Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

A guide to veteran state and federal benefits and services

A roadmap for how IDVA can help veterans obtain their earned benefits and services

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Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

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Illinois Department Of Veterans' Affairs

Who we are and what we can do for you

Mission

The mission of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) is to empower veterans and their families to thrive. We do this by placing them and their families at the center of our efforts to connect them with their earned benefits through long-term health care, education, housing, employment, and other services across the state.

Vision

As the Nation's leader in veteran services, Illinois is the destination of choice for veterans and their families.

Guiding Principles

Courtesy, Accountability, Respect and Excellence

Introduction

As an Illinois veteran, you have earned benefits and services designed to support your education, career, and health care aspirations from the federal government and the state of Illinois. Each veteran has a unique background and situation qualifying him/her for a wide range of benefits.

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) is your vehicle for uncovering and obtaining the benefits and services that apply to you. With Veterans Service Officers across the state, we work with each veteran to discuss his/her personal, family, and health circumstances and identify which services and benefits will work for you.

How is IDVA different from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs?

There is often confusion over the difference between the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA).

- The IDVA is here as your local advocate to ensure you obtain your earned benefits at the federal and state level.
- While we don't dispense federal benefits, we help you identify and apply for these benefits. We also locate the Illinois benefits you have earned.
- We help you navigate both systems, so the process is less cumbersome and that you don't miss out on opportunities that are available to you.
- The IDVA also offers five veterans' homes across the state for those seeking residential care. The VA Healthcare System is ran by the federal government, but our Veterans Service Officer have resources to help you find the right place for you.

For more information, we encourage you to visit our website at: https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans or call: **1-800-437-9824 to reach a Veterans Service Officer** to discuss your needs and uncover the possibilities that will open doors for you, your family, and your future.

Compensation and Pension

Veterans are eligible for various forms of federal and State of Illinois compensation and pension based on individual circumstances. Your local IDVA Veteran Service Officer will guide you through the process to identify and apply for benefits and services available to you.

State of Illinois: Compensation

Line of Duty Compensation

Line of Duty Compensation is administered by the Illinois Court of Claims and provides approximately $347,904 to the surviving next of kin of Illinois service members killed in the line of duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Federal: Compensation

Combat Related Special Compensation

Combat-Related Special Compensation is a tax-free payment to retired veterans with combat-related disabilities. You must apply for CRSC through the service branch from which you retired.

Concurrent Retirement/Disability Payments (CRDP)

Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) allows military retirees to receive both military retired pay and Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation.

Disability Compensation

Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a veteran for disabilities that are a result of service-related injuries or diseases that occurred while on active duty, active-duty training, or inactive duty-training. Disability compensation is also paid to certain veterans whose disability is the result of treatment from VA health care.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for Service-Connected Deaths

DIC monthly benefits are awarded to eligible survivors of a military service member whose death occurred while on active duty or whose death is connected to a service-related injury.

Pensions

Veterans Pension

Disability pension is paid to wartime veterans with disabilities with limited income or are age 65 and older.

Survivors Pension

The death pension is paid to eligible dependents of deceased veterans.

Aid and Attendance (A&A)

Aid and Attendance is a monthly benefit paid to an eligible veteran or surviving spouse requiring the support of an individual to perform daily functions, is bedridden, resides in a nursing home, or is blind.

Housebound

Housebound is paid to an eligible veteran with a permanent disability and is confined to his/her home.

Vietnam Veterans

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has identified 14 illnesses connected directly to the Vietnam War and exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides: Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, respiratory cancers, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, acute and sub-acute peripheral neuropathy, type 2 diabetes, all chronic B cell leukemias, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease. Compensation is awarded specific to the disease and severity.

Gulf War Veterans

Gulf War Veterans may receive compensation for chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses and medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses.

Prisoners of War

The trauma of being a prisoner of war transcends far beyond service. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has identified consistent conditions that former POWs experience and compensation and awards based on individual circumstances.

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.

Documentation

Discharges, Service Records and Medals
The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs assists veterans in obtaining their discharge papers (DD214), service records, medical records, medals, ribbons, and awards.

Discharge Upgrades
IDVA assists in applying for discharge upgrades and corrections.

Bonuses

The State of Illinois offers a one-time bonus for veterans who served honorably during a time of war. Certain medals are needed to qualify.

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 $900 if the veteran's death was service-connected, because of hostile action with unfriendly forces, and within the period specified above.

Korean War Bonus
A $100 Korean War bonus is payable to veterans who served between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1953 and received the Korean Service Medal.

Vietnam War Bonus
Veterans who received the Vietnam Service Medal or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Award are awarded a $100 bonus. The veteran must haves served between January 1, 1961, and March 28, 1973, or served in Operation Frequent Wind, Vietnam, April 29 and 30, 1975.

Persian Gulf War Bonus
Veterans who received the Southwest Asia Service Medal and served between August 2, 1990, and November 30, 1995, are awarded a $100 bonus. Individuals currently on active duty and meet this criterion must have their command complete an Armed Forces Certificate found on our web site. www2.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/default.aspx

Global War on Terrorism

Veterans who served on or after September 11, 2001, and received either the Global War on Terrorism expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, or the Iraq Campaign Medal are eligible for a $100 bonus. Eligibility includes serving at least 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days of foreign or sea service, residing in Illinois 12 months immediately prior to entering the service and discharged honorably. Individuals currently on active duty and meet this criterion must have their command complete an Armed Forces Certificate found on our web site. www2.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/default.aspx

Vietnam Survivors Compensation

Vietnam Veteran survivors are entitled to a payment of $1,000 if the veteran's death is service-connected due to conditions presumptive to exposure from herbicides as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Global War on Terrorism Survivors Compensation

Survivors of veterans who were killed by terrorist acts or hostile activities during military service on or after September 11, 2001, are entitled to compensation of $3,000. Their service is terminated with a DD 1300 Report of Casualty. 12 months prior to entering the service.

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 held prisoner by hostile forces in South East Asia are entitled to a $50 bonus for each month held captive.

Education Benefits

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Education Programs

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs administers two education programs for dependent children of certain veterans: The Educational Opportunity Grant and the MIA-POW Scholarship.

Educational Opportunity Grant

The Educational Opportunity Grant of $250 is provided annually to each child between the ages of 10 and 18 years of a veteran who either died on active duty, who's death is ruled service connected, is 100% totally and permanently disabled, or 100% disabled for at least two years. The Educational Opportunity Grant applies to a state educational institution, such as elementary school, middle or junior high school, high school, or vocational training school. Applicants must apply annually during the academic year to receive the grant.

Additional information and the application for this program may be found at https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/services%20benefits/education/Pages/Educational-Opportunities-for-Children.aspx.

MIA-POW Scholarship

The State of Illinois provides an education scholarship to attend an Illinois public university or community college for the dependents of veterans who are either Missing-In-Action, a Prisoner of War, died while on active duty, s 100% totally and permanently disabled, or died because of a service-connected disabilities.

Additional information and a link to the online application for this program may be found at https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/services%20benefits/education/Pages/MIAPOW-Scholarship.aspx.

Other State of Illinois Education Programs

The Illinois National Guard Grant

The Illinois National Guard Grant covers tuition and fees to attend an Illinois public university or community college for active members of the Illinois National Guard who meet program eligibility criteria.

Additional information about this program may be found at https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/ING-grant-program.html.

The Illinois Veterans Grant

The Illinois Veterans Grant covers tuition and fees to attend an Illinois public university or community college for veterans who meet program eligibility criteria.

Additional information about this program may be found at https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/grants/IVG-program.html.

Children of Veterans Tuition Waiver

The Children of Veterans Tuition Waiver is a four-year consecutive in-state tuition waiver at the University of Illinois given to natural, step, or legally adopted children of service members who are veterans.

Additional information about this program may be found at https://osfa.illinois.edu/types-of-aid/waivers/

Education Benefits

Federal Education Benefits

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Veterans Service Office are also to assist veterans, military service members and family members with applying for the following federal educational benefit programs.

Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)

The Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) helps pay for approved education and training programs. If you've served on active duty after September 10, 2001, you may qualify for the Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33).

Additional information about this program may be found at https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/.

Transfer of Entitlement (Chapter 33)

Military service members eligible for Chapter 33 may be able to transfer their Chapter 33 entitlement to their spouse or dependent children. The Department of Defense administers this program.

Additional information about this program may be found at https://www.va.gov/education/transfer-post-9-11-gi-bill-benefits/.

Fry Scholarship (Chapter 33)

If you are the child or surviving spouse of a service member who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001, you may qualify for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship).

Additional information about this program may be found at https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/fry-scholarship/.

Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30)

The Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30) helps honorably discharged veterans pay for approved education and training programs for those who have served on active duty for at least 2 years since June 30, 1985.

Additional information about this program may be found at https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/montgomery-active-duty/.

Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)

The Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) program offers up to 36 months of education and training benefits. If you are a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, or Air National Guard, you may be eligible for this benefit.

Additional information about this program may be found at https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/montgomery-selected-reserve/.

Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance (Chapter 35)

If you are the child or spouse of a veteran or service member who has died, is captured, or missing, the Veteran or service member is permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability, you may be able to get help paying for school or job training through the DEA program—also called Chapter 35.

Additional information about this program may be found at https://www.va.gov/education/survivor-dependent-benefits/dependents-education-assistance/.

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 www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab

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 honorably. Preference is also provided for certain widows and widowers.

Jobs for Vets

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) provides a trained 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: www2.illinois.gov/ides/individuals/Pages/Veteran_Services.aspx

Employment Assistance for Air National Guard

State employees that serve in the Reserve Components 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: www2.illinois.gov/sites/work/pages/vetsopgm.aspx

Veterans Tax Credit

The State of Illinois provides a $1,200 tax credit to businesses that hire a veteran. Visit: https://www2.illinois.gov/rev/Pages/default.aspxIllinois

Reemployment Rights

Reserve Components called to active duty are protected under state and federal law. For more information, visit the Office of the State Attorney at: www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights/veterans.html

Women Veterans

Our Mission
To build a strong community of women veterans and spread awareness of their earned benefits and community resources.

Our Vision
To empower Illinois women veterans and their families to thrive.

Illinois is home to nearly 50,000 women veterans. Nationally, the women veteran population is small in comparison to their male counterparts, however, studies show that by 2040 the women veteran population is expected to nearly double, making women the fastest growing veteran population.

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.

To locate your nearest Veteran Service Officer, call the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs at 800-437-9824 or visit our website: https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans. Female Veteran Service Officers are available.

United States Department of Veteran Affairs Benefits and Programs for Women Veterans

Center for Women Veterans
VA's Center for Women Veterans monitors and coordinates VA's administration of benefit services and programs for women Veterans. The Center advocates for a cultural transformation that recognizes the service and contributions of women Veterans and women in the military, and also raises awareness of the responsibility to treat women Veterans with dignity and respect.

VA Health Care for Women Veterans
At each VA medical center nationwide, a Women Veterans Program Manager (WVPM) is designated to advise and advocate for women Veterans. The WVPM can help coordinate all the services you may need, from primary care to specialized care for chronic conditions or reproductive health. Woman Veterans who are interested in receiving care at VA should contact the nearest VA Medical Center and ask for the WVPM.

What services does VA provide for Veterans who experienced MST?
VA offers free treatment for mental and physical health conditions related to MST and stands ready to support you in whatever way will help you best. This could include learning more about the effects of MST, treatment that helps you cope with how the experience of MST is impacting your life, or, for individuals who are ready, treatment

that involves discussing your experiences in more depth. You may always ask for a provider of a specific gender if it would make you feel more comfortable. Note that you may be able to receive free MST-related care even if you are not eligible for other VA care.

MST-related services available through VA include:

- An MST Coordinator available at every VA health care system who can answer any questions you have about MST-related services and can help you find and access VA services and programs.
- Free MST-related mental health and medical care at every VA medical center and many VA community-based outpatient clinics.
- Free MST-related counseling at Vet Centers.
- Residential (live-in) or inpatient programs for more intensive mental health treatment and support. Some facilities have separate residential programs for women only. All residential programs have separate sleeping areas for men and women.

Women Veterans: Illinois VA Medical Centers

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center Chicago

Our women's health program offers complete health care for women veterans of all ages. Our primary care providers specialize in women's health. They work closely with specialists in gynecology, obstetrics, female urology, oncology, medicine, radiology, surgery, and breast illness. Our services for women Veterans include:

- Ultrasounds, mammograms, Pap and HPV tests
- Mental health care and counseling
- Lifestyle wellness services
- Menopause treatment, including hormonal therapy
- Family planning, contraceptive care, and infertility evaluation

Contact Information:
820 South Damen Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612-3728
Phone: 312-569-8387

Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital

Our women's health program offers complete health care for women veterans of all ages. Our primary care providers specialize in women's health. They work closely with specialists in gynecology, obstetrics, female urology, oncology, medicine, radiology, surgery, and breast illness. Our services for women Veterans include:

- Ultrasounds, mammograms, Pap and HPV tests
- Mental health care and counseling
- Lifestyle wellness services
- Menopause treatment, including hormonal therapy
- Family planning, contraceptive care, and infertility evaluation

Contact Information:
5000 South 5th Avenue
Hines, IL 60141-3030
Phone: 708-202-8387

VA Illiana Health Care System

Our women's health program offers complete health care for women veterans of all ages. Our primary care providers specialize in women's health. They work closely with specialists in gynecology, obstetrics, female urology, oncology, medicine, radiology, surgery, and breast illness. Our services for women veterans include:

- Ultrasounds, mammograms, Pap and HPV tests
- Mental health care and counseling
- Lifestyle wellness services
- Menopause treatment, including hormonal therapy
- Family planning, contraceptive care, and infertility evaluation

Contact Information:
1900 East Main Street
Danville, IL 61832-5100
Phone: 217-554-3000

Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (North Chicago)

The FHCC is committed to meeting the unique needs of women veterans by delivering the highest quality health care to each woman, while offering her the privacy, dignity, and sensitivity that she deserves. Lovell offers comprehensive primary health care to women veterans at the main facility in both the Women's Health Clinic as well as the Primary Care Clinic. Comprehensive Primary Care is also available at our outpatient clinics located in McHenry, Evanston, and Kenosha.

Contact Information:
3001 Green Bay Road, North Chicago, IL 60064
Phone: 224-610-1123

Marion VA Medical Center

VA Marion health care supports the health, welfare, and dignity of female Veterans and their familes by ensuring equal access to timely, sensitive, and quality care. A women Veteran care coordinator can help you get the services you need.

- Maternity care, childbirth education classes and postpartum support
- Gynecology
- Ultrasounds and mammograms
- Mental health care and counseling
- Lifestyle wellness services

Contact Information:
32401 West Main Street, Marion, IL 62959
Main phone: (618) 997-5311

Women Veterans NOT using your earned VA Benefits & Services, the USDVA Center for Women Veterans would love to hear from you. Please take their survey, it takes 5 minutes and is anonymous.

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
- Domiciliary Care
- Reimbursement of travel costs
- Home improvement and structural alterations
- Suicide Prevention hotline 800-273-TALK (8355)

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. PTSD has always been an issue, but it is more prevalent because of repeated tours of duty for many troops. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs at the federal and state levels is focusing on early detection intervention.

OIF/OEF veterans are encouraged to take advantage of the Veterans Administration Health Care System, which is offering five years of VA healthcare regardless of financial or health status. You can contract the VA directly at 800-827-1000 or their web site at www.va.gov to find the nearest VA healthcare facility.

Illinois Veterans' Homes

A commitment to enhancing the lives of Illinois veterans in our care.

Illinois veterans and eligible spouses seeking skilled and domiciliary care are offered five unique veterans' homes located across Illinois: Anna, Chicago, LaSalle, Manteno, and Quincy. Beginning with the oldest home Quincy, founded in 1886 sitting on 210 picturesque acres to the newest home in Chicago, an urban, open-concept home, each offers person centered care delivered by medical professionals and staff dedicated to enhancing the lives of veterans in their care.

Caring for the whole person: The homes' comprehensive model of care considers the medical, personal, and emotional needs of each resident. The staffs are uniquely capable of serving the needs of the veteran community and offering an environment that honors their service to the country.

Medical Care: Trained medical and care professionals ensure the veterans are healthy and their day-to-day needs are met.

Nutrition: Menus are created to provide balanced nutrition with enjoyable culinary experiences.

Programs: The homes' activities professionals develop meaningful and creative programs to engage resident veterans in their community and insert joy into their every day.

Connections: As experienced long-term care providers, we understand that care transcends far beyond the veteran and includes his/her family and friends. We open our doors to families and develop programs and events that bring us all together.

We are privileged to serve Illinois veterans. Come make us your home.

For details on learning more about the homes, eligibility, and applications visit: https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/Pages/default.aspx or contact the individual homes:

1. **The Adjutant Illinois Veterans Home - Anna**
   792 N. Main Street
   Anna, Illinois 62906
   Phone: (618) 833 5394
2. **The Adjutant Illinois Veterans' Home - Chicago**
   4250 N. Oak Park Avenue
   Chicago, Illinois 60634
   Phone: (773) 794-3763
3. **The Adjutant Illinois Veterans Home - LaSalle**
   1015 O'Conor Avenue
   LaSalle, Illinois 61301
   Phone: (815) 410-8375
4. **The Adjutant Illinois Veterans Home - Manteno**
   1 Veterans Drive
   Manteno, Illinois 60950
   Phone: 815-907-3506
5. **The Adjutant Illinois Veterans Home - Quincy**
   1707 N. 12th Street
   Quincy, Illinois 62301
   Phone: (217) 222-8641 ext. 209

Burial Assistance, Plot/Internment Allowance

Burial Assistance, Plot/Internment Allowance
Certain benefits are available to assist with the burial expenses of deceased veterans.

National Cemetery Burial
Burial in a VA national cemetery is available at no cost to eligible veterans and their spouses and eligible dependents. For more information, visit their web site at www.cem.va.gov

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 to honor the memory of a veteran's military service to his or her country.

Grave Marker or Headstone
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will furnish a headstone or marker, upon request, without charge for the unmarked grave of a veteran.

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
IDVA will reimburse up to $125 toward the setting of a headstone or marker provided by the US VA.

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.

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, build, repair, or improve a home (including energy efficient improvements), and refinance an existing loan.

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.

Disabled Veterans Tax Exemption for Mobile Home
This 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.

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.

Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption (DVSHE)
The Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption provides a reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a veteran with a service-connected disability.

Specially Adapted Housing Grant
Permanent and total disability is not required for the Specially Adapted Housing Grant. It is based on accessibility needs due to service-connected conditions. https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/homeloans/SAHFactsheet.pdf

Fishing and Hunting Licenses

Free fishing and hunting licenses are issued for disabled veterans 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.

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.

CTA passes may be obtained by mail to Ventra Customer Service Center, 567 W. Lake St. 2nd Floor, Chicago, IL, 60661. Please take your Armed Forces I.D. or proof of compensation (dated within the last 12 months) if you are receiving disability pay of 10% or greater. For additional information go to www.transitchicago.com/military/

Other Veteran Programs

Veterans Conservation Corps

The Veterans Conservation Corps is a joint program from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources offering a wide range of volunteer opportunities. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Veterans Conservation Corps, contact an IDVA Veteran Service Officer.

Veterans' Cash Grant

Veterans' Cash funds are generated through purchase of an Illinois Lottery ticket and deposited into the Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund which supports non-profit organizations focused on veteran issues. Applications are reviewed by IDVA's Veterans Cash Grant Committee (VCGC). To apply for a grant, please visit www2.illinois.gov/veterans/programs/pages/veterans-cash.aspx to download an application at the Veterans Cash website.

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 because of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. To learn more, call. 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.

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 the veteran holds proof of a service-connected disability from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and a licensed physician has certified that because of the service-connected disability, the veteran qualifies for the issuance of a disabled placard or plate.

Please visit a Secretary of State office, or visit their web site at: www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/vehicles/license_plate_guide

https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/

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Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois • 22-1094 • 06/22 • WEB