

Indiana State Veteran's Benefits

As of January 2015



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

- Housing Benefits
- Financial Assistance Benefits
- Employment Benefits
- Education Benefits
- Other State Veteran Benefits

Veteran Housing Programs

The Veterans Home

The Indiana Veterans' Home in West Lafayette provides nursing care, short-term rehabilitation services and domiciliary care for honorably discharged Hoosier veterans and their spouses. Eligible veterans have resided in Indiana for at least 12 months prior to admission, although residency waiver requests may be considered. There is no wartime service requirement. Applicants must pass a criminal background check

conducted by the Indiana Veterans' Home. The Indiana Veterans' Home provides several levels of care for their residents:

- Independent living
- Short-term rehabilitative care for those recovering from surgery, illness or injury
- Around-the-clock nursing care
- Dedicated memory care unit for those with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias

Residents at the 197-bed facility receive premier nursing care, with board-certified physicians and onsite specialty care, including:

- Physical and occupational therapy
- Speech and hearing therapy
- Respiratory therapy
- Podiatry
- Dentistry
- Optometry

Veterans and their spouses may apply for admission to the Indiana Veterans' Home by submitting a completed application packet, including all required documentation. To request an application packet, contact the Admissions Department at (765) 463-1502 or email admissions&marketing@ivh.in.gov. Written requests for application packets or additional information should be mailed to: Indiana Veterans' Home, ATTN: Admissions Department, Indiana Veterans' Home, 3851 N. River Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906



IVH Ernie Pyle Hall

Learn more about the Indiana Veterans Home at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2380.htm>

The Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home (ISSCH), which was located in Knightstown, Indiana, provided for the care and education of the children of veterans and members of the active Armed Forces. The Home was closed with the graduating class of 2009, however, former residents of the Home, including those students who attended Morton Memorial High School at the Home, are still able to take advantage of the Indiana Remission of Fees (ROF) program at any state-supported college or university. Eligible persons should complete the ROF application for former students of the ISSCH located on the Forms page link <http://www.in.gov/dva/2357.htm>.

Former residents and students can receive assistance with book fees from a special fund which was set up at the Home. The ROF application has a special page on which to request the book fee reimbursement. Students should remember, though, that they can only be reimbursed up to \$600 per semester for the book fees.

Attendance at state-supported colleges or universities while using the Remission of Fees program usually requires that the student is considered by the institution to be an in-state student. However, there are some exceptions. Western Governor's University (WGU), Ivy Tech and some Purdue online courses do not require student in-state residency, only the in-state residency of the veteran sponsor. All online students at these schools will be considered to be in-state students for the tuition rate.

Visit the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.in.gov/dva/> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Financial Assistance Benefits

Property Tax Abatements

Property tax deductions are available to disabled Hoosier Veterans under the following conditions:

1. A \$12,480 dollar deduction is available to veterans who:
 - a. Served at least 90 days of honorable service; and
 - b. Are totally disabled (not necessarily service-connected but the disability must be evidenced by a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pension certificate); or
 - c. Are at least 62 years old and 10% service-connected disabled.

Note: This deduction is not available if the assessed value of the real property owned by the veteran is in excess of \$113,000.

2. A \$24,960 tax deduction is available for veterans who:
 - a. Served honorably in the Armed Forces during any period of wartime; and
 - b. Are at least 10% service-connected disabled.
3. A \$37,440 tax deduction is available for any veteran who:
 - a. Served honorably during any period of wartime; and
 - b. Is 100% service connected-disabled; or
 - c. Is at least 62 years of age with at least a 10% service-connected disability.

Learn more about Property Tax Abatements at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2383.htm>

Employment Benefits

Employment Assistance

With funding from the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development provides services to Hoosier Veterans. Through the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP), and the Local Veterans' Employment Representative

(LVER) Program, Workforce Development Offices throughout the State are equipped to assist Hoosier Veterans with their transition from the service to civilian life. The DVOPs specialize in tailored training and job placement opportunities for veterans with service-connected disabilities. LVERs coordinate services provided veterans including counseling, testing, and identifying training and employment opportunities. Contact the nearest Indiana Workforce Development Office and ask for the location of the closest veteran's representative. Offices having Veterans' representatives include:

City	Phone
Anderson	(765) 642-4981 ext 241 & 240
Auburn	(260) 925-0124 ext 225 & 227
Bedford	(812) 279-4400 ext 227
Bloomington	(812) 331-6002 ext 242 & 243
Columbus	(812) 314-8576 or 8572
Elkhart	(574) 295-0105 ext 19, 20 & 21
Evansville	(812) 424-4473 ext 238 233, 234 & 239
Fort Wayne	(260) 745-3555 ext 356 351, 357 & 352
Franklin	(317) 736-5531
Gary	(219) 981-1520 ext 325 & 339
Hammond	(219) 933-8332 ext 308 309 & 310
Indy Westside	(317) -246-5400
	(317) -246-5415
	(317) -246-5416
	(317) -246-5417
Indy East	(317) -358-4501 (317) -358-4523
	(317) -358-4522
	(317) -358-4524
Kokomo	(765) 459-0571 ext 3019 & 3036
Lafayette	(765) 474-5411 ext 134, 138 & 136
LaPorte	(219) 362-2175
Lawrenceburg	(812) 537-1117 ext 234
Linton	(812) 847-4479
Madison	(812) 265-3734 ext 218
Marion	(765) 668-8911 ext 224 & 225
Martinsville	(765) 342-3324
Michigan Street	(317) -524-4580
Muncie	(765) 289-1861 ext 152 & 153
New Albany	(812) 948-6102 ext 122 140 & 127
New Castle	(765) 529-3010
Portage	(219) 762-6592
Richmond	(765) 962-8591 ext 211 213, & 214
Shelbyville	(317) 392-3279 ext 308 & 332

South Bend (574) 233-6175 ext 139 & 142
Terre Haute (812) 234-6602 ext 369 370, & 372
Vincennes (812) 882-8770

In addition to the above, the State Merit System provides for the addition of points for veterans applying for merit positions or promotions within State Government. Ref: IC 4-15-2-18. Learn more about Employment Assistance at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2390.htm>

Visit the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.in.gov/dva/> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Education Benefits

High School Diploma Program for WWI and WWII Veterans.

Veterans who served between April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 (World War I), or December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946 (World War II) may apply to the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs for issuance of a high school diploma. Veterans must have:

- Attended public or nonpublic high school in Indiana prior to military service
- Been a student in good standing
- Not graduated or received a diploma because of leaving high school for military service; and
- Been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States

Veterans, or their surviving spouses or eligible family members, may submit application to the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Learn more about the High School Diploma Program at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2388.htm>

Remission of Fees (Free Tuition) for the Child(ren) of a Disabled Veteran

The natural or legally adopted child(ren) of a disabled veteran may be eligible for remission of fees (free tuition) at any state-supported post secondary school or university in the State of Indiana. This applies at any age as long as the child was adopted by age 24 and the child is a resident of Indiana.

The Remission of Fees is good for 124 semester hours of education and may be used for either undergraduate or graduate level work. The amount remitted is 100% of tuition and all mandatory fees. The term "mandatory fees" is defined as any fee that must be paid by every student attending the institution.

Learn more about the Remission of Fees for the Children of a Disabled Veteran at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2378.htm>

Visit the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.in.gov/dva/> for contact information and benefits assistance.

Other State Veteran Benefits

County Veterans Service Officers

Ninety-one counties in the State employ a County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO). These CVSO's are veterans who stand ready to help you with your veteran-related needs. The County Veterans Service Offices have all the forms and other information you may need to obtain service from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The Service Officers will assist you in finding the information and resources you need to solve your service-related problems. They are your liaison for all veteran issues.

[Learn more about the County Veterans Service Officers](http://www.in.gov/dva/2370.htm) at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2370.htm>

Golden Hoosier Passport

A Hoosier Golden Passport provides unlimited admission to all Indiana State owned parks, recreation areas, reservoirs, forests, historic sites, museums, memorials and other Department of Natural Resource (DNR) facilities. The pass is good for one calendar year.

Persons eligible for a Disabled American Veteran license plate under IC 9-18-18-1 may purchase the Hoosier Golden Passport at DNR facilities around the State. If you have Disabled American Veteran plates on the vehicle simply drive to the gate and the attendant will sell you the Hoosier Golden Passport. If you do not have the plate but believe you are eligible you will be given a form to request the plate, which you must send to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs for verification.

[Learn more about the Golden Hoosier Passport](http://www.in.gov/dva/2389.htm) at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2389.htm>

Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery

The Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery opened for internments on December 1, 1999. The Cemetery is located adjacent to the Madison State Hospital and Clifty Falls State Park in Madison, Indiana. Any Hoosier veteran eligible to be buried in a national cemetery will be eligible for burial in the Cemetery. The spouse of an eligible veteran will also be eligible to be buried there. For an application for burial contact the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. Contact data for the Cemetery is as follows: Alan J. Burnham, Superintendent, Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1415 North Gate Road, Madison, In 47250 Tel: (812) 273-9220/F9221 email: aburnham@dva.in.gov.

Burial allowances: Each County Auditor is authorized to pay up to an amount not to exceed \$100 for the burial of a veteran or the veteran's spouse, and to pay up to \$100 for the setting of a federal headstone. Veterans must have received an honorable discharge, and an application must be filed with the county auditor in the county of residence. The Applications for county burial Allowance

Burial Forms for the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery [Application for Burial, Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery](#) , [Headstone Ordering Sheet](#) can be downloaded at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2367.htm>.



[Learn more about the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery](http://www.in.gov/dva/2328.htm) at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2328.htm>

Motor Vehicle License Plates

Indiana currently has the following license plates available to issue to eligible veterans:

- **Disabled Veteran Plates:** Disabled Veteran plates are the same as handicap plates in the State of Indiana. These are strictly limited to those individuals who have a serious mobility impairment due to a service-connected disability. Applications may be obtained from either the BMV or the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the veteran's eligibility.



- **Ex-Prisoner of War Plates:** The POW license plate is available to all ex-prisoners of war or to the surviving spouse of a deceased POW. Applications for these plates are available from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the eligibility of the applicant.



- **Purple Heart Plates:** Any Hoosier Veteran who has received the Purple Heart Medal is authorized to have these special license plates. Applications may be obtained at the BMV or from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The veteran must present official documentation of the award, and the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs must verify the veteran's eligibility.



- **Hoosier Veteran Plates:** Any resident of the State who was honorably separated from the active Armed Forces can purchase a Hoosier Veteran license plate. Simply take your DD-214 or your Discharge Certificate to your local BMV office and request the special plate. There is a \$15 charge for the Hoosier Veteran plate.



- **Gold Star Plates:** The Gold Star Family license plate is available to the spouses, parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, siblings, or children of anyone who died while serving on duty in the military – active, Reserve or National Guard. There will be no additional cost for the Gold Star Family license plate. Regular vehicle registration fees and taxes still apply.



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- **Other Veteran Related Plates**



Military License Plates	Renew Online	Group Fees	Admin. Fees
Air Force Veteran	Yes	\$15	No
Army Veteran	Yes	\$15	No
Coast Guard Veteran	Yes	\$15	No
Disabled Hoosier Veteran	No	No	No
Ex-Prisoner of War	Yes	No	No
Gold Star Family	No	No	No
Marine Corps Veteran	Yes	\$15	No
Merchant Marine Veteran	Yes	\$15	No

National Guard	No	No	No
Navy Veteran	Yes	\$15	No
Pearl Harbor Survivors Association	Yes	No	No
Prisoner Of War - Missing In Action	Yes	\$25	\$15
Purple Heart	Yes	No	No
Support Our Troops	Yes	\$20	No

Before you can receive the Air Force Veteran; Army Veteran; Disabled Hoosier Veteran; Ex- Prisoner of War; Gold Star Family; Marine Corps Veteran; Merchant Marine Veteran; Navy Veteran; Pearl Harbor Survivor; or the Purple Heart Recipient license plate for the first time, you must visit a license branch or BMV partner location. You may renew the license plates online. If an organization sponsoring a license plate requires an authorization form to renew the plate, the plate cannot be renewed online.

All plates may be purchased through the mail or at your local license branch. All plates except the Hoosier Veteran plate must be applied for through the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The Hoosier Veteran plate does not require the completion of an application form, as do the other veteran plates. For more information on each plate, see eligibility for veteran license plates.

Learn more about Motor Vehicle License Plates at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2385.htm> and <http://www.in.gov/bmv/2402.htm>

Peddlers, Vendors, or Hawkers License

State law provides that any wartime veteran who has an honorable discharge shall be granted these licenses by all cities and counties free of charge. See your county auditor.

[Learn more about the Peddlers, Vendors, or Hawkers License](http://www.in.gov/dva/2384.htm) at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2384.htm>

Resident Veteran Hunting and Fishing License

Any Indiana resident who is service-connected disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may purchase a license to hunt and fish in the state of Indiana for a reduced fee.

In order to receive this benefit the veteran must complete the Application for Reduced Fee Hunting and Fishing License for Disabled Veterans available from County Veteran Service Officers, from the Department of Natural Resource offices, or from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The form verifies that the veteran is service-connected disabled and authorizes the reduced fee and is verified by the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

[Learn more about the Resident Veteran Hunting and Fishing License](http://www.in.gov/dva/2382.htm) at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2382.htm>

Vital Documents for Veterans Benefits

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and the Indiana State Archives have copies of DD-214's on file for many Hoosier Veterans who entered the service from Indiana. Copies of these will be provided upon request to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The processing time for such a request is usually one or two weeks. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs or your County Veterans Service Officer can assist you with the paperwork to obtain other documents from the federal government.

Records may also be requested directly from the appropriate military records custodian or the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100 by completing a Standard Form 180. The form and Instructions for its completion is available at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>.

Learn more about Vital Documents for Veterans Benefits at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2379.htm>

Visit the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs website <http://www.in.gov/dva> for contact information and benefits assistance. [Source: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/indiana-state-veterans-benefits.html> Jan 2015 ++]

Military Discounts in Indiana

1. MVDC has over 7,000 locations in Indiana that have discounts for military personnel or veterans. Similar to businesses, the state of Indiana provides discounts for its veterans and military population. If you are looking for business discounts, refer to the search tool at <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/indiana.html>
2. Veterans Designation on drivers license: Yes
3. **Discounted Fees and Taxes**
 - Any Indiana resident with a service-connected disability can purchase a license to hunt and fish in the State of Indiana for a reduced fee.
 - Discounted license plates for veterans (\$15 for honorably discharged veterans), special plates for disabled veterans, POWs, and Purple Heart veterans.
 - State law provides that any wartime veteran who has an honorable discharge shall be granted Peddlers, Vendors, or Hawkers Licenses by all cities and counties free of charge.
 - \$5000 military pay exemption on state taxes for Indiana residents that have Indiana as their home of record
 - Up to \$37,440 in property tax deductions for disabled veterans
 - Up to \$5,000 in grants to active duty families suffering financial hardship due to combat zone mobilization
 - The Indiana National Guard Relief Fund, Inc. provides financial grants to Indiana Army and Air National Guard members and their families who have encountered difficult situations due to mobilizations or financial hardship or disaster. The Indiana National Guard Relief Fund is a private, non-profit, tax exempt corporation. There are two grants, Fund A grants can be a maximum of \$10,000 and Fund B grants can be a maximum of \$2,500.
4. **Education Discounts**

- The Remission of Fees is good for 124 semester hours and may be used for either undergraduate or graduate-level work. The amount allotted is 100% of tuition and all mandatory fees. The term "mandatory fees" is defined as any fee that must be paid by each student attending the institution.
- The natural or legally adopted child(ren) of a disabled veteran may be eligible for remission of fees (free tuition) at any state-supported post-secondary school or university in Indiana. This applies for any college-aged dependent as long as the child was adopted by age 24 and the child is a resident of Indiana.
- The State offers tuition-free education at any state-supported college or university for recipients of the Purple Heart Medal.
- Tuition-free education at any state-supported college or university is available for children of a wartime-era service-connected disabled veteran.
- Active duty military personnel and their dependents stationed in Indiana are eligible for resident tuition rates at any state-supported college or university.
- Professional assistance provided for utilization of GI Bill benefits (Offered by IDVA's State Approving Agency.)

[Source: <http://militaryandveteransdiscounts.com/location/indiana.html> Jan 2015 ++]