

## Veteran Benefits Access Guide Will County

Benefit and Where to Apply	
<p><b>Disability Benefits</b>  <b>Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) of Will County</b>            2400 Glenwood Ave.            Joliet, IL 60432  <b>815-740-8389</b></p> <p><b>IL Dept on Veteran Affairs (IDVA)</b>            Ken Bonner  <b>815-730-4334</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Compensation.</b> VA can pay you monthly <i>compensation</i> if you are at least 10% disabled as a result of your military service.</li> <li>● <b>Pension.</b> VA can pay you a <i>pension</i> if you are a wartime veteran with limited income and you are permanently and totally disabled or are 65 or older.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Education and Training</b></p> <p>Enrique Cabrera            Joliet  <b>815-730-4358</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Post-9/11 GI Bill.</b> Available to those who served on or after September 11, 2001. It pays tuition and fees up to the most expensive, public, in-state undergraduate program rate, provides a monthly housing allowance, and a stipend for books and supplies. It also provides an option for servicemembers to transfer benefits to a spouse or child.</li> <li>● <b>Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP/Chapter 1607)</b> is available to persons who were activated under Federal authority for a contingency operation and served 90 continuous days or more after September 11, 2001.</li> <li>● <b>Survivors' &amp; Dependents' Educational Assistance</b> is available to some family members of certain disabled or deceased veterans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment</b>  <b>Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital</b>            5000 South 5th Avenue            Hines, IL 60141  <b>708-202-8387</b></p>	<p><b>The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service</b> provides outreach, motivation, evaluation, counseling, training, employment, and other rehabilitation services to service-connected disabled veterans. Counseling, assessment, education programs and, in some cases, rehabilitation services are available to the spouse and children of totally and permanently disabled veterans as well as to the surviving spouse and children of certain veterans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vocational training and rehabilitation services are available to children with spina bifida having one or both parents who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War, or served in certain military units, in or near the demilitarized zone in Korea, between September 1, 1967, and August 31, 1971.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Home Loan Guaranty</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● VA guarantees loans to eligible servicemembers, veterans, reservists, and certain surviving spouses to purchase a home, condominium or manufactured home, and for refinancing purposes. The loans are actually made by <u>private lenders</u>, but the VA guaranty generally means the lender will not require any down payment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Dependents' and Survivors' Benefits</b>  <b>VAC of Will County</b>            2400 Glenwood Ave.            Joliet, IL 60432  <b>Phone: 815-740-8389</b></p> <p><b>IDVA Ken Bonner</b>  <b>815-730-4334</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Disability and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)</b> is payable to survivors of: Servicemembers who died on active duty Veterans who died from service-related disabilities</li> <li>● Certain veterans who were being paid 100% VA disability compensation at time of death</li> <li>● <b>Death Pension</b> is payable to some surviving spouses and children of deceased <i>wartime</i> veterans. The benefit is based on financial need.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Medical Treatment</b>  <b>Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital</b>          5000 South 5th Avenue          Hines, IL 60141  <b>708-202-8387</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services</li> <li>● Domiciliary, nursing home, and community-based residential care</li> <li>● Sexual trauma counseling</li> <li>● Specialized health care for women veterans</li> <li>● Health and rehabilitation programs for homeless veterans</li> <li>● Readjustment counseling</li> <li>● Alcohol and drug dependency treatment</li> <li>● Medical evaluation from military service exposure to Agent Orange, radiation, or other environmental hazards, including service in the Gulf War</li> <li>● <b>Combat Veterans</b> -              VA provides free health care for veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, for any illness possibly related to their service in that theater. Time Limits - You have five years from date of discharge from active duty, if you were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003. You have until January 27, 2011, if you were discharged from active duty before January 28, 2003, and were not enrolled as of January 28, 2008.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Burial Benefits</b></p> <p><b>VAC of Will County</b>          2400 Glenwood Ave.          Joliet, IL 60432  <b>815-740-8389</b></p> <p><b>IDVA Ken Bonner</b>  <b>815-730-4334</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Headstone or Marker.</b> VA can furnish a monument to mark the grave of an eligible veteran.</li> <li>● <b>Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC).</b> VA can provide a PMC for eligible recipients.</li> <li>● <b>Burial Flag.</b> VA can provide an American flag to drape an eligible veteran's casket.</li> <li>● <b>Reimbursement for Burial Expenses.</b> Generally, VA can pay a burial allowance of \$2,000 for veterans who died of service-related causes. For certain other veterans, VA can pay \$300 for burial and funeral expenses and \$762 (this amount can vary slightly depending on veteran's date of death) for a plot .</li> <li>● <b>Burial in a VA National Cemetery.</b> Most veterans and some dependents may be buried in a VA national cemetery.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Illinois Vet Homes</b></p> <p><b>Anna</b> (618) 833-6302, x229</p> <p><b>LaSalle</b> (815) 223-0303, x222</p> <p><b>Manteno</b> (815) 468-6581, x226</p> <p><b>Quincy</b> (217) 222-8641, x 209</p>	<p><b>Vet Home</b> are fully staffed with caring and dedicated professionals who provide quality long-term skilled care and services to resident members.</p> <p>In addition to a veteran's military service, admission to an Illinois Veterans' Home is based upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The ability of the Home to provide the care and services required by the veteran's medical diagnoses and assessed needs.</li> <li>● An available bed in the category of care required by the veteran's medical conditions and assessed needs.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Illinois Permits</b></p> <p>Will County Building 2400 Glenwood Ave., Suite 110 Joliet, IL. 60435</p> <p>IDVA- Ken Bonner <b>815-730-4334</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Camping and Admission Fees.</b> This benefit provides for the exemption of camping and admission fees for certain disabled persons and former prisoners of war who are Illinois residents and wish to camp in parks under the control of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Documentation is required.</li> <li>● <b>Hunting and Fishing.</b> Fishing and hunting licenses are not required for disabled veterans who are receiving 10% or greater service-connected compensation, or total disability pension benefits.</li> <li>● <b>State Fair.</b> Honorably discharged veterans of all ages and their families shall be admitted FREE, when they properly identify themselves, on Veterans' Day at the fair. Veterans Day includes a day-long program of drum corps, drill teams, and color guard competition. Admission is FREE to people 60 and older on Senior Day.</li> </ul>
<p><b>IL Property Taxes</b></p> <p><b>Office of the Will County Clerk</b> 302 North Chicago Street Joliet Il 60432 <b>815-740-4615</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>The Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption</b> provides a reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a veteran with a service-connected disability. Beginning in tax year 2015, a \$2,500 homestead exemption is available to a veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 30% but less than 50%; a \$5,000 homestead exemption is available to a veteran with a service connected disability of at least 50% but less than 70%; veterans with a service-connected disability of at least 70% are exempt from paying property taxes on their primary residence.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Education Benefit specific to Illinois</b></p> <p><b>Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)</b> 1755 Lake Cook Road Deerfield, 60015 <b>847-948-8550</b></p> <p><b>Office of Student Financial Aid</b> Student Services Arcade 620 East John Street Champaign, IL 61820 <b>217-333-0100</b></p>	<p><b>The Illinois Veterans' Grant (IVG) Program</b> pays tuition and mandatory fees at all Illinois state-supported colleges, universities and community colleges for eligible Illinois veterans. An individual must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be an honorably discharged veteran; and</li> <li>● Reside in Illinois six months before entering the service; and</li> <li>● Have at least one full year of active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. This includes veterans who were assigned to active duty in a foreign country in a time of hostilities in that country, regardless of length of service; and</li> <li>● Return to Illinois within six months of discharge from the service</li> </ul> <p><b>Children of Veterans Scholarship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Each county in the state shall be entitled, annually, to one honorary scholarship at the University of Illinois, for the benefit of children of veterans of WWI, WWII, Korean War, the Vietnam Conflict and any time on or after August 2, 1990 and until those persons in service are no longer eligible for the Southwest Asia Service Medal. Preference is given to the children of deceased and disabled veterans. Such children shall be entitled to receive, without charge for tuition, instruction in any or all departments of the University for a term of at least four (4) consecutive years. Details may be obtained from the University of Illinois' Financial Aid Office.</li> </ul>



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