

Annual Report

2015



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TO THE GOVERNOR, THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS:

It is my pleasure to present the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report. The IDVA mission is "...to empower veterans and their families to thrive" and our 1,264 staff members professionally execute that mission every day. We carry out our mission not just as an expression of gratitude to those who have served, but also for the sake of our Illinois communities and businesses. After all, our veterans are proven, hard-working and dedicated people – assets to their communities, the workforce, and countless organizations. Their contributions help all of Illinois thrive.

At IDVA, we are proud to assist the nearly 725,000 veterans and their families who live in this great state. Illinois is a recognized and respected national leader in veteran services, programs and engagement, and has been so for several years. We are proud to have innovative state and local programs to meet the needs of our veterans, their dependents, and their families. In FY 2015, the IDVA made great strides in serving the veteran community. Here are just a few examples of how we continue to impact veterans statewide:

- Veteran unemployment was a major focus of the IDVA throughout FY 2015 and remains one of our top priorities. In partnership with other agencies and organizations - notably the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation - we supported hiring fairs, employment workshops, and networking events; opportunities for veterans, military, and their spouses to find good-paying jobs. We did this through a strong partnership with the Commercial Club of Chicago, the Chicago Civic Committee, and the Illinois Hires Heroes Consortium – a group of over 100 corporations across Illinois that are all committed to hiring veterans.
- Our Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) are experts in helping veterans navigate the complex systems of federal, state, and local benefits and resources available to them. Using CyberVet, an in-house built electronic platform that allows for streamlined, accurate processing and records management for our veterans' claims, our VSOs processed over 90,000 claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). Through increased training, accountability and accreditation for our VSOs, we enhanced the quality of service for our veterans and their families. These activities were instrumental for initial claims and continued receipt of federal monies, to include \$39.6 million in retroactive federal benefits and more than \$78 million annually being received by Illinois veterans, their dependents, and their survivors.
- Our four Veterans' Homes provided quality care to over 900 aging in FY 15. In addition to the expert skilled nursing care provided, our veterans continue to thrive in our Homes thanks to the collective community support provided by volunteers and veteran service organizations around the state. We are incredibly fortunate to have so many people who are personally vested in ensuring that our veterans lead full and active lives. From woodworking, to gardening and even motorcycle parades, we are grateful to the communities and organizations who have helped us to carry out our mission at each of the Veterans' Homes.

- IDVA enhanced its performance measures system and implemented client satisfaction surveys in our Homes and Veteran Services Offices. These efforts are providing detailed feedback on the quantity and quality of our services, allowing for consistent improvement of operations.
- In FY 2015, the Veterans' Cash Grant Committee awarded 38 grants totaling \$829,490 from the Veterans' Cash Lottery proceeds. The recipient organizations help provide post-traumatic stress (PTS) treatment and research, long-term health care, health insurance cost relief, disability benefits, housing assistance, and other vital services.
- The Department expanded its Women Veterans Program in FY 2015 by hiring a full-time Women Veterans' Coordinator focused on providing networking, information, entrepreneurship training programs, and other events tailored toward women veterans.
- Illinois Joining Forces (IJF), a public-private network of organizations committed to creating a "no wrong door" system of support for Illinois veterans, grew to over 200 member organizations, including educational institutions, veterans' organizations, employers, and faith-based groups. Partnering with the Illinois Department of Military Affairs (IDMA), the Illinois Joining Forces Foundation (IJFF) hired an Executive Director who will lead the effort to help IJF grow and thrive in service to our military, veterans, and family members.



Under the leadership of Governor Bruce Rauner, the agency's senior executive staff and the 1,200 plus dedicated staff of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, FY 2015 was a remarkable year. I am proud of the results we accomplished together and the services we rendered to Illinois' veterans. I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve at the helm of our professional, experienced, and dedicated team of veteran advocates and I look forward to continuing to work with each of our team members, our many partner organizations, and the General Assembly to do an even better job of serving our veterans and their families in the future.

Erica Jeffries
Director



Illinois Department of
Veterans' Affairs

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

OVERVIEW

Illinois' long and proud history of service to veterans began in 1886 with the establishment of the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Home for Civil War Veterans. Created through legislation enacted in 1945, the Illinois Veterans' Commission was responsible for state services to veterans until 1976, when it was succeeded by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA). The IDVA, created by Public Act 79-376, is charged with responsibility for the welfare and needs of Illinois veterans, their dependents and survivors. IDVA maintains administrative offices in Springfield and Chicago, four veterans' homes, and more than 70 full and part-time field offices servicing all 102 counties of the state.

**10th largest veteran population in
the country
721,575 veterans**

Through the field offices, veterans and their families obtain assistance in navigating the complex system of federal, state, and local resources and benefits. Acting as veterans' authorized representatives, the Department's accredited Veteran Service Officers provide counseling and assistance in presenting claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) on behalf of veterans and their dependents or survivors; these claims may include disability compensation, education benefits, pensions, insurance, hospitalization, and rehabilitation. Field Services also include confirming veterans' eligibility for state benefits and services, as well as assisting veterans in coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies. In FY 2015, the 73 Field Service VSOs helped Illinois veterans to obtain more than \$117.6 million in initial and retroactive claims from the USDVA, with an operating budget of \$5.1 million.

In FY 2015, IDVA was funded to provide skilled nursing care to more than 900 veterans each month through its Veterans' Homes in Quincy, Manteno, LaSalle, and Anna. These facilities primarily provide licensed skilled nursing care beds available to veterans in need of long-term care; Quincy and Anna also have a limited number of domiciliary beds for residents who do not require skilled care. In addition, IDVA is assisting the design and construction process for a new 200-bed Veterans' Home in Chicago. All of IDVA's Veterans' Homes are annually certified by the USDVA and licensed and inspected by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

IDVA assists in coordinating services and activities among state and federal agencies, as well as with non-profit organizations that serve veterans. To accomplish this, IDVA staff serves on a number of statutory committees and task forces and work in partnership with several federal agencies, including the USDVA, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and the U.S. Department of Labor. IDVA has established and maintains a network of advocacy with a variety of state agencies including the Department of Employment Security, the Department of Corrections, the Department on Aging, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Military Affairs, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Public Health, and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

The key initiatives of the Department this year have been, increased outreach efforts through community engagement and improving access to Veteran Service Officers online; programs, initiatives, and partnerships to address veteran employment and to equip Veteran-Owned Businesses for success; assistance to veterans in accessing training opportunities and transitioning their military training toward state license requirements; expansion of a Women Veterans Program; continued work toward opening the 200-bed Illinois Veterans' Home - Chicago; and continued support of the Illinois Warrior Assistance Program, the Veterans Cash Lottery Ticket Grant Program, Veterans Treatment Courts in various counties, and the Veterans Care Program.

FY 2015 – AGENCY SUMMARY
(IN THOUSANDS)

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
GRF	\$ 66,734.9	\$ 66,734.9	\$ 64,181.0	\$ 2,553.9
HF	\$ 61,552.6	\$ 61,552.6	\$ 51,838.3	\$ 9,714.3
OTHER	\$ 11,952.9	\$ 11,952.9	\$ 4,876.8	\$ 7,085.2
TOTAL APPROPRIATED FUNDS	\$ 140,240.4	\$ 140,240.4	\$ 120,896.1	\$ 19,353.4
NON-APPROPRIATED FUNDS	\$ 100.0	\$ 100.0	\$ 90.9	\$ 9.1
TOTAL AGENCY	\$ 140,340.4	\$ 140,340.4	\$ 120,987.0	\$ 19,362.5



IDVA Assistant Director Harry Sawyer, IVAC Chairman Al Reynolds, Lt. Col. Tina Marie G. Mansfield, Illinois Air National Guard, 183rd Fighter Wing, and IDVA Director Erica Jeffries at the Desert Storm Ceremony held at the Illinois State Military Museum.

ADMINISTRATION

As of 6/30/2015

Erica Jeffries

Director

Harry Sawyer

Assistant Director/Field Services Manager

Gwen M. Diehl

*Chief of Staff/ Veterans' Homes Capital
Development Coordinator*

Miguel Calderon

Human Resources Manager

Deborah L. Miller

Chief Fiscal Officer

Jaimee Ray

Legislative Liaison

Nicole Mandeville

Senior Program Manager

Trish McGill

General Counsel

Elisabeth Pennix

Deputy General Counsel

Leighann Manning

Chief Internal Auditor

Scott Bales

Chief Information Officer

Mark Patterson

Grants Division Supervisor

Dan Wellman

Administrator, State Approving Agency

Greg Dooley

Equal Employment Officer

Edie Long

Assistant to the Director

Anthony Vaughn

Metro Division Supervisor

Jeff Willis

Northern Division Supervisor

Lisa Tisdale

Central Division Supervisor

Earl White

Southern Division Supervisor

Joe Petrosky

Appeals Supervisor

Lenard Winnicki

Senior Home Administrator

Bruce Vaca

*Administrator
Illinois Veterans' Home - Quincy*

Lester Robertson

*Administrator
Illinois Veterans' Home - Manteno*

Sherri Whitmer

*Administrator
Quincy Veterans' Home - LaSalle*

Angela Simmons

*Administrator
Illinois Veterans' Home - Anna*

Tommy Haire

Administrator, Prince

Ryan Yantis

Public Information Officer

CENTRAL OFFICE

The administrative oversight of the IDVA is conducted at Central Office locations in both Springfield and Chicago. The Fiscal, Personnel, Information Technology, Supply & Services, Legal, Communications, and Legislative Divisions are headquartered in Central Office. The Central Office is also home to the staffs of the Grants Program, Audit, and the State Approving Agency (SAA), which are outlined later in this report.

The **Fiscal Division** is responsible for all agency accounting functions. This includes procurement of goods and services for the agency, invoice vouchering, receipt processing functions, expenditure tracking, preparation and execution of the annual budget, headcount tracking and certification, financial and operational reporting, property control, and lease coordination. In addition, the fiscal division is responsible for telecom, travel, and vehicle coordination.

The **Senior Home Administrator (SHA)** supervises leadership and operations of all four Veterans' Homes and the Prince Home, ensuring compliance with federal and state standards of long-term care and operations. The SHA also develops Department-wide policies for the Homes and serves as a key subject-matter expert for Department leadership.

The **Veterans' Homes Coordinator** conducts long-range planning for future capital projects to meet the care needs of residents of the Illinois Veterans' Homes and preserve the State's facilities and capital assets; serves as liaison with the Capital Development Board (CDB), IDPH, the Health Facilities and Services Review Board, and the USDVA for capital improvement projects; and ensures that requests for federal assistance and grants are submitted to reduce state expenditures.

The **Human Resources Division** is responsible for all employment, payroll, insurance, time and attendance, workers' compensation and unemployment claims. This unit also oversees personnel operations at the four Veterans' Homes through their respective Human Resources Offices.

The **Information Technology Division** is responsible for managing and supporting technological innovation of the Department, improving Veterans' services through the use of technology, and the secure storage of computerized data. The IT Division maintains the computer communications hub for the Department and is the central link for supporting technologies employed at our Veterans' Homes and the field offices. This includes, but is not limited to, the complete network infrastructure restructuring with built-in cellular backup redundancy in Central Office and the Homes during the fiscal year.

The **Supply & Services Division** works in conjunction with all other divisions in ordering and providing supplies, graphic design and the printing of forms, booklets, newsletters, brochures, posters, banners, etc. and coordinates external printing requirements, totaling 907,215 printing impressions for FY15. This division is responsible for the maintenance management of the Central Office automobile fleet of 7 vehicles. It is also responsible for the incoming and outgoing correspondence, with 17,952 pieces processed in FY 2015.

The **Legislative Division** works in conjunction with the Governor's legislative office, elected officials, and the Senate and House staff. The Legislative Liaison provides assistance with constituent questions and concerns, drafts legislation pursuant to agency needs, and testifies in committee on issues pertaining to Veterans.

The **Legal Division** serves as the Chief Legal Counsel for the Department and reports directly to the Agency Director and the Governor's Office of the General Counsel. This Division provides legal advice and advises Department leadership regarding various issues and decisions. The Legal Division interprets laws and regulations; gives legal advice; and writes or reviews administrative rules for legislative consideration. Additionally, the General Counsel serves as the Agency's Ethics Officer, the Freedom of Information Act Officer, and the Public Access Officer.

The **Communications Division** serves as the primary informational outreach effort of IDVA and helps plan, craft, deliver and measure communications to veterans, their families, and the general public through media engagement, newsletters, social media, special events, leadership support, and response to queries. Information is provided via media advisories and press releases; responses to media and public queries; social media and Internet engagement; briefings/informational packets, speeches, talking points, and fact sheets; communications counsel and support Agency-wide as needed.

The **Senior Program Manager** for IDVA leads, implements and supports the following programs: Illinois Joining Forces, Gold Star Families, Women Veterans, Illinois Veterans Business Program, Illinois Hires Heroes Consortium, and Mission Veterans to Entrepreneurs. The Senior Program Manager serves as the liaison to the Illinois Joining Forces Foundation, a legislatively chartered non-profit charity comprised of member organizations that assist service members, veterans, and their families through the work of 9 Working Groups dedicated to specific veteran issues. Additionally, the Senior Program Manager leads the Veteran Leader Corps members and staff from IDVA in Chicago and Springfield that provide statutorily-mandated support for IJF.

The **Women Veterans Program** provides a point of contact and resources for women veterans across the entire state of Illinois. In this role, the Senior Program Manager participates with the National Association of Women Veteran Coordinators, leads discussions to develop outreach and service programs for their benefit, makes policy recommendations, and provides issue-specific support to Illinois' women veterans.

The **Gold Star Families** Program works closely with families that have lost an immediate family member in combat to assist them obtaining their benefits, works directly with the Governor's Office to coordinate and serve as liaison with Gold Star Families regarding attendance at events held for their benefit and



Above: Director Jeffries and the staff at Hines VA Medical Center

Below: IDVA Springfield office flags flown at half-staff to honor a fallen Illinois service member.



commemoration, and coordinates the delivery and display of the Portraits of a Soldier exhibit at various events, statewide.

The IDVA also engages veterans, the community, and businesses with a wide range of **Special Services and Programs** which include, but are not limited to:

- **Mission: Veterans 2 Entrepreneurs (MV2E)** which is an IDVA and Central Management Services (CMS) joint-led initiative that has assisted veterans and returning service members with up-to-date information, resources, and assistance in becoming a successful business owner.
- **The Illinois Hires Heroes Consortium (IHHC)** empowers and recognizes Illinois employers who know the great value veterans bring to the workplace and who are "veteran-friendly". IHHC members commit to implementing veteran recruitment, training and retention practices, and both IDVA and IDES assist participants in meeting simple goals that will lead the employer on the path to recruiting and retaining high-quality veteran candidates.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

FISCAL YEAR 2015
7/01/2014 THROUGH 6/30/2015
(IN THOUSANDS)

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
CENTRAL OFFICE	\$ 16,347.3	\$ 16,347.3	\$ 9,205.2	\$ 7,192.1
APPROPRIATED	\$ 16,347.3	\$ 16,347.3	\$ 9,205.2	\$ 7,192.1
NON-APPROPRIATED	\$ 50.0	\$ 50.0	\$ 40.9	\$ 9.1
CENTRAL OFFICE	\$ 16,347.3	\$ 16,347.3	\$ 9,205.2	\$ 7,192.1
GRF	\$ 6,230.2	\$ 6,230.2	\$ 5,614.1	\$ 616.1
IMFRF	\$ 250.0	\$ 250.0	\$ 9.0	\$ 241.0
IVHF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
IVAF	\$ 9,644.1	\$ 9,644.1	\$ 3,376.2	\$ 6,267.9
IAHTF	\$ 223.0	\$ 223.0	\$ 165.0	\$ 58.0
VASPF	\$ 50.0	\$ 50.0	\$ 40.9	\$ 9.1
Operations	\$ 5,478.7	\$ 5,478.7	\$ 5,012.3	\$ 466.4
Personal Services	\$ 3,753.5	\$ 3,753.5	\$ 3,433.4	\$ 320.1
Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Social Security	\$ 292.3	\$ 292.3	\$ 252.1	\$ 40.2
Contractual Services	\$ 540.9	\$ 540.9	\$ 524.2	\$ 16.7
Travel	\$ 27.5	\$ 27.5	\$ 22.1	\$ 5.4
Commodities	\$ 5.9	\$ 5.9	\$ 5.5	\$ 0.4
Printing	\$ 7.6	\$ 7.6	\$ 4.6	\$ 3.0
Equipment	\$ 35.0	\$ 35.0	\$ 32.1	\$ 2.9
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 713.0	\$ 713.0	\$ 650.0	\$ 63.0
Telecommunications	\$ 93.0	\$ 93.0	\$ 82.3	\$ 10.7
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 10.0	\$ 10.0	\$ 6.0	\$ 4.0
Grants	\$ 751.5	\$ 751.5	\$ 601.8	\$ 149.7
GRF	\$ 751.5	\$ 751.5	\$ 601.8	\$ 149.7
Illinois Warrior Assistance Program	\$ 244.4	\$ 244.4	\$ 150.3	\$ 94.1
Bonus Payments to War Veterans	\$ 193.5	\$ 193.5	\$ 171.2	\$ 22.3
Educational Opportunities	\$ 72.6	\$ 72.6	\$ 39.3	\$ 33.3
Cartage & Erection of Headstones	\$ 241.0	\$ 241.0	\$ 241.0	\$ -
MIA/POW Scholarship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
IMFRF	\$ 250.0	\$ 250.0	\$ 9.0	\$ 241.0
IVHF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Illinois Veterans' Homes Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
IVAF	\$ 9,644.1	\$ 9,644.1	\$ 3,376.2	\$ 6,267.9
Veterans Assistance Fund	\$ 9,644.1	\$ 9,644.1	\$ 3,376.2	\$ 6,267.9
IAHTF	\$ 223.0	\$ 223.0	\$ 165.0	\$ 58.0
Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund	\$ 223.0	\$ 223.0	\$ 165.0	\$ 58.0
VASPF	\$ 50.0	\$ 50.0	\$ 40.9	\$ 9.1
Veterans' Affairs State Projects Fund	\$ 50.0	\$ 50.0	\$ 40.9	\$ 9.1

GRANTS

The Grants Division is responsible for the administration of the numerous grants programs run by the IDVA, including education grants and bonuses. This division also houses more than 1.8 million veterans' records, dating from the Civil War Era to the present, and is responsible for recording discharges and maintaining an honor roll of deceased veterans in Illinois. To further enhance the Department's ability to store and utilize these records, a project to convert these documents into electronic format is underway; to date 3,014,837 military documents have been added to the electronic database with 162,359 added in FY 2015.

EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN (10-18). Financial aid is provided annually to each child, between the age of 10 and 18 years, of a veteran who died or became permanently and totally disabled as a result of service in the Armed Forces. There were 157 claims approved at \$250 each for a total benefit of \$39,250.

MIA/POW SCHOLARSHIP. Qualified dependents are entitled to full payment of tuition at a state-supported Illinois institution of higher learning, consisting of the equivalent of four calendar years of full-time enrollment, including summer terms. To be eligible, an Illinois resident must be the dependent of a veteran who:

- Has been declared by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) or USDVA; and
- To be a prisoner of war;
- To be missing-in-action;
- To have died as a result of a service-connected disability; or
- To be permanently disabled from service-connected causes with 100 percent disability.

There were 1,104 claims approved that represented \$2,649,196 worth of benefits realized. This program is unfunded and the cost is absorbed by the institution of the student's enrollment.

ILLINOIS VETERAN GRANT (IVG). The program waives tuition and certain fees at all Illinois state-supported colleges, universities, and community colleges for Illinois residents. An individual must:

- be a veteran;
- reside in Illinois six months before entering the service;
- have at least one full year of active duty in the US Armed Forces; and
- return to Illinois within six months of discharge from the service.

Applications and additional information are available from VSOs, college financial aid offices, or the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, 1755 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL 60015, phone 800-899-4722. The applicant can seek assistance at any of our Veterans' Service Offices, the program is adjudicated by and administered through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

CHILDREN OF VETERANS. Each county in the state shall be entitled, annually, to six (6) honorary scholarships at the University of Illinois, one each for the benefit of children of veterans of World War II, Korean War, Vietnam Conflict, Southwest Asia Conflict, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom periods, with preference being given to the children of deceased and disabled veterans. Such children shall be entitled to a scholarship at any campus of the University for a term of at least four consecutive years. Details may be obtained from the University Financial Aid Office. The program criteria changed for FY16 applicants and will be identified in the FY 2016 Annual Report. This tuition waiver program is applied for and administered through the University of Illinois exclusively.

BONUS AND BENEFIT PAYMENTS

WORLD WAR II. A one-time bonus payment equal to \$10 per month for domestic service and \$15 per month for foreign service is payable to Illinois residents who served on active duty from September 16, 1940, to 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. There were no new applicants in FY 2015 that had not already received this benefit or met the residency requirements, it remains an active program.

KOREAN, VIETNAM, PERSIAN GULF and GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR BONUS. A \$100 bonus is payable for service during one of the following periods:

Korea	June 25, 1950 – July 27, 1953 (3 paid, \$300)
Vietnam	January 1, 1961 – March 28, 1973 (24 paid, \$2,400)
Persian Gulf	August 2, 1990 - November 30, 1995 (76 paid, \$7,600)
Global War on Terrorism	September 11, 2001 onward (809 paid, \$80,900)

The claimant must also have received one of the following medals: Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal Vietnam Era, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, GWOT Expeditionary Medal or Service Medal with qualifying overseas service, Iraq Campaign Medal or Afghanistan Campaign Medal, along with having been a resident of Illinois for 12 months immediately prior to entering service, and having received an Honorable Discharge. Individuals currently on active duty who served in the Persian Gulf or GWOT may apply prior to discharge.

VIETNAM VETERANS COMPENSATION. If the death of a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict is the direct result of service-connected disabilities incurred in the period specified, survivors are entitled to a \$1,000 one-time payment. (Such as deaths due to Agent Orange Exposure.) There were 78 claimants compensated for a total of \$76,000. There were 2 cases that had two qualified recipients each that received equal shares of \$500, which represent the additional claimants.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM COMPENSATION. Surviving dependents or family members of military personnel who died in the Global War on Terrorism may apply for \$3,000 compensation. There were 2 claims approved at \$3,000 each for a total benefit of \$6,000.

POW COMPENSATION. A person on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or employed by the United States Government on or after January 1, 1961, who was a resident of Illinois 12 months prior to entry, and who was taken and held prisoner by hostile forces in Southeast Asia, is entitled to \$50 for each month or portion thereof that they were held captive. There were no claims.

SURVIVORS' COMPENSATION. A one-time grant of \$900 is payable to survivors of veterans who were killed in action in WWII, and a one-time grant of \$1,000 is payable to survivors of veterans killed in action in during the Korean War, Vietnam War, and Desert Shield/Storm, if the deceased had Illinois residency for at least 12 months immediately preceding entry into military service. There were no new claims.

ILLINOIS COURT OF CLAIMS. The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs assists surviving eligible dependents in filing claims for death benefits - up to \$342,088 - pursuant to the Line of Duty Compensation Act. In the case of an Armed Forces member, "killed in the line of duty" means losing one's life while on active duty in connection with the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom. Compensation is adjudicated by and, if awarded, dispersed through the Illinois Court of Claims.

VEHICLES

The IDVA provides support to veterans during the application process for any of the statutory vehicle-related benefits under the purview of the Illinois Secretary of State (SOS).

These include:

- Disabled Veterans License Plates
- Special License Plates
- Veteran Marker on Driver's License



The IDVA Veteran Service Officers (VSO) and Grant Records section provide verification of service-related qualification required by statute (medical disability, service-qualifying information, etc.) using validated records provided by the veteran, or documents currently on file in the IDVA CyberVet Database or the Grant Records section. Applications for any of the vehicle-related benefits are processed through the offices of the Secretary of State.

REAL ESTATE

SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING. Assistance is provided for service-connected disabled veterans for the purpose of acquiring and remodeling suitable dwelling units with special fixtures or moveable facilities made necessary by the veteran's permanent and total service-connected disabilities. There were 11 claims approved at \$15,000 each for a total benefit of \$165,000.

TAX EXEMPTION. This 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.

Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption

The Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption provides qualifying veterans a one-time \$5,000 reduction to their homes' equalized assessed value (EAV). Qualifying veterans who return from active duty in an armed conflict involving the U.S. armed forces can file an application upon their return home to receive this exemption from their local County Assessor's Office.

Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption

The Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption provides a reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a veteran with a service-connected disability. Beginning in taxable year 2015, a \$2,500 homestead exemption is available to a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 30% but less than 50% and a \$5,000 homestead exemption is available to a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 50% but less than 70%; a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 70% is completely exempt from property taxes. Qualifying veterans must file an annual application by their counties' deadlines to continue to receive this exemption with their local County Assessor's Office.

RECORDS AND FILES

PUBLIC RECORDS. Certified copies of public records for veterans will be furnished by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, on the first request without charge. Additional requests for certified copies of public records or for public records outside of the State might require a fee.

BURIAL BENEFITS

CARTAGE AND ERECTION FEES. When a headstone or marker has been furnished by the Federal government, the IDVA shall pay a maximum allowable reimbursement amount of \$100 for the setting of such marker within Illinois. There were 2,413 claims approved at \$100 or less for a total benefit of \$240,950.

GRAVES REGISTRATION. The IDVA shall maintain a Roll of Honor of all veterans buried in the State of Illinois. Every person, firm, or corporation owning or controlling any cemetery or burial place in this state is required to keep a permanent record of the burial of each U.S. war veteran or memorial marker erected for this purpose.

	CLAIMS	EXPENSES
Cartage and Erection of Government Headstones	2,413	\$240,950
Bonus Payments	990	\$171,200
Global War on Terrorism / Military Affairs	2	6,000
Specially Adapted Housing	11	\$165,000
Tax Exemption	334	-
State Education Programs	157	\$39,250
MIA/POW Program**	176	-

Grants

Summary of Special Services for FY 2015

<u>SPECIAL SERVICES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Veterans Employment Confirmations	483
Tax Exemptions Certificates	318
Veterans Discharge Certificates	9,149
Veterans Burial Certificates	947
SOS Special License Plate	915
POW / MIA New Student Certifications Awarded	205
Phone Inquiries	3,987
Correspondence	3,252
Image Documents	156,971
Welcome Home Letters	6,102
File Emails & Faxes	3,665
Total	185,994

STATE APPROVING AGENCY

The State Approving Agency (SAA) is a completely federally funded program established to approve and audit for compliance college and non-college degree programs, vocational flight training, apprenticeships and other on-the-job training (OJT), license and certification tests, and Small Business Development Centers Entrepreneurship Courses, so that educational assistance benefits may be paid to veterans and other eligible persons under programs administered by the USDVA.

The SAA is responsible for the initial approval of all veteran training and education institutions within Illinois. The SAA is also responsible for maintaining the approval of non-college degree programs at accredited public and not-for-profit colleges and universities with deemed approved degree programs; for-profit colleges and universities; vocational schools with non-college degree programs; non-registered apprenticeship programs; and on-the-job training programs. The SAA does not maintain the approval of degree programs at accredited public and not-for-profit colleges and universities, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved flight schools, and U.S. Department of Labor registered apprenticeship programs.

The following is a list of entitlement programs for which the SAA has approval and supervisory responsibilities within Illinois:

- Montgomery G.I. Bill – Active Duty (Chapter 30)
- Post-Vietnam Era Veterans’ Educational Assistance Program (VEAP Chapter 32)
- Post 9/11 G.I. Bill – (Chapter 33)
- Survivors and Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)
- Montgomery G.I. Bill – Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606)
- Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP Chapter 1607)

In FY 2015, the SAA also continued its efforts to promote usage of the GI Bill. SAA conducted separation briefings at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, along with a variety of different education and training benefit briefings at Scott Air Force Base and Rock Island Arsenal. The SAA also maintained relationships with both the Illinois Air and Army National Guard by providing training at reintegration events, and supported the Army, Marine Corps, and Navy Reserves as applicable.

The SAA continued its efforts to provide Illinois veterans with opportunities to train in approved apprenticeship and OJT training programs. These efforts have resulted in Illinois having the most active apprenticeship and OJT program in the nation. During FY 2015, the SAA supervised more than 335 active apprenticeship and OJT training facilities and approved 10 new apprenticeship and 69 OJT programs.

The SAA also continues to assist in the monitoring of the Illinois Higher Education Veterans Service Act (P.A. 96-0133), passed in August 2009, which requires all public colleges and universities with full-time daily attendance of at least 1,000 to conduct a survey of the services and programs that are provided for veterans, active duty military personnel, and their families. Additional provisions require schools to appoint a Veterans Coordinator, provide a resource guide, and complete a fiscal impact survey, resulting in positive outcomes for student veterans.

Finally, the SAA supports the Illinois veteran community by organizing and participating in various initiatives in the area of education and training, such as the Student Veterans Leadership Day.

The **Troops to Teachers (TTT)** program assists eligible military personnel transitioning to a new career as public school teachers in Illinois. The office educates and counsels participants on the requirements for Illinois teacher certification, information on teaching degree programs, and alternative routes to certification. Information is also provided on critical teacher needs in the state by discipline and location, as well as the transfer of certification from state to state. The TTT office also assists participants, as able, in locating employment opportunities in K-12 public schools.

Through the federally funded, state-run TTT program, financial assistance may be provided to eligible individuals as stipends up to \$5,000 to help pay for teacher certification costs or as bonuses of \$10,000 to teach in schools serving a high percentage of students from low-income families. Participants who accept the stipend or bonus must agree to teach for three years in a ‘high-needs’ district or school in accordance with the authorizing legislation, and the maximum award cannot exceed \$10,000. The Illinois TTT office has continued to be responsible for implementation of this program in Illinois throughout FY 2015, with additional responsibility to include Indiana as well.

**State Approving Agency
Summary of Activity for FY 2015**

PROGRAM APPROVALS AND CANCELLATIONS

New, Revised, Other Institutions Approval Actions	5,743
Programs and Institutions Canceled	579
New, Revised, Other Apprenticeship Approval Actions	100
Programs and Apprenticeships Cancelled	24
Programs and On-The-Job Training Approval Actions	435
Programs and On-The-Job Training Programs Cancelled	107
New, Revised, Other Flight School Approval Actions	0
Programs and Flight School Programs Cancelled	2
Programs and License and Certification Tests Approval Actions	83
<u>Programs and License and Certification Tests Cancelled</u>	<u>2</u>
Total - Approval Actions	7,075



The University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana Veteran Student Support Services (VSSS), a unit within the Office of the Dean of Students, recognizes the selfless service and sacrifices made by members of our armed forces and the unique challenges associated with transitioning into a university setting. To support this transition, they are committed to providing Veterans, active duty personnel, National Guard and Reserve members and qualified dependents with the services necessary to pursue their academic and personal interests, explore different learning experiences, and integrate into the campus community.

STATE APPROVING AGENCY

7/01/2014 THROUGH 6/30/2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
STATE APPROVING AGENCY	\$ 1,710.8	\$ 1,710.8	\$ 1,216.7	\$ 494.1
APPROPRIATED	\$ 1,710.8	\$ 1,710.8	\$ 1,216.7	\$ 494.1
STATE APPROVING AGENCY	\$ 1,710.8	\$ 1,710.8	\$ 1,216.7	\$ 494.1
GIEF	\$ 1,494.7	\$ 1,494.7	\$ 1,022.6	\$ 472.1
FEDERAL PROJECTS FUND	\$ 216.1	\$ 216.1	\$ 194.1	\$ 22.0
GIEF	\$ 1,494.7	\$ 1,494.7	\$ 1,022.6	\$ 472.1
Personal Services	\$ 718.7	\$ 718.7	\$ 557.0	\$ 161.7
Retirement	\$ 304.3	\$ 304.3	\$ 235.9	\$ 68.4
Social Security	\$ 55.0	\$ 55.0	\$ 41.0	\$ 14.0
Group Insurance	\$ 184.0	\$ 184.0	\$ 87.9	\$ 96.1
Contractual Services	\$ 60.4	\$ 60.4	\$ 36.1	\$ 24.3
Travel	\$ 42.3	\$ 42.3	\$ 20.0	\$ 22.3
Commodities	\$ 3.3	\$ 3.3	\$ 1.5	\$ 1.8
Printing	\$ 12.0	\$ 12.0	\$ 0.1	\$ 11.9
Equipment	\$ 72.0	\$ 72.0	\$ 17.6	\$ 54.4
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 12.6	\$ 12.6	\$ 3.5	\$ 9.1
Telecommunications	\$ 17.6	\$ 17.6	\$ 10.2	\$ 7.4
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 12.5	\$ 12.5	\$ 11.8	\$ 0.7
FEDERAL PROJECTS FUND	\$ 216.1	\$ 216.1	\$ 194.1	\$ 22.0
Troops to Teachers Program	\$ 216.1	\$ 216.1	\$ 194.1	\$ 22.0

FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

Many veterans and their family members are unaware that they qualify for a variety of state and federal benefits. Through its Field Services Division, the IDVA provides a statewide system of Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) who serve local veterans and establish networks within the local communities they serve.

The IDVA VSOs are accredited by the USDVA and assist veterans and their dependents in filing claims for benefits with state and federal agencies. This assistance includes applications to USDVA for compensation, pension, and for increasing disability benefits. Additionally, VSOs assist in applying for admission to the Illinois Veterans' Homes, for state and federal education benefits, burial benefits, and health benefits, among others. Questions and correspondence with various public and not-for-profit agencies are also initiated at the request of VSO veteran clients.

Veterans' needs for services the IDVA provides has increased significantly due to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan resulting in a new influx of returning veterans. The Department's investment in VSOs continues to realize increased federal dollars in annual benefits for Illinois veterans.



World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial in Springfield, IL



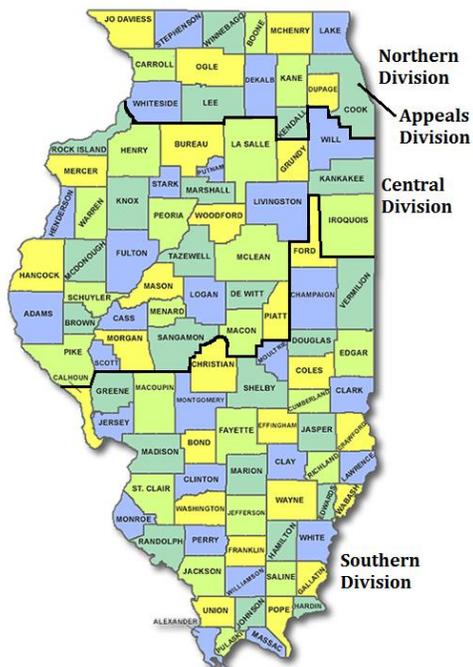
Governor Bruce Rauner and IDVA Director Erica Jeffries at The Wall That Heals dedication in Jacksonville, IL.



IDVA Assistant Director Harry Sawyer and Phil Maughan Illinois State Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars at their 2015 national conference.

**Cook and the Collar Counties
52% of Illinois' Veteran Population
386,559 Veterans**

The field is divided into four divisions: **Northern, Central, Southern, and Appeals.** The Field Manager maintains oversight of the program through the division supervisors. Case management is further enhanced by the Appeals Division, which is co-located at the USDVA's Veteran Affairs Regional Office (VARO) in Chicago. Our accredited Appeals VSOs coordinate directly with the USDVA's Veteran's Benefits Administration to present and represent claims, to assist veterans in appealing decisions, and appearing at hearings with the claimants before administrative law judges.



During FY 2015, the Department's 73 VSOs conducted 120,114 interviews, in addition to the preparation and submittal of 82,731 state and federal applications for eligible Illinois veterans, dependents, and survivors. These activities were instrumental to the establishment of initial claims and continued receipt of federal monies paid to veterans in Illinois, to include \$39.6 million in retroactive federal benefits monies and more than \$78 million annually being received by Illinois veterans, their dependents, and their survivors.

**Metro St. Louis: 54,318 Veterans
7.4% of Illinois Veteran Population**

Service to veterans continued to improve through outreach to the Illinois veteran community. VSOs continue to place emphasis on assisting veterans with enrollment in the Illinois Warrior Assistance Program (IWAP), the Veterans Care Program, Home Loan programs, and scholarship programs. VSOs also continue to support survivors and families of Illinois' fallen by assisting with filing claims under the Line of Duty Compensation Act from the Illinois Court of Claims.

Sangamon County
2.2% of Illinois Veteran Population
16,370 Veterans
(About a Division of Marines or Soldiers)

Winnebago County
2.9% of the Illinois Veteran Population
20,959 Veterans

**St. Clair County has the highest
Veteran Density at 15.4%
29,288 Veterans**

Post-Traumatic Stress
1/5 of Post-9/11 Veterans
1/3 of Vietnam Veterans
Post-9/11 veterans w PTS: 15,000
Vietnam veterans w PTS: 80,000
Estimated in Illinois (VA Vetpop)

**Field Services Division
Summary of Activity for FY 2015**

SERVICES	TOTAL	SERVICES	TOTAL
USDVA Benefits	36,531	IDVA/State Benefits	21,443
Pension	1,438	New Veterans Records Added	12,523
Widows Pension	864	IL Warrior Assistance Program	0
Veterans Compensation	8,419	War Bonus Applications	596
Widows Death & Indemnity	582	VetCare Health Insurance	9
Parents DIC	8	Illinois Veterans' Grant	281
Appeals	1,805	State Education	109
Child Exclusion	2	MIA/POW Benefit	139
Hospital	2,564	Fishing/Hunting Permit	2,284
ChampVA health benefits	320	Camping Permit	248
Education	431	Veterans' Home Applications	84
Loans	394	Veteran ID Cards	2,096
Insurance	307	3WVGR/4WVGR (Markers/Burial)	2,894
Power of Attorney	5,762	Special Events	180
Burial Benefits	1,168		
Grave Markers	1,609		
Armed Forces	3,097		
Discharges/Medals	3,085		
Fully Developed claims	4,496		
		Total forms contained in certified claims	82,731

VSO OUTREACH		TOTAL
Interviews	<i>Veterans</i>	44,173
	<i>Dependents</i>	9,291
Phone Interviews		53,196
Emails		13,454
VSO OUTREACH TOTAL		120,114



Veteran outreach and engagement is a key part of the IDVA's mission.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony for the 73rd Anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor was held December 7, 2014 at the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Club on Lake Springfield, Springfield, IL.

Members of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors organization and IDVA Chief of Staff Gwen M. Diehl, Master of Ceremonies laying a wreath on the waters of Lake Springfield. The Wreath Laying was followed by military honors and TAPS provided by the Sangamon County Interveteran Burial Detail.

FIELD OFFICE LOCATIONS

(* Denotes part-time office locations)

Adams	Quincy Veterans' Home 1707 N. 12 th St. Quincy, IL 62301	Cook #2	Gen Jones Armory 5200 S. Cottage Grove Ave. Room 101-103 North Chicago, IL 60615
*Alexander	Senior Citizens Center/IETC 22 nd & Poplar St. Cairo, IL 62914	Cook #3	IDVA - National Guard Armory 1551 N. Kedzie Ave. Chicago, IL 60651
*Bond	Federal Corrections Inst. Hwy. 40 & 4 th street Greenville, IL 62246	Cook #4	IDVA 1010 Dixie Highway, Suite 101 Chicago Heights, IL 60411
*Bond	Bond County Health Dept. 1520 S. 4 th Street Greenville, IL 62246	Cook #5	IDVA Chicago VA Regional Office 2122 W. Taylor, Suite 127 Chicago, IL 60612
*Bureau	American Legion 1549 W. Peru St Princeton, IL 61356	*Cook #6	IDVA-IDES 16845 S. Halsted St. Harvey, IL 60426
Champaign	Illinois National Guard Armory 600 E. University Ave Urbana, IL 61802	Cook #7	IDVA – Vet Center 1515 S. Harlem, Unit 1B Forest Park, IL 60130
Christian	IDVA 1100 Cheney Street Taylorville, IL 62568	Cook #9	Palatine Township 721 S. Quentin Rd., Suite 102 Palatine, IL 60067
*Clinton	Clinton County Senior Center 630 8 th St. Carlyle, IL 62231	Cook #10	Village of Orland Park 14700 Ravinia Ave. Orland Park, IL 60462
Coles	IDVA 1550 Douglas Ave, Suite 1 Charleston, IL 61920	*Cook #11	Frisbie Senior Center 52 E. Northwest Highway Des Plaines, IL 60016
*Cook	Schaumburg Township 1 Illinois Blvd Hoffman Estates, IL 60169	*Crawford	VFW Post 812 E. Main St. Robinson, IL 62454
*Cook	Evanston Vet Center 1901 Howard St. Evanston, IL 60202	DuPage #1	County Building 421 County Farm Rd. Room 2-600A Wheaton, IL 60187
Cook #1	James R. Thompson Center 100 W. Randolph, Suite 5-570 Chicago, IL 60601		

DuPage#2	Leyden Township 2501 N Mannheim Rd Franklin Park, IL 60131	Kane #2	DuPage County Vet Center 750 Shoreline Dr., Suite 150 Aurora, IL 60504
*Edgar	Edgar County FSA 11759 IL Highway 1 Paris, IL 61944	Kankakee	Manteno Veterans' Home #1 Veterans' Drive Manteno, IL 60950
Effingham	County Building 101 N. 4th St, Room 203 Effingham, IL 62401	Knox	IDVA 362 N. Linwood Rd. Galesburg, IL 61401
Franklin	City Hall 500 W. Main St., PO Box 640 Benton, IL 62812	*Knox	Galesburg VA O.P. Clinic 310 Home Blvd. Galesburg, IL 61401
*Fulton	American Legion Post #1 505 E. Eisenhower Lewistown, IL 61542	Lake	North Chicago VA Med Center 3001 Green Bay Rd. Bldg. 133, Rm's 1D-115 & 1D-116 North Chicago, IL 60064
Henry	IDVA 111 North East St. Kewanee, IL 61443	LaSalle	LaSalle Veterans' Home 1015 O'Connor Ave. LaSalle, IL 61301
Jackson	IDVA C/O John A. Logan Museum 1609 Edith St. Murphysboro, IL 62966	Lawrence	City Of Lawrenceville 700 E. State St. Lawrenceville, IL 62439
Jackson	IDVA Carbondale VA Clinic 1130 E. Walnut St., Rm. 108 Carbondale, IL 62901	Livingston	National Guard Armory 825 W. Reynolds, Suite 110 Pontiac, IL 61764
*Jasper	Jasper County Courthouse 204 W. Washington St., Suite 2 Newton, IL 62448	*Logan	Oasis Senior Center 2810 Woodlawn Rd. Lincoln, IL 62656
Jefferson	IDVA 4105 N. Water Tower Pl. Rm.112 Mt Vernon, IL 62864	Macon	Millikin Bldg. 132 S Water St., Suite 440 Decatur, IL 62523
*Jo Davies	West Galena Township Bldg 607 Gear St. Galena, IL 61036	*Macon	Decatur VA Base 3035 E. Mound Rd. Decatur, IL 62526
Kane #1	IDVA Elgin National Guard Armory 254 Raymond St. Elgin, IL 60120	Macoupin	IDVA 201 McCausland St., Suite 4 Carlinville, IL 62629
		Madison	IDVA 606 W. St. Louis Ave., Suite 1 East Alton, IL 62024

Marion	Salem Professional Bldg. 600 E. Main St., Suite 6 Salem, IL 62881	*Randolph	City Hall 1330 Swanwick St. Chester, IL 62233
*Mason	VFW Post 6408 415 W. Adams Havana, IL 62644	*Richland	Senior Citizens Center 308 E. Main St. Olney, IL 62450
*Massac	County Courthouse 1 Superman Sq., #2D Metropolis, IL 62960	Rock Island	County Building 1504 3 rd Ave. Rock Island, IL 61201
McDonough	National Guard Armory 135 W. Grant St. Macomb, IL 61455	St. Clair #1	IDVA 10 Collinsville Ave. E. St Louis, IL 62201
McHenry	IDVA - Woodstock Armory 1301 Sunset Ridge Rd. Woodstock, IL 60098	St. Clair #2	IDVA 4519 W. Main St. Belleville, IL 62226
McLean	National Guard Armory 1616 S. Main St. Rooms 117A & 117B Bloomington, IL 61701	Saline	IDVA 320 E. Raymond Harrisburg, IL 62946
*Mercer	County Courthouse 100 SE 3 rd St. Aledo, IL 61231	Sangamon	IDVA 833 S. Spring St. PO Box 19432 Springfield, IL 62794
Montgomery	DVA/WIA Office 108 E. Columbian Blvd. South, Ut. B Litchfield, IL 62056	*Schuyler	Senior Center 250 N. Monroe St. Rushville, IL 62681
Morgan	DHS Family Resource Ctr 45 S. Central Park Plaza Jacksonville, IL 62650	*Shelby	Shelbyville Township Building 212 E. South 1 st St. Shelbyville, IL 62565
*Ogle #1	VFW Post 3878 318 4 th Av. Rochelle, IL 61068	Stephenson	IDVA-DHS 1631 S. Galena Ave. Freeport, IL 61032
*Ogle	Rock River Center, Inc. 810 S. 10 th St. Oregon, IL 61061	*Union	Anna Veterans' Home 792 N. Main St. Anna, IL 62906
Peoria	IDVA 401 Main St., Suite 650 Peoria, IL 61602	Vermilion	IDVA Workforce Development Center 407 N. Franklin, Suite B Danville, IL 61832
*Pike	American Legion 1302 W. Washington St. Pittsfield, IL 62363	Wabash	Wabash Valley College 2200 College Dr. Mt. Carmel, IL 62863

*Wayne	County Courthouse 305 E. Court St. Fairfield, IL 62837	Williamson	State Reg. Office Bldg. 2309 W. Main St., Suite 122 Marion, IL 62959
*White	County Courthouse 110 N. Main St. Carmi, IL 62821	Winnebago	Machesney Park Armory 10451 N. 2 nd St. Machesney Park, IL 61115
Whiteside	IL National Guard Armory 716 6 th Avenue Rock Falls, IL 61071		
Will	National Guard Armory 2900 W. Jefferson St. Joliet, IL 60435		

FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

7/01/2014 THROUGH 6/30/2015
(IN THOUSANDS)

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
FIELD SERVICES	\$ 5,277.3	\$ 5,277.3	\$ 5,191.4	\$ 85.9
APPROPRIATED	\$ 5,277.3	\$ 5,277.3	\$ 5,191.4	\$ 85.9
FIELD SERVICES	\$ 5,277.3	\$ 5,277.3	\$ 5,191.4	\$ 85.9
GRF	\$ 5,277.3	\$ 5,277.3	\$ 5,191.4	\$ 85.9
Operations	\$ 5,277.3	\$ 5,277.3	\$ 5,191.4	\$ 85.9
Personal Services	\$ 4,402.6	\$ 4,402.6	\$ 4,386.2	\$ 16.4
Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Social Security	\$ 335.4	\$ 335.4	\$ 321.4	\$ 14.0
Contractual Services	\$ 301.8	\$ 301.8	\$ 260.9	\$ 40.9
Travel	\$ 72.3	\$ 72.3	\$ 71.3	\$ 1.0
Commodities	\$ 11.3	\$ 11.3	\$ 7.5	\$ 3.8
Printing	\$ 11.3	\$ 11.3	\$ 10.8	\$ 0.5
Equipment	\$ 3.6	\$ 3.6	\$ 2.4	\$ 1.2
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1		\$ 0.1
Telecommunications	\$ 126.5	\$ 126.5	\$ 121.8	\$ 4.7
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 12.4	\$ 12.4	\$ 9.1	\$ 3.3

Field Services
73 IDVA VSOs -- 102 Counties -- 721,575 Veterans
120,114 interviews
82,731 state and federal applications
\$39.6 million in retroactive federal benefits
More than **\$78 million** annually for Illinois veterans, their dependents, and their survivors
Annual Operating Budget- **\$5.1 million**

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOMES

GENERAL INFORMATION

Each Illinois Veterans' Home is fully staffed with caring and dedicated professionals who provide quality long-term care and services to each resident. Over the past year, the IDVA Information Technology team has worked closely with each of the Homes to implement a cloud-based Electronic Medical Records system ensuring that our veterans' health records are up to date and managed in real-time. Additionally, our Homes are supported by dedicated volunteers from local the communities and veterans' organizations who provide many additional supporting services and activities, which enhance the lives of our veterans tremendously. We are indebted to our volunteers and offer our appreciation on a daily basis for their service within our Homes. Our goal is to ensure that each resident experiences the highest possible quality of life, every single day.

QUALITY AND STANDARDS

Illinois Veterans' Homes are subject to the regulatory standards of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Illinois Department of Public Health and undergo annual licensure inspections by both agencies in areas of resident care, quality, and safety.

ELIGIBILITY

Any honorably discharged veteran is entitled to admission if he or she:

- (1) has served in the U.S. Armed Forces at least one day during a period recognized by the USDVA as a war period or has served in a hostile fire environment and has been awarded a campaign or expeditionary medal; or
- (2) was retired for a service-connected disability or injury, or
- (3) has 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
- (4) has served as a Reservist or National Guard member, and the service included being called to Federal Active Duty (excluding service for Active Duty 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; or
- (5) 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
- (6) 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; and
- (7) is disabled by disease, wounds, or otherwise, and because of disability is incapable of earning a living.

Peacetime veterans with one year of honorable military service may also be eligible for admission; other qualifying conditions, as required, must be met.

ADMISSION PRIORITIES

A candidate who has served during a time of conflict has preference over all other qualifying candidates.

Admission to an Illinois Veterans' Home, for a veteran certified to be eligible, is based upon:

- A. The ability of the Home to provide adequate and appropriate care and services required by the veteran's medical diagnoses and assessed needs.
- B. An available bed in the category required by the veteran's medical conditions and assessed needs.

DOMICILIARY CARE

National Guard or Reserve Forces of the United States who have completed 20 years of satisfactory service and are eligible to receive reserve or active duty retirement benefits are eligible for Domiciliary Care only.

WAITING LISTS

When required, waiting lists are established by each Home. Veterans whose applications are accepted, but who cannot be immediately admitted to the facility, are placed on the facility waiting list and are prioritized on a "first come-first served" basis.

Separate waiting lists are prepared for General Skilled Care and for Special Needs Care if there are separate units for this type of care.

First priority is to serve wartime veterans. If there are no eligible wartime veterans on the waiting list, the second priority is given to peacetime veterans. At homes located in Anna and Quincy, spouses of residents or widows of veterans who are otherwise eligible for admission are eligible for admission to domiciliary units when there are no wartime or peacetime veterans on the waiting list. Absolutely no exceptions are permitted to the policy.

COSTS OF CARE

Residents pay a maximum monthly maintenance fee of \$1,429 based on individual income and ability-to-pay. The ability-to-pay-plan has a maximum charge and covers room, food (including special diets and supplements), medication, medical care, recreation and activities, and any special therapy or treatment prescribed by the attending physician.

Those residents whose income and assets are within the guidelines specified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) may qualify for an Aid & Attendance allowance. Residents who receive this allowance will pay an additional, separate charge Aid & Attendance charge, in addition to the monthly maintenance fee charge. The Aid & Attendance charge is equal to the amount of the allowance provided by the USDVA.

Some costs of care that are not covered include, but may not be limited to: Durable Medical Equipment such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, prostheses, and special wheelchairs or mechanical devices. Also not covered is cable TV and dental care. Such costs must be paid directly to the providers by the resident or responsible surrogate.

ACTIVITIES

The Homes provide a full range of activities for residents, both inside and outside of the facility. Every member is encouraged to participate in as many of the activities and programs as possible. Some examples of activities include card games, bingo parties, cooking and crafts, religious services, exercise and fitness, entertainment, and outdoor activities.

Representatives of national, state, and local veterans' organizations frequently visit the Homes; and Resident Advisory Groups (RAG) and Veterans' Advisory Councils (VAC) at each Home work to assure that quality standards are maintained and that the special needs of our veterans are met at all times.

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT QUINCY

In 1886, the 34th Illinois General Assembly passed legislation to establish a soldiers' and sailors' home for disabled Illinois veterans of the Mexican and Civil Wars. On June 1, 1886 Governor Richard Oglesby selected Quincy as the site of the new home. On October 19, 1886 the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailor's Home was formally dedicated. In June 1973 the name was changed to the Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy (IVH-Quincy) and has provided nearly 130 years of service to Illinois' veterans.



The Illinois Veterans' Home - Quincy

The IVH-Quincy is the largest and oldest veterans' home of the four in Illinois and one of the larger and older veterans' homes in the country. Today, nearly 400 residents call the facility home and represent most of the 102 counties in Illinois. The IVH-Quincy provides domiciliary and skilled nursing care to Illinois veterans, their spouses, and widows/widowers.

The Quincy Home offers levels of healthcare ranging from domiciliary to skilled nursing care, with units for Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Full-time physicians and a Nurse Practitioner as well as Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Veteran Nursing Assistants-Certified (CNAs) provide 24-hour a day, 7-days a week care. In addition to the extensive medical department, the Home has social services, activities, dietary, laundry, housekeeping, business, security, and maintenance departments.

The Quincy Home has often been labeled as "the city within the city" because of its size and unique setting. The facility sits on 210 beautiful acres on the northern edge of Quincy and comprises more than 40 buildings totaling slightly less than 1 million gross square feet. The campus amenities include a post office, bank, assembly hall, guest house, snack bar, chapel, cemetery, fishing lake, animal park, museum, and several historic sites and veterans memorials. The Home also has its own newsletter publication and television station. Approximately five miles of streets serve the grounds.

The U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs Medical Center at Iowa City is the hospital of jurisdiction for the IVH-Quincy.

Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy Summary of Activity for FY 2015

	FY 2014	FY 2015
Average Skilled Care Census	383	376
Average Hours of Care for Residents in Homes	3	3
Federal Dollars Claimed for Skilled Care Per Diem	\$13,644,858	\$12,827,126
Volunteer Hours	15,144	5,061
Donations Received from Service Organizations	57,252	\$47,066

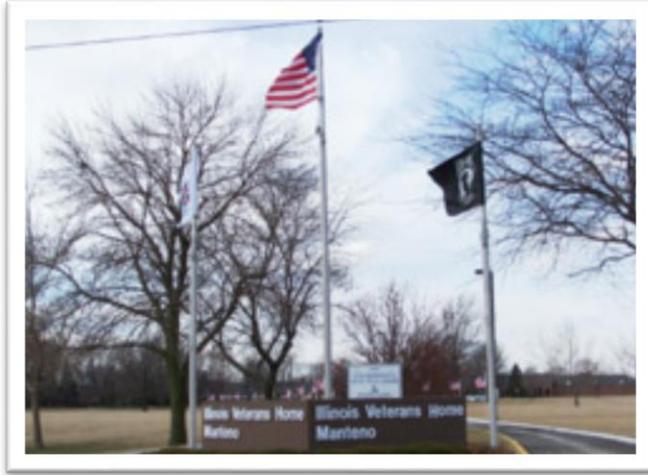
ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT QUINCY

7/01/2014 THROUGH 6/30/2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
QUINCY VETERANS' HOME	\$ 49,538.2	\$ 49,538.2	\$ 45,216.8	\$ 4,321.4
APPROPRIATED	\$ 49,518.1	\$ 49,518.1	\$ 45,196.7	\$ 4,321.4
NON-APPROPRIATED	\$ 20.1	\$ 20.1	\$ 20.1	\$ -
QUINCY VETERANS' HOME	\$ 49,538.2	\$ 49,538.2	\$ 45,216.8	\$ 4,321.4
GRF	\$ 24,860.8	\$ 24,860.8	\$ 24,150.3	\$ 710.5
QVHF	\$ 24,657.3	\$ 24,657.3	\$ 21,046.4	\$ 3,610.9
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 20.1	\$ 20.1	\$ 20.1	\$ -
Operations	\$ 24,860.8	\$ 24,860.8	\$ 24,150.3	\$ 710.5
Personal Services	\$ 22,939.1	\$ 22,939.1	\$ 22,364.1	\$ 575.0
Retirement	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Social Security	\$ 1,754.9	\$ 1,754.9	\$ 1,624.7	\$ 130.2
Contractual Services	\$ 166.8	\$ 166.8	\$ 161.5	\$ 5.3
Commodities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Electronic Data Processing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
QVHF				
Operations	\$ 24,657.3	\$ 24,657.3	\$ 21,046.4	\$ 3,610.9
Personal Services	\$ 10,739.8	\$ 10,739.8	\$ 9,054.7	\$ 1,685.1
Members Compensation	\$ 26.8	\$ 26.8	\$ 26.7	\$ 0.1
Retirement	\$ 4,547.1	\$ 4,547.1	\$ 3,840.7	\$ 706.4
Social Security	\$ 821.7	\$ 821.7	\$ 662.3	\$ 159.4
Contractual Services	\$ 3,175.3	\$ 3,175.3	\$ 2,547.9	\$ 627.4
Travel	\$ 6.0	\$ 6.0	\$ 4.1	\$ 1.9
Commodities	\$ 4,831.4	\$ 4,831.4	\$ 4,566.7	\$ 264.7
Printing	\$ 27.4	\$ 27.4	\$ 27.4	\$ -
Equipment	\$ 118.5	\$ 118.5	\$ 76.7	\$ 41.8
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 67.9	\$ 67.9	\$ 16.3	\$ 51.6
Telecommunications	\$ 124.3	\$ 124.3	\$ 109.6	\$ 14.7
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 87.5	\$ 87.5	\$ 33.3	\$ 54.2
Permanent Improvements	\$ 20.0	\$ 20.0	\$ 19.6	\$ 0.4
Refunds	\$ 63.6	\$ 63.6	\$ 60.4	\$ 3.2
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 20.1	\$ 20.1	\$ 20.1	\$ -

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT MANTENO



Illinois Veterans' Home - Manteno

The Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno (IVH-M), which admitted its first resident April 16, 1986, has continued to serve a large number of northern Illinois veterans. The IVH-M is located on a 122-acre campus 60 miles south of Chicago; approximately 143 acres of additional property is farmed with the proceeds of that lease being placed in the Manteno Home Fund. This facility has five nursing care units and two ancillary buildings to provide skilled care to veteran residents. The Home provides a comfortable residence for the veterans in a peaceful rural setting and has a post office, library, bank, beauty/barber shop, and commissary which services up to 294 residents. The campus features a small

park-area with a stocked, landscaped, manmade pond with a pavilion where veterans can sit and enjoy the outdoors or "catch-and-release" fishing.

The IVH-M has a complete in-house medical staff to provide the full range of professional care for veterans. Residents who may require acute hospital services such as surgery, advanced diagnostic workups, or other specialized treatments receive these at the USDVA Medical Center at Hines, Illinois, while two community hospitals in Kankakee also provide acute and emergency care.

Social services and activities are provided to assure high quality of life standards are maintained for each resident. The IVH-M Activities and Volunteer Services Departments provide residents with a variety of social and recreational activities. Skilled, professional staff members are assisted by a large contingent of dedicated, skilled volunteers from local veterans and civic organizations. Also, chaplains conduct weekly Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish religious services.

The USDVA Medical Center at Edward Hines Jr. Hospital is the hospital of jurisdiction for the IVH-M.

Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno Summary of Activity for FY 2015

	FY 2014	FY 2015
Average Skilled Care Census	291	282
Average Hours of Care for Residents in Homes	3	3
Federal Dollars Claimed for Skilled Care Per Diem	\$11,542,416	\$11,836,530
Volunteer Hours	8,310	8,105
Donations Received from Service Organizations	\$ 173,348	\$ 198,449

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT MANTENO

7/01/2014 THROUGH 6/30/2015
(IN THOUSANDS)

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
MANTENO VETERANS' HOME	\$ 37,925.6	\$ 37,925.6	\$ 33,899.6	\$ 4,026.0
APPROPRIATED	\$ 37,915.4	\$ 37,915.4	\$ 33,889.4	\$ 4,026.0
NON-APPROPRIATED	\$ 10.2	\$ 10.2	\$ 10.2	\$ -
MANTENO VETERANS' HOME	\$ 37,925.6	\$ 37,925.6	\$ 33,899.6	\$ 4,026.0
GRF	\$ 16,856.3	\$ 16,856.3	\$ 16,284.9	\$ 571.4
MVHF	\$ 21,059.1	\$ 21,059.1	\$ 17,604.5	\$ 3,454.6
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 10.2	\$ 10.2	\$ 10.2	\$ 0
Operations	\$ 16,856.3	\$ 16,856.3	\$ 16,284.9	\$ 571.4
Personal Services	\$ 14,981.3	\$ 14,981.3	\$ 14,631.4	\$ 349.9
Retirement		\$ -		\$ -
Social Security	\$ 1,146.1	\$ 1,146.1	\$ 1,057.3	\$ 88.8
Contractual Services	\$ 728.9	\$ 728.9	\$ 596.2	\$ 132.7
Commodities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Electronic Data Processing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MVHF				
Operations	\$ 21,059.1	\$ 21,059.1	\$ 17,604.5	\$ 3,454.6
Personal Services	\$ 8,276.6	\$ 8,276.6	\$ 6,921.4	\$ 1,355.2
Members Compensation	\$ 26.0	\$ 26.0	\$ 23.7	\$ 2.3
Retirement	\$ 3,504.2	\$ 3,504.2	\$ 2,932.3	\$ 571.9
Social Security	\$ 627.2	\$ 627.2	\$ 506.3	\$ 120.9
Contractual Services	\$ 5,979.4	\$ 5,979.4	\$ 5,060.3	\$ 919.1
Travel	\$ 5.0	\$ 5.0	\$ 4.2	\$ 0.8
Commodities	\$ 1,937.9	\$ 1,937.9	\$ 1,618.9	\$ 319.0
Printing	\$ 25.0	\$ 25.0	\$ 15.0	\$ 10.0
Equipment	\$ 304.7	\$ 304.7	\$ 272.0	\$ 32.7
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 52.1	\$ 52.1	\$ 20.0	\$ 32.1
Telecommunications	\$ 99.8	\$ 99.8	\$ 99.0	\$ 0.8
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 71.2	\$ 71.2	\$ 42.6	\$ 28.6
Permanent Improvements	\$ 75.0	\$ 75.0	\$ 37.9	\$ 37.1
Refunds	\$ 75.0	\$ 75.0	\$ 50.9	\$ 24.1
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 10.2	\$ 10.2	\$ 10.2	\$ -

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT LASALLE



Illinois Veterans' Home- LaSalle

The Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle (IVH-LaSalle) opened on December 12, 1990. With the 2008 construction of an 80-bed addition, IVH-LaSalle now houses 184 veterans in both general skilled care and special needs - Alzheimer's and/or dementia. Veterans moved into the new wings in February 2009.

The IVH-LaSalle provides comprehensive, quality, skilled nursing care to the veterans who live there, with the goal to promote the highest possible quality of life for each individual member. Residents and their families are free to enjoy five secure, landscaped outdoor courtyards for

fresh air. A full range of rehabilitation services are provided to assist veterans in meeting their needs. The Home has a complete staff of medical, nursing, social service, and activity personnel. Ancillary services such as physical, speech, and occupational therapies are available at the Home through contractual arrangements with specialists in the community.

IVH-LaSalle completed several maintenance projects in the past year:

- Installed a new fire alarm panel
- Replaced the 70 ton condensing unit for the original building
- Replaced the dishwasher in the kitchen
- Upgraded and installed new handrails in the old building for the residents
- Through generous donations, landscaping was updated in the Peace garden

The Hines VA Medical Center is the USDVA hospital of jurisdiction for the IVH-LaSalle.

Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle Summary of Activity for FY 2015

	FY 2014	FY 2015
Average Skilled Care Census	182	178
Average Hours of Care for Residents in Homes	3	3
Federal Dollars Claimed for Skilled Care Per Diem	\$7,066,350	\$7,256,326
Volunteer Hours	3,709	5,101
Donations Received from Service Organizations	\$73,801	\$106,207

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT LASALLE

7/01/2014 THROUGH 6/30/2015

(IN THOUSANDS)

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
LASALLE VETERANS' HOME	\$ 21,912.3	\$ 21,912.3	\$ 19,781.1	\$ 2,131.2
APPROPRIATED	\$ 21,899.1	\$ 21,899.1	\$ 19,767.9	\$ 2,131.2
NON-APPROPRIATED	\$ 13.2	\$ 13.2	\$ 13.2	\$ -
LASALLE VETERANS' HOME	\$ 21,912.3	\$ 21,912.3	\$ 19,781.1	\$ 2,131.2
GRF	\$ 9,762.6	\$ 9,762.6	\$ 9,649.4	\$ 113.2
LVHF	\$ 12,136.5	\$ 12,136.5	\$ 10,118.5	\$ 2,018.0
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 13.2	\$ 13.2	\$ 13.2	\$ -
Operations	\$ 9,762.6	\$ 9,762.6	\$ 9,649.4	\$ 113.2
Personal Services	\$ 9,068.9	\$ 9,068.9	\$ 8,989.9	\$ 79.0
Retirement		\$ -		\$ -
Social Security	\$ 693.7	\$ 693.7	\$ 659.5	\$ 34.2
Contractual Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Commodities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Electronic Data Processing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
LVHF				
Operations	\$ 12,136.5	\$ 12,136.5	\$ 10,118.5	\$ 2,018.0
Personal Services	\$ 5,550.1	\$ 5,550.1	\$ 4,548.3	\$ 1,001.8
Retirement	\$ 2,349.9	\$ 2,349.9	\$ 1,926.3	\$ 423.6
Social Security	\$ 424.6	\$ 424.6	\$ 333.8	\$ 90.8
Contractual Services	\$ 2,214.2	\$ 2,214.2	\$ 1,830.5	\$ 383.7
Travel	\$ 10.8	\$ 10.8	\$ 10.7	\$ 0.1
Commodities	\$ 1,292.9	\$ 1,292.9	\$ 1,218.8	\$ 74.1
Printing	\$ 16.5	\$ 16.5	\$ 12.0	\$ 4.5
Equipment	\$ 120.7	\$ 120.7	\$ 107.5	\$ 13.2
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 20.6	\$ 20.6	\$ 6.4	\$ 14.2
Telecommunications	\$ 51.8	\$ 51.8	\$ 51.8	\$ -
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 20.7	\$ 20.7	\$ 11.3	\$ 9.4
Permanent Improvements	\$ 25.0	\$ 25.0	\$ 22.4	\$ 2.6
Refunds	\$ 38.7	\$ 38.7	\$ 38.7	\$ -
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 13.2	\$ 13.2	\$ 13.2	\$ -

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT ANNA



Illinois Veterans' Home - Anna

The Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna (IVH-Anna) is a 50-bed, skilled care nursing facility with six adjoining domiciliary units for 12 residents. Situated on a 16.1-acre site in Union County, the Home provides long-term skilled nursing care services, rehabilitative, and social services.

The Home has a staff of 84 employees, who strive to provide individualized care in a homelike environment, by focusing on the wellness and strengths of each person that lives there. They do this by various activities based on individual capabilities.

The Illinois Veterans' Home-Anna offers numerous activities of interest to residents, thanks in part to the strong support and assistance of dedicated volunteers from veterans' organizations and the community. In addition, IVH-Anna members enjoy the serenity and peacefulness of a Sensory Garden designed specifically for residents with Alzheimer's and related dementia.

The plan and begin design for a 44-bed expansion at IVH-Anna is nearly complete, although capital funding for this project has not yet been appropriated. When constructed, this project will enlarge the dining room and multi-purpose room, construct a new central kitchen, and will also provide a secure unit that will better address the special needs of residents with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

The USDVA Medical Center at Marion is the hospital of jurisdiction for the IVH-Anna.

Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna Summary of Activity for FY 2015

	FY 2014	FY 2015
Average Skilled Care Census	48	49
Average Hours of Care for Residents in Homes	3	4
Federal Dollars Claimed for Skilled Care Per Diem	\$2,097,383	\$3,017,025
Volunteer Hours	3,476	2,503
Donations Received from Service Organizations	\$99,668	\$94,127

ILLINOIS VETERANS' HOME AT ANNA

7/01/2014 THROUGH 6/30/2015
(IN THOUSANDS)

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
ANNA VETERANS' HOME	\$ 7,403.9	\$ 7,403.9	\$ 6,361.0	\$ 1,042.9
APPROPRIATED	\$ 7,397.4	\$ 7,397.4	\$ 6,354.5	\$ 1,042.9
NON-APPROPRIATED	\$ 6.5	\$ 6.5	\$ 6.5	\$ -
ANNA VETERANS' HOME	\$ 7,403.9	\$ 7,403.9	\$ 6,361.0	\$ 1,042.9
GRF	\$ 3,747.7	\$ 3,747.7	\$ 3,290.9	\$ 456.8
AVHF	\$ 3,649.7	\$ 3,649.7	\$ 3,063.6	\$ 586.1
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 6.5	\$ 6.5	\$ 6.5	\$ -
Operations	\$ 3,747.7	\$ 3,747.7	\$ 3,290.9	\$ 456.8
Personal Services	\$ 3,481.2	\$ 3,481.2	\$ 3,065.4	\$ 415.8
Retirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Social Security	\$ 266.2	\$ 266.2	\$ 225.5	\$ 40.7
Contractual Services	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ -	\$ 0.1
Commodities	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ -	\$ 0.1
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.1	\$ -	\$ 0.1
AVHF				
Operations	\$ 3,649.7	\$ 3,649.7	\$ 3,063.6	\$ 586.1
Personal Services	\$ 1,546.8	\$ 1,546.8	\$ 1,258.9	\$ 287.9
Retirement	\$ 665.4	\$ 665.4	\$ 534.2	\$ 131.2
Social Security	\$ 120.4	\$ 120.4	\$ 92.8	\$ 27.6
Contractual Services	\$ 797.0	\$ 797.0	\$ 686.9	\$ 110.1
Travel	\$ 5.0	\$ 5.0	\$ 2.5	\$ 2.5
Commodities	\$ 403.5	\$ 403.5	\$ 384.8	\$ 18.7
Printing	\$ 4.0	\$ 4.0	\$ 3.6	\$ 0.4
Equipment	\$ 13.3	\$ 13.3	\$ 13.2	\$ 0.1
Electronic Data Processing	\$ 8.4	\$ 8.4	\$ 5.0	\$ 3.4
Telecommunications	\$ 21.0	\$ 21.0	\$ 20.6	\$ 0.4
Operation of Automotive Equipment	\$ 10.2	\$ 10.2	\$ 9.9	\$ 0.3
Permanent Improvements	\$ 10.0	\$ 10.0	\$ 9.9	\$ 0.1
Refunds	\$ 44.7	\$ 44.7	\$ 41.3	\$ 3.4
LIBRARY GRANT FUND	\$ 6.5	\$ 6.5	\$ 6.5	\$ -

PRINCE HOME



Prince Home

Located on the grounds of the Manteno Veterans' Home, the Prince Home for homeless and disabled veterans is a separate program with a dedicated staff and program director. The Prince Home opened in 2007 to provide permanent supportive housing for men and women veterans in its 15-bed facility.

The Prince Home staff provides each resident with the skills needed for successful independent living. The Home provides a structured, safe, and caring environment, which instills a sense of dignity, belonging, and achievement enhancing the opportunity to succeed. The Prince Home vision is for residents to leave the program with the confidence to achieve full-time employment, independent housing, and sobriety.

The Prince Home is not a shelter - it is a home. To reside in the Prince Home, residents must participate in the entire scope of the curriculum, programs, and activities. As of June 2015, the Prince Home has served 147 residents, since its opening.

The Prince Home is community-based and focused on providing for its residents. However, the Home's leadership advocate for homeless veterans statewide through networks with county and city governments, various state agencies, religious institutions, private and community organizations, the USDVA, and state-wide veterans' organizations.

Prince Home Summary of Activity for FY 2015

	FY 2014	FY 2015
Number of Homeless Veteran Applications	37	37
Number of Admissions	15	14
Number of residents achieving a 70% performance goal	25	4
Number of Residents graduating	2	18
Total Known Recidivism Rate	4.75%	5.0%
Average Length of Residency (in weeks)	83	47
Number of Outreach Events Attended	32	28

PRINCE HOMELESS AND DISABLED PROGRAM

7/01/2014 THROUGH 6/30/2015
(IN THOUSANDS)

	Original Appropriation	Unreserved Appropriation	Expenditures	Balance of Unreserved
PRINCE HOMELESS PROGRAM	\$ 175.0	\$ 175.0	\$ 115.2	\$ 59.8
APPROPRIATED	\$ 175.0	\$ 175.0	\$ 115.2	\$ 59.8
NON-APPROPRIATED	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GRF		\$ -		\$ -
MVHF	\$ 50.0	\$ 50.0	\$ 5.3	\$ 44.7
FEDERAL PROJECTS FUND	\$ 125.0	\$ 125.0	\$ 109.9	\$ 15.1
IVAF	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MVHF				
Costs associated with Homeless Program	\$ 50.0	\$ 50.0	\$ 5.3	\$ 44.7
FEDERAL PROJECTS FUND				
Costs associated with Homeless Program	\$ 125.0	\$ 125.0	\$ 109.9	\$ 15.1
IVAF				
Veterans Assistance Fund-Homeless Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

CHICAGO HOME

The Illinois Veterans Home at Chicago will be located at 4250 N. Oak Park Avenue in Chicago.

Contractor bids for construction of the 200-bed Illinois Veterans' Home at Chicago were opened at the James R. Thompson Center on July 22, 2014. The lowest responsive contractors are:

General	IHC Construction Company
Electrical	Elite Electric
Ventilation	Amber Mechanical
Heating	Great lakes Plumbing and Heating
Plumbing	CR Leonard Plumbing
Sprinklers	Automatic Fire Systems, Inc.

Authorization to proceed was granted to the selected contractors on September 18, 2014, resulting in a ceremonial ground breaking September 21, 2014. Following a pre-construction meeting on November 18, 2014, the contractors mobilized at the construction site.

Construction is to be completed within 668 consecutive calendar days from the date of the Authorization to Proceed to Substantial Completion and 60 consecutive days from Substantial Completion to Final Acceptance.

Construction is precast concrete with brick veneer. The building consists of five floors with common spaces, administration, and back of the house areas on the first floor. On the second floor of the building are four secure units with roof-top garden outdoor spaces. Twelve additional skilled care units are on the third, fourth, and fifth floors. Each resident room is single occupancy with a private lavatory and roll in shower. Each of the units will have a serving kitchen, dining area, living room, and den. As of July 1, 2015, all state construction projects have had work stopped. Until a capital budget has been signed into law, completion dates for the Home cannot be estimated.



Construction on the Chicago Veterans' Home

INTERNAL AUDIT

The Department has implemented a comprehensive full-time program of internal auditing in accordance with the Fiscal Control and Internal Auditing Act (FCIAA) (30 ILCS 10/2001) and professional auditing standards. Accordingly, the internal audit function is authorized to have full, free, and unrestricted access to all of the Department's records, personnel, property, facilities, and information systems.

The Department's internal audit function consists of a Chief Internal Auditor plus one internal audit staff that is shared with the Illinois Department of Military Affairs. The Chief Internal Auditor was appointed to a 5-year term beginning on August 1, 2014 and reports directly to the Department's Director, as required by FCIAA (30 ILCS 10/2002).

The activities of the internal audit function include:

- Development and maintenance of detailed internal audit procedures to promote compliance with FCIAA and professional standards;
- Development and maintenance of an internal audit charter in accordance with professional internal auditing standards;
- Formal certifications that the internal audit is free from impairment or the perception of impairment;
- Presentation and execution of two-year audit plans, in compliance with FCIAA (30 ILCS 10/2003(a)(1));
- Assurance and consulting services; and
- Coordination of state and federal external audits and reviews.

Further, as required by FCIAA (30 ILCS 10/2003(a)(1)), the Chief Internal Auditor submits annually, by September 30, a report detailing how the audit plan for the preceding fiscal year was carried out, the significant findings, and the extent to which recommended changes were implemented.

VETERANS CASH LOTTERY GRANT

Veterans Cash Lottery is the Illinois Lottery's specialty ticket supporting Illinois veterans. The promotion and sales of this specialty ticket is from November to February each year, or until tickets are depleted. All net proceeds from the sales of Veterans Cash Lottery tickets are deposited into the Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund, an interest-bearing account in the State Treasury. Through the Veterans Cash Committee, the IDVA awards grants to public and not-for-profit organizations that apply for funding to address veterans' needs in the areas of Post-Traumatic Stress, homelessness, health insurance costs, long-term care, disability benefits, and employment and training. Since February 2006, the Grant Committee has authorized 279 grants totaling \$12.7 million. In FY 2015, the committee awarded 38 grants totaling \$829,490.

The Veterans Cash Grant program has set high standards to meet statutory, reporting, and compliance standards. The result of these high standards is a more defined, accurate, and transparent Veterans Cash Grant process. The application, grant agreement, and Quarterly/Final Reports provide for increased grantee organizational structure information and accountability through the life cycle of the grant. Veterans Cash Grant information was the first grant information uploaded in data.illinois.gov and is updated quarterly to increase transparency of the programs to the public.

The Grant Committee consists of three (3) voting members who meet quarterly to review the grant requests. They evaluate those grant applications against a rubric, make selections, and then forward the selections to the IDVA Director for approval of the grant applications. The voting members of the Grant Committee for FY 2015 were: Ricardo Mantay, Jr. (a Veteran-at Large), LTC Curt Ashby (IDMA), and Dr. Jean Douglas (Oak Park Vet Center).

Veterans Cash Lottery Grant Summary of Activity for FY 2015

GRANTS MADE BY CATEGORY	NUMBER OF GRANTS	TOTAL AMOUNT
• Post-Traumatic Stress	8	\$ 139,590
• Veteran Disability Benefits	5	\$ 130,000
• Health Insurance Costs	1	\$ 30,000
• Veteran Long-Term Care	4	\$ 80,500
• Employment Training & Placement	3	\$ 79,500
• Veteran Homelessness	17	\$369,900
TOTAL	38	\$829,490



ILLINOIS WARRIOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

In January 2008, Illinois became the first state in the nation to launch a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) program for returning veterans. The Illinois Warrior Assistance Program (IWAP) offers a toll-free helpline at 1-866-554-IWAP (4927) and web platform (www.illinoiswarrior.com), which are staffed by health care professionals to assist and advise veterans and family members with transition and behavioral health challenges. These professionals refer veterans and family members to the appropriate health or community resource, as well as provide referrals for behavioral health counseling for eligible veterans and family members. Following its inception, IWAP became a national model, used by the DOD and the Centers for Disease Control in setting up similar programs for returning veterans nationwide.

During FY 2015, the Illinois Warrior Assistance Program helpline and website operation hours were reduced and upon review determined to be inadequate. Both the toll-free helpline and website are again available on a 24-hour basis for veterans and their families who need assistance. Outreach efforts are being improved to ensure increased awareness of this valuable resource. Additional marketing materials are being developed in conjunction with a program video to highlight the overall program and opportunities for Illinois veterans and family members to benefit from the Illinois Warrior Assistance Program. These materials will be used at an increased number of outreach events as well as on social media applications, veteran services providers, and veteran service organizations. With renewed emphasis on program marketing and working with the IWAP contractor and partner organizations, IDVA aims to increase the number of individuals accessing the program in the coming fiscal year.



Illinois Warrior Assistance Program

Summary of Activity for FY 2015

SERVICES	TOTAL
Unique Web Users	9,213
Call Center Users	159
Referrals To Providers	85
Online Chat Session	16

ILLINOIS DISCHARGED SERVICEMEMBER TASK FORCE

Pursuant to Public Act 95-294, effective August 20, 2007, the State of Illinois created the Illinois Discharged Servicemember Task Force (DSTF). The mission of DSTF is to investigate the re-entry process for servicemembers who return to civilian life after being engaged in an active theatre. In order to accomplish this mission, DSTF convenes a team of experienced, professional veteran advocates, and community leaders to analyze major issue areas and develop strategic policy recommendations. DSTF's strategic policy recommendations are published yearly in the DSTF Annual Report.

In accordance with the Act, DSTF members include:

- A representative of the IDVA, who shall chair the committee;**
- A representative from the Illinois Department of Military Affairs;**
- A representative from the Office of the Illinois Attorney General;**
- A member of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the House;**
- A member of the General Assembly appointed by the House Minority Leader;**
- A member of the General Assembly appointed by the President of the Senate;**
- A member of the General Assembly appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;**
- 4 members chosen by the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs, who shall represent statewide veterans' organizations or veterans' homeless shelters;**
- One member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; and**
- A representative of the USDVA shall be invited to participate.**

ACTIVITIES

In 2015, DSTF held meetings on:

- May 1, 2015 Hines VA Medical Center
- May 14, 2015 James R. Thompson Center, Chicago, IL
- May 27, 2015 James R. Thompson Center, Chicago, IL
- June 8, 2015 Prince Home Manteno, IL

DSTF focused on opportunities to leverage existing resources, build greater collaboration among veteran-serving organizations, and identify practical, cost-minimal solutions to optimize service delivery to veterans and their families. As such, agency executives, elected officials, and leaders in the veteran community have utilized DSTF's expert guidance to:

- Synergize, re-tool, and build the capacity of existing programs;
- Introduce and advance well-grounded legislation;
- Launch new outreach and advocacy efforts; and
- Build collaborative partnerships between key stakeholder organizations both in and outside the veteran community.

DSTF released its 2015 Annual Report in July of 2015. The report includes an overview of and corresponding policy recommendations in four critical issue areas: Employment and Education, Homelessness and Housing, Women Veterans, and Behavioral Health. The DSTF 2015 Annual Report is available online at the IDVA homepage Advisory Groups and Reports.

ILLINOIS DISCHARGED SERVICEMEMBER TASK FORCE
(FY 2015)

Erica Jeffries

Director, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (Chair)

Maurice Rochelle

Deputy J9, Illinois Department of Military Affairs

Thomas Banning

Military and Veterans Rights Bureau Chief, Office of the Illinois Attorney General

Representative Linda Chapa LaVia, State Representative, 83rd District

A member of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the House;

Representative Jeanne Ives, State Representative, 42nd District

A member of the General Assembly appointed by the House Minority Leader;

Senator Michael Hastings, State Senator, 19th District

A member of the General Assembly appointed by the President of the Senate;

Senator Pamela Althoff, State Senator, 32nd District

A member of the General Assembly appointed by the Senate Minority Leader;

Mark W. Bowman, Sergeant Major, Illinois National Guard

Kevin Hull, Executive Director, Westside Institute for Science & Education

Kenneth Clarke, President & Chief Executive Officer, Pritzker Military Library & Museum

Paul Knudtson, Vice-President of Development, Student Veterans of America Illinois

Selected by the IDVA, representing statewide veterans' organizations or veterans' homeless shelters

Jim Frazier, Gold Star Father and Survivor Outreach Services Officer, U.S. Army

A member appointed by the Lieutenant Governor

Mary Ann Romeo, MSSW, VISN 12 Care Coordinator, USDVA

Suzanne Nunziata, Chicago VBA Regional Office Director, USDVA

Representatives of the USDVA

ILLINOIS VETERANS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Illinois Veterans' Advisory Council (IVAC) was established effective July 1, 2004, by Public Act 093-0779. In accordance with the Act, council members include:

- Four members of the General Assembly, appointed one each by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, preferably from a legislative or representative district in which a state-operated veterans' home is located.
- Six veterans appointed by the Director of Veterans' Affairs.
- One veteran appointed by the commander or president of each Veteran Service Organization that is chartered by the federal government and by the State of Illinois and that elects to appoint an IVAC member.

Public Act 96-1266 increased the council Membership to include:

- One person appointed by the Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard,
- One person appointed by the Illinois Attorney General
- One person appointed by the Illinois Secretary of State
- One person appointed by the Director of the Illinois Department of Employment Security
- One person appointed by each military family organization that is chartered by the federal government.

In addition, no member of the council shall be an employee or representative of the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Members of the Council serve without compensation or reimbursement. The Council meets quarterly as required and is available to meet at the call of the Chair or at the call of the Director of Veterans' Affairs or the Governor. The Department provides meeting space and clerical and administrative support services for the Council.

The Council is empowered to:

- Advise the Department of Veterans' Affairs with respect to the fulfillment of its statutory duties.
- Review and study the issues and concerns that are most significant to Illinois veterans and advise the Department on those issues and concerns.
- Receive a report from the Director of Veterans' Affairs or the Director's designee at each meeting with respect to the general activities of the Department.
- Report to the Governor and the General Assembly annually describing the issues addressed and the actions taken by the council during the year as well as any recommendations for future action.

ACTIVITIES

In FY 2015, the council held its quarterly meetings on:

- September 3, 2014 via VTC; IDVA Central Office, Springfield and Chicago Office
- December 17, 2014 via VTC; IDVA Central Office, Springfield and Chicago Office
- March 25, 2015 via VTC; IDVA Central Office, Springfield and Chicago Office
- June 17, 2015 via VTC; IDVA Central Office, Springfield and Chicago Office

ILLINOIS VETERANS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

(FY 2015)

Al Reynolds, *Chairman*
DAV Representative

Stanley Olenjack, *Vice Chairman*
Marine Corps League

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

The Honorable Toi W. Hutchinson	Illinois State Senator
The Honorable Sue Rezin	Illinois State Senator
The Honorable Randy E. Frese	Illinois State Representative
The Honorable Jerry Costello, II	Illinois State Representative

EXTERNAL AGENCY APPOINTEES

Kory Harms	Adjutant General of the ILNG
Tom Banning	Office of the Attorney General
Gregory J. Curran	Office of the Secretary of State
Gil Laroche	IL Department of Employment Security

DIRECTOR'S APPOINTEES

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