

Iowa State Veteran's Benefits



The state of Iowa provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- Housing
- Financial Assistance
- Education
- Other State Veteran Benefits

The State of Iowa has new benefits for Veterans:

The Iowa Veteran's Housing Grant Program gives a \$5,000 matching grant to any veteran for the purchase of a home, tax free. To qualify, the service member must have served on active duty under title 10, 90 days or more after 9-11-2001. Active duty for training does not count. For more information, log onto <http://www.ifahome.com>. Veterans also receive an annual property tax exemption on their homes.

The State of Iowa also provides a program called the Injured Veteran Grant Program. The State of Iowa provides grants to any Iowa veteran injured in a combat zone while in the line of duty. The injury does not have to be combat action related. To qualify, the injured veteran must be medically evacuated from a combat zone. Within one week of evacuation, the veteran or his/her designated family member receives a check in the amount of \$2,500. The veteran will continue to receive \$2,500 every 30 days while he or she is receiving medical treatment, up to a maximum of \$10,000. This grant is provided by the state to help off set the additional financial burdens veterans and their families incur during convalescence.

If you join the Iowa National Guard, the State of Iowa will pay 100% of your college tuition for four years, up to a maximum of what the state universities cost. At the current rate, that's about \$6,000 a year. This amount can be applied to attend any private or independent college as well. Guardsmen can then use their GI bill to pay for other expenses.

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

Veteran Housing Programs

Iowa Veterans Home

IVH opened its doors to Iowa veterans and their spouses in 1887 as the Old Soldiers Home. From that time, the Home has belonged to the people of Iowa, guided by the Iowa Legislature and the Iowa

Commissioners of Veterans Affairs. Today, IVH is one of the largest of the 148 state-owned facilities for veterans in the nation. As in the past, IVH maintains its loyalty and dedication to American veterans. It is a true community, comprised of residents, staff, volunteers and visitors. The beautiful campus spans almost 150 acres, with four main resident care buildings. It is located at 1301 Summit St, Marshalltown, IA 50158 Tel: 641-752-1501 Fax: 1-800-645-4591.



Sheeler Bldg



Loftus Bldg.



Malloy Hall



Dack Bldg

Planning ahead, IVH is preparing to fully implement the person-centered care philosophy. The concept provides expanded opportunities for the resident to participate more with decision-making, socializing, and with their own care. IVH staff began embracing this philosophy in 2006. Staff continue efforts towards more individualized care for each resident based upon their needs and wants. IVH has a total of 755 beds available of which 113 beds are residential and 642 are nursing beds presently, the home provides personalized medical, nursing, rehabilitative care, mental health, pharmacy and dietary services, along with many other services. All the services help make the lives of residents engaged and fulfilling. Presently, the home provides personalized medical, nursing, rehabilitative care, mental health, pharmacy and dietary services, along with many other services. All the services help make the lives of residents engaged and fulfilling. Honorably discharged veterans, their spouses, and/or widowed spouses who demonstrate either medical or financial need, meet Iowa residency requirements, and veteran eligibility for admission to VA are qualified for admission. Eligible veterans, their spouses, and/or widowed spouses are admitted without regard to their financial status. The rate of payment is based on the cost of care and the individual's ability to pay using available resources.

Homeownership Assistance

This grant is available to a service member who is buying a home in the state of Iowa. Members must have served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 and purchased a home after March 10, 2005.

Property Tax Exemption

This benefit reduces a veteran's assessed home value for property tax purposes by \$1,850. In order to qualify, a service member must have served on active duty during a period of war or for a minimum of 18 months during peacetime.

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

Financial Assistance Benefits

Injured Veterans Grant Program

Senate File 2312 enacting the injured veterans grant program, which is retroactively applicable to veterans injured after September 11, 2001. A total of \$1 million has been appropriated to the Iowa

Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) to fund this program. The purpose and legislative intent of this program is to provide immediate financial assistance to the veteran so that family members may be with the veteran during recovery and rehabilitation from an injury or illness received in the line of duty in a combat zone or in a designated hostile fire zone. Since the program is retroactive, it is also intended to reimburse veterans injured after September 11, 2001.

Veterans Trust Fund

The State of Iowa has established a \$5 million fund to provide certain services to veterans. Beginning in December 2007, interest from this fund has been available to provide relief for Iowa veterans and their families. Funds can be used for travel expenses for service-related medical care; unemployment or underemployment assistance due to service-related causes, job training, or tuition assistance; assistance with vision, hearing, dental care, durable medical equipment, and prescription drugs; counseling and substance abuse services; emergency vehicle and housing repair; transitional housing in an emergency; emergency room and ambulance transportation assistance; funding to determine whether a deceased veteran is the father or mother of a child; funding for family support groups; and grants for providing honor guard services at veteran's funerals. Trust fund expenditures are approved through the Iowa Veterans Commission.

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

Education Benefits

War Orphans Educational Aid

War Orphans Educational Aid may be used to defray the expenses of tuition, matriculation, laboratory and similar fees, books and supplies, board, lodging, and any other reasonably necessary expense for the War Orphan to attend the educational institution of higher learning. Aid is limited to \$600.

Operation Recognition High School Diploma

This program furnishes an honorary high school diploma to qualifying veterans who did not complete high school due to armed service enlistment. The application form is used by the IDVA and the Department of Education to establish eligibility for honorably discharged veterans.

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

Other State Veteran Benefits

License Plates

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



Bronze Star



Ex-Prisoner of War



Gold Star



Iowa National Guard



Legion of Merit



Air Force



Army



Navy



Pearl Harbor



Purple Heart



Retired Air Force



Retired Army



Retired Coast Guard



Retired Marine



Retired Navy



Air Force Cross Medal



Airmen's Medal



Service Cross Medal



USN/USMC Medal



Navy Cross Medal



Soldier's Medal



Silver Star



Veteran's Plate



Disabled Veteran

Vietnam Conflict Bonus

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

Veteran Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License

Veterans in receipt of at a 0% service connected disability can receive a lifetime hunting or fishing license for a \$5.50 fee. In order to qualify, the Iowa resident must have served on active federal service and was disabled as a result of that service.

The State of Iowa Veterans Cemetery



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

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



Burial Fees: There is no charge for the burial of an eligible veteran. Burial options include in ground burial of caskets and cremated remains and above ground placement of remains in a columbarium niche (next available -- no pre-selection). A standard government upright granite headstone/niche market is provided at no cost to an eligible veteran. There is a \$300 interment fee for an eligible spouse and dependent child. An eligible veteran's spouse or dependent will be interred with (and alongside the veteran in the case of a

third burial unless other arrangements are made). Fees collected for burial are placed in a fund used for future physical expansion of the cemetery and infrastructure improvements. Perpetual care of the gravesites and grounds are maintained by cemetery personnel at no cost to the veteran or his/her family.

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

The application is available for download at https://va.iowa.gov/vetcemetery/funeral_home_app.pdf. After you open the application you will be able to type the required information into the appropriate areas. After filling in all appropriate information, print it and return the completed form, with all supporting documentation (do not send originals, send copies only) to: Iowa Veterans Cemetery, 34024 Veterans Memorial Drive, Adel, IA 50003-3300 Tel: (515) 996-9048; Fax: (515) 996-9102.

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

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

[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/iowa-state-veterans-benefits.html> Dec 2014 ++]

Military Discounts in Iowa

1. MVDC has a list of close to 2,700 locations in Iowa that have discounts for military personnel or veterans. Similar to businesses, the state of Iowa provides discounts for its veterans and military population. Use the search tool at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/iowa.html> if you are looking for business discounts,

2. **Veterans Designation on driver's license:** Yes

3. **State of Iowa discounts for veterans and military personnel**

- The Military Homeownership Assistance Program provides eligible service members and veterans a \$5,000 grant to be used as a down payment or closing cost on a home purchase in the State of

Iowa (members must have served on active duty on or after 9/11/01 and purchased a home after 3/10/05).

- The Property Tax Exemption benefit reduces a veteran's assessed home value by \$1,850 for property tax purposes (members must have served on active duty during a period of war or for a minimum of 18 months during peacetime).
- The Iowa Injured Veterans Grant, which provides up to \$10,000 to members or former members of the U.S. military who are residents of Iowa and were seriously injured during operations in Iraq or Afghanistan.
- The Iowa Veterans Trust Fund, which is a multi-million dollar fund established by the state, provides funding to help Iowa veterans and their families with unemployment or underemployment assistance due to service-related causes, counseling and substance abuse services, housing repair, transitional housing in an emergency, and assistance with vision, hearing, dental care, durable medical equipment, and prescription drugs.
- Military pay is exempt from state tax and delayed filing available during activation.
- Lifetime hunting and fishing license for a one-time \$7.00 fee available to veterans with service-connected disability or POW.
- Extension of driver's license for active duty personnel (valid until six months following separation from active duty).
- Honorably discharged veterans are eligible to purchase specialty license plates.

4. Education Discounts

- The Iowa National Guard Education Assistance Program, which is a state-funded tuition assistance program that pays schools "up front" for the cost of an Iowa Army or Air Guardsman's tuition.
- The Operation Recognition High School Diploma program, which furnishes an honorary high school diploma to qualifying veterans who did not complete high school in Iowa due to armed service enlistment.
- The Iowa War Orphans Educational Aid program, which is available to children of service members who have died while on active duty since 9/11.
- In-state tuition to veterans and their families **who move to attend** Iowa's Regents universities (the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa) and Iowa's community colleges.

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/iowa.html> Dec 2014 ++]