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***If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?***

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# Iowa State Veteran's Benefits

The state of Iowa provides several veteran benefits. This section offers a brief description of each of the following benefits.

- [Housing Benefits](#)
- [Financial Assistance Benefits](#)
- [Education Benefits](#)
- [Other State Veteran Benefits](#)

## Iowa Veteran Housing Programs

### Iowa Veterans Home

The State of Iowa runs a Veterans Home in Marshalltown. The home has a total of 113 residential and 642 nursing beds available. Cost is based on need, however no one will be turned away. Spouses may be eligible for admission. Veterans must have an honorable discharge to be eligible for admission.

### Home ownership Assistance

This \$5,000 grant is available to a service member who is buying a home in the state of Iowa. Members must have served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 (or at least 90 days between August 2, 1990 and April 6, 1991) and purchased a home after March 10, 2005.

### Property Tax Exemption

This benefit reduces a veteran's assessed home value for property tax purposes by \$1,850. In order to qualify, a service member must have served on active duty during a period of war or for a minimum of 18 months during peacetime.

### Disabled Veteran's Homestead Tax Credit

This recently-enacted legislation (2014) provides 100% exemption of property taxes for 100% disabled service-connected veterans and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) recipients.

## Iowa Financial Assistance Benefits

### Injured Veterans Grant Program

This grant provides up to \$10,000 to service members or discharged veterans who sustained serious or very serious combat-related injuries in a combat theater of operations after September 11, 2001.

### Veterans Trust Fund

The State of Iowa has established a multi-million dollar fund to provide certain services to veterans. Beginning in December 2007, interest from this fund has been available to provide relief for Iowa veterans and their families. At this time, interest funds are received monthly and approved applicants are placed on a waiting list based on the date received and approved. Currently, funds are used for unemployment or underemployment assistance due to service-related causes, assistance with vision, hearing, dental care, durable medical equipment, and prescription drugs; counseling and substance abuse services; housing repair; and transitional housing in an emergency. Trust fund expenditures are approved through the Iowa Veterans Commission.

## Iowa Education Benefits

### War Orphans Educational Aid

Children of Iowa veterans killed in action following September 11, 2001 are eligible for up to \$11,844.00 per year in tuition assistance at an Iowa post-secondary institution. Children qualify up to the age of twenty-six (26). Dependents of those killed in action prior to September 11, 2001 are eligible for \$600 per year with a maximum of \$3,000. Residency is required to receive this benefit.

### **Operation Recognition High School Diploma**

This program furnishes an honorary high school diploma to qualifying veterans who did not complete high school due to armed service enlistment. The application form is used by the IDVA and the Department of Education to establish eligibility for honorably discharged veterans.

### **Branstad/Reynolds Scholarship Fund**

The Branstad-Reynolds Scholarship fund provides post-secondary educational scholarships for children of deceased military service members who died while in an active military status after September 11, 2001. The Scholarship is administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines.

### **National Guard Tuition Benefits**

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

### **Other Iowa State Veteran Benefits**

#### **Military Tax Exemption**

This recently-enacted legislation (2014) exempts federal retirement pay received for military service and survivor benefits from state individual income tax.

#### **License Plates**

Honorably discharged veterans are eligible to purchase specialty veteran license plates for their vehicle. These special plates are available for an additional charge through the Iowa Department of Transportation.

#### **Veteran Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License**

Veterans in receipt of at a 0% service connected disability can receive a lifetime hunting or fishing license for a \$7.00 fee. In order to qualify, the Iowa resident must have served on active federal service and was disabled as a result of that service.

#### **The State of Iowa Veterans Cemetery**

The Iowa Veterans Cemetery began operation on July 3, 2008. Located 10 miles west of Des Moines, near Van Meter, the cemetery is available to all veterans, their spouses, and dependent children for burial. Honorably discharged veterans will be interred at no charge and spouses/dependents will be buried for a \$300 fee.

Visit the [Iowa Veteran website](#) for more information on any of these programs.