally disabled as a result of service in the Armed Forces.

MIA/POW Scholarship
This program is administered by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and is open to spouses, natural children, legally adopted children, or stepchildren of eligible Veterans or service members. The program provides four calendar years of full time enrollment to any state controlled college or university.

State Approving Agency
Approves higher education, apprenticeship, vocational, and on the job training and license and certification programs covered under the GI Bill. For more information visit www.veterans.illinois.gov/fedben.htm

High school diplomas for WWII, Korea & Vietnam Veterans
Veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam may receive a high school diploma if they do not posses one and if they left high school in order to serve in the Armed Forces.

Employment Benefits

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E)
The VR&E program assists Veterans who have service-connected disabilities obtain and maintain suitable employment. Independent living services are also available for severely disabled Veterans who are not currently ready to seek employment. More information is available at http://vetsuccess.gov/

Veterans Preference for Federal Jobs
To receive preference, a Veteran must have been discharged or released from active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces under honorable conditions. Preference is also provided for certain widows and widowers of deceased Veterans who died in the service such as spouses of service-connected disabled Veterans and mothers of Veterans who died under honorable conditions on active duty or have permanent and total service-connected disabilities. For each of these preferences a specific criterion must be met.

Jobs for Vets
The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) provides a trained Veterans representative to help Veterans receive training and job placement assistance. IDES and its partner agencies have a variety of resources that can help veterans find jobs and transition back to the civilian work force. Please visit the nearest IDES office or visit: www.ides.state.il.us/veterans/ default.asp

Employment Assistance for Air National Guard
State employees receive 15 days of military leave per year and 60 days of special training.

State Employment Preference
Preference is given to honorably discharged Veterans when applying for state employment with Central Management Services (CMS). Visit www.work.illinois.gov

Veterans Tax Credit
The State of Illinois provides a $1,200 tax credit to businesses that hire a Veteran. Visit: www.revenue.state.il.us/Businesses/ index.htm

Illinois Reemployment Rights
Illinois National Guard members called to active duty are protected under state law in addition to Federal Law unless performing state active duty in which case only State Law applies. For more information, visit the Office of the State Attorney at: www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights/veterans.html

Traumatic Brain Injury & Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder have been called the signature wounds of the Iraqi and Afghanistan conflicts. They have been seen in other conflicts, but given the new more powerful explosives and excellent medical care our troops are receiving in the field, the blasts are more powerful and more troops are surviving blasts that would have killed soldiers in other conflicts. These two changes are creating a situation where the
concussion created by intense pressurization and depressurization from the blasts are injuring soldiers in a different way that what was experienced in earlier wars. PTSD has always been a problem, but is now more prevalent because of repeated tours of duty for many troops. The aforementioned events have created a situation where TBI and PTSD are taking their toll on our returning troops, and in many cases, their families as well. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at the federal and state levels is focusing on an environment where early detection and early intervention support is practiced to make the transition to civilian life as easy and productive as possible or both the veteran and the family.
To this end, all OIF/OEF veterans are encouraged to take advantage of the Veterans Administration Health Care System. The VA is offering the OIF/OEF veteran five years of VA healthcare regardless of
financial or health status. You can contract the VA directly at 800827-1000 or their web site at www.va.gov to find the nearest VA healthcare facility.

VA Health Care

VA Health Services include:

- Services available to women Veterans include primary care, specialty care, mental health care and reproductive health care services
- Inpatient and Outpatient care

- Medication
- Veteran Health Registries
- Readjustment Counseling Services
- Prosthetic and Sensory Aids
- Mental health care treatment
- Suicide Prevention hotline 800273TALK(8355)
- Domiciliary Care
- Reimbursement of travel costs
- Home improvement and structural alterations

Please call your nearest veteran service office for assistance. (see pages 5-7 for local service e office listings)

Recent Legislation S. 1963 – P.L. 111-163: The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2009*

- Provide family caregivers with training, counseling, supportive services, and a living stipend.
- Reach out to rural Veterans.
- Authorizes VA to provide health care to a newborn child of qualifying women Veterans for up to 7 days.
- Requires VA to train its mental health providers in the treatment of military sexual trauma.
- Authorized VA to implement pilot programs to provide childcare to women Veterans receiving medical care, and to provide readjustment services to women Veterans.
- Enhance services for homeless Veterans.
- Increase focus on research for women Veterans.

***These healthcare programs are available to both male and female veterans although certain programs are gender specific.**

Illinois Health Programs

Veterans Care Program

Veterans Care is a program created to provide comprehensive and affordable health care coverage to uninsured Illinois Veterans. Veterans Care covers doctor and clinic visits, hospital inpatient and outpatient care, lab tests, x-rays, prescription drugs, vision care, limited dental, physical, occupational and speech therapy, mental health and substance abuse services and emergency medical transportation to name a few. For more information or to apply please call or visit your nearest service office. (see pages 5-7 for local service e office listings)

Illinois Warrior Assistance Program

The Illinois Warrior Assistance Program offers a 24hour, toll free helpline at 1-866-554-IWAP (4927), which is staffed by health professionals to assist Veterans, day or night, with the symptoms associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and provides Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) screening to all interested Illinois Veterans, especially those returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. If you or someone you know, is suffering from post deployment stress, please call 8665544927 or visit www.illinoiswarrior.com/ for more information about the program.

Women Veterans

Illinois is extremely proud of the Women Veterans that have served and those who continue to serve in our military. Our commitment to Women Veterans is to ensure equal access to state and federal benefits including those benefits and health services that are specific to your needs.

Our Mission is to assist coordinating benefits, services and programs for women Veterans and to serve as an advocate for and be responsible in treating women Veterans as equals and treat them with dignity and respect.

Our Role is to work with the USDVA Center for Women Veterans to improve awareness of women Veterans VA services, benefits and eligibility criteria and recommend policy and legislative proposals to our State Legislature.

USDVA, Center for Women Veterans

The Center serves as an advocate for a cultural transformation (both within VA and in the general public) in recognizing the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military. The Director, Center for Women Veterans, acts as the primary advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on all matters related to policies, legislation, programs, issues, and initiatives affecting women Veterans.

Mission:

- Monitor and coordinate VA's administration of health care and benefits services, and programs for women Veterans.

- Serve as an advocate for a cultural transformation (both within VA and in the general public) in recognizing the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military.

- Raise awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect.

Role:

- Collaborate and coordinate with VA's three Administrations (VHA, VBA, NCA), and Staff Offices' on their delivery of benefits and services, and aggressively liaison with other Federal agencies: GAO, DoD (DACOWITS, Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services), DOL (Women's Bureau, Veterans' Employment and Training Service), HHS (Office of Women's Health, Indian Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and HUD), state, local, and other external partners (VSOs, faith-based and community organizations), as well as the Director serving as VA representative on White House Interagency Council on Women and Girls.
- Serve as a resource center, and perform joint outreach to improve women Veterans' awareness of VA services, benefits and eligibility criteria.

Benefits and Services*

- VA offers a full continuum of comprehensive medical services including:
  - Health promotion and disease prevention.
  - Primary care, acute medical/surgical, telephone, emergency, education, vocational rehabilitation.
  - Substance abuse treatment, mental health, domiciliary, homeless, rehabilitation and long term care.
  - Women's gender-specific health care, such as hormone replacement therapy, breast and gynecological care, maternity and limited infertility (excluding in-vitro fertilization).
- Other VA benefits of interest to women Veterans include:
  - Children of women Vietnam Veterans may be eligible for health care and compensation for certain birth defects.
  - Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) for the loss or loss of use of specific organs or extremities, to include hysterectomy and loss of a percentage of tissue from a single breast, or both breasts due to mastectomy, or radiation treatment.
  - Military Sexual Trauma (MST) counseling and treatment, even without filing a service-connection claim for disability.

How Women Veterans Can Obtain Local Assistance*

- Full-time women Veterans program managers at every VA healthcare facility; Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group (formerly Women Veterans Health Program Office): www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/

- Women Veterans coordinator at every VA regional office: www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp?isFlash-1
- Homeless Veterans coordinators: www.va.gov/homeless/index.cfm
- Minority Veterans program coordinator at every VA healthcare facility, regional office, and national cemetery: www.va.gov/centerforminorityVeterans/

Minority Veterans program coordinator at every VA healthcare facility, regional office, and national cemetery: www.va.gov/centerforminorityVeterans

How to Contact the Center

Staff Members:

Dr. Betty Moseley Brown
Desiree Long
Shannon Middleton
Michelle Terry
Juanita Mullen (Native American Liaison)

Address:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Center for Women Veterans (00W)
810 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20420
Phone: 202-461-6193
Fax: 202-273-7092
Website: www.va.gov/womenvet
Email: 00W@mail.va.gov

Please call your nearest veteran service office for assistance. (See pages 5-7 for local service office listings)

*Department of Veterans Affairs, Center for Women Veterans

Burial Benefits

Families may apply for any of these benefits. Please call your nearest veteran service office for assistance. (See pages 5-7 for local service e office listings)

Burial Assistance, Plot, Internment Allowance Certain benefits are available to assist with the burial expenses of deceased Veterans. Eligibility is established if the Veteran was entitled at the time of death to pension or compensation (or if the receipt of military retired pay negated compensation). Eligibility is also established if the Veteran died while hospitalized or domiciled in a VA facility or other facility at VA expense.

National Cemetery Burial

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available at no cost to eligible Veterans and their spouses and eligible dependants and includes the gravesite, liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine.

For Veterans, this benefit also includes a flag and military honors, family members and others may request a Presidential Memorial Certificate. See their web site at www.cem.va.gov/bbene/bbene.asp.

Burial Flags

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to his or her country.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will furnish a burial flag of memorialization for each other than dishonorable discharged:

- Veteran who served during wartime
- Veteran who died on active duty after May 27, 1941
- services for blind and visually impaired Veterans
- Veteran who served after January 31, 1955
- peacetime Veteran who was discharged or released before June 27, 1950
- certain persons who served in the organized military forces of

the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951
- certain former members of the Selected Reserves

Grave Marker or Headstone
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will furnish a headstone or marker without charge for the unmarked grave of a Veteran who was separated from the service under conditions other than dishonorable or who died on active duty. Medal of Honor recipients are entitled to headstones or markers.

Bereavement Counseling
VA Vet Centers provide bereavement counseling to all family members of service members who died while on active duty.

Cartage and Erection Fees
When the federal government has furnished a headstone or marker, IDVA shall pay up to the allowable reimbursement amount for the setting of such marker within Illinois. Currently the maximum amount is $100 payable upon approval of the application.

Grave Registration
The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs maintains a Roll of Honor of all known Veterans buried in the State of Illinois.

Indigent Veterans
The county Veterans Assistance Commission provides burial for any honorably discharged indigent veteran, or their mothers, fathers, spouse or surviving minor children without sufficient means of paying. Maximum benefit is $600.

Housing Benefits

Home Loan Guaranty
VA home loan guaranties are designed to help Veterans, reservists and unmarried surviving spouses obtain homes and refinance loans. In addition to periods of eligibility and conditions of service requirements, applicants must have a good credit rating, sufficient income, a certificate of eligibility and agree to live in the property.
A VA guaranteed loan can be used to:
- buy a home, a manufactured home, or a condominium
- build, repair or improve a home (including energy efficient improvements) refinance an existing loan

Illinois GI Home Credit Program
The program allows Illinois Veterans and active duty members who are first time homebuyers to take advantage of the MCC Mortgage credit certificate. The credit reduces the amount of federal income tax the borrower must pay. Please contact the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

Specially Adapted Housing Tax Exemption
This state exemption is allowed on the assessed value of real property for which federal funds have been used for the purchase or construction of specially adapted housing for as long as the Veteran, or the spouse, or unmarried surviving spouse resides on the property. To apply, contact or visit your local service office.

Disables Veterans Tax Exemption for Mobile Home
his exemption applies to the tax imposed by the Mobile Home Local Services Tax Act when that property is owned and used exclusively by a disabled veteran, spouse or unmarried surviving spouse as a home. The veteran must first receive authorization of the Specially Adapted Housing Grant by the USDVA, whether benefit is used or not. Applicant must be a permanent resident of the State of Illinois on January 1 of the tax year for which the exemption is being claimed. Disabled veterans that now live in a mobile home and never received the Specially Adapted Housing Grant are not eligible. Please contact your local service office for more information. (see pages 5-7 for local service office listings)

Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption (RVHE)
A veteran may qualify for a $5,000 reduction in the equalized assessed value (EAV) on his or her primary residence for two consecutive assessment (tax) years, the tax year and the following year the veteran returns home from active duty in an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the United States. The veteran must own and occupy the property as his or her principal residence on January 1 of each assessment year. A veteran who acquires a principal residence after January 1 of the tax year he or she returns home is eligible for the exemption on the principal residence owned and occupied on January 1 of the following tax year. Application is required to receive the exemption. Please contact your Chief County Assessment Office for more information.

Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption (DVSHE)
A disabled veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 50% certified by the U. S. Dept of Veterans' Affairs may qualify for a

reduction in equalized assessed value (EAV) on the primary residence occupied on January 1 of the assessment (tax) year. A disabled veteran with at least a 70% service-connected disability will receive a $5,000 reduction in property's EAV. A disabled veteran with at least 50%, but less than 70% service-connected disability, will receive a $2,500 reduction in property's EAV. A surviving spouse of a disabled veteran who has not remarried can continue to receive the DVSHE on his or her primary residence once the exemption is granted to the disabled veteran. Annual application is required to receive the exemption. Please contact your Chief County Assessment Office for more information.

Specially Adapted Housing Grant

The Specially Adapted Housing Grant is a federal benefit available to Veterans or service members who are entitled to compensation for permanent and total service-connected disability due to:

- The loss, or loss of use, of both lower extremities such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes or a wheelchair.
- Blindness in both eyes having only light perception, plus loss or loss of use of one lower extremity.
- The loss, or loss of use, of one lower extremity together with
  1) residuals of organic disease or injury, or
  2) the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity.
- The loss, or loss of use, of both upper extremities, so as to preclude use of the arms at or above the elbows.
- The permanent and total disability is due to a severe burn injury (as so determined).

An eligible Veteran or service member may receive a VA grant of not more than 50 percent of the cost of a specially adapted house, up to the aggregate maximum amount allowable by law. The current maximum grant amount allowable at time of publication is $63,780. This amount will be adjusted annually based on a cost of construction index. The first adjustment occurred Oct. 1, 2009 and will occur each October 1 thereafter. Any future adjustments will increase the grant amounts or leave them unchanged.

Illinois Veterans' Homes

Illinois Veterans with one day or more of service during any wartime period recognized by the US Department of Veterans Affairs as a period of war may qualify. Veterans must have entered military service from the State of Illinois or been a resident for one year prior to

applying to an Illinois Veterans' Home. Applicants must pass background checks through the Illinois Department of corrections and the Illinois State Police.

The Veterans' Home at Quincy
The Veterans' Home at Quincy, the largest in the state, is located in Adams County. The Home provides a broad range of facilities and services including domiciliary, intermediate and skilled care. With a capacity of 551 licensed skilled care beds, the home provides a special needs unit for care of Veterans with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. Anderson and Somerville Barracks offer a home to up to 132 domiciliary residents. Sunset State Veterans' Cemetery located on the campus provides interment and perpetual care for eligible Veterans and spouses. Over 7,000 Veterans and spouses, dating back to the Civil War rest there.

The Veterans' Home at LaSalle
The Veterans' Home at LaSalle is located in LaSalle County. The Home provides skilled nursing care for 160 residents and an additional 40 persons in a special needs unit for Veterans suffering from Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.

The Veterans' Home at Anna
The Veterans' Home at Anna is located in Union County. The Home provides skilled nursing care services to eligible Veterans and can accommodate 50 skilled nursing care residents and 12 people in 6 adjoining apartment style domiciliary units.

The Veterans' Home at Manteno The Veterans' Home at Manteno is located in Kankakee County. The Home can accommodate 300 skilled care residents and 40 in the Alzheimer's/dementia unit. Manteno offers a diverse range of program and services to eligible Veterans.

The Prince Homeless/Disabled Veterans' Home
Located at the Veterans' Home at Manteno, this 15bed program is staffed with social service professionals and provides permanent supportive housing to Veterans, helping them obtain medical and education benefits to which they are entitled, and assisting them with learning/reinforcing the life skills necessary to live independently.

The Veterans' Home at Chicago
The Veterans' Home at Chicago will be located in Cook County on the northwest side of the city onsite at the Reed Mental Health Center. It is scheduled to have a 200bed capacity with a wing for Alzheimer's/dementia patients.

Camping and Admission Fees

Camping Fees
Eligible Veterans, all former Prisoners of War, and immediate family when accompanied by the Veteran, are exempt from camping and admission fees at parks under the control of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The Veteran must be an Illinois resident. Apply at your nearest veteran service office. (see pages 5-7 for local office listings)

No Museum Fees for ExPOWs
ExPOWs are exempt from paying admission fees to any museum that receives state funds.

State Fair
Honorably discharged Veterans and their families are admitted free on Veterans Day at the Illinois State Fair and DuQuoin State Fair.

Fishing and Hunting Licenses

Fishing and Hunting
Free fishing and hunting licenses are issued for disabled veterans and who are receiving 10 percent or greater service-connected compensation, or total disability pension benefits The Veteran may obtain this license from the IDVA by providing disability documentation that is no more than one year old. To acquire a permit, contact your local service office. (see pages 5-7 for local service office listings)

Transportation

Military Service Pass
This Chicago Transit Authority pass is available to all active duty, Reserves and National Guard members as well as Veterans who are 10 percent or more service-connected disabled. This pass is only good on CTA. You must come in person the first Tuesday of every month to 100 W. Randolph, Suite 5507 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., or the fourth

Tuesday of every month to Jesse Brown VA medical Center, 820 S. Damen Ave., Room 2446, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Other Veteran Programs

Veterans Conservation Corps

The Veterans Conservation Corps is a joint program from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Volunteers are needed and there is a variety of opportunities available so there is something for everyone. If you are interested in becoming a member of Conservation Corps, the first step is to meet with a Veteran Service Officer in your area or call the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. (see pages 5-7 for local service e office listings)

Veterans Cash Grant

Veterans Cash is the Lottery's first lottery ticket where 100 percent of proceeds go to support Illinois Veterans. Proceeds from the sale of this ticket are deposited into an interest bearing account in the State Treasury called the Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund. The Illinois General Assembly appropriates this money solely to IDVA who will award the money in grants, fund additional services or conduct research relating to veterans' Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, homelessness, health insurance costs, long term care and disability benefits. Since 2006, Veterans Cash has awarded more than $6 million to organizations supporting Illinois Veterans. To apply for a Veterans Cash grant, download, complete, and mail a Veterans Cash Grant Application, which can be found at the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs web site at www.veterans.illinois.gov/programs/veterans_cash.htm

Veteran of the Month

Each month, on behalf of the Illinois Governor, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Director will recognize an individual who contributes to the betterment of communities and other Veterans across the State of Illinois. For more information, contact IDVA at (312) 814-5538.

The Illinois Military Family Relief Fund

The Illinois Military Family Relief Fund (IMFRF) provides monetary grants to Illinois National Guard members and Illinois residents serving in the U.S. Armed Forces Reserve Components and their families who were called to active duty as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

IMFRF grants are intended to help Service Members and their

families defray the costs of food, housing, utilities, medical services and other expenses that become difficult to afford when a wage earner has temporarily left civilian employment to be placed on active military duty. The fund also provides for those wounded in combat. Toll-Free in IL: (866) 524-4564 or 217-761-3452

Incarcerated Veterans Program

The Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program (IVTP), is a multi-agency initiative operated by the Illinois Departments of Corrections, Veterans' Affairs and Employment Security, and aimed at cutting down the recidivism rate among veterans. To date, nearly 300 incarcerated veterans have voluntarily participated in the program, which is expected to further expand to all of the state's medium and minimum-security correctional centers.

Disabled Veterans License Plates and Parking

Disabled Veteran License Plates may be issued at no cost for the first set of plates to any U.S. Armed Forces Veteran if (1) the veteran holds proof of a service-connected disability from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (2) a licensed physician has certified that because of the service-connected disability the veteran qualifies for the issuance of a disabled placard or plate.

The following special plates are available to Veterans who qualify. Please visit a Secretary of State of Illinois office, or visit their web site at:www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/ vehicles/licenseplateguide/specialtyplates/military/home.html

- Disabled Veteran
- Congressional Medal of Honor
- POW/MIA Illinois Remembers
- Illinois National Guard
- Armed Forces Reserves
- Purple Heart
- Armed Forces Retired Pearl Harbor Survivor Korean War Veteran
- Bronze Star
- Universal Veteran
- Silver Star
- Vietnam Veteran
- World War II Veteran
- West Point Bicentennial
- U.S. Marine Corps Veteran
- Gold Star Family
- Paratrooper

- Korean Service
- Iraq Campaign
- Afghanistan Campaign
- Distinguished Service Cross
- Army Veteran
- Navy Veteran
- Air Force Cross
- Navy Cross
- ExPOW
- Universal Veteran Motorcycle

American Red Cross
The American Red Cross Service to Armed Forces (SAF) program addresses the needs of military family emergencies. The Red Cross is chartered by the United States Congress to act as a communications medium between military personnel and their families; however receives no governmental funding for the program. The United States Armed Forces recognizes the American Red Cross emergency messages as the verifying source of an individual crisis in a military member's family. This information enables commanders to make informed decisions regarding emergency leave when a military family faces crises such as death, critical illness, financial problems or birth. The American Red Cross is the ONLY agency that can provide emergency communications for military members and their families. The Chapter also presents SAF information to military support groups and military personnel.

VA Hospitals

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
820 S. Damen Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612
12-569-8387

VA Illiana Health Care System
1900 E. Main Street
Danville, IL 61832
217-554-3000 or 888-838-6446

Edward Hines Jr. VA Medical Center
5000 S. Fifth Avenue
Hines, IL 60141
708-202-8387

Marion VA Medical Center
2401 West Main Street Marion, IL 62959
618-997-5311

North Chicago VA Medical Center
3001 Green Bay Road North
Chicago, Illinois 60064
800-393-0865 or 847-688-1900

VA Outpatient Clinics

Aurora Veterans Outpatient Clinic
1700 N. Landmark Road Aurora, IL 6050
630-859-2504

Auburn Gresham (Chicago) Clinic
7731 S Halsted Street Chicago, IL 60620
773-962-3700

Lakeside Chicago VA Outpatient Clinic
211 E. Ontario Street Chicago, IL 60611
312-569-8387

Chicago Heights VA Outpatient Clinic
30 East 15th Street (Suite 207) Chicago Heights, IL 60411
708-756-5454

Elgin VA Outpatient Clinic
450 W. Dundee Elgin, IL 60123
847-742-5920 Fax: 847-742-6124

Evanston VA Outpatient Clinic
1942 Dempster Street Evanston, IL 60202
847-869-6315

William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital
2500 Overlook Terrace Madison, WI 53705
608-256-1901 or 888-478-8321

Oak Park Clinic
5th & Roosevelt Rd Bldg 228 Hines, IL 60141
708-202-8387Ext. 29600

Joliet VA Outpatient Clinic
2000 Glenwood Avenue Joliet, IL 60435
815-744-0492

LaSalle Veterans Outpatient Clinic
2970 Chartres LaSalle, IL 61301
815-223-9678

Manteno Veterans Outpatient Clinic (part of Hines VA)
One Veterans Drive Manteno, IL 60950
815-468-1027

McHenry County VA Outpatient Clinic
620 South Route 31 McHenry, IL 60050
815-759-2306

Oak Lawn VA Outpatient Clinic
4700 W. 95th Street Oak Lawn, IL 60453
708-499-3675

Rockford Outpatient Clinic
4940 East State Street Rockford, IL 61108
815-227-0081

Belleville VA Clinic
6500 W Main St Belleville, IL 62223
314-286-6988

Decatur VA Outpatient Clinic
3035 East Mound Road Decatur, IL 62526-9381
217-875-2670

Effingham Community Outpatient Clinic
1901 S 4th St Suite 21
Effingham, IL 62401
217-347-7600

Galesburg VA Clinic
387 East Grove
Galesburg, IL 61401
309-343-0311

Mt. Vernon Community Outpatient Clinic
4105 N. Water Tower Place Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
618-246-2910

Bob Michel VA Outpatient Clinic
411 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Peoria, IL 61605-2400
309-497- 0790

Quincy VA Clinic
1707 North 12th Street Quincy, IL 62301
217-224-3366

Springfield VA Outpatient Clinic
5850 S. Sixth Street Springfield, IL 62702
217-529-5046 Fax: 217-529-6154

VA Vet Centers

Chicago Veterans Resource Center
7731 S. Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60620-2412 773-962-3740

Chicago Heights Center 1600 Halsted Street
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
708-754-0340

DuPage County Vet Center 750 Shoreline Dr.
Aurora, IL 60506
708-516-7529
East St. Louis Vet Center 1265 N. 89th Street Suite 5
East St. Louis, IL 62203
618-397-6602

Evanston Vet Center 565 Howard St.
Evanston, IL 60202
847-332-1019

Quad Cities Vet Center 1529 46th Avenue #6
Moline, IL 61265
309-762-6954

Oak Park Vet Center 155 S. Oak Park Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302
708-383-3225

Peoria Vet Center 3310 N. Prospect Road
Peoria, IL 61603
309-688-2170

Rockford Vet Center 4960 E. State St. #3
Rockford, IL 61108
815-395-1276

Springfield Vet Center 1227 S. Ninth Street
Springfield, IL 62703
217-492-4955

Chicago VA Regional Office 2122 W Taylor Street
Chicago, IL 60612
800-827-1000

VA Cemeteries

Danville National Cemetery
1900 East Main Street Danville, IL 61832
217-554-4550 or 4291 FAX: 217-554-4803

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
20953 W. Hoff Road Elwood, IL 60421
815-423-9958 FAX: 815-423-5824

Mound City National Cemetery
HWY Junction 37 & 51 Mound City, IL 62963
314-845-8320 FAX: 314-845-8355

Quincy National Cemetery
36th and Maine Street
Quincy, IL 62301
309-782-2094 FAX: 309-782-2097

Rock Island National Cemetery
Bldg 118, Rock Island Arsenal
Rock Island, IL 61299
309-782-2094 FAX: 309-782-2097

Camp Butler National Cemetery
5063 Camp Butler Road
Springfield, IL 62707
217-492-4070 FAX: 217-492-4072

RESOURCES

Court of Claims
www.sos.state.il.us/departments/court_of_claims/home.html
- Global War on Terrorism Survivors Compensation

Fisher House
www.fisherhouse.org
- Comfort Homes
- Scholarships for Children of Military

Illinois Association **of** County Veterans **Assistance Commission**
www.iacvac.org
- Utility and Rental Assistance
- Emergency Housing
- Food Certificates Assistance
- Burial Assistance

Illinois Attorney General
www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights/veterans.html
800-382-3000 TTY: 800-964-3013
- Case Advocacy
- Health Outreach
- Public Advocacy Forums

Illinois Dept. **of** Commerce **&** Economic Opportunity
www.commerce.state.il.us/
- Landlord/Tenant Rights Education
- Family Case Management Program
- Housing Rental Assistance (contact local housing authority)
- First Stop Business Information Center www.illinoisbiz.biz/dceo/ 800--252-2923

Illinois Dept. **of** Aging
www.state.il.us/aging/
800-252-8966
- Adult Day Services
- Case Management
- Choices for Care
- Homemaker
- Senior Companion
- Family Caregiver Support Program
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Meals, Congregate and Home Delivered
- Senior Centers
- Transportation
- The Illinois Volunteer Money Management Program

Illinois Dept. of Central Management Services (CMS)
www.cms.illinois.gov/
800-643-8138
- Veterans Preference
- Veterans Outreach Program

Illinois Dept. of Employment Security (IDES)
www.ides.state.il.us/
888-367-4382
- Veterans Employment & Training Service Program

Illinois Dept. of Human Services
www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx
800-843-6154
TTY: 800-447-6404
- Food Stamps
- Temporary assistance for needy families (TANF)
- Child Care Services
- Emergency Food & Shelter Program
- Homeless Prevention Program
- Supportive Housing Program
- Teen Services
- Women & Infant Children (WIC)
- Substance Abuse Detox
- Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment
- Inpatient Substance Abuse Treatment
- Family Case Management
- Early Intervention
- Domestic Violence Services
- Development Disabilities
- Client Assistance Program
- Independent Living Program
- Services for Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Blind Services

Illinois Dept. of Military Affairs (IL National Guard)
www.il.ngb.army.mil
Individual phone numbers are listed in other sections
- Monetary
- Illinois Military Family Relief Fund
- Pay Differential
- Education
- Army Continuing Education Systems
- DANTES Distance Learning Program
- Student Loan Repayment Program
- Illinois National Guard Grant

- Children's Scholarship Fund
- Family Readiness Groups
- Legal Assistance
- Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Program (ESGR)
- Life insurance SGLI
- Family Assistance Centers
- TriCare

Illinois Dept. of Public Aid

- Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

www.liheapillinois.com/

- •IL Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP)

www.weatherizationillinois.com/

- Child Support Enforcement Program

www.ilchildsupport.com

800-447-4278

- Kidcare & Moms and Babies

www.allkidscovered.com/

866-468-7543 TTY: 877-204-1012

- Family Care

www.familycareillinois.com/

866-468-7543

TTY: 877-204-1012

- Health Benefits for Workers with Disabilities

www.hbwdillinois.com/

800-226-0768

TTY: 866-675-8440

- Senior Care Pharmaceutical

www.seniorcareillinois.com

800-226-0768

Illinois Dept. of Revenue

www.revenue.state.il.us

800-732-8866

- Tax Assistance

Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)

www.collegezone.com

800-899-4722

- Illinois Veterans Grant (Reserve & National Guard may be eligible)
- Illinois National Guard Grant

Illinois Veterans Resource Center (Vet Center)

www.va.gov/rcs

- Counseling
- Readjustment

- Family
- Individual
- Bereavement
- Sexual Trauma
- Chicago 773-962-3740
- Chicago Heights 708-754-0340
- East St. Louis 618-397-6602
- Evanston 847-332-1019
- Moline 309-762-6954
- Oak Park 708-383-3225
- Peoria 309-688-2170
- Rockford 815-395-1276
- Springfield 217-492-4955

State Approving Agency
www.state.il.us/agency/dva/fedben.htm
217-782-7839
- GI Bill for on the job Training and Apprenticeship

University of Illinois
www.osfa.uiuc.edu/aid/scholarships/waivers_COV.html
- Children of Veterans Scholarship

USA Jobs
www.usajobs.opm.gov
- Federal Government Employment

U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM)
www.opm.gov/veterans
202-606-1800
TTY: 202-606-2532
- Veterans Preference
- Vet Guide

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
www.va.gov
800-827-1000
- Survivor Benefits
- Death Pension
- Medical Care for Dependents and Survivors (CHAMPVA)
- Compensation
- Pension
- Automobile Assistance
- Specially Adapted Housing
- Homelessness Assistance
- Burial & Reimbursement Benefits

- Military Discharges
- Burial Flag
- Government Headstone & Marker
- Home Loan Guarantee
- GI Bill www.gibill.va.gov 888-442-4551
- Dependent Education
- Service Disabled Veterans Insurance

www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/default.htm
877-222-VETS (8387)

- Outpatient/Inpatient
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse
- Prescription Assistance
- Emergency Care
- Counseling
- Dental
- Travel Expenses
- Preventive Care
- Pregnancy & Delivery Service
- Respite Hospice & Palliative Care
- Eye Glasses & Hearing Aids
- Prosthetics
- Orthotic Devices
- Bereavement Counseling
- Medical Consultation
- Home Health Services
- Surgical
- Homeless Support Assistance
- Sexual Abuse
- Women's Veterans Health Program

www.publichealth.va.gov/omenshealth/

STATE RESOURCES WEBSITES AND PHONE

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
www.veterans.illinois.gov/
312-814-2460 or 217-782-6641 **Facebook:** www.facebook.com (search: The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs) **Twitter:** www.twitter.com/ILVetsAffairs

Illinois Military Family Relief Fund
www.il.ngb.army.mil
866-524-4564 or 217-761-3452

Illinois Student Assistance Commission
www.collegezone.com
800-899-4722

Illinois Department of Employment Security
www.ides.state.il.us/veterans/default.asp

888-367-4382
Illinois Tax Filing requirements for military personnel:
www.revenue.state.il.us/Publications/Pubs/Pub102.pdf
800-732-8866
Illinois tax on military retirement:
www.revenue.state.il.us/LegalInformation/letter/rulings/it/2001/ig010060.pdf
800-732-8866
Illinois Department of Public Health:
www.idph.state.il.us/
312-814-2608 or 217-782-4977
Illinois Attorney General Veterans Rights Bureau:
www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights/veterans.html
Chicago: 312-814-3000 TTY: 800-964-3013 Springfield:
217-782-1090 TTY: 877-844-5461

Secretary of State:
www.sos.state.il.us
800-252-8980
Veterans Outreach Program (State of Illinois):
www.work.illinois.gov/
Check web site for specific phone numbers
Illinois Association of County Veteran Assistance Commission:
www.iacvac.org
Health Coverage for Illinois Parents:
www.familycareillinois.com
866-255-5437 TTY: 877-204-1012
Circuit Breaker:
www.revenue.state.il.us/publications/bulletins/2001/Fy200116.pdf
800-624-2459 TTY: 800-544-5304
Military License Plates:
www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/vehicles/licenseplateguide/
specialtyplates/military/home.html
800-252-8980
Employer Support for Guard and Reserve:
www.esgr.org
217-761-3642
Military Funerals:
217-761-3873
Legal Services:
217-761-3510
Inspector General:
866-204-7704 or 217-761-3730
Illinois Department of Human Services:
www.dhs.state.il.us
800-843-6154 TTY: 800-447-6404
American Red Cross:
www.ilredcross.org/
217-787-7602

FEDERAL

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
www.va.gov
800-827-1000
GI Bill
www.gibill.va.gov
888-442-4551
U.S. Department of Labor/Veterans Employment & Training Service
www.dol.gov/vets
Housing and Urban Development Veteran Resource Center
www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet
National Personnel Record Center
www.archives.gov/stlouis/militarypersonnel/
Armed Forces Tax Information
www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=97273,00.html
Service member's Group Life Insurance/Veterans' Group Life Ins.
www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/default.htm
Small Business Administration (SBA)
www.sba.gov/vets
800-827-5722
Office of Personnel Management
www.opm.gov/veterans
DoD per diem, travel and transportation allowance rates
www.defensetravel.dod.mil/perdiempdrates.html
Deployment Health Support
www.deploymentlink.osd.mil
U.S. Army Community & Family Support Center
www.armymwr.org
National Guard Association of the United States
www.ngaus.org

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

American ExPrisoners of War (National)
www.axpow.org
American Legion (Illinois)
www.illegion.org
AMVETS (National)
www.amvets.org
Blinded Veterans of America (National)
www.bva.org
Disabled American Veterans (National)
www.dav.org
Marine Corps League
www.mcleague.org
Military Order of the Purple Heart
www.purpleheart.org
National Guard Association of Illinois
www.ngai.com
Paralyzed Veterans of America
www.pva.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars (Illinois)
www.vfwil.org
Vietnam Veterans of America
www.vva.org

MISCELLANEOUS

USO
www.uso.org
Fisher House
www.fisherhouse.org
Virtual Armory
www.virtualarmory.com/

FEDERAL

VA Health Care Benefits
877-222-8387
Mammography Hotline
888-487-1970
National Service Life Insurance
800-669-8477
Electronic Funds Transfer Direct Deposit (USDVA)
877-838-2778
Veterans Special Issues/Persian Gulf Agent Orange
800-749-8387
U.S. Naval Home
800-332-3527

HOMELESS VETERANS RESOURCES

Illinois Dept. of Human Services
www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx
800-843-6154 TTY: 800-447-6404
National Coalition of Homeless Veterans
www.nchv.org/
800VetHelp (800-838-4357)
Salvation Army
www.salvationarmyusa.org/
City of Chicago Department of Human Services
www.cityofchicago.org/humanservices/
Non-Emergency: 311 Emergencies: 911
Featherfist
www.featherfist.com
773-721-7088
InnerVoice (Cook County)
312-666-8110
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center (Cook County)
312-569-8085
Hines VA Medical Center (Cook County)
708-202-8387
North Chicago VA Medical Center
800-393-0865

Lakeview Shelter (Cook County)
773-327-1389
Elder Care Locator
800-677-1116
US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development Homeless Shelters Around Illinois
www.hud.gov/local/il/homeless/shelters/sheltertable.cfm
Illinois Board of Education Homeless Education
http://homelessed.net/
Evanston Alliance on Homelessness
www.evhomeless.org/
Bridge Communities
www.bridgecommunities.org/index.html
Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans
www.helpaveteran.org/

CEDA—Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Incorporated

One of the largest private non-profit organizations in the country, CEDA serves more than 200,000 Cook County residents annually. Over 30 programs and services are offered in the areas of child and family development, health and nutrition services, senior citizen programs, economic development, employment and job training, housing services, education services and community development.

We are constantly improving and expanding our services to further aid our mission of assisting individuals, families and communities. CEDA has over 650 full and part-time employees, and nearly 4,500 volunteers, dedicated to helping Chicago and suburban Cook County area residents attain economic self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life.

Some of the programs/information available includes:

- **Computer Literacy**
- **Child and Family Development**
- **ComEd Residential Special Hardship Fund**
- **Community Nutrition Network**
- **Comprehensive Housing Service Program**
- **Educational Enrichment**
- **Employment and Training**
- **Family Case Management**
- **Financial Literacy**
- **Head Start and Early Head Start**
- **Home Energy Assistance Program**
- **Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP)**

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
- **Relief for Seniors/Disabled**
- **Residential Energy Assistance Challenge (REACH)**
- **Self Employment Training Program (SERT)**
- **Small Business Loan Program**
- **Transitional Housing Program for U.S. Veterans**
- **Veteran Benefit Enrollment Program**
- **Vocational and Educational Scholarships**
- **Women & Infant Child (WIC)**
- **Workforce Investment Act Program**For more information, visit our website at www.cedaorg.net, or call 800-571-CEDA.

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