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# STATE OF IOWA VETERANS BENEFITS

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## [Benefit Specialists - Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs](#)

The IDVA staff includes benefit specialists, accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, who specialize in federal VA benefits, as well as state benefits. They advise veterans and family members of veterans concerning federal VA benefits they may be entitled to receive. These include pension, disability compensation, and other ancillary benefits. Benefit specialists can also represent claimants with federal claims – and review all correspondence pursuant to those claims – to determine if an award action or denial was correct. IDVA's benefit specialists can be reached at: 515.242.5331 or 800.838.4692.

## [Education Programs](#)

The Iowa Department of Education has been designated by the governor of the state of Iowa as the location for the Iowa State Approving Agency. This Agency is responsible for approving all GI Bill programs in Iowa for veterans and other eligible persons. (Program approval is a function of the State Approving Agency, not the Department of Veterans Affairs.) For more information, call 515.281.3317 or visit IDVA's webpage for a link to approved schools and training establishments.

## [High School Diploma](#)

"Operation Recognition" 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. An application form can be found on the IDVA website.

## [Injured Veterans Grant - \\$10,000 Maximum](#)

This grant provides \$2,500 per month – up to \$10,000 – to members or former members of the U.S. military who are residents of Iowa and were seriously injured in the Iraq or Afghanistan theatre of operation. To be eligible for the full \$10,000, the individual must have been evacuated to a hospital outside of combat and remain under some type of medical care for a minimum of 91 days. Veterans who are under medical care for less than 91 days receive \$2,500 each month that medical care is needed. For additional information, visit:

[https://va.iowa.gov/benefits/injured\\_vets\\_grant.html](https://va.iowa.gov/benefits/injured_vets_grant.html).

## [Iowa Veterans Cemetery](#)

The Iowa Veterans Cemetery is centrally located approximately 10 miles west of Des Moines, near Van Meter. The cemetery is available to all veterans, their spouses, and dependent children for burial. Honorably discharged veterans are interred at no charge and spouses/dependents are buried for a \$300 fee. For further information and regulations, call the cemetery: 515.996.9048, or visit their website: <https://va.iowa.gov/vetcemetery>.

## [Iowa Veterans Home - Marshalltown](#)

The Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, Iowa is available for honorably discharged veterans, as well as their spouses or widows for long term care needs. Visit their website: <http://ivh.iowa.gov>.

## [Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License for Disabled Veterans](#)

Veterans in receipt of at least a 0% service connected disability can receive a lifetime hunting or fishing license for a \$7.00 fee. In order to qualify, the Iowa veteran resident must have served on active federal service and was disabled as a result of that service. A DNR application can be found here: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/license/files/542-1412.pdf>.

## [Military Services Member Home Ownership Assistance Program](#)

This \$5,000 grant is available to service members who are 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. Call 800.432.7230 for more information or visit:

[http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/en/for\\_home\\_buyers/military\\_homeownership\\_assistance\\_program](http://www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/en/for_home_buyers/military_homeownership_assistance_program).

## [National Guard Tuition Benefits](#)

Present Iowa National Guard members in good standing are eligible for up to \$2,700 per semester for full time enrollment. Part-time students are eligible for \$196 per semester hour. Additionally, Guard members who are mobilized will receive a tuition refund. Visit their website:

<http://www.iowanationalguard.com/education/tuitionassistance.htm>.

### [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. More information may be found here: <http://www.iowa.gov/tax/forms/54146.pdf>.

### [Veteran's 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. Visit: <http://www.iamvd.com/ovs/plates/index/htm> for details.

### [Veterans Trust Fund](#)

The State of Iowa has established a multi-million dollar 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. At this time, interest funds are received monthly and approved applicants are placed on a waiting list based on the date received and approved. Currently, funds are used for unemployment or underemployment assistance due to service-related causes; assistance with vision, hearing, dental care, durable medical equipment, and prescription drugs; counseling and substance abuse services; housing repair; and transitional housing in an emergency. Trust fund expenditures are approved through the Iowa Veterans Commission. For a complete list of eligibility services, contact your local VA county director, the IDVA, or visit: <https://va.iowa.gov>.

Applications for these benefits can be found on IDVA's website:

<https://va.iowa.gov>



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