



Illinois Department  
of Veterans' Affairs

# **ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**GWEN M. DIEHL**  
**VETERANS' HOMES COORDINATOR**

# ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS



## IDVA Overview

- 1,300 Employees.
- Four skilled care Veteran Homes; Fifth home currently under construction.
  - 900 long term care residents.
- Homeless Veterans Program at Manteno. (15)
- (63) Veteran Service Officers (VSO) in (83) permanent and itinerant offices across the State.
- Manage GI Bill certifications at over 150 institutions, involving \$306 million in education and training funding.





## ***Who We Are Not***

IDVA is NOT a part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ("The VA," as it's often termed). IDVA is an Illinois executive agency, funded and administered under the auspices of the Governor, and operates independently of USDVA.



# ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS



## Current Total Veterans

(Vet Pop projections for 9/30/2020, <http://www.va.gov/dataset/> FY2017)

Illinois Total	574,646	Percent
<i>Wartime Vets</i>	449,696	78.3%
- Gulf War & Post 9/11	211,777	
- Vietnam Era	192,879	
- Korean Conflict	34,535	
- World War II	10,505	
<i>Peacetime</i>	124,950	21.7%
Female	49,353	7.63%
Male	597,586	92.37%

## Overview:

- 10<sup>th</sup> largest Vet population in United States
- 37,530 military retirees, per DoD stats
- Vietnam, Korea and WWII vets are 46.9% of the Illinois Veteran population
- Youngest Vietnam vet est. to be 63 yrs. old; avg. 68 yrs. old.
- 492 WWII vets dying per day in USA; about 5 per day in Illinois
- 82,206 Post “9/11” Vets in the state.
- Over 7,000 new vets returned to Illinois in years 2015-2017.
- Women Vets = fastest growing demographic: 49,353; 7.58% overall, est. to be 15% by 2035.

# ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS



## Where Illinois Veterans Are

- Illinois Veteran Population: 646,939
- Where are they:
  - Cook and the five collar counties = 49.8% of IL Veteran Population
  - East St. Louis Metro Area = 10% of IL Veteran Population

TOP 10 Counties	Rank	Veteran Pop 2016	Veteran Pop 2017	Metro Area
Cook	1	182,804	175,023	Chicago & Collar Counties – 310,116
Lake	2	35,719	34,957	
DuPage	3	35,196	33,571	
Will	4	31,874	31,257	
Kane	7	20,509	20,114	
McHenry	9	15,579	15,194	
Saint Clair	5	28,409	28,451	St. Louis Metro – 50,678
Madison	6	22,664	22,227	
Winnebago	8	18,666	18,190	Rockford
Sangamon	10	14,821	14,532	Springfield



## Benefits

There are many federal and state benefits that may be available to veterans depending on discharge status, disability region, age, etc.

### Federal

- Disability Compensation
- Pension
- Education
- Health Care
- Burial Benefits
- Housing

### State

- Veterans' Homes
- Education
- Tax Exemptions
- Grants & Bonuses
- Permits
- Driver License - Veteran Designation
- Mental Health



## *Federal Benefits*





## Disability Compensation

You may be eligible for compensation from the VA if you have a service connected disability which is, a disease or injury incurred or aggravated while on active duty. The disability does not have to be combat or wartime related.

- Monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by an injury or disease that was incurred or aggravated during active military service.
- Disability ratings range from 0% to 100%
- Additional money for dependents and Special Monthly Compensation
- Not subject to federal or state income tax
- Service Members Currently Serving CANNOT receive military pay & VA compensation concurrently
- Military retirees may be eligible to receive their full military retirement pay & full VA compensation pay





## Pension

VA helps Veterans and their families cope with financial challenges by providing supplemental income through the Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefit programs

- Available to Eligible Veterans & Survivors
  - Discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, AND
  - Served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a war time period, AND
  - Countable income below maximum annual pension rate (MAPR), AND
  - Meet the net worth limitations, AND
  - Age 65 or older, OR, Totally & Permanently Disabled, OR, Patient in a Nursing Home or Receiving Social Security disability benefits
- Surviving Spouses & Children are eligible if veteran met criteria



## Health Care

Served in the active military, naval or air service and are separated under any condition other than dishonorable.

- Served 90 days active duty prior to September 7, 1980.
- After September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible.
- Minimum duty requirement may not apply to Veterans who were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, for a hardship or “early out,”.
- Enrollment system is based on 8 Priority Groups (PG)



## Health Care (cont.)

- **SERVICES**
- Preventative care (flu shots, tests, etc.)
- Medical care (outpatient care, tests, etc.)
- Prescriptions (small co-pay for non service related illnesses)
- Mental health services – counseling, substance abuse treatment
- Nursing home care or long-term care



## Burial Benefits

VA burial allowances are flat rate monetary benefits that are generally paid at the maximum amount authorized by law for an eligible Veteran's burial and funeral costs.

The Veteran must also have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and at least one of the following conditions must be met:

- died as a result of a service-connected disability, **OR**
- receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, **OR**
- entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided instead to receive his or her full military retirement or disability pay, **OR**
- died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility.



## Burial Benefits (cont.)

For service-related death VA will pay up to \$2000. For non-service related death VA will pay up to \$300 burial allowance and \$749 for a plot.

### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- National Cemetery Burial
- Burial flags
- Presidential Memorial Citations

Veterans who are buried in the State of Illinois or eligible for a State benefit of partial reimbursement for setting a government marker in cemeteries other than National or State Veterans Cemeteries



## Housing

VA home loan guaranties are issued to help eligible service members, veterans, reservists...obtain homes and to refinance loans.

### HUD VASH

The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA provides these services for participating Veterans at VA medical centers (VAMCs) and community-based outreach clinics.

### SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING GRANT

The Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program offers grants to certain Servicemembers and Veterans with severe service-connected disabilities to assist them in building, Remodeling, or purchasing an adapted home.



## Education

### **9/11 GI BILL**

Veterans who served at least 90 aggregate days on active duty\* after September 10, 2001, or were honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days following September 10, 2001 can use this benefit.

#### **Where can it be used?**

The Post-9/11 GI Bill can be used at colleges, universities, trade schools, on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and flight schools.

#### **What do they receive?**

- A Tuition and Fee payment that is paid to your school on your behalf
- A Monthly Housing Allowance
- A Books and Supplies Stipend of up to \$1000 per year



## *State Benefits*







## Education

**Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG) Program** pays tuition and certain fees at all Illinois state-supported colleges, universities and community colleges for eligible Illinois residents.

### **Children of Veterans Scholarship:**

- Each county in the state shall be entitled, annually, to one honorary scholarship at the University of Illinois, for the benefit of children of certain wartime veterans.
- Preference is given to the children of deceased and disabled veterans.



## *Tax Exemptions*

**Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption** - Provides qualifying veterans a one-time \$5,000 reduction to their homes' equalized assessed value (EAV).

**Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption** - Provides reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a veteran with a service-connected disability.

**Specially Adapted Housing Exemption**- Allowed on the assessed value of real property for which federal funds have been used for the purchase or construction of specially adapted housing.

**Tax Exemption for Mobile Home** – 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.



## Grants & Bonuses

The State of Illinois offers several grants and bonuses for veterans.

**Veteran Cash Grant** - Non-for-profit organizations, veterans' organizations and services that help Illinois veterans in one of the following 6 categories can and are encouraged to apply for a Veterans Cash grant:

- Health insurance costs
- Long-term care
- Post-traumatic stress disorder research or treatment
- Disability benefits
- Housing assistance or
- Job placement and training

**War Bonuses** - A one time \$100 bonus is payable for service during one of the following periods:

- Korea - June 27, 1950 - July 27, 1953
- Vietnam - Jan 1, 1961 - Mar 28, 1975
- Persian Gulf - Aug 2, 1990 - Nov 30, 1995
- Global War on Terrorism –  
Sept 11, 2001 to Present



## Permits

- **Camping & Admission Fees:** certain disabled veterans and former prisoners of war who are Illinois residents and wish to camp in parks under the control of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- **Hunting and Fishing Privileges:** Fishing and hunting licenses are not required for disabled veterans who are Illinois residents and receiving 10% or greater service-connected compensation, or total disability pension benefits
- **State Fair:** Honorably discharged veterans of all ages and their families shall be admitted FREE, when they properly identify themselves, on Veterans' Day at the fair



## Driver's License

- Since July 1, 2015 U.S. military veterans are able to get an updated driver's license/ID card with the "VETERAN" under the signature on the front of the card
- To receive the "VETERAN" designation on the driver's license/ID card, veterans must obtain official certification from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA).
  - The veteran must visit one of the IDVA offices throughout the state and provide a copy of their DD-214 or Certification of Military Service (NA Form 13038)
  - They may also complete the process by mail.



## Veterans' Homes

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs has four homes (fifth being built) for veterans located through out state.

- Anna
- Chicago (Under Construction)
- LaSalle
- Manteno
- Prince (Homeless Veterans Program)
- Quincy



## Veterans' Home Eligibility

- Honorably discharged veterans if they:
  - Have served in the U.S. Armed Forces at least one day during a period recognized by the USDVA; or
  - Were retired for a service-connected disability or injury, or
  - Served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces for 24 months of continuous service or more and enlisted after September 7, 1980 or
  - Served as a Reservist or National Guard member, including having been called to Federal Active Duty (excluding Active Duty for Training only) and
  - Completed the term or completed 20 years of satisfactory service and is otherwise eligible to receive reserve or active duty retirement benefits;
- Has been discharged for reasons of hardship or released from active duty due to a reduction in the U.S. Armed Forces before the completion of the required period of service; **and**
- Entered the service as a resident of Illinois or has been a resident of Illinois for one year immediately preceding the date of application for admission;
- Peacetime veterans with one year of honorable military services may also be eligible for admission; other qualifying conditions, as required, must be met.



## Veterans' Home Cost of Care

- As of July 1, 2016, the Maximum Maintenance fee is \$1,429. No eligible veterans is denied for ability to pay.
- Veterans who have received a 70-100% Service connected Disability rating from USDVA do not have to pay maintenance charge.





## Veterans' Home Qualifying Standards

- Since 1996, the Homes are surveyed and licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health.
- US Department of Veterans Affairs medical Center of jurisdiction inspects each Home annually and certifies the Home for receipt of Per Diem payments.
- National, State and local Veteran Service Organizations frequently visit the homes.
- Resident Advisory Groups in each Home represent t residents' views tio ensure quality of life standards remain high.



## Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna

- Location: Union County
- Construction completed: August 1994 and initially opened under contractual operation
- 50 skilled care beds and 12 domiciliary (assisted living)

For more information, contact the Adjutant

Illinois Veterans' Home – Anna

792 N. Main Street

Anna, Illinois 62906

(618) 833-6302, Ext 229



## Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle

- Location: LaSalle County
- Construction completed: December 1990
- 200 skilled care beds

For more information, contact the Adjutant

Illinois Veterans' Home – LaSalle

1015 O'Connor Avenue

LaSalle, Illinois 61301

(815) 223-0303, Ext 222



## Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno

- Location: Kankakee County
- Construction completed: 1986
- 294 skilled care beds

For more information, contact the Adjutant

Illinois Veterans' Home – Manteno  
1 Veterans' Drive  
Manteno, Illinois 60950  
(815) 468-6581, Ext 226



## Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno – Prince Home

- Location: Kankakee County
- Construction completed: 2007
- 200 skilled care beds

For more information, contact:

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Prince Home at Manteno  
One Veterans' Drive  
Manteno, Illinois 60950



## Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy

- Location: Adams County
- Established: 1886 as the soldiers and Sailors Home
- Almost 400 beds including domiciliary care

For more information, contact the Adjutant

Illinois Veterans' Home – Quincy

1707 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street

Quincy, Illinois 62301

(217) 222-8641, Ext 209



## *State Programs*





## State Veteran Programs

- Mental Health & Legal and Financial Guidance
  - Illinois Warrior Assistance Program
- Entrepreneurship
  - Veteran Business Program
- Women Veterans
- Employment
  - Illinois Hires Heroes Consortium
- Gold Star Families
- Tiny Boots
- Veteran and Military Discount Program
- Special Events
- Honor 200





## Mental Health

### **Illinois Warrior Assistance Program**

The Illinois Warrior Assistance Program (IWAP) offers confidential assistance for returning Illinois veterans and their families to help deal with the emotional challenges of transitioning back to their daily lives, as well as legal and financial guidance.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Illinois resident, under the age of 65
- Has served a minimum of 180 days of active duty service with an Active Duty, Reserve, or National Guard unit
- Is either ineligible for or unable to access USDVA behavioral health services
- The closest USDVA site is more than 25 miles away from the veteran's home
- Must wait more than 10 days for an appointment for USDVA care
- Is not an inmate of public institution or a resident of a nursing facility



## *Mental Health*

### Illinois Warrior Assistance Program (cont.)

- **Dependents:**

Spouse and children are offered 6 face-to-face visits for counseling in an outpatient setting.

- **Legal consultation**

- **Financial consultation**

- Online tools and resources including:

- Hundreds of articles and guides
- Legal and financial frequently asked questions answered by professional experts
- Online financial calculators and estimator tools
- Legal and financial forms and resources based on specific topics
- Interactive legal forms such as wills that you can complete and save online



## *Special Events*

- Black History Month Program (Feb)
- Women's Day Program (Mar)
- Desert Storm Remembrance Day Program (Feb)
- Vietnam Veteran Day Program (Mar)
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Vietnam Commemoration Pin Ceremonies (year-long)
- Illinois State Fair: Veteran's Day (Aug-Springfield and DuQuoin)
- Gold Star Family Weekend (Sep)
- Veteran's Day Program (Nov)
- Serving Those that Serve (Nov)
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Program (Dec)
- Gold Star Family Tree Lighting Ceremony (Dec)

# ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS



In partnership with Illinois Bicentennial and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

In December, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Illinois Bicentennial Committee will honor the work of 200 veterans from across the State of Illinois, whose contributions are above and beyond the call of duty as they dedicate their time and energy to assist their fellow veterans and service members. Nominees were evaluated based on their achievements, and on the extent to which their contributions have aided, benefited and provided inspiration to their community at large.

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## **Contact IDVA**

**Website: [www.illinois.gov/veterans](http://www.illinois.gov/veterans)**

**Email: [IDVA.MEDIA@Illinois.gov](mailto:IDVA.MEDIA@Illinois.gov)**

**Main Number: 800 437-9824**