

# JIV COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE



## LINKS TO:

- CLOTHING
- MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES
- FINANCIAL RESOURCES
- STATE/FEDERAL BENEFITS & MORE

## A Note about this Guide

The following guide provides community-based resources for justice-involved veterans (JIV) and was compiled by Safer Foundation's Veterans Program team. This living document changes frequently as more services become available and points of contact change. All the resources have been vetted by our staff or community partners. If you know a community partner that is not noted, or if you are currently working with a veteran with an arrest or conviction record and think they would benefit from Safer Foundation's services please feel free to contact me at [Abbie.Schmit@saferfoundation.org](mailto:Abbie.Schmit@saferfoundation.org)

Together let's make IL a leader in giving veterans the 2<sup>nd</sup> chance they deserve!

In humble service with you,

*Abbie Holland Schmit*

Director of Veterans' Program

Safer Foundation

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## **VA Links**

For nationwide lists of homelessness outreach and assistance organizations receiving VA funding to help Veterans, see: <https://www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp>

**VA Location Finder**

<https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

**VA List of Benefits**

<https://www.va.gov/service-member-benefits/>

**VA Homelessness Hotline**

<https://www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp>

**VA Healthcare Application**

<https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>

**VA Jesse Brown Medical Center Website**

<https://www.chicago.va.gov/>

**VA National Women Veterans Call Center**

**1-855-VA-WOMEN**

[www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov)

**VA Military Sexual Trauma Resources**

<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome/resources.asp>

**VA National Center for PTSD**

[www.ptsd.va.gov/public/treatment/cope/index.asp](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/treatment/cope/index.asp)

**State Department of VA finder:**

[https://www.va.gov/about\\_va/state-dva-offices.asp](https://www.va.gov/about_va/state-dva-offices.asp)

**VA Health Care for Specific Groups:**

[Combat Veterans and their Families](#)

[Older Veterans and their Caregivers](#)

[Homeless Veterans](#)

[Returning Service Members \(OEF/OIF/OND\)](#)

[Rural Veterans](#)

[Women Veterans](#)

[Caregiver Support](#)

**VA LGBTQ Veteran Care Coordinator**

<https://www.patientcare.va.gov/LGBT/VAFacilities.asp>

**VA Online Trainings (Anger Management, Academic Success, Parenting, etc.)**  
<https://www.veterantraining.va.gov/index.asp>

**VA Illinois Food Pantries**  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/benefits/Pages/Veteran-Assistance-Miscellaneous-Programs.aspx>

## **Housing/ Shelter**

### **Veterans Assistance of Cook County**

Financial assistance is available for transportation, mortgage or rent, utilities such as electricity, gas or water, food, burial or cremation. Chicago, IL. Requires Honorable Discharge.

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/housing-and-emergency-services>

Cook County

### **Inner Voice Eddie Beard Veterans Home**

Provides male Veterans experiencing homelessness with a safe, comfortable environment where they can live for up to 24 months. Requires DD214 document. Chicago, IL. Point

of Contact: Jumaani Bates [jbates@ivchi.org](mailto:jbates@ivchi.org)

<https://www.ivchi.org/trans-housing>

Cook County

### **Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans**

Provides shelter, affordable housing and employment program services for veterans. Shelter requires no violent criminal conviction in past 5 years, no sex crime history, honorable discharge, and active service. Affordable housing requires sobriety and employment. Wheaton, IL

<https://www.helpaveteran.org/>

DuPage County

### **The Prince Home**

The Prince Home at Manteno is a program for homeless veterans who are also diagnosed with a clinical disorder and/or physical disability. Opened in 2007, the Prince Home provides housing and supportive services for homeless Illinois Veterans, helping them cope with many issues, to include Post Traumatic Stress, substance abuse, and other challenges.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/programs/Pages/prince-home.aspx>

Kankakee County

### **2by4forhope**

This is a program to build tiny homes for homeless Veterans. They operate in several communities here in Illinois and Missouri. Based out of Quincy, Illinois.

<https://www.2x4forhope.org/>

Adams County, Statewide

### **A Safe Haven**

Offers three types of Veteran housing based on individual need, assessment and eligibility, including transitional housing, per diem housing and permanent affordable housing in the Chicago, IL area. Must be Honorably Discharged, and homeless or in financial crisis.

<https://www.asafehaven.org/who-we-serve/veterans/>

Cook County

### **Volunteers of America- Veterans**

Offers multiple options for immediate supportive housing (including Hope Manor I, II , Hope Manor Joliet, Hope Manor Village, Hope Hall, Supportive Services for Veteran Families. Offers Intake, Support, Employment Readiness, Stability.

<https://www.voainline.org/veterans>

Statewide

### **Hope Hall**

Hope Hall is a transitional housing facility designed to reach men and women who have been homeless for some time and have, for a variety of reasons including mental illness and substance abuse, been unable to find success within the general shelter system.

Requires that a veteran be honorably discharged, homeless, and diagnosed with a substance use disorder or mental illness. Located in Melrose Park, IL.

<https://www.voainline.org/hope-hall>

Cook County

### **Hope Manor**

Permanent and affordable housing for veterans, as well as courses on tenant rights, financial literacy, communication coaching. Several locations in Chicago and one in Joliet, IL. Requires Honorable Discharge, ID, and proof of income.

<https://www.voainline.org/a-home-for-the-brave>

Cook County

### **Illinois Veteran Homes**

Four Veterans homes located in Chicago, LaSalle, Manteno and Quincy, IL. Requires that a veteran have honorable discharge and active duty service and/or a service related disability or illness. The monthly cost is based only on the monthly income of the Veteran and spouse and does not include other assets.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/homes/Pages/Default.aspx>

Cook County, LaSalle County, Kankakee County, Adams County

### **Catholic Charities of Chicago Veterans Services**

Includes one HUD senior low income housing with preference for veterans in Hines, IL, and rent-subsidized apartments in Chicago, IL.

<https://www.catholiccharities.net/GetHelp/OurServices/VeteransServices.aspx>

Cook County

### **Catholic Charities of Joliet- SSVF**

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) assists eligible veterans who are homeless or imminently at risk of homelessness by helping them to stabilize their housing situations. SSVF Temporary Financial Assistance may assist with: rental assistance, security or utility deposits, utility assistance, moving costs, general housing stability. Requires residence in Will, DuPage, Kendall, Grundy, Kankakee, or Iroquois Counties, honorable discharge and some history of active duty service.

<https://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org/supportive-services-for-veteran-families-ssvf-2/>

Will County, Kendall County, DuPage County, Grundy County, Kankakee County, Iroquois County

### **Building Homes for Heroes**

Charity which donates homes to injured veterans. Qualifying participants must be injured in war post-9/11, not own property, have an honorable discharge, and 2 letters of recommendation to be eligible for the program.

<https://www.buildinghomesforheroes.org/for-veterans/>

National

### **Fisher House**

Offers free lodging to family members of Veterans currently undergoing inpatient medical treatment at the VA. Currently offers one house at the Edward Hines VA hospital.

[https://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/houses/current-houses/illinois-edward-hines-jr-va-hospital/?\\_ga=2.233392603.456987238.1635444999-2143130297.1635444999](https://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/houses/current-houses/illinois-edward-hines-jr-va-hospital/?_ga=2.233392603.456987238.1635444999-2143130297.1635444999)

Cook County

### **Homes for Wounded Warriors**

Builds handicap-accessible homes and remodels homes to make them accessible for wounded Veterans. Requires certification of 100% disability by the VA, DD14, honorable discharge, and two references.

<https://homesforwoundedwarriors.com/>

National

### **IMD Guest House**

Provides temporary housing for Veterans receiving PTSD treatment through The Road Home Program, and their families at Rush Medical Center. Requires referral from hospital or social worker.

<https://imdguesthouse.org/>

Cook County

### **Military Housing and Assistance Fund**

MHAF assists active military and veteran families by providing them with gift funds to assist them with purchasing a home.

<https://usmhaf.org/>

National

### **Military Warriors Support Foundation**

Awards mortgage-free homes to veterans wounded in direct combat with an enemy force and unmarried Gold Star spouses whose loved one was killed-in-action. In addition to the home, the recipient will receive 3-years of family and financial mentoring. Also offers shared living spaces for female veterans who are actively enrolled in vocational school, trade school, college or university. All services require honorable discharge.

<https://militarywarriors.org/programs/>

National

### **Veterans Path to Hope**

Provides housing assistance, food assistance, employment assistance and other services to Illinois veterans. Includes a transitional living program for any veteran currently or immanently homeless. Requires good discharge papers.

(815) 321-4673

<https://veteranspathtohope.org/>

McHenry County

### **The Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army: The Salvation Army offers Adult Rehabilitation Centers, housing options as well as different support channels throughout the Salvation Army community, from wheelchair assistance to a simple afternoon of companionship.

<https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/serve-veterans/>

National

### **Home Sweet Home Ministries: Rapid Rehousing Program**

The Rapid Rehousing Program works to help individuals get into a home of their own, fast, and then provides support to that individual once they are in their home. After housing has been secured, participants of the program must find a way to secure income either through employment or benefits. During this period, HSHM provides time and quantity-limited support for the program participant. All participants come through referrals by PATH Homeless Services Program.

<https://hshministries.org/about-us/our-services/outreach-services/profile/housing-services>

Bloomington, Illinois

### **PATH: Homeless Services**

Provides those experiencing homelessness with blankets, coats, gloves, transportation assistance, work clothes or prescription assistance. Provides referrals for local housing projects that participate in the Coordinated Entry System in Illinois.

<https://www.pathcrisis.org/services/homeless>

Central IL

### **Humility Homes & Services: Veterans Housing Program**

The Veterans Housing Program is focused on providing shelter, homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing funds to support veterans and their households.

<https://www.humilityhomes.org/>

Davenport, Iowa



### **Project NOW**

A community action agency that provides resources to food and nutrition programs, clothing vouchers as well as rent and utility assistance.

<https://www.projectnow.org/>

Henry County, Mercer County, Rock Island County

### **Community Support Advisory Councils**

CSACs serve as advocates of their community to help ensure a successful transition of offenders released from correctional centers into the community. CSAC meetings are held in Chicago monthly, and CSAC services include: food pantry, housing, legal assistance, clothing, substance abuse treatment, employment assistance, transportation, GED/ESL.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/communityresources/Pages/CSAC.aspx>

Chicago, Marion, East St. Louis, IL

### **Humility Homes & Services: Fresh Start Opportunity Program**

This paid 12-week job training program helps those who have struggled with homelessness overcome employment obstacles by placing them in time-limited wage-paying jobs that combine skill development, supportive services and real work. This process helps participants transition smoothly into the labor market.

<https://www.humilityhomes.org/fscop>

Iowa

### **Goodwill: Wayne A. Downing Home for Veterans**

This home provides permanent supportive housing for 15 homeless U.S. Military veterans with an honorable discharge and a diagnosed disability.

<https://www.goodwillpeo.org/services/veterans-services/>

Central Illinois

## **Clothing**

### **Midwest Veterans Closet**

Offers clothing, food, housewares and furniture to veterans for free, relies on donations of products from the public. Located in North Chicago, IL.

<http://www.midwestveteranscloset.org/home.html>

Cook County

### **Catholic Charities of Chicago: Mary's Closet**

Equips clients with personal attire fitting, professional consultation, and image preparation for interviews and life events such as graduations, funerals, and weddings. Partnered with Catholic Charities Veteran's Services.

[https://www.catholiccharities.net/Portals/0/Programs%20and%20Services/Employment%20and%20Job%20Training/Documents/Mary's%20Closet\\_110716.pdf?ver=2017-01-31-121819-853](https://www.catholiccharities.net/Portals/0/Programs%20and%20Services/Employment%20and%20Job%20Training/Documents/Mary's%20Closet_110716.pdf?ver=2017-01-31-121819-853)

Cook County

**Project: NOW**

A community action agency that provides resources to food and nutrition programs, clothing vouchers as well as rent and utility assistance.

<https://www.projectnow.org/>

Henry County, Mercer County, Rock Island County

**Community Support Advisory Councils**

CSACs serve as advocates of their community to help ensure a successful transition of offenders released from correctional centers into the community. CSAC meetings are held in Chicago monthly, and CSAC services include: food pantry, housing, legal assistance, clothing, substance abuse treatment, employment assistance, transportation, GED/ESL.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/communityresources/Pages/CSAC.aspx>

Chicago, Marion, East St. Louis, IL

## **Mental Health**

**Defense Centers of Excellence**

24/7 phone and online chat counseling/referrals.

[www.dcoe.mil](http://www.dcoe.mil)

(866) 966-1020

National

**Give An Hour**

Provides free in-person and zoom style counseling to veterans (number of sessions depends on individual provider) no payment/insurance information should be exchanged

[www.giveanhour.org](http://www.giveanhour.org)

National

**Make the Connection**

Offers videos and stories made by veterans on coping with various mental health stressors in their lives. Also offers tools for locating mental health resources.

<https://www.maketheconnection.net/veterans/>

National

**Veterans Crisis Line**

The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource that's available to anyone, even if you're not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care. The caring, qualified responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans of all ages and circumstances. Offers call, text, and online chat services.

1-800-273-8255

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

National

### **Wounded Warrior Project: Warrior Care Network**

Warrior Care Network is a partnership between Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) and four world-renowned academic medical centers, providing veterans living with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and related conditions with a path to long-term wellness. Requires post-9/11 service, PTSD, MST or TBI, and current sobriety. Rush University Medical Center Chicago, IL.

<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/programs/warrior-care-network>

National, Cook County

### **Psychological Health Center of Excellence: Health Resource Center**

A source of psychological health information and resources related to combat stress, depression, reintegration, how to get into treatment, types of treatment for mental health conditions, and many other topics. Offers phone, email and live chat services.

<https://health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Centers-of-Excellence/Psychological-Health-Center-of-Excellence/Psychological-Health-Resource-Center>

National

### **Military One Source**

Offers information on a wide variety of topics for active duty service members, veterans and their immediate families, including a call center for confidential and personalized help. Requires honorable discharge for veterans. Available as live chat or via telephone. 800-342-9647

<https://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

National

### **The Road Home Program (RHP)**

The Center for Veterans and Their Families at Rush University Medical Center: The RHP provides timely and confidential support, counseling, and mental health services to help Veterans and their families understand, heal from, and cope with the invisible wounds of war and life: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), anxiety and depression. Services at the Road Home Program are provided regardless of discharge status, the era of service, length of service, or ability to pay.

<https://roadhomeprogram.org>.

Cook County

### **Moraine View Veterans' Retreat**

Week long retreats for Veterans that need intensive counseling. This program is starting in the Spring of 2022. They are trying for 18 retreats a year for 4 to 8 Veterans each retreat.

<https://www.moraineviewretreat.org/>

McLean County

### **Reboot Recovery**

This is a 12-week program for combat Veterans to deal with PTSD. This is a spiritual program.

<https://rebootrecovery.com/>

National, McLean County, Ford County, Coles County, Williamson County, Johnson County, Marion County

### **After Deployment**

An online resource supporting Service Members, their Families, and Veterans, with common post-deployment concerns. The website provides self-care solutions targeting post-traumatic stress, depression, anger, sleep, relationship concerns, and other mental health challenges.

<https://www.afterdeployment.org/>

National

### **Centerstone Military Services**

Offers services to help with a variety of mental health concerns to include counseling, therapeutic retreats, couples and family counseling, housing assistance, employment counseling, online support groups, classes and workshops. Centerstone Military Services are available nationwide through a network of providers, peer support services, and partnerships with the Cohen Veterans Network and Wounded Warrior Project.

<https://centerstone.org/military-services/about-us/>

National

### **VA National Center for PTSD**

PTSD Online Coach and App

[www.ptsd.va.gov/public/treatment/cope/index.asp](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/treatment/cope/index.asp)

National

### **Vets Prevail**

Confidential veteran-to-veteran chat service.

<https://www.vetsprevail.org/>

National

### **VA Vet Centers**

Discuss how you feel with other Veterans in these community-based counseling centers. 70% of Vet Center staff are Veterans.

[1-877-927-8387](tel:1-877-927-8387)

<https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

National

**VOA: SSVF**

Provides housing, employment and VA benefit resources to Veterans and their families. Also provides resources for substance abuse and untreated mental health challenges.

312-564-2300

<https://www.voainninois.org/support-services-for-veteran-families>

Statewide

**PATH: Crisis Calls and Suicide Prevention**

PATH is one of the answering centers for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL). Since it's inception callers have known they can trust PATH to discuss challenging issues, and to provide support when faced with suicidal thoughts or concerned for another person's safety. The PATH crisis center is available 24/7 and can be reached by calling: 800-273-TALK.

<https://www.pathcrisis.org/services/suicide-crisis>

Central Illinois

**Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization**

Provides education, advocacy and support resources for individuals recovering from substance abuse or mental health issues.

<https://www.nircolakecounty.org/services>

Waukegan, Illinois

**College of Lake County Illinois**

Online resources on topics such as state and federal benefits, as well as provides resources to health care centers and family services foundations located in Lake County for veterans.

<https://www.clcillinois.edu/student-resources/additional-services/military>

National

**Nicasa Behavioral Health Services**

Provides mental health and substance abuse services, as well as behavioral health services such as anger management, gambling intervention and other life skills.

<https://nicasa.org/>

Statewide

## **Sexual Abuse and Trauma**

**Department of Defense Safe Helpline**

DoD Safe Helpline is the sole secure, confidential, and anonymous crisis support service specially designed for members of the Department of Defense community affected by sexual assault. Offers live one-on-one chat, live group chat, and a safe and secure phone line.

[877-995-5247](https://www.safehelpline.org/)

<https://www.safehelpline.org/>

National

### **VA National Women Veterans Call Center**

Access and learn about VA women's health services and resources designed to support women veterans

1-855-VA-WOMEN

[www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov)

National

### **The Road Home Program (RHP)**

The Center for Veterans and Their Families at Rush University Medical Center: The RHP provides timely and confidential support, counseling, and mental health services to help Veterans and their families understand, heal from, and cope with the invisible wounds of war and life: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), anxiety and depression. Services at the Road Home Program are provided regardless of discharge status, the era of service, length of service, or ability to pay.

<https://roadhomeprogram.org>

Cook County

### **VA Military Sexual Trauma Resources**

Information about coping and recovery

<https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome/resources.asp>

National

### **The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program**

May provide MST feedback on PTSD claim by an attorneys. See more in legal services below

<https://www.vetsprobono.org/>

## **Legal**

### **IL-AFLAN**

Free legal assistance for Illinois Armed Forces in civil cases. Can assist in legal matters concerning family, housing, and benefits.

<https://ilaflan.org/>

Statewide

### **UIC Veteran's Legal Clinic**

Provides free legal assistance when a Veteran has been improperly denied benefits by the VA or is in need of a military discharge upgrade. The Veterans Legal Clinic at UIC John Marshall Law School specializes in appealing denied Veterans benefits claims, including service-connected benefits, pension benefits, survivor benefits, and education benefits.

<https://nrd.gov/resource/detail/18012778/Veterans+Legal+Clinic>

Statewide, Cook County

### **Veterans Legal Aid**

Provide pro bono community outreach educational programs to non-profits and municipalities. Can also provide referrals to our member network of qualified attorneys in areas such as estate planning, elder law, personal injury, debt consolidation, family law, and criminal law. Click [here](#) for the Lawyer Referral List. Contact office by phone at 773-340-3838, or by email at [info@veteranslegalaid.org](mailto:info@veteranslegalaid.org).

<https://veteranslegalaid.org/about-us/>

Statewide, Cook County

### **ABA Military Pro Bono Project**

The ABA Military Pro Bono Project—managed by the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (LAMP)—accepts case referrals from military attorneys on behalf of junior-enlisted, active-duty military personnel facing civil legal issues, and it works to place these cases with pro bono attorneys.

<https://www.militaryprobono.org/>

National

### **Southern Illinois University Veteran’s Legal Assistance Program**

The Veterans’ Legal Assistance Program Clinic provides *pro bono* legal assistance to Veterans in southern Illinois who cannot afford or do not have access to legal representation in the appeals of claims for compensation for service-connected disabilities; and petitions for the upgrade of other-than-honorable discharges for military members with post-traumatic stress disorder (“PTSD”) or victims of military sexual trauma (“MST”).

<https://law.siu.edu/academics/clinics/vlap-clinic/>

Southern Illinois

### **National Veterans Legal Services Program**

Provides free legal representation to Veterans from all eras with disability claims for discharge upgrades, combat related special compensation, applications to boards for correction of military records, claims for mental health and/or physical condition(s), applications to the physical disability board of review for an increase in the military disability rating, and representation to Service Members being processed through IDES.

<https://www.nvlsp.org/>

National

### **Protect our Defenders Legal Services**

Provides pro bono legal representation or referrals to service members and civilians who were sexually harassed or sexually assaulted by a member of the US military, were retaliated against for reporting, and/or are a whistleblower.

<https://protectourdefenders.neworg.com/>

National

### **The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program**

Provides free attorneys to veterans and family members who need assistance with discharge upgrades or filing an appeal to the US Court of Appeals for veterans claims. TVC operates a global federal Veterans Pro Bono Program on behalf of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to represent veterans unjustly denied benefits or compensation earned from military service.

<https://www.vetsprobono.org/>

National

### **Legal Council for Health Justice**

Offers free legal assistance to low income individuals, with specialty in children and youth issues, family law, healthcare, HIV/AIDS, immigration, and social security.

<https://legalcouncil.org/>

Cook County

### **Illinois State Appellate Defender**

The Office of the State Appellate Defender provides representation to those impoverished and on appeal in criminal cases. The State Appellate Defender in Illinois has district offices in five of the appellate court districts of Illinois: Chicago, Elgin, Mt. Vernon, Ottawa and Springfield. The link below provides a directory of Public Defenders in the state of Illinois, organized by the county in which they represent.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/osad/PublicDefenderInformation/Pages/PDDirectory.aspx>

Statewide

### **Community Support Advisory Councils**

CSACs serve as advocates of their community to help ensure a successful transition of offenders released from correctional centers into the community. CSAC meetings are held in Chicago monthly, and CSAC services include: food pantry, housing, legal assistance, clothing, substance abuse treatment, employment assistance, transportation, GED/ESL.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/communityresources/Pages/CSAC.aspx>

Chicago, Marion, East St. Louis, IL

## **State Benefits**

### **IL Department Employment Services**

Veterans wanting employment assistance can reach out to us via this email address:

DES.MyVetRep@illinois.gov

### **Illinois Veterans' Benefits**

In addition to the federal benefits available, Illinois has a number of its own benefits for the states veterans and family members including compensation, education, burial, employment, real estate, and permits.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/benefits/Pages/default.aspx>

Statewide



### **Illinois Association of County Veterans Assistance Commissions**

Benefit providers and information with offices in most counties across Illinois. See Location map on website.

<https://www.veteransbenefitsillinois.org/>

Statewide

### **Illinois AMVETS**

Offers assistance and support for veterans seeking to claim their benefits. Requires honorable discharge.

<https://www.ilamvets.org/>

Statewide

### **IDES: Veteran Services**

The Illinois Department of Employment Security offers employment search assistance specifically for veterans. Resources provided include links to online job searches, assistance with creating a resume, filing a claim for unemployment insurance, along with website links to additional organizations that offer veteran employment services.

<https://ides.illinois.gov/jobs-workforce/veterans.html>

Statewide

### **College of Lake County Illinois**

Online resources on topics such as state and federal benefits, as well as provides resources to health care centers and family services foundations located in Lake County for veterans.

<https://www.clcillinois.edu/student-resources/additional-services/military>

National

## **Federal Benefits**

### **VA Benefits**

Veterans of the United States armed forces may be eligible for a broad range of benefits and services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This booklet contains a brief overview of the most commonly sought information concerning Veterans benefits and services.

[https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book/2019\\_Federal\\_Benefits\\_for\\_Veterans\\_Dependents\\_and\\_survivors.pdf](https://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/2019_Federal_Benefits_for_Veterans_Dependents_and_survivors.pdf)

National

### **Military.com Benefits List**

Provides lists of Federal benefits for different categories of service, such as Active Duty, Military retiree, Veteran, Military Family, Reserve and National Guard.

<https://www.military.com/benefits>

National

**Disabled American Veterans**

DAV is a nonprofit charity that helps connect veterans to the benefits they've earned. They also provide transportation and connect veterans to meaningful employment. All DAV services are free to veterans and their families.

<https://www.dav.org/>

National

**VOA: SSVF**

Provides housing, employment and VA benefit resources to Veterans and their families. Also provides resources for substance abuse and untreated mental health challenges.

<https://www.voaininois.org/support-services-for-veteran-families>

Statewide

**Goodwill: Veterans Benefits**

A V.A. Claims Agent is available by appointment to answer your specific questions.

<https://www.goodwillpeo.org/services/veterans-services/>

Central Illinois

**College of Lake County Illinois**

Online resources on topics such as state and federal benefits, as well as provides resources to health care centers and family services foundations located in Lake County for veterans.

<https://www.clcillinois.edu/student-resources/additional-services/military>

National

## **Financial**

**Illinois Joining Forces**

Helps connect veterans in Illinois with community resources and partnered programs that can assist with a variety of veteran-specific needs.

<https://www.illinoisjoiningforces.org/>

Statewide

**VFW Unmet Needs Financial Grant**

The program provides financial aid grants of up to \$1,500 to assist with basic life needs in the form of a grant - not a loan - so no repayment is required. Requires that financial strain have been caused by military service or injuries. Cannot be used to pay for civil, legal or domestic disputes or financial mismanagement. Must be for a basic need or needs.

<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants>

National

**PenFed Foundation Emergency Financial Assistance**

The Military Heroes Fund Emergency Financial Assistance Program offers financial assistance for wounded, ill, and injured post 9-11 veterans who are experiencing an unexpected short term financial setback. We assist with the following payments: Rent,

Mortgage, Auto Loan/Lease, Utilities (Electric, Water, Heat). Requires honorable discharge, post-9/11 service, VA 10% disability or more.

<https://penfedfoundation.org/apply-for-assistance/emergency-financial-assistance/>

National

### **Semper Fi Fund**

Provides transitional services and financial assistance to wounded veterans. Provides needs-based financial assistance for expenses that are most pressing during a long hospitalization or rehabilitation. Typically families use this grant to help with additional travel and lodging expenses, childcare, and out of pocket expenses.

<https://semperfund.org/what-we-do/>

National

### **Honor Bound Foundation**

Offers one-time financial assistance to veterans with one year of active duty with honorable discharge. All requests for assistance must come from either your caseworker, Veterans Administration social worker or Veterans Service Officer.

<https://www.honorboundfoundation.org/>

National

### **Navy Marine Corps Relief Society**

Provides funds to help with a wide range of financial needs for active duty or retired Sailors or Marines. Common situations include: Food, rent/mortgage, utilities, essential home repairs, Establishing a new residence, including security and utility deposits, Car expenses, such as repairs and insurance deductibles, Medical expenses, Military pay shortage / delayed entitlements, Funeral expenses, OCONUS PCS Pet Travel. Also offers financial counseling and budgeting assistance. Office in Great Lakes, IL.

<https://www.nmcrs.org/pages/financial-assistance-and-counseling>

National, Lake County

### **Operation First Response Military Family Assistance Program**

Financial aid for military families experiencing economic hardship. Services are available to Active Duty Service Members that have been wounded, injured or are critically-ill.

Services are available to Disabled Veterans with an awarded disability rating of 50% and higher within the Veterans Administration. Requests for applications must come from a Case Worker, Veterans Administration Representative or Chain of Command.

<https://www.operationfirstresponse.org/military-family-assistance-program/>

National

### **Salute America's Heroes Emergency Financial Aid**

Emergency financial aid for urgent expenses for injured or disabled veterans. Requires: an injury sustained during combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation New Dawn or in support of those operations in a hostile

environment; A disability rating assigned by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs of 30% or greater from a single, sustained injury; Currently experiencing severe financial hardship.

<https://saluteheroes.org/get-help/emergency-financial-aid/>

National

### **Salute Inc.**

Offers assistance to injured or disabled Veterans and their families by providing financial aid for rent/mortgage payments, auto expenses, phone, utility bills, and other everyday living expenses.

<https://www.saluteinc.org/get-assistance/>

Cook County

### **Operation Homefront Critical Financial Assistance**

Offers funds to assist with pressing financial needs for injured veterans. Requires that veteran actively served in the United States military post 9/11 AND suffered a post 9/11 wound, illness, or injury in the line of duty. Must have Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge WITHIN 7 years of discharge.

<https://operationhomefront.org/critical-financial-assistance/>

National

### **Wounded Warrior Project Financial Education**

WWP Financial Education program helps with the basics of personal finance, like budgeting, saving, debt -management, and long-term planning.

<https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/programs/financial-education#>

National, Cook County

### **Illinois AMVETS**

Offers scholarships to qualifying veterans. Requires honorable discharge.

<https://www.ilamvets.org/>

Statewide

### **Clearpoint Military Reconnect**

Provides financial literacy education specifically tailored for returning Service members and veterans.

<https://www.clearpoint.org/services/military-reconnect/>

### **Military Discounts in Illinois**

<https://illinois.uso.org/programs/military-discounts-in-illinois>

Statewide

### **List of Military Scholarships**

<https://usveteransmagazine.com/list-of-military-scholarships-for-service-members-spouses-and-dependents/>

National

### **Iowa Workforce Development**

The Iowa Workforce Development agency offers specific employment services for Veterans. The Home Base Iowa program is a private partnership that connects veterans, military personnel and their family members to local businesses. Another resource being Veteran Career Planners (VCPs) who work directly with eligible veterans in providing career services to prepare and secure suitable employment.

<https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/veteran-employment-services>

Iowa

### **Goodwill: Veterans Employment Program (GW-VEP)**

Provides training and support services, including job referrals, for Military Veterans with businesses in Central Illinois.

<https://www.goodwillpeo.org/services/veterans-services/>

Central Illinois

### **Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs)**

Community-based, non-residential organizations that serve to empower persons with disabilities to live independently, through education and skill trainings in budget management, writing a resume and other steps to help members realize their own capabilities.

<https://www.incil.org/>

Statewide

## **Substance Abuse (National or Time of Crisis, to Local and treatment)**

### **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**

Service locator that offers general resources as well as tools to find treatment facilities specifically for veterans.

<https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>

National

### **VA Substance Use Disorder Program**

Substance use disorder counseling, group therapy, medication, inpatient and outpatient services offered through the VA.

[https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state\\_SUD.cfm?STATE=IL](https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state_SUD.cfm?STATE=IL)

Statewide

### **VOA: SSVF**

Provides housing, employment and VA benefit resources to Veterans and their families. Also provides resources for substance abuse and untreated mental health challenges.

<https://www.voaininois.org/support-services-for-veteran-families>

Statewide

### **Community Support Advisory Councils**

CSACs serve as advocates of their community to help ensure a successful transition of offenders released from correctional centers into the community. CSAC meetings are held in Chicago monthly, and CSAC services include: food pantry, housing, legal assistance, clothing, substance abuse treatment, employment assistance, transportation, GED/ESL.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/communityresources/Pages/CSAC.aspx>

Chicago, Marion, East St. Louis, IL

### **Northern Illinois Recovery Community Organization**

Provides education, advocacy and support resources for individuals recovering from substance abuse or mental health issues.

<https://www.nircolakecounty.org/services>

Waukegan, Illinois

### **College of Lake County Illinois**

Online resources on topics such as state and federal benefits, as well as provides resources to health care centers and family services foundations located in Lake County for veterans.

Crisis hotline for veterans: 1.800.273.8255, press 1.

<https://www.clcillinois.edu/student-resources/additional-services/military>

National

### **Nicasa Behavioral Health Services**

Provides mental health and substance abuse services, as well as behavioral health services such as anger management, gambling intervention and other life skills.

<https://nicasa.org/>

Statewide

## **COVID-19**

### **DAV Covid FAQs for Veterans**

<https://www.dav.org/covid/>

National

## **Other Resources**

### **HeroCare**

Search tool for community-based resources, national support organizations as well as programs and services assisting every zip code in America. Categories for support include food, housing, goods, transit, health, money, care, education, work and legal.

<https://herocare.auntbertha.com/>

National

### **Wish For Our Heroes**

Offers Veterans the ability to ‘make a wish’ that connects them with donors who will help make that wish possible.

<https://www.wishfourheroes.org/>

National

### **Department of Defense Transition Assistance Program**

DoD TAP is an outcome-based program that bolsters opportunities, services, and training for transitioning Service members in their preparation to meet post-military goals.

The mandatory components of TAP are applicable for all Service members who have at least 180 continuous days or more on active duty; this includes National Guard and Reserve.

<https://www.dodtap.mil/index.html>

National

### **Warrior Care for Injured or Disabled Veterans**

Our mission is to proactively support wounded, ill, and injured Service members in their recovery and reintegration or transition to civilian life. To achieve this, we focus on its vision to ensure the nation’s wounded, ill, and injured Service members, their families, and caregivers are not forgotten.

<https://warriorcare.dodlive.mil/About/>

National

### **American Legion**

Offers information on veteran benefits, careers, education, and health. Connects veterans with resources and support for homelessness, temporary financial assistance, natural disaster assistance, and many other areas.

<https://www.legion.org/>

National, Statewide

### **Department of Labor VETS Program**

The VETS program works to provide meaningful employment to American veterans and transitioning service members. Connects veterans with employers, offers employment services to veterans and job training.

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets>

National

### **National Resources Directory**

The NRD is a database of validated resources that supports recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration for service members, veterans, family members, and caregivers.

[www.nrd.gov](http://www.nrd.gov)

National

### **Illinois Department of Corrections Veterans Transition Program**

The Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program assesses the strengths and needs of veteran offenders within 18 months of release. The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) Veterans Representatives go to facilities to complete assessments. Additionally, the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) visits the facilities to bring veterans up to date on their benefits and to assist them with their verification of service.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/programs/Pages/default.aspx>

Statewide

### **Blinded Veterans Association**

Assists eligible blind Veterans and their families navigate the VA claims process and offers other assistance programs and services including scholarships and peer support.

The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) advocates on behalf of all blinded Veterans.

<https://bva.org/regional-groups/illinois-regional-group/>

National

### **Illinois Veteran Entrepreneurship Events and Seminars**

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs in partnership with the Illinois Department of Central Management Services provides training and outreach to aspiring, emerging and established entrepreneurs by connecting them to government agencies, educational institutions, trade associations and business sector experts to educate them on resources and opportunities available to veteran-owned and service disabled veteran-owned business.

<https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/programs/Pages/Veterans2Entrepreneurs.aspx>

Statewide

### **Illinois Joining Forces**

Helps connect veterans in Illinois with community resources and partnered programs that can assist with a variety of veteran-specific needs.

<https://www.illinoisjoiningforces.org/>

Statewide