



ILLINOIS VETERANS' BENEFITS

HEALTH CARE

Illinois Warrior Assistance Program

This program provides confidential assistance for Illinois veterans as they transition back to their everyday lives after serving our country.

The helpline is available 24 hours a day at 1-866-554-4927. Help is available for veterans with symptoms associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and to provide Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) screenings.

Veterans' Care Program

Provides affordable, comprehensive health care to Illinois' uninsured veterans. Call the agency at 1-877-483-8779 to apply for the program.

VETERANS' HOMEBUYER ASSISTANCE

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) offers affordable mortgage loans to first-time homebuyers and veterans in Illinois. To apply, homebuyers must contact one of IHDA's participating lenders to assist with the application process. Visit www.ihda.org/homeowner/findlender.aspx or call 312-836-5200 for more information.

AUTOMOBILES

Disabled Veteran 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 U.S. 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.

Special License Plates

Upon establishing proof of eligibility to entitlement, special registration plates are available without fee. Military Retirees and Armed Forces Reserves and National Guard soldiers are eligible for registration plates for vehicles of the first or second division upon establishing proof of eligibility and payment of a registration fee. A universal veteran's license plate is also available. A decal applicable to the veteran's service record may be affixed to the license plate and must be purchased from the State Headquarters of the American Legion, P.O. Box 2910, Bloomington, Illinois, 61701.

CAMPING, FISHING & HUNTING

Camping & Admission 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.

Hunting and Fishing Privileges

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 Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) by providing disability documentation that is no more than one year old. To acquire a permit, contact your local service office.

BONUSES

World War II

A bonus of \$10 per month for domestic service and \$15 per month for Foreign Service is payable to Illinoisans 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 and within the specified period.

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.

Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Conflict Bonus

A \$100 bonus is payable for service during the following periods:

Korea - June 27, 1950 - July 27, 1953
Vietnam - January 1, 1961 - March 28, 1973
Vietnam Frequent Wind - April 29, 30, 1975
Persian Gulf - August 2, 1990 - November 30, 1995

The claimant must also be in receipt of one of the following medals: Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal Vietnam or the Southwest Asia Service Medal; and have been a resident of Illinois for 12 months immediately prior to entering service and have received an Honorable Discharge. (Individuals currently on active duty who served in the Persian Gulf may apply)

Survivors are entitled to a payment of \$1000, if veteran's death is service-connected or the direct result of service-connected disabilities incurred in the period specified.

POW Compensation

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

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.

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. IMRF 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.

Global War on Terrorism (Operation Iraq Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation New Dawn) Bonus Payment

A \$100 bonus is payable to veterans who served on or after September 11, 2001 and were residents of Illinois for 12 months immediately prior to entering service.

The claimant must also have served at least 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days of foreign or sea service and be in receipt of one of the following medals:

Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Iraq Campaign Medal
Afghanistan Campaign Medal

Individuals currently on active duty who served in the Global War on Terrorism may apply prior to discharge by also including the Armed Forces Certificate.

BURIAL BENEFITS

Cartage and Erection Fees

When the federal government has furnished a headstone or marker, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs pays up to \$100.00 for the setting of such marker within Illinois.

Graves Registration

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs shall maintain a card file "Roll of Honor" of all veterans buried in the State of Illinois. Every person, firm or corporation owning or controlling any cemetery or burial place in the state is required to keep a permanent record of the burial of each U.S. war veteran or memorial marker erected for this purpose.

Indigent Veterans

The county Veterans Assistance Commission shall provide burial for any honorably discharged indigent veteran, or their mothers, fathers, spouse or surviving spouse, or minor children without sufficient means to defray the funeral expenses. The expense of such burial shall not exceed the sum of \$900.00.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Educational Opportunities for Children (10- 18 Yrs): Financial aid is provided annually for each child between the ages of 10 and 18 years of a veteran who died or became totally disabled as a result of service in the Armed Forces during World War I, or II, the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts or beginning February 1, 1955, until such individuals are no longer eligible for induction under the Universal Military Training and Service Act. Attendance means a state educational institution of elementary grade, a high school or Business College, vocational training school or other educational institution.

Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers is a nation-wide transition program designed to help eligible current and former service members become public school teachers. The program offers advisement on certification requirements, money to pay for teacher certification or commitment to a high needs school, and a referral to hiring school districts. Call 1-866-372-3157 or e-mail troops.teachers@illinois.gov for more information.

MIA/POW Scholarship

Dependents of a veteran who has been declared by the Department of Defense or U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs to be a prisoner of war; missing-in-action; to have died as the result of a service-connected disability; or be permanently disabled from service-connected causes with 100% disability; and, who was an Illinois resident or was an Illinois resident within six months of entering service may be eligible for the scholarship. Eligible dependents are entitled to full payment of tuition and certain fees

to any state supported Illinois institution of higher learning consisting of the equivalent of four (4) calendar years of full-time enrollment including summer terms (i.e., 120 points).

State Approving Agency for Veterans' Education

Approves training for veterans in the areas of higher education, apprenticeship training, vocational training, on the job training, license and certification, tests and entrepreneurship programs covered under the G.I. Bill.

Illinois Veterans' Grant

The Illinois Veterans' Grant (IVG) Program pays tuition and certain fees at all Illinois state universities. Applications and additional information are available from field offices of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, college financial aid offices, or the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, Illinois 60015 or by phone at 847-948-8550 or 800-899-4722 or via the web at www.isac.org.

Illinois National Guard Grant

Any enlisted person, Lieutenant, or Captain with at least one (1) year service in the Illinois Army/Air National Guard may participate. Available for eight (8) semesters or twelve (12) quarters of full-time or part-time undergraduate study or graduate study at any Illinois state controlled university or community college.

Recipient is entitled to payment of tuition and certain fees. Applications and information on the scholarship may be obtained from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, Illinois 60015 or by phone at 847-948-8550 or 800-899-4722 or via the web at www.isac.org.

Honorary Scholarships

Each county in the state shall be entitled, annually, to one honorary scholarship at the University of Illinois, for the benefit of children of veterans of WWI, WWII, Korean and Vietnam Conflict periods, the Gulf War and the War on Terror with preference being given to the children of deceased and disabled veterans. Details may be obtained from the University of Illinois' Financial Aid Office.

EMPLOYMENT

State Veterans' Employment Preference

Preference is given in Central Management Services entrance examinations to honorably discharged veterans who served in times of hostilities and peacetime. Visit work.illinois.gov to apply.

Education Waiver for Illinois State Police and the Illinois Conservation Police

The education requirements needed to join the Illinois State Police will be waived for veterans who have been honorably discharged with a campaign medal of service in Afghanistan or Iraq. All other requirements to join the Illinois State Police will still apply. For further information, please contact the Illinois State Police.

Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)

In connection with the licensure of EMTs, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has the authority and responsibility to review applications for EMT licensure from honorably discharged service members with military discharge and shall contain certain identifying information that clearly demonstrates that the training and experience meets prescribed standards. For further information, please contact the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Jobs for Vets

The Department of Employment Security provides a trained "Veterans Representative" to help you get the training and job you need. In cooperation with the Department of Employment Security a system is used describing in excess of 8,000 job titles. The Department of Human Services provides services for veterans with mental/physical disabilities that assist them in returning to gainful employment. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs have a number of Small Business Administration Loan and Job Training Programs. Visit ides.illinois.gov for more information.

HOUSING

Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption

The Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption provides qualifying veterans a one-time \$5,000 reduction to their homes' equalized assessed value (EAV). Qualifying veterans who return from active duty in an armed conflict involving the U.S. armed forces can file an application upon their return home to receive this exemption. To apply for this

exemption, please contact or visit your local County Assessor's Office.

Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption

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. A \$2,500 homestead exemption is available to a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 50% but less than 70%; a \$5,000 homestead exemption is available to a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 70%. Qualifying veterans must file an annual application by their counties' deadlines to continue to receive this exemption. To apply for this exemption, please contact or visit your local County Assessor's Office.

Specially Adapted Housing

Assistance is provided for service-connected disabled veterans for the purpose of acquiring and remodeling suitable dwelling units with special fixtures or moveable facilities made necessary by the veteran's permanent and total service-connected disabilities.

Illinois Veterans' Homes

Illinois veterans with one day or more of service during any wartime period recognized by the U.S. 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. Illinois Veterans Homes are located in Quincy, Anna, LaSalle and Manteno with a future Home to be located in Cook County. A spouse, or surviving spouse, may also qualify for admittance to the Quincy Veterans' Home.

Prince Home

Located in Manteno, Illinois, is a residential therapeutic program for homeless veterans. The program provides services, treatment and support enabling the veterans to regain their independence.

STATE CONTACT

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

1-800-437-9824

www.illinois.gov/veterans