

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.

Iowa Veteran Housing Programs

Iowa Veterans Home

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.

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.

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Iowa 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.

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Iowa 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.

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Other Iowa State Veteran Benefits

Licenses 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.

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. Located 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 will be interred at no charge and spouses/dependents will be buried for a \$300 fee.

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[Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/iowa-state-veterans-benefits.html> Nov 2012 ++]