

Indiana State Veteran's Benefits

As of February 2019



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

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

Veteran Housing Programs

The Indiana Veterans Home (IVH)

The Indiana Veterans' Home is located in West Lafayette, Indiana. Originally created to care for veterans of the Civil War, the Indiana Veterans' Home welcomed its first resident in 1896. Located on 250+ acres in West Lafayette. IVH is a full-service care facility offering a complete array of services for residents.



IVH



Ernie Pyle Hall

They provide 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

Effective 2019, the current rate to reside in comprehensive care at IVH is \$371.19 per day. This is a comprehensive rate and includes nursing care, room, meals, housekeeping, , laundry service, and recreation activities. The independent living rate (domiciliary) is \$138.00 per day. IVH accepts Medicare A, Medicaid, private insurance and private payment. IVH will assist residents in applying for any services they may qualify for to assist with payment. Additionally, IVH participates in the Veteran's Administration higher per diem program and special benefits are available for veterans with a service connected disability rating of 70% or higher. Residents are not allowed to keep personal pets at IVH. However, they do have several "campus kitties" on the grounds and many volunteer therapy dogs that visit our campus on a regular basis.

A brochure is available at [http://www.in.gov/ivh/files/IVH_Trifold_Brochure_2016- Silver FINAL.pdf](http://www.in.gov/ivh/files/IVH_Trifold_Brochure_2016-Silver_FINAL.pdf). 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. The West Lafayette Indiana Veterans' Home campus is the only veterans' home in the state of Indiana.

Learn more about the Indiana Veterans Home at <https://www.in.gov/ivh>.

The Indiana Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home

The former 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.

Financial Assistance

Property Tax Abatements

Go to <https://forms.in.gov/Download.aspx?id=6146> and complete the form to obtain a Certificate of eligibility for Disabled Veteran Property Tax Deduction.

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

1. A \$12,480 dollar deduction from the assessed value of the property is available to veterans who:
 - a. Served at least 90 days of honorable service; and
 - b. Have either a TOTAL service connected disability OR be at least sixty two (62) years old AND have a service connected disability rating of at least 10%.(evidenced by an award of compensation by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs); or

- c. Be at least 62 years old and 10% service-connected disabled.
2. A \$24,960 tax deduction from the assessed value of the property is available for veterans who:
 - a. Served honorably in the Armed Forces during any period of wartime starting with WWII; and
 - b. Received an Honorable Discharge; and
 - c. Received a Service Connected Disability Rating of at least 10% (evidenced by an award of compensation by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs).

Note: Item 2 deduction is not available if the assessed value of the real property owned by the veteran is in excess of \$175,000. Learn more about Property Tax Abatements at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2383.htm>

3. For a deduction of property tax for property conveyed to the veteran at no cost to the veteran by an organization that is exempt from income taxation under the federal Internal Revenue Code, The veteran;
 - a. Must have served in the military for at least 90 days.
 - b. Received an HONORABLE discharge.
 - c. Received a service connected disability rating of at least 50%
 - d. Rates of payment are as follows for service connected disabilities:
 - o If Totally disabled (100%) then the deduction is 100% of the assessed value
 - o If 90% disabled then the deduction is 90% of the assessed value
 - o If 80% disabled then the deduction is 80% of the assessed value
 - o If 70% disabled then the deduction is 70% of the assessed value
 - o If 60% disabled then the deduction is 60% of the assessed value
 - o If 50% disabled then the deduction is 50% of the assessed value
4. If an otherwise eligible veteran owns no real property, then a deduction may be made on the excise tax for up to two vehicles for the lesser of the amount of excise tax liability for the individual's vehicle or \$70 each.

State Income Tax

- Up to \$5,000 of active duty pay is tax-free.
- Up to \$6,250 of retired pay is tax-free.

Employment

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
	(317) -246-5400
Indy Westside	(317) -246-5415
	(317) -246-5416
	(317) -246-5417
	(317) -358-4501 (317) -358-4523
Indy East	(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. 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.

Military CDL Skills Waiver Program

The BMV may waive the required drive skills test for veterans with specific training and were truck drivers during their military service when they apply for an Indiana Commercial Driver's License.

Next Level Veterans Program

The state will help you apply for a job with dozens of corporations, and if hired will pay you \$5,000 to relocate to Indiana. [Check out their website for more information.](#)

Education

High School Diploma Program for WWI and WWII Veterans

Veterans may apply to the Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs for issuance of a high school diploma who served between:

- April 6, 1917 and November 11, 1918 (World War I)
- December 7, 1941 and December 31, 1946 (World War II)
- June 27, 1950 and Jan 31, 1955 (Korea) or
- Aug 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975 (Vietnam)

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.

Free Tuition for Children of Disabled Veterans

Indiana offers free tuition at state schools to children of disabled veterans, Purple Heart Recipients and their children, and children of former POW/MIA. The benefit may be as high as free tuition and fees for 124 credit hours and is good at state schools. The veteran must have:

- Been a resident of Indiana for 36 consecutive months
- Served in a wartime period (including August 2, 1990 - present) or
- Received a Purple Heart Medal

Free Tuition for Purple Heart Recipients

Indiana residents who were awarded the Purple Heart are eligible for free tuition and fees at Indiana state schools.

Tuition and Fee Exemption

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) no longer accepts paper applications for Tuition and Fee Exemption programs for children of veterans, Purple Heart Recipients, or former students of Morton Memorial High School. All applicants will be required to apply on line through Scholar Track. All paper applications will be returned to the sender.

IDVA advises Filing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before applying in Scholar Track. It is available at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>. Information provided in the FAFSA is fed into Scholar Track and makes the process smoother. Students should not apply earlier than the beginning of the second semester of their graduation year of High School. Please ensure if you intend on using this program you list eligible educational institutions on your FAFSA. Students using this program are required to file for FAFSA annually. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education cannot finalize the award offer under this program without a FAFSA on file.

All IDVA approved Tuition and Fee Exemption programs can ONLY be used at the following educational institutions in Indiana:

- Ball State
- Indiana State University
- Indiana University Bloomington
- Indiana University East
- Indiana University Kokomo
- Indiana University South Bend
- Indiana University Southeast
- Purdue University West Lafayette
- Purdue University North Central
- Purdue University North West
- Purdue Global
- Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
- Indiana University Purdue University Columbus
- Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne
- Ivy Tech Community College (all Campuses)
- University of Southern Indiana
- Vincennes University
- Western Governor's University (WGU) INDIANA

Students can use Scholar Track to apply by going to the Scholar Track Web Page at <https://scholartrack.che.in.gov> and create a student account. When applying in Scholar Track you must upload all supporting documents in order for IDVA to determine the student's eligibility to use the Tuition and Fee Exemption. **AT A MINIMUM THE STUDENT'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR ADOPTION PAPERWORK MUST BE UPLOADED.**

Applications must be done under the STUDENT'S Scholar Track Account. Once the student is approved award letters can be viewed and printed from the students account. Be advised, award letters

may not be available at the time of approval and will be posted for the next school year closer to the beginning of that semester once released by the Commission for Higher Education. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT A SCHOLAR TRACK APPLICATION UNTIL A BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR ADOPTION PAPERWORK IS UPLOADED. IDVA cannot process the application without evidence of the student's relationship to the veteran as either the biological or adopted child.

If veteran documents are not available (i.e. Discharge from active service DD214 AND the summary letter from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Award of Disability) IDVA will request verification of the veteran's service and disability rating from the VA Regional Office in Indianapolis. Please be aware that this may take a week or longer to obtain. We will process online applications with all the needed documents uploaded first. Once a student is approved in Scholar Track there is no need to reapply for Tuition and Fee Exemption again. Staff within the financial aid offices at state schools can verify the student's eligibility for all educational scholarships awarded with in the Scholar Track Web page.

National Guard Deployment Protection

National Guard members from Indiana or an adjoining state who attend an Indiana public university are entitled to a tuition refund or credit and guaranteed re-enrollment if they are called to active duty during an academic term.

USS Indianapolis Crewmembers Free Tuition

Sailors from any state who serve on the new USS Indiana submarine for at least 180 days are entitled to pay in-state tuition at Indiana's public universities if they enroll within one year of receiving an honorable discharge.

Recreation

State Parks

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 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 County Veterans Service Officers at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2370.htm>

Hunting and Fishing Licenses For Disabled Veterans

Any Indiana resident who is service-connected disabled by the VA can buy an Indiana hunting & fishing license for a reduced fee.

Hunting and Fishing Licenses For Active Duty Residents

Active duty Indiana residents who are carrying leave orders and a valid Indiana driver's license or voter registration card are exempt from purchasing a hunting or fishing license.

Non-resident military personnel on active duty and stationed within Indiana qualify for a resident license.

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

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>

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.

There is no charge for the grave site or use of the Chapel for Internment services.

- Any eligible Veteran who is an Indiana resident will be buried at no cost to the family.
- Burial of a spouse or will require the payment of an opening and closing fee. The fee will be determined by the type of grave site.
- The cost for internment of eligible veteran who are residents of Kentucky or Ohio will be an out of state charge determined by the type grave site selected.
- For additional information you may contact the Superintendent at 812-273-9220.

A Cemetery Brochure is available at https://www.in.gov/dva/files/2007_Cemetery_Brochure_1.pdf

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.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs Funeral Director Resources are available for assistance in burials. Refer to <https://www.cem.va.gov/funeraldirector.asp>.

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](http://www.in.gov/dva/2367.htm) , [Headstone Ordering Sheet](http://www.in.gov/dva/2367.htm) can be downloaded at <http://www.in.gov/dva/2367.htm>.

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



Motor Vehicle License Plates

If you are applying for Disabled Hoosier Veteran License Plates you will need to show the Disability award letter that has the breakdown of individual ratings for your disability(ies). IDVA needs to verify the disability is a mobility issue for the eligibility determination for the Disabled Hoosier Veteran License plate.. The Veteran must be 50% service connected disabled by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs with at least 60% of that disability attributed to a mobility disability, OR the service connected disability precludes the Veteran from walking without pain or difficulty. If it is unclear that your service connected disability is causing you pain or difficulty while walking we may require a letter to be signed by your Doctor.

Per Senate Enrolled Act No. 262 effective July 1, 2018, a person who has been issued or is otherwise eligible for the Disabled Hoosier Veteran License plate can obtain a Permanent Handicap Parking placard from the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. This parking placard does not afford the same no fee at legal metered spaces parking privileges as the Disabled Hoosier Veteran License Plate.

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.



➤ **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>

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>

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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> | February 2019 ++]