



## **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Outreach, Transition and Economic Development**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) wants you to be successful when you transition from military to civilian life. Outreach, Transition and Economic Development (OTED) supports VA's mission by helping you and your family navigate VA benefits and services, use partner resources, and get the support you need. We are here to help you achieve and sustain your career goals, find economic success, and maintain your physical and mental well-being throughout your military life cycle. Please visit the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at <https://benefits.va.gov/transition/index.asp> to Learn more about OTED's current initiatives to support you.

## **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Welcome Kit**

Please visit the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at [www.va.gov/welcome-kit](http://www.va.gov/welcome-kit) to print a copy of the 'VA Welcome Home Kit' which can help guide you on your earned VA benefits and services.

## **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare (Medical Centers and Vet Centers)**

Illinois has five VA Medical Centers, 20 Outpatient clinics, 13 Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC), and 11 Vet Centers throughout the state. Please visit the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website at <https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?dnum=ALL&STATE=IL> for the Illinois Directory.

## **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Education and Training Benefits**

Please visit the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Education and Training Benefits webpage at [www.va.gov/education](http://www.va.gov/education) to learn more about the education benefits you earned such as the G.I. Bill®, how to manage your benefits, and other valuable VA benefits and services. You may also call USDVA Education at 1-888-GIBILL1.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at [www.benefits.va.gov/gibill](http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill).





## Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

The mission of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) is to empower veterans and their families to thrive. We do this by assisting them in navigating the system of federal, state and local resources and benefits; by providing long-term health care for eligible veterans in our Veterans' Homes; and by partnering with other agencies and non-profits to help veterans address education, mental health, housing, employment, and other challenges. Please visit our website at <https://veterans.illinois.gov/> for additional information and resources.

### Contact a Veteran Service Officer (VSO)

To assist veterans in navigating the complex web of services and benefits available, IDVA runs full-time and part-time (itinerant) offices across the state. These offices are staffed by VSOs, fellow veterans who are experts on federal, state and local veteran resources. Our VSOs are trained and accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide free assistance to veterans and their families. This includes not only applying for federal and state benefits, but also providing a variety of resources. Please visit us at <https://veterans.illinois.gov/serviceoffices.html> to locate the nearest VSO to you.

### Compensation

Many programs exist to compensate veterans and their families for their service. Our VSO's are ready and willing to assist in determining your eligibility, discussing available options, and submitting the appropriate application(s). Please visit us at <https://veterans.illinois.gov/services-benefits/benefits/compensation-benefits.html> for more information regarding some of these compensation programs, or contact your nearest VSO by visiting us here: <https://veterans.illinois.gov/serviceoffices.html>

### IDVA-Veterans Education and Training Sections (VETS)

IDVA-VETS approves all programs of education and training in Illinois for GI Bill® Benefits. If you would like to use GI Bill Benefits at an apprenticeship program, on-the-job training program, or in another non-traditional manner, please call 217-782-7838 to see if your education or training program may be approved for federal GI Bill benefits.

VETS also administers two state education programs for dependents (ages 10 and above) of certain veterans: Educational Opportunities for Children and the MIA-POW Scholarship. More information about these programs may be found at <https://veterans.illinois.gov/services-benefits/education.html>.





## Illinois Department of Employment Security

The Illinois Department of Employment Security and the Illinois Department of Central Management Services have dedicated personnel that specialize in providing employment assistance to veterans. Military service members, veterans, or spouses can send an email related to employment to [DES.MyVetRep@illinois.gov](mailto:DES.MyVetRep@illinois.gov) or visit <https://ides.illinois.gov/>.

## Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity supports and maintains a climate that enables a strong economy for their customers -taxpayers, businesses, workers and communities - by keeping, attracting and growing businesses, maintaining a skilled workforce, and enhancing communities so that the climate here is one in which businesses, small and large, and workers, can succeed to the greatest extent possible You can make initial contact at (217) 785-6006 or visit <https://dceo.illinois.gov/>.



## Illinois Department of Central Management Services

The Veterans' Outreach Program provides the opportunity for attendance at seminars throughout the state whereby attendees are counseled, tested and assisted in completing applications for state employment for which they qualify. For further information, you can call 217-782-7100 or visit <https://cms.illinois.gov/>.

## Illinois Secretary of State

The Illinois Secretary of State office offers a variety of special programs and services for veterans. Services include "Veteran" designation on your Illinois Driver's license, registration renewal waiver, a variety of military license plates, among other services. For license plate service call 1-800-252-2904, for library services call the TTY line at 1-888-261-7861. You can also visit <https://www.ilsos.gov/>.



## Illinois Joining Forces

Illinois Joining Forces is a network of over 200 veteran- and military-serving organizations in Illinois - all working together to serve you better to create a "no wrong door" system of support. At [www.illinoisjoiningforces.org](http://www.illinoisjoiningforces.org) you'll find a searchable directory of resources from these organizations, with the ability to connect directly with the right one for you - or to request help if you don't find what you need.





## Illinois Student Assistance Commission

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) administers the Illinois Veterans Grant and the Illinois National Guard Grant. ISAC offers Illinois residents a variety of grant and scholarship programs, eligibility for which is based on factors such as financial need, academic achievement, field of study, or military service. You can make initial contact at 1-800-899-4722 or visit [www.isac.org/students/during-college/military-service/](http://www.isac.org/students/during-college/military-service/).



## iTransfer Illinois Transfer Portal

Apply Your Military Training toward State Licenses and Academic Credit – Now more than ever, you can leverage your military training to obtain state licenses or gain a leg-up in employment and job training opportunities. Eligible veterans can apply their military training toward academic credit at specific schools using Transferology™. Visit <https://itransfer.org/> to learn more.

## National Resource Directory

The National Resource Directory (NRD) is a website that connects servicemembers, veterans, their families, and caregivers to programs and services that support them. It provides access to services and resources at the national, state and local levels to support recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration. Visitors can find information on a variety of topics. Please visit the National Resource Directory at <https://nrd.gov/>.



## National Veterans Legal Service Program

NVLSP's Lawyers Serving Warriors® program offers pro bono (that is, free) legal help with disability issues to veterans from all eras. Our LSW program assists veterans with Discharge Upgrades, Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC), Boards of Corrections of Military Records (BCMR's), assisting with initial TSGLI applications and appeals of denied claims, and representation to service members being processed through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES). For more information please visit us at: <https://www.nvlsp.org/what-we-do/lawyers-serving-warriors/>.

