State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
Dan Grant, Director

State of Illinois Benefits for Veterans

Serving Those Who Have Served

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
833 S. Spring St.
P.O. Box 19432
Springfield, IL 62794-9432
1-800-437-9824
www.veterans.illinois.gov

Pat Quinn, Governor
State of Illinois

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I've made it a priority to honor the men and women who bravely and selflessly serve our nation in the United States Armed Forces.

As Illinois State Treasurer, I launched Operation Home Front during the Gulf War to inform National Guard members and Reservists about their rights under the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act.

I am also deeply committed to making Illinois servicemembers aware of every resource available to them at the federal, state and local level.

Reintegrating into civilian life can be very difficult, and knowing where to begin accessing the numerous resources available can be overwhelming. Our goal is to empower and assist Illinois servicemembers with gaining access to the rights and benefits they deserve and have earned.

This comprehensive booklet, "Serving Those Who Have Served" provides the website addresses, telephone numbers and service offices available to get started.

Illinois servicemembers put their lives on the line to defend freedom; we must defend their rights at home.

Pat Quinn, Governor
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Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

Simply stated, we serve those who served. Our mission is to assist Illinois Veterans, dependents, and survivors in obtaining their Federal and State benefits, and we take that mission seriously every day.

We are here to ensure every Veteran in the Land of Lincoln receives the appropriate care, benefits and services they have rightfully earned.

Illinois is a national leader in developing innovative and effective programs to meet the needs of Veterans, and we encourage Veterans to take advantage of this resource guide and the services contained within.

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs is YOUR advocate. Our Veteran Service Officers are located throughout Illinois and are the subject matter experts when it comes to federal, state and local benefits and programs. These officers are not only experienced advocates, they are Veterans themselves. They know what it means to wear the uniform and are committed to continuing service to their country by caring for their comrades in the Veteran community.

Visit or call one of our offices listed on the following pages, and thank you for your service!

Dan Grant, Director
Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

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The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs has Veteran Service Officers located throughout Illinois and are the subject matter experts when it comes to federal, state and local benefits and programs. The offices are listed by county. This information can also be found online at www.veterans.illinois.gov.

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Service Office Locations

County	City
Adams	**Quincy** 217-222-8641 ext 259
Champaign	**Champaign** 217-278-3388
Christian	**Taylorville** 217-287-7474
Coles	**Mattoon** 217-234-4776
Cook	**Downtown Chicago** 312-814-2460 **South Side Chicago** 773-363-9851 **Northwest Side Chicago** 773-292-7894 **Chicago Heights** 708-754-6403 **VA Regional Office Chicago** 312-980-4513 **Blue Island** 708-396-9840 **North Riverside** 708-795-0540 **Palatine** 847-485-2772
Cook	**Orland Park** 708-403-2011 **Des Plaines** 847-294-4664
DuPage	**Wheaton** 630-690-9449 **Lombard** 630-495-6196

County	City
Effingham	**Effingham** 217-342-8493
Franklin	**Benton** 618-435-3678
Henry	**Kewanee** 309-852-0227
Jackson	**Murphysboro** 618-684-2966
Jefferson	**Mt. Vernon** 618-246-2910 ext 73404
Kane	**Elgin** 847-608-0138 **Aurora** 630-801-3565
Kankakee	**Manteno** 815-468-6581 ext 230
Knox	**Galesburg** 309-343-2510
Lake	**North Chicago** 847-689-4153
LaSalle	LaSalle 815-223-0303 ext 210
Lawrence	**Lawrenceville** 618-943-6189
Livingston	**Pontiac** 815-842-2294
Macon	**Decatur** 217-875-3285
Macoupin	**Carlinville** 217-854-6451
Madison	**Alton** 618-465-3216
Marion	**Salem** 618-548-6929
McDonough	**Macomb** 309-836-2243
McHenry	**Woodstock** 815-338-9292
McLean	**Bloomington** 309-827-5811

County	City
Morgan	**Jacksonville** 217-245-0551
Peoria	**Peoria** 309-671-3179
Rock Island	**Rock Island** 309-793-1460
St. Clair	**E. St. Louis** 618-583-2065 **Belleville** 618-233-5140
Saline	**Harrisburg** 618-253-2005
Sangamon	**Springfield** 217-782-6645
Stephenson	**Freeport** 815-233-5092
Vermillion	**Danville** 217-442-1711
Whiteside	**Rock Falls** 815-626-2468
Will	**Joliet** 815-730-4334
Williamson	**Marion** 618-997-3309
Winnebago	**Machesney Park** 815-633-7840

Compensation and Pension

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs helps Veterans, family members and survivors in filing claims for both federal and state benefits. We also provide assistance with record gathering and appeals in case of denial. Meet our accredited, professional Veteran Service Officers at one of the offices located near you. Our web site is www.veterans.illinois.gov.

Disability Compensation

Disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to a veteran for disabilities that are a result of, or made worse by, injuries or diseases that happened while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. Disability compensation is also paid to certain Veterans disabled from VA health care.

You may be eligible for disability compensation if you have a service-related disability and you were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions.

Disability Pension

Pension is a benefit paid to wartime Veterans with limited income, and who are permanently and totally disabled or age 65 or older. You may be eligible for this benefit if:

- you were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, AND
- you served 90 days or more of active duty with at least one day during a period of war time, AND
- your countable family income falls below a yearly limit set by law, AND
- you are permanently and totally disabled, OR
- you are age 65 or older

Protected Pension

Pension beneficiaries, who were receiving a VA pension on December 31, 1978 and did not elect the Improved Pension, must continue to meet eligibility requirements such as permanent and total disability.

Death Pension

Death pension is a benefit paid to eligible dependents of deceased wartime Veterans. You may be eligible if:

- the deceased Veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, AND
- he or she served 90 days or more of active duty with at least one day during a period of war, AND
- you are the surviving spouse or unmarried child of the deceased Veteran, AND
- your countable income falls below a yearly income limit set by law.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for Service Connected Deaths

This is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of a:

- military service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR
- Veteran whose death resulted from service-related injury or disease, OR
- Veteran whose death resulted from a non-service-related injury or disease, and who was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling:
  - for at least 10 years immediately before death, OR
  - since the Veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, Or
  - for at least one year before death if the Veteran was a former Prisoner of War who died after September 30, 1999.

Aid and Attendance or Housebound

A Veteran or surviving spouse who is a resident in a nursing home or who needs regular aid from another person may qualify for this benefit.

Aid and Attendance (A&A) is a benefit paid in addition to monthly pension. This benefit may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for A&A when:

- The veteran requires the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting himself/herself from the hazards of his/her daily environment, **OR**,
- The veteran is bedridden, in that his/her disability or disabilities requires that he/she remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment, **OR**,
- The veteran is a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity, **OR**,
- The veteran is blind, or so nearly blind as to have corrected visual acuity of 5/200 or less, in both eyes, or concentric contraction of the visual field to 5 degrees or less.

Housebound is paid in addition to monthly pension. Like A&A, Housebound benefits may not be paid without eligibility to pension. A veteran may be eligible for Housebound benefits when:

- The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, due to such disability, he/she is permanently and substantially confined to his/her immediate premises, **OR**,
- The veteran has a single permanent disability evaluated as 100-percent disabling **AND**, another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling.

A veteran cannot receive both Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits at the same time.

Agent Orange

Veterans who served in the Vietnam War between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides. Eleven illnesses are presumed to be service connected by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to afflict Vietnam Veterans. They include any form of chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, soft tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, respiratory cancers, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, and acute and subacute

peripheral neuropathy, type 2 diabetes, and chronic lymphocytic leukemia. For more information, please contact the nearest service office.

Gulf War Veterans

Gulf War Veterans may receive compensation for chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses and medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses. The symptoms must have appeared during the Gulf War, or to a degree of at least 10 percent at any time since then through December 31, 2011.

Prisoners Of War

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs presumes that former POWs who were imprisoned for any length of time during military service could suffer from the following service connected conditions: psychosis, anxiety, dysthymic disorder, residuals of frostbite, post-traumatic osteoarthritis, heart disease or hypertensive vascular disease, stroke and residuals of stroke. Former POWs who were imprisoned for at least 30 days are presumed to have the following: avitaminosis, beriberi, chronic dysentery, helminthiasis, malnutrition, pellagra, irritable bowel syndrome, peptic ulcer disease, peripheral neuropathy and cirrhosis of the liver. For more information or to apply for this monetary benefit, please contact the nearest service office.

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. If you participated, contact our nearest service office for more information.

Concurrent Retirement/Disability Payments (CRDP)

This program went into effect January 1, 2004, and is available to military retirees who served a minimum of 20 years creditable service, including service in the National Guard and Reserves. CRDP restores some or all of the military retired pay that was deducted due to receipt of VA service-connected disability compensation. Retirees must be rated 50 percent or more disabled by the VA and, unlike Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC), the disabilities do not have to be combat-related. Retirees are not required to apply for this benefit; enrollment is automatic.

Combat Related Special Compensation

CRSC went into effect June 1, 2003, and is available to military retirees (including National Guard or Reserve retirees) who have 20 years of service. Guard and Reserve retirees with a "20-year letter" became eligible as of January 2004. It is payable for combat-related disabilities only. Qualified Reservists will not receive CRSC until they begin to receive military retired pay at age 60. Retirees must apply with their branch of service to participate in this program; enrollment is not automatic.

Documentation

Discharges, Service Records and Medals

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs will assist any Veteran in obtaining their discharge papers (DD214), service records, medical records, medals, ribbons and awards.

Discharge Upgrades

We assist Veterans in applying for discharge upgrades and corrections. However the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs will not represent Veterans before the branches of the military for any reason. This includes the boards for correction of military records and discharge review boards.

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. Veterans or their survivors may apply at their nearest service office. Check out web site www.veterans.illinois.gov/.

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 $1,000, if the veteran's death was service-connected and within the period specified.

Korean War Bonus

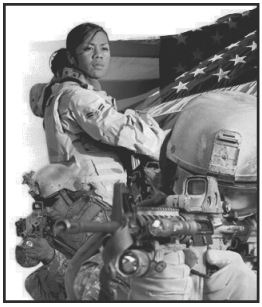
A $100 Korean War bonus is payable to Veterans who served between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1953, received the Korean Service Medal, and were a resident of Illinois for 12 months prior to entering service.

Vietnam War Bonus

The Vietnam War bonus is payable to Veterans who served between January 1, 1961 and March 28, 1973 and those who served in Operation Frequent Wind, April 29 and 30, 1975. The Veteran must have received either the Vietnam Service Medal or Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, been an Illinois resident for 12 months prior to entering the service and discharged honorably.

Persian Gulf War Bonus

A $100 Persian Gulf War bonus is for those who served between August 2, 1990 and November 30, 1995, and received the Southwest Asia Service Medal, were honorably discharged and were a resident of Illinois 12 months immediately prior to entering the service. (Individuals currently on active duty who served in the Persian Gulf War may apply)



Global War on Terrorism (new)
A $100 bonus is available to those who served on or after September 11, 2001 and who received the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and had been a resident of Illinois for 12 months immediately prior to entering the service.

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.

Global War on Terrorism Survivors Compensation

Compensation of $3,000 is available to survivors of persons killed by terrorist acts or hostile activities during performance of military service in periods not recognized as wartime by United States campaign or service medals. Residency of one year prior to military service is required.

POW Compensation

POW Compensation is available to those 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 entering service. A $50 bonus for each month or portion thereof for those servicemembers who were taken prisoner and held captive.

Education and Training

Montgomery GI Bill

The Montgomery GI Bill may be used while on active duty. Veterans with a general discharge do not qualify and eligibility expires after 10 years. All participants must have a high school

diploma. The full time rate for training, college, technical or vocational school is $1,368 a month for those who served three years or more or two years plus four years in the Selected Reserve. For those who served less than three years, the monthly rate is $1,111 as benefits are reduced for part time training. The maximum number of months veterans can receive payments is 36 months at the full time rates or the part time equivalent.

Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)

For Veterans who served on active duty on October 9, 1996, participated in VEAP and contributed money to an account, or elected the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) by October 9, 1997 and paid $1,200. Veterans who participated in VEAP on or before October 9, 1996 through April 1, 2000, elected MGIB by October 31, 2001, and contributed $2,700 to MGIB.

Post 9/11 GI Bill

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is a new education program for servicemembers and Veterans who served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Benefits are payable for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009. To be eligible, the servicemember or Veteran must serve at least 90 aggregate days on active duty after September 10, 2001, and remain on active duty or be honorably discharged from active duty status, released from active and placed on the retired list or temporary disability retired list; released from active duty and transferred to the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve; released from active duty for further service in a reserve component of the Armed Forces. Veterans may also qualify if they were

honorably discharged from active duty for a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after Sept. 10, 2001.

Generally, servicemembers or Veterans may receive up to 36 months of entitlement. Eligibility expires 15 years from the last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days. If released for a service-connected disability after at least 30 days of continuous service, eligibility ends 15 years from when the member is released for the service connected disability.

Once the servicemember chooses to receive benefits under the New GI Bill, the individual will no longer be eligible to receive benefits under the relinquished program.

Based on the length of service, eligible participants are entitled to receive a percentage of the following:

- Cost of tuition and fees, not to exceed the most expensive in- state undergraduate tuition at a public institution of higher education (paid directly to the school)
- Monthly housing allowance equal to the basic allowance for housing payable to an E-5 with dependents, determined by the zip code of the primary school. (Paid directly to the Veteran)
- Yearly books and supplies stipend of up to $1,000 per year paid to the veteran. And a one-time payment of $500 paid to certain individuals relocating from highly rural areas.

To apply or for more information please visit: www.gibill.va.gov or call 1-888-442-4551

Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program

This program assists eligible students with payment of their tuition and fees in instances (private school) where costs exceed the most expensive in state undergraduate tuition at a public school. Student must be eligible to receive 100 percent of the benefits provided under the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

Work Study Program

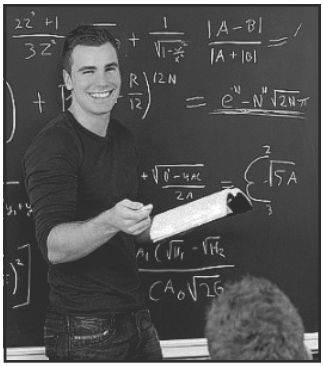
Veterans who are full-time or 3/4 time students in a college degree program, or a vocational or professional program, can

"earn while you learn" with a VA work-study allowance. The VA will select students for the work-study program based on different factors including:

- Disability of student
- Ability of student to complete the work-study contract before the end of education benefits
- Job availability within normal commuting distance to the student
- VA will give highest priority to Veterans with service-connected disability or disabilities rated by VA at more than 30 percent.

The number of applicants selected will depend on the availability of VA-related work at your school or VA facilities in your area. For more information, please visit www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/wkstud.htm.

Troops to Teachers



The Illinois Troops to Teachers Program can help eligible veterans with at least six years of honorable service transition from a military background to K-12 public school teaching. The Illinois Troops to Teachers office provides:

- Educational and teaching career advisement
- Information resources for earning state teacher certification
- Job hunting assistance

Illinois Troops to Teachers can also provide financial assistance of $5,000 to eligible veterans enrolled in a certification program or a bonus of up to $10,000 for teachers who serve a three-year commitment in any high-needs school across the state.

For more information, call the Illinois Troops to Teachers Program manager at 866-372-3157 or email at Troops.Teachers@illinois.gov or visit www.iltroops.org or www.proudtoserveagain.com

Illinois Veterans Grant

The Illinois Veterans Grant (IVG) provides 120 units at any state-supported college or university to Veterans who entered military service from the State of Illinois and returned to Illinois within six months following discharge.

For more information or to apply, please visit the Illinois Student Assistance Commission at: www.collegezone.com/giftassist/753_1216.htm

Illinois National Guard Grant

Provides any enlisted person or lieutenant and captain with at least one year of service in the Illinois National Guard, with eight semesters or 12 quarters of full-time or part-time undergraduate study at any state-controlled university or college. Please visit the Illinois Student Assistance Commission website for more information at: www.collegezone.com/studentzone/1381.htm

Children of Veterans Tuition Waiver

Each county is awarded annually one honorary scholarship at the University of Illinois, for the benefit of children of Veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam War periods, the Gulf War and the War on Terror with preference being given to the children of deceased and disabled Veterans. Please visit their website at: www.osfa.uiuc.edu/aid/scholarships/waivers_COV.html

Bright Start Fallen Heroes Scholarship

The State will deposit $2,500 in a Bright Start account for each child of a fallen service member who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom upon the request of a surviving family member.

For more information, please call your nearest service office or visit: www.treasurer.il.gov/programs/scholarships/fallen-heroes.aspx

Educational Aid for children 10-18 years old

Aid is available annually from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs for children between the ages of 10 and 18 of a

Veteran who died or became totally disabled as a result of service in the Armed Forces.

MIA/POW Scholarship

This program is administered by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and is open to spouses, natural children, legally adopted children, or step-children of eligible Veterans or service-members. The program provides four calendar years of full time enrollment to any state controlled college or university.

State Approving Agency

Approves higher education, apprenticeship, vocational, and on the job training and license and certification programs covered under the GI Bill. For more information visit www.veterans.illinois.gov/fedben.htm

High school diplomas for WWII, Korea & Vietnam Veterans

Veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam may receive a high school diploma if they do not posses one and if they left high school in order to serve in the Armed Forces.

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 http://vetsuccess.gov/

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 under honorable conditions. Preference is also provided for certain widows and widowers of deceased Veterans who died in the service such as spouses of service-connected disabled Veterans and mothers of

Veterans who died under honorable conditions on active duty or have permanent and total service-connected disabilities. For each of these preferences there is a specific criterion that must be met.

Jobs for Vets

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) provides a trained Veterans 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: www.ides.state.il.us/veterans/default.asp

Employment Assistance for Air National Guard

State employees 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 www.work.illinois.gov

Veterans Tax Credit

The State of Illinois provides a $1,200 tax credit to businesses which hire a Veteran. Visit: www.revenue.state.il.us/Businesses/index.htm

Illinois Reemployment Rights

Illinois National Guard members called to active duty are protected under state law in addition to Federal Law unless performing state active duty in which case only State Law applies. For more information, visit the Office of the State Attorney at: www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights/veterans.html

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 Afghani-

stan conflicts. They have been seen in other conflicts, but given the new more powerful explosives and excellent medical care our troops are receiving in the field, the blasts are more powerful and more troops are surviving blasts that would have killed soldiers in other conflicts. These two changes are creating a situation where the concussion created by intense pressurization and depressurization from the blasts are injuring soldiers in a different way that what was experienced in earlier wars. PTSD has always been a problem, but is now more prevalent because of repeated tours of duty for many troops.

The aforementioned events have created a situation where TBI and PTSD are taking their toll on our returning troops, and in many cases, their families as well. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at the federal and state levels is focusing on an environment where early detection and early intervention support is practiced to make the transition to civilian life as easy and productive as possible or both the veteran and the family.

To this end, all OIF/OEF veterans are encouraged to take advantage of the Veterans Administration Health Care System. The VA is offering the OIF/OEF veteran 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.

VA Health Care

Please call your nearest veteran service office for assistance.

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

Illinois Health Programs

Veterans Care Program

Veterans Care is a program created to provide comprehensive and affordable health care coverage to uninsured Illinois Veterans. Veterans Care covers doctor and clinic visits, hospital inpatient and outpatient care, lab tests, x-rays, prescription drugs, vision care, limited dental, physical, occupational and speech therapy, mental health and substance abuse services and emergency medical transportation to name a few. For more information or to apply, please call or visit your nearest service office.

Illinois Warrior Assistance Program

The Illinois Warrior Assistance Program offers a 24-hour, toll-free helpline at 1-866-554-IWAP(4927), which is staffed by health professionals to assist Veterans, day or night, with the symptoms associated with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and provides Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) screening to all interested Illinois Veterans, especially those returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. If you or someone you know is suffering from post deployment stress, please call 866-554-4927 or visit www.illinoiswarrior.com/ for more information about the program.

Burial Benefits

Families may apply for any of these benefits at their nearest service office.

Burial Assistance, Plot/Internment Allowance

Certain benefits are available to assist with the burial expenses of deceased Veterans. Eligibility is established if the Veteran was entitled at the time of death to pension or compensation (or if the receipt of military retired pay negated compensation). Eligibility is also established if the Veteran died while hospitalized or domiciled in a VA facility or other facility at VA expense.

National Cemetery Burial

Burial in a VA national cemetery is available at no cost to eligible Veterans and their spouses and eligible dependants and includes the gravesite, liner, opening and closing of the grave, a headstone or marker, and perpetual care as part of a national shrine. For Veterans, this benefit also includes a flag and military honors, family members and others may request a Presidential Memorial Certificate. See their web site at www.cem.va.gov/bbene/bbene.asp.

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. It is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran's military service to his or her country. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will furnish a burial flag for memorialization for each other than dishonorable discharged:

- Veteran who served during wartime
- Veteran who died on active duty after May 27, 1941

- services for blind and visually impaired Veterans
- Veteran who served after January 31, 1955
- peacetime Veteran who was discharged or released before June 27, 1950
- certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951
- certain former members of the Selected Reserves

Grave Marker or Headstone

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will furnish a headstone or marker without charge for the unmarked grave of a Veteran who was separated from the service under conditions other than dishonorable or who died on active duty. Medal of Honor recipients are entitled to headstones or markers.

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

When the federal government has furnished a headstone or marker, IDVA shall pay up to the allowable reimbursement amount for the setting of such marker within Illinois. Currently, the maximum amount is $100 payable upon approval of the application.

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. Maximum benefit is $600.

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, a manufactured home, or a condominium
- buy a lot for a manufactured home
- build, repair, or improve a home (including energy-efficient improvements)
- refinance an existing loan

Illinois GI Home Credit Program

The program allows Illinois Veterans and active duty members who are first time home buyers to take advantage of the MCC-Mortgage credit certificate. The credit reduces the amount of federal income tax the borrower must pay. Please contact your local County Assessor's Office for more information.

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 for as long as the Veteran, or the spouse, or unmarried surviving spouse resides on the property. To apply, contact or visit your local service office.

Tax Exemption for Mobile Home

Provides tax exemption from the Mobile Home Local Services Tax Act to Veterans, spouses and surviving unmarried spouses who are permanent residents of Illinois and who exclusively use and occupy the home. Please contact your local County Assessor's Office for more information.

Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption

Veterans who qualify can receive a one-time $5,000 reduction to their home's Equalized Assessed Value (EAV). Please contact your local County Assessor's Office for more information.

Disabled Veterans' Homestead Exemption

A Veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 50 percent, but less than 75 percent, may qualify for a $2,500 homestead exemption, or a Veteran who is at least 75 percent service-connected disabled may qualify for a $5,000 exemption. Please contact your local County Assessor's Office for more information.

Specially Adapted Housing Grant

The Specially Adapted Housing Grant is a federal benefit available to Veterans or servicemembers who are entitled to compensation for permanent and total service-connected disability due to:

- The loss, or loss of use, of both lower extremities such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes or a wheelchair.
- Blindness in both eyes having only light perception, plus loss or loss of use of one lower extremity.
- The loss, or loss of use, of one lower extremity together with
  1) residuals of organic disease or injury, or
  2) the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity.
- The loss, or loss of use, of both upper extremities, so as to preclude use of the arms at or above the elbows.
- The permanent and total disability is due to a severe burn injury (as so determined).

An eligible Veteran or servicemember may receive a VA grant of not more than 50 percent of the cost of a specially adapted house, up to the aggregate maximum amount allowable by law. The current maximum grant amount allowable at time of publication is $63,780.

This amount will be adjusted annually based on a cost-of-construction index. The first adjustment occurred Oct. 1, 2009 and will occur each October 1 thereafter. Any future adjustments will increase the grant amounts or leave them unchanged.

Illinois Veterans' Homes

Illinois Veterans with one day or more of service during any wartime period recognized by the US 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.

The Veterans' Home at Quincy

The Veterans' Home at Quincy, the largest in the state, is located in Adams County. The Home provides a broad range of facilities and services including domiciliary, intermediate and skilled care. With a capacity of 551 licensed skilled care beds, the home provides a special needs unit for care of Veterans with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. Anderson and Somerville Barracks offer a home to up to 132 domiciliary residents. Sunset State Veterans' Cemetery located on the campus provides interment and perpetual care for eligible Veterans and spouses. Over 7,000 Veterans and spouses, dating back to the Civil War rest there.

The Veterans' Home at LaSalle

The Veterans' Home at LaSalle is located in LaSalle County. The Home provides skilled nursing care for 160 residents and an additional 40 persons in a special needs unit for Veterans suffering from Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.

The Veterans' Home at Anna

The Veterans' Home at Anna is located in Union County. The Home provides skilled nursing care services to eligible Veterans

and can accommodate 50 skilled nursing care residents and 12 people in six adjoining apartment-style domiciliary units.

The Veterans' Home at Manteno

The Veterans' Home at Manteno is located in Kankakee County. The Home can accommodate 300 skilled care residents and 40 in the Alzheimer's/dementia unit. Manteno offers a diverse range of program and services to eligible Veterans.

The Prince Homeless/Disabled Veterans' Home

Located at the Veterans' Home at Manteno, this 15-bed program is staffed with social service professionals and provides permanent supportive housing to Veterans, helping them obtain medical and education benefits to which they are entitled, and assisting them with learning/reinforcing the life skills necessary to live independently.

The Veterans' Home at Chicago

The Veterans' Home at Chicago will be located in Cook County on the northwest side of the city on-site at the Reed Mental Health Center. It is scheduled to have a 200-bed capacity with a wing for Alzheimer's/dementia patients.

Camping and Admission Fees

Apply at your nearest veteran service office.

Camping 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.

No Museum Fees for Ex-POWs

Ex-POWs are exempt from paying admission fees to any museum that receives state funds.

State Fair

Honorably discharged Veterans and their families are admitted free on Veterans Day at the Illinois State Fair and DuQuoin State Fair, both are the first Sunday the Fair is open.

Fishing and Hunting Licenses

Fishing and Hunting

Fishing and hunting licenses are not required for disabled veterans who are Illinois residents and 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. This pass is only good on CTA. You must come in person the first Tuesday of every month to 100 W. Randolph, Suite 5-507 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., or the fourth Tuesday of every month to Jesse Brown VA medical Center, 820 S. Damen Ave., Room 2446, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Other Veteran Programs

Veterans Conservation Corps

The Veterans Conservation Corps is a joint program from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Volunteers are needed and there are a variety of opportunities available so there is something for everyone.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Conservation Corps, the first step is to meet with a Veteran Service Officer in your area or call the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Veterans Cash Grant

Veterans Cash is the Lottery's first lottery ticket where 100 percent of proceeds go to support Illinois Veterans.

Proceeds from the sale of this ticket are deposited into an interest bearing account in the State Treasury called the Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund. The Illinois General Assembly appropriates this money solely to IDVA who will award the money in grants, fund additional services or conduct research relating to veterans' Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, homelessness, health insurance costs, long term care and disability benefits.

Since 2006, Veterans Cash has awarded more than $6 million to organizations supporting Illinois Veterans.

To apply for a Veterans Cash grant, download, complete, and mail a Veterans Cash Grant Application which can be found at the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs web site at www.veterans.illinois.gov/programs/veterans_cash.htm

Veteran of the Month

Each month, on behalf of the Illinois Governor, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Director will recognize an individual who contributes to the betterment of communities and other Veterans across the State of Illinois. For more information, contact IDVA at (312) 814-5538.

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. To date, nearly 300 incarcerated veterans have voluntarily participated in the program, which is expected to further expand to all of the state's medium and minimum-security correctional centers.

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross Service to Armed Forces (SAF) program addresses the needs of military family emergencies. The Red Cross is chartered by the United States Congress to act as a communications medium between military personnel and their families; however receives no governmental funding for the program. The United States Armed Forces recognizes the American Red Cross emergency messages as the verifying source of an individual crisis in a military member's family. This information enables commanders to make informed decisions regarding emergency leave when a military family faces crises such as death, critical illness, financial problems or birth. The American Red Cross is the ONLY agency that can provide emergency communications for military members and their families. The Chapter also presents SAF information to military support groups and military personnel.

Disabled Veterans License Plates and Parking

Veterans who are 100 percent service-connected disabled and who have been declared eligible for funds for the purchase of a motor vehicle may be issued one special license, without charge. Vehicles bearing special registration plates for disabled veterans are exempt from any statute or ordinance imposing time limitations on parking in business districts or other facilities.

Special License Plates

The following special plates are available to Veterans who qualify. Please visit a Secretary of State of Illinois office, or visit their web site at: www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/vehicles/license_plate_guide/specialty_plates/military/home.html

- Disabled Veteran
- Congressional Medal of Honor
- POW/MIA Illinois Remembers
- Illinois National Guard
- Armed Forces Reserves
- Purple Heart
- Armed Forces Retired

- Pearl Harbor Survivor
- Korean War Veteran
- Bronze Star
- US Veteran
- Silver Star
- Vietnam Veteran
- World War II Veteran
- West Point Bicentennial
- U.S. Marine Corps Veteran
- Gold Star Family
- Paratrooper
- Korean Service
- Iraq Campaign
- Afghanistan Campaign
- Distinguished Service Cross
- Army Veteran
- Navy Veteran
- Air Force Cross
- Navy Cross
- Ex-POW

VA Hospitals

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
820 S. Damen Avenue
Chicago, IL 60612
312-569-8387

VA Illiana Health Care System
1900 E. Main Street
Danville, IL 61832
217-554-3000
888-838-6446

Edward Hines Jr. VA Medical Center
5000 S. Fifth Avenue
Hines, IL 60141
708-202-8387

Marion VA Medical Center
2401 West Main Street
Marion, IL 62959
618-997-5311

North Chicago VA Medical Center
3001 Green Bay Road
North Chicago, Illinois 60064
800-393-0865 or 847-688-1900

VA Outpatient Clinics

Aurora Veterans Outpatient Clinic
1700 N. Landmark Road
Aurora, IL 6050 630-859-2504

Auburn Gresham (Chicago) Clinic
7731 S Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60620 773-962-3700

Lakeside Chicago VA Outpatient Clinic
211 E. Ontario Street
Chicago, IL 60611 312-569-8387

Chicago Heights VA Outpatient Clinic
30 East 15th Street (Suite 207)
Chicago Heights, IL 60411 708-756-5454

Elgin VA Outpatient Clinic
450 W. Dundee
Elgin, IL 60123 847-742-5920
Fax: 847-742-6124

Evanston VA Outpatient Clinic
1942 Dempster Street
Evanston, IL 60202 847-869-6315

William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital
2500 Overlook Terrace
Madison, WI 53705 608-256-1901 or 888-478-8321

Oak Park Clinic
5th & Roosevelt Rd Bldg 228
Hines, IL 60141 708-202-8387 Ext. 29600

Joliet VA Outpatient Clinic
2000 Glenwood Avenue
Joliet, IL 60435 815-744-0492

LaSalle Veterans Outpatient Clinic
2970 Chartres
LaSalle, IL 61301 815-223-9678

Manteno Veterans Outpatient Clinic (part of Hines VA)
One Veterans Drive
Manteno, IL 60950 815-468-1027

McHenry County VA Outpatient Clinic
620 South Route 31
McHenry, IL 60050 815-759-2306

Oak Lawn VA Outpatient Clinic
4700 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, IL 60453 708-499-3675

Rockford Outpatient Clinic
4940 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108 815-227-0081

Belleville VA Clinic
6500 W Main St
Belleville, IL 62223 314-286-6988

Decatur VA Outpatient Clinic
3035 East Mound Road
Decatur, IL 62526-9381 217-875-2670

Effingham Community Outpatient Clinic
1901 S 4th St Suite 21
Effingham, IL 62401 217-347-7600

Galesburg VA Clinic
387 East Grove
Galesburg, IL 61401 309-343-0311 or 309-343-0311

Mt. Vernon Community Outpatient Clinic
4105 N. Water Tower Place
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 618-246-2910

Bob Michel VA Outpatient Clinic
411 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Peoria, IL 61605-2400 309-497-0790

Quincy VA Clinic
1707 North 12th Street
Quincy, IL 62301 217-224-3366

Springfield VA Outpatient Clinic
5850 S. Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62702 217-529-5046
Fax: 217-529-6154

VA Vet Centers

Chicago Veterans Resource Center
7731 S. Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60620-2412 773-962-3740

Chicago Heights Center
1600 Halsted Street
Chicago Heights, IL 60411 708-754-0340

DuPage County Vet Center
750 Shoreline Dr.
Aurora, IL 60506 708-516-7529

East St. Louis Vet Center
1265 N. 89th Street Suite 5
East St. Louis, IL 62203 618-397-6602

Evanston Vet Center
565 Howard St.
Evanston, IL 60202 847-332-1019

Quad Cities Vet Center
1529 46th Avenue #6
Moline, IL 61265 309-762-6954

Oak Park Vet Center
155 S. Oak Park Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302 708-383-3225

Peoria Vet Center
3310 N. Prospect Road
Peoria, IL 61603 309-688-2170

Rockford Vet Center
4960 E. State St. #3
Rockford, IL 61108 815-395-1276

Springfield Vet Center
1227 S. Ninth Street
Springfield, IL 62703 217-492-4955

Chicago VA Regional Office
2122 W Taylor Street
Chicago, IL 60612 800-827-1000

VA Cemeteries

Alton National Cemetery
600 Pearl Street
Alton, IL 62003 314-845-8320
FAX: 314-845-8355

Danville National Cemetery
1900 East Main Street
Danville, IL 61832 217-554-4550 or 4291
FAX: 217-554-4803

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
20953 W. Hoff Road
Elwood, IL 60421 815-423-9958
FAX: 815-423-5824

Mound City National Cemetery
HWY Junction 37 & 51
Mound City, IL 62963 314-845-8320
FAX: 314-845-8355

Quincy National Cemetery
36th and Maine Street
Quincy, IL 62301 309-782-2094
FAX: 309-782-2097

Rock Island National Cemetery
Bldg 118, Rock Island Arsenal
Rock Island, IL 61299 309-782-2094
FAX: 309-782-2097

Camp Butler National Cemetery
5063 Camp Butler Road
Springfield, IL 62707 217-492-4070
FAX: 217-492-4072

RESOURCES

Court of Claims
www.sos.state.il.us/departments/court_of_claims/home.html
•Global War on Terrorism Survivors Compensation

Fisher House
www.fisherhouse.org
•Comfort Homes
•Scholarships for Children of Military

Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commission
www.iacvac.org
•Utility and Rental Assistance
•Emergency Housing
•Food Certificates Assistance
•Burial Assistance

Illinois Attorney General
www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights/veterans.html
800-382-3000
TTY: 800-964-3013
•Case Advocacy
•Health Outreach
•Public Advocacy Forums

Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
www.commerce.state.il.us/
•Landlord/Tenant Rights Education
•Family Case Management Program
•Housing Rental Assistance (contact local housing authority)
•First Stop Business Information Center www.illinoisbiz.biz/dceo/
800-252-2923

Illinois Dept. of Aging
www.state.il.us/aging/
800-252-8966
•Adult Day Services
•Case Management
•Choices for Care
•Homemaker

•Senior Companion
•Family Caregiver Support Program
•Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
•Meals, Congregate and Home Delivered
•Senior Centers
•Transportation
•The Illinois Volunteer Money Management Program

Illinois Dept. of Central Management Services (CMS)
www.cms.illinois.gov/
800-643-8138
•Veterans Preference
•Veterans Outreach Program

Illinois Dept. of Employment Security (IDES)
www.ides.state.il.us/
888-367-4382
•Veterans Employment & Training Service Program

Illinois Dept. of Human Services
www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx
800-843-6154
TTY: 800-447-6404
•Food Stamps
•Temporary assistance for needy families (TANF)
•Child Care Services
•Emergency Food & Shelter Program
•Homeless Prevention Program
•Supportive Housing Program
•Teen Services
•Women & Infant Children (WIC)
•Substance Abuse Detox
•Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment
•Inpatient Substance Abuse Treatment
•Family Case Management
•Early Intervention
•Domestic Violence Services
•Development Disabilities
• Client Assistance Program
•Independent Living Program
•Services for Deaf or Hard of Hearing
•Blind Services

Illinois Dept. of Military Affairs (IL National Guard)
www.il.ngb.army.mil
Individual phone numbers are listed in other sections
•Monetary
•Illinois Military Family Relief Fund
•Pay Differential
•Education
•Army Continuing Education Systems
•DANTES Distance Learning Program
•Student Loan Repayment Program
•Illinois National Guard Grant
•Children's Scholarship Fund
•Family Readiness Groups
•Legal Assistance
•Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Program (ESGR)
•Life insurance- SGLI
•Family Assistance Centers
•Tri-Care

Illinois Dept. of Public Aid
•Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) www.liheapillinois.com/
•IL Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP)
www.weatherizationillinois.com/
•Child Support Enforcement Program
www.ilchildsupport.com
800-447-4278
•Kidcare & Moms and Babies
•www.allkidscovered.com/
866-468-7543
TTY: 877-204-1012
•Family Care
www.familycareillinois.com/
866-468-7543
TTY: 877-204-1012
•Health Benefits for Workers with Disabilities
www.hbwdillinois.com/
800-226-0768
TTY: 866-675-8440
•Senior Care Pharmaceutical
www.seniorcareillinois.com
800-226-0768

Illinois Dept. of Revenue
www.revenue.state.il.us
800-732-8866
•Tax Assistance

Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)
www.collegezone.com
800-899-4722
•Illinois Veterans Grant (Reserve & National Guard may be eligible)
•Illinois National Guard Grant

Illinois Veterans Resource Center (Vet Center)
www.va.gov/rcs
•Counseling
•Readjustment
•Family
•Individual
•Bereavement
•Sexual Trauma
•Chicago 773-962-3740
•Chicago Heights 708-754-0340
•East St. Louis 618-397-6602
•Evanston 847-332-1019
•Moline 309-762-6954
•Oak Park 708-383-3225
•Peoria 309-688-2170
•Rockford 815-395-1276
•Springfield 217-492-4955

State Approving Agency
www.state.il.us/agency/dva/fedben.htm
217-782-7839
•GI Bill for On-the-job Training and Apprenticeship

University of Illinois
www.osfa.uiuc.edu/aid/scholarships/waivers_COV.html
•Children of Veterans Scholarship

USA Jobs
www.usajobs.opm.gov
•Federal Government Employment

U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM)
www.opm.gov/veterans
202-606-1800
TTY: 202-606-2532
•Veterans Preference
•Vet Guide

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
www.va.gov
800-827-1000
•Survivor Benefits
•Death Pension
•Medical Care for Dependents and Survivors (CHAMPVA)
•Compensation
•Pension
•Automobile Assistance
•Specially Adapted Housing
•Homelessness Assistance
•Burial & Reimbursement Benefits
•Military Discharges
•Burial Flag
•Government Headstone & Marker
•Home Loan Guarantee
•GI Bill www.gibill.va.gov
888-442-4551
•Dependent Education
•Service Disabled Veterans Insurance
www.insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/default.htm
877-222-VETS (8387)
•Outpatient/Inpatient
•Mental Health
•Substance Abuse
•Prescription Assistance
•Emergency Care
•Counseling
•Dental
•Travel Expenses
•Preventive Care
•Pregnancy & Delivery Service
•Respite Hospice & Palliative Care
•Eye Glasses & Hearing Aids
•Prosthetics

- Orthotic Devices
- Bereavement Counseling
- Medical Consultation
- Home Health Services
- Surgical
- Homeless Support Assistance
- Sexual Abuse
- Women's Veterans Health Program www.publichealth.va.gov/omenshealth/

STATE RESOURCES - WEBSITES AND PHONE

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
www.veterans.illinois.gov/
312-814-2460 or 217-782-6641
Facebook: www.facebook.com (search: The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs)
Twitter: www.twitter.com/ILVetsAffairs

Illinois Military Family Relief Fund
www.il.ngb.army.mil
866-524-4564 or 217-761-3452

Illinois Student Assistance Commission
www.collegezone.com
800-899-4722

Illinois Department of Employment Security
www.ides.state.il.us/veterans/default.asp
888-367-4382

Illinois Tax Filing requirements for military personnel:
www.revenue.state.il.us/Publications/Pubs/Pub-102.pdf
800-732-8866

Illinois tax on military retirement:
www.revenue.state.il.us/LegalInformation/letter/rulings/it/2001/ig010060.pdf
800-732-8866

Illinois Department of Public Health:
www.idph.state.il.us/
312-814-2608 or 217-782-4977

Illinois Attorney General Veterans Rights Bureau:
www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/rights/veterans.html
Chicago: 312-814-3000 TTY: 800-964-3013
Springfield: 217-782-1090 TTY: 877-844-5461

Secretary of State:
www.sos.state.il.us
800-252-8980

Veterans Outreach Program (State of Illinois):
www.work.illinois.gov/
Check web site for specific phone numbers

Illinois Association of County Veteran Assistance Commission:
www.iacvac.org
Check web site for more information

Health Coverage for Illinois Parents:
www.familycareillinois.com
866-255-5437 TTY: 877-204-1012

Circuit Breaker:
www.revenue.state.il.us/publications/bulletins/2001/Fy2001-16.pdf
800-624-2459 TTY: 800-544-5304

Military License Plates:
www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/vehicles/license_plate_guide/specialty_plates/military/home.html
800-252-8980

Employer Support for Guard and Reserve:
www.esgr.org
217-761-3642

Military Funerals:
217-761-3873

Legal Services:
217-761-3510

Inspector General:
866-204-7704 or 217-761-3730

Illinois Department of Human Services:
www.dhs.state.il.us
800-843-6154 TTY: 800-447-6404

American Red Cross:
www.il-redcross.org/
217-787-7602

FEDERAL

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
www.va.gov
800-827-1000

GI Bill
www.gibill.va.gov
888-442-4551

U.S. Department of Labor/Veterans Employment & Training Service
www.dol.gov/vets

Housing and Urban Development Veteran Resource Center
www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/about/hudvet

National Personnel Record Center
www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/

Armed Forces Tax Information
www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=97273,00.html

Servicemember's Group Life Insurance/Veterans' Group Life Ins.
www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/default.htm

Small Business Administration (SBA)
www.sba.gov/vets
800-827-5722

Office of Personnel Management
www.opm.gov/veterans

DoD per diem, travel and transportation allowance rates
www.defensetravel.dod.mil/perdiempdrates.html

Deployment Health Support
www.deploymentlink.osd.mil

U.S. Army Community & Family Support Center
www.armymwr.org

National Guard Association of the United States
www.ngaus.org

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

American Ex-Prisoners of War (National)
www.axpow.org

American Legion (Illinois)
www.illegion.org

AMVETS (National)
www.amvets.org

Blinded Veterans of America (National)
www.bva.org

Disabled American Veterans (National)
www.dav.org

Marine Corps League
www.mcleague.org

Military Order of the Purple Heart
www.purpleheart.org

National Guard Association of Illinois
www.ngai.com

Paralyzed Veterans of America
www.pva.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars (Illinois)
www.vfwil.org

Vietnam Veterans of America
www.vva.org

MISCELLANEOUS

USO
www.uso.org

Fisher House
www.fisherhouse.org

Virtual Armory
www.virtualarmory.com/

FEDERAL

VA Health Care Benefits
877-222-8387

Mammography Hotline
888-487-1970

National Service Life Insurance
800-669-8477

Electronic Funds Transfer Direct Deposit (USDVA)
877-838-2778

Veterans Special Issues/Persian Gulf Agent Orange
800-749-8387

U.S. Naval Home
800-332-3527

HOMELESS VETERANS RESOURCES

Illinois Dept. of Human Services
www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx
800-843-6154 TTY: 800-447-6404

National Coalition of Homeless Veterans
www.nchv.org/
800-Vet-Help (800-838-4357)

Salvation Army
www.salvationarmyusa.org/

City of Chicago Department of Human Services
www.cityofchicago.org/humanservices/
Non Emergency: 311 Emergencies: 911

Featherfist
www.featherfist.com
773-721-7088

Inner-Voice (Cook County)
312-666-8110

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center (Cook County)
312-569-8085

Hines VA Medical Center (Cook County)
708-202-8387

North Chicago VA Medical Center
800-393-0865

Lakeview Shelter (Cook County)
773-327-1389

Elder Care Locator
800-677-1116

US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development
Homeless Shelters Around Illinois
www.hud.gov/local/il/homeless/shelters/sheltertable.cfm

Illinois Board of Education Homeless Education
http://homelessed.net/

Evanston Alliance on Homelessness
www.evhomeless.org/

Bridge Communities
www.bridgecommunities.org/index.html

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans
www.helpaveteran.org/

CEDA—Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Incorporated

One of the largest private non-profit organizations in the country, CEDA serves more than 375,000 Cook County residents annually. Over 30 programs and services are offered in the areas of child and family development, health and nutrition services, senior citizen programs, economic development, employment and job training, housing services, education services and community development.

We are constantly improving and expanding our services to further aid our mission of assisting individuals, families and communities. CEDA has over 650 full and part-time employees, and nearly 4,500 volunteers, dedicated to helping Chicago and suburban Cook County area residents attain economic self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life.

Some of the programs/information available include:

Computer Literacy
Child and Family Development
ComEd Residential Special Hardship Fund
Community Nutrition Network
Comprehensive Housing Services Program
Educational Enrichment
Employment and Training
Family Case Management
Financial Literacy
Head Start and Early Head Start
Home Energy Assistance Programs
Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP)
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Relief for Seniors and the Disabled
Residential Energy Assistance Challenge (REACH)
Self Employment Training Program (SETP)
Small Business Loan Program
Transitional Housing Program for U.S. Veterans
Veteran Benefit Enrollment Program
Vocational & Educational Scholarships
Women & Infant Child (WIC)
Workforce Investment Act Program

For more information, visit our website at www.cedaorg.net, or call 800-571-CEDA.

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The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, through funds provided to CEDA by DCEO under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, present this Benefits Booklet for the Veterans of Illinois.

Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Incorporated