



Illinois Joining Forces Membership

All public and not-for-profit organizations with a veteran- or military-specific program are invited to join Illinois Joining Forces (IJF) as members, signing a membership memorandum and thereby committing to and benefiting from active collaboration with other IJF members. IJF membership memoranda of understanding (MOU) are tailored for three different types of organizations: not-for-profit (NFP), public, and public federal. Affiliate membership is also available for NFP organizations without a veteran- or military-specific program but desiring to support the work of IJF.

Beginning on November 9, 2012, all eligible organizations may obtain Provisional Membership simply by creating a member profile on the Illinois Joining Forces online platform. Provisional Memberships will expire on February 1, 2013 and are intended to allow for immediate trial participation while creating the time and space for organizations to pursue the internal discussions and approvals necessary to sign membership memoranda. Upon signing and submitting an IJF Membership MOU, Provisional Members transition to full (public or NFP) or affiliate members.

What are the expectations of being a participating member of Illinois Joining Forces?

- Members pledge to the following member organization principles:
 - The interests of the service member, veteran, or family member seeking assistance will be our paramount priority.
 - Integrity of the information and services provided to the military and veteran communities will engender respect and support for our initiatives and programs.
 - Diligent and active engagement will be our hallmark when our networked partners coordinate essential care and services for service members, veterans, or family members.
 - Members should only offer programs, services and resources that they are equipped or trained to deliver and maintain this standard while conducting outreach and engagement to the military and veteran communities.
- Members are expected to confirm or update at least monthly on the IJF online platform current organizational information regarding services, hours, locations, and events.
- Members commit to actively participate in Working Group(s) by attending meetings, offering expertise and insights and, wherever possible, contributing resources to the collaborative projects of the Working Groups.
- When possible, members will use the IJF web-based platform to make and accept referrals to and from other organizations.
- Members may choose to cease their membership of Illinois Joining Forces at any time of their choosing.



Active members of Illinois Joining Forces benefit from the following:

- Recognition for going above and beyond your organizational profile by participating in a state-wide cause that demonstrates your commitment to the overall mission of improving the quality of life of all service members, veterans, and their families;
- Direct engagement with public (from federal to local) and private entities that are aligned with your interests, thus creating synergies and opportunities for partnered effort;
- Access to a real-time forum designed to allow collaboration, while reducing friction and closing gaps, in order to advance projects/efforts/programs of mutual interest;
- A steady presence on the IJF proactive web-based platform, with an active profile and network that will allow your organization to increase outreach efforts to a larger community and broader population through active referrals and searches for services and support from military members, veterans, and their families;
- Participation in a multi-layered state-wide network which provides an opportunity to share and broaden each other's network and support system(s); and
- When desired, active participation in the policy process that affects the military and veteran community via Working Group discussions and resultant policy recommendations for possible inclusion in the annual Illinois Discharged Service Member Task Force report.

Types of Membership

While all members commit to IJF guiding principles, organizational commitments vary depending on organization type. All members pledge to member principles and to participating in Working Groups as able. However, some types of membership are more limited in nature. For example, public federal entities have the option to limit referral activity on the online platform, so as not to create duplicate Patient Advocate or VSO services. Also, affiliate members have a more limited online profile in terms of referral capabilities. Details on membership types and commitments can be found in respective Membership MOU's.

What's Next?

To learn more about membership commitments and benefits, check out the Membership MOU's in your registration folders. To move forward in IJF participation while considering IJF membership, simply create an online profile. For additional questions or to submit a signed Membership MOU, please email us at info@illinoisjoiningforces.org.