



VETERAN GUIDE TO HEALTH, HOME AND HONORS

Created by Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care



Benefits and Opportunities for Veteran Families In Chicagoland

By Katie Curran Kirby



Sponsored by



*We remember our fallen Heroes
and honor those who have
sacrificed for our great Country.*

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Important Notes:

Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care has made every effort to review the information contained in this guide with all listed providers to ensure accuracy. Please note that dollar amounts and other information may change over time. Connect with a VA Service Officer or the provider to secure exact information related to your situation. General information is provided in this guide, but only the providers listed (or responsible for the benefit provided) can rule on actual benefits. Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care is not responsible for incorrect or discontinued information.

Numerous providers offer benefits and opportunities to veterans and their families. This is only a partial listing of options that may be available to you.

There are some providers in this guide that charge for services, though they may offer services not provided by the Veterans Administration (VA). Veterans should contact a VA Veterans Service Officer before paying for any private service, since the same service may be offered by the VA at no cost.

Individuals depicted in photos have no relation to the specific subject matter in the guidebook.

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Letter from the President and CEO

Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care focuses on helping our patients make each day the best day possible. We provide physical, emotional and spiritual support so our patients and their loved ones can focus on what matters most – living. Honoring service to our country is an important component of caring for our veterans. Rainbow empowers our community to live with hope and resilience throughout the journey with illness and loss.

Over the past several years, we have made a commitment to expanding our services to better care for veterans. As a result, we have been awarded the highest *We Honor Veterans* (WHV) recognition possible. Rainbow is proud to be a Level Four WHV Partner.

We Honor Veterans is a partnership between the US Department of Veteran Affairs and hospices around the country. This partnership aims to educate veteran families about their benefits, honor them for their service and sacrifice, and provide veteran-centric training to healthcare providers.

Rainbow has its own *We Honor Veterans* Advisory Council, and is a proud member of the Northern Illinois Tier Hospice-Veteran Partnership and the Chicagoland Hospice-Veteran Partnership.

It is our hope that the information contained in this guidebook will assist veteran families, and those caring for them, to locate appropriate services and more easily navigate the benefits process.

We are grateful to our friend and partner, Dignity Memorial, for its sponsorship in the production and printing of this guidebook.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Susan Enright'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Enright

Interim President

Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care

VETERAN GUIDE

to Health, Home and Honors



Benefits and Opportunities for Veteran Families in Chicagoland

by Katie Curran Kirby, Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care



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Chapter

1

**Veterans Service
Officers**

NOTES

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Veteran Service Officers

Important note: There are some providers in this guide that charge for their services that offer services beyond those provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It is important to contact your Veterans Service Officer before paying for any private service, since it may be offered by the VA at no cost. Veterans do not need to pay for benefits they have earned.

Securing Veterans Administration Benefits and Opportunities: Start Here!

It is recommended that every veteran family work with a regional (federal), state or county Veterans Service Officer (VSO) in order to better understand and streamline the benefits/opportunities process. Veterans Service Officers in each of these areas provide education, assistance and advice to the veteran and his/her family in order to more easily move through the required application steps and paperwork.

Regional VSOs have the benefit of being able to access the status of a claim throughout the process and relay that information to the veteran family. However, regional VSOs may be encouraged to meet with a certain number of veterans a day and have less time to spend with each veteran.

State and County VSOs may not be able to access information on the status of a claim due to confidentiality restrictions, but in general, will have more time to spend with the veteran family throughout the process. Veterans should ask local VSOs about their ability to access information, since county and state VSOs have direct communication with the regional office and may, in some cases, have access to the same information. Many veterans who use a state or county VSO, also add an **Advocate** to their assistance team. Advocates, represented in the regional office, can access the status of a claim and work on the veteran's behalf to help in processing the claim. Also, VSOs serving your immediate area/neighborhood may be more aware of available local and state VA benefits and community-based veteran opportunities.

Individual veterans may apply for benefits on their own. However, since the process can be complex, it is not recommended.

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) are based in the Regional Veterans Administration Office, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs service offices, County Veterans Assistance Commissions and through some veterans' services organizations. VSOs are the best source for assistance in accessing benefits.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Regional Veterans Administration Office (Federal Veterans Service Officers)

2122 West Taylor Street
Chicago, IL 60612
Phone: 800-827-1000

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Service Offices (State Veterans Service Officers)

Note: Please call Service Officer for office hours as office hours vary.

Aurora/DuPage County #1

750 Shoreline Drive
Aurora, Illinois 60504
Service Officer: Wesley Yi at 630-585-5373

Chicago, Cook County Hope Manor I

3053 West Franklin Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60612
Service Officer: Angel Montes at 773-475-6703

Chicago, Cook County Hope Manor II

6002 South Halsted Street
Chicago, Illinois 60621
Service Officer: Sharon Buchanan at 312-564-2398

Chicago, Cook County #1

George Dunne County Building
69 West Washington Street, Suite 1620
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Service Officers:
Cynthia Greene at 312-814-3326
Sharon Buchanan at 312-814-3287
Michele Richards at 312-814-5538

Chicago, Cook County #3

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
National Guard Armory
1551 North Kedzie Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60651
Service Officer: Angel Montes at 773-292-7894

Chicago, Cook County #5

Chicago VA Regional Office,
2122 West Taylor Street, Suite 127
Chicago, Illinois 60612
Phone: 312-980-4512
Service Officers: Joseph Petrosky, Chuck Bosko,
Shynae Murphy, Israel Dominquez

Chicago Heights, Cook County #4

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
1010 Dixie Hwy., Suite 101
Chicago Heights, Illinois 60411
Service Officer: Charles Lawrence at 708-754-6403

Deerfield

1755 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, Illinois
Service Officers: Pat Cornet at 847-689-4798 or
Walter Wilson at 847-948-6981 or 847-948-6982

Des Plaines, Cook County #11

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
Frisbee Senior Center
52 East Northwest Hwy.
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
Service Officer: Cynthia McKee at 847-2944664

DuPage County #1

DuPage County Government Building
421 North County Farm Road, Room 2-600
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
Service Officer: Marcus Woodward at 630-690-9449

DuPage County #2

Leyden Township
2501 North Mannheim Road
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131
Service Officer: Cynthia Mckee at 847-451-5111

Elgin

Elgin National Guard Armory
254 Raymond Street
Elgin, Illinois 60120
Service Officer: John Fanning at 847-608-0138

Evanston Veteran Center

1901 Howard Street
Evanston, Illinois
Service Officer: Angel Montes at 847-332-1019

Forest Park, Cook County #7

1515 South Harlem Avenue, Unit 1B
Forest Park, Illinois 60130
Service Officer: Alex Nuno at 708-366-5020

Harvey, Cook County #6

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
Department of Employment Security
16845 South Halsted Street
Harvey, Illinois 60426
Service Officer: Charles Lawrence at 708-225-8030

Joliet

2400 Glenwood Avenue,
Joliet, Illinois 60435
Service Officer: Ken Bonner at 815-730-4334.

Manteno

Manteno Veterans Home
#1 Veterans Drive
Manteno, Illinois 60950
Service Officer: Kurt Schierholz at
815-468-6581, ext. 230

Orland Park, Cook County #10

Village of Orland Park
14700 South Ravinia Avenue
Orland Park, Illinois 60462
Service Officer: Charletta Lutchen-Hayes at
708-403-2011

Palatine (and Schaumburg), Cook County #9

721 South Quentin Road, Suite 102
Palatine, Illinois 60067
Service Officers: James Lopez at 847-485-2772

Rockford

Machesny Park Armory
10451 North 2nd Street
Machesny Park, Illinois 61115
Service Officers: Jessica Holm at 815-633-7840,
Frank Delatore at 815-633-5875, and
Matthew Taylor at 815-633-5875

Schaumburg Township, Cook County

1 Illinois Boulevard
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169
Service Officer: James Lopez at
847-884-0030, ext. 2019

Woodstock

Woodstock Armory
1301 Sunset Ridge Road (Route 14)
Woodstock, Illinois 60098
Service Officer: Ted Biever at 815-338-9292

**County Veterans Assistance Commissions
(County Veterans Service Officers)****Boone County – 815-544-6464**

175 Cadillac Court
Belvidere, Illinois 61008

Cook County – 312-433-6010

1000 South Hamilton, Lower Level #C011
Chicago, Illinois 60612
abundio.zaragoza@cookcountyil.gov

DeKalb County – 815-756-8129

2500 North Annie Glidden Road, Suite A
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
tamela.anderson@va.gov

DuPage County – 630-407-5660

421 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
dupagevac@dupageco.org

Grundy County – 815-941-3152

1802 North Division Street, Suite 202
Morris, Illinois 60450
vacgrundycountry@gmail.com

Kane County – 630-232-3551 or 630-232-3552

719 South Batavia Avenue
Building A, Room 104
Geneva, Illinois 60134
zimmermanjacob@co.kane.il.us or
wellssteve@co.kane.il.us

Kankakee County – 815-937-8489

135 North Schuyler Avenue
Kankakee, Illinois 60901
mroof@k3county.net

Kendall County – 630-553-8354

811 John Street, #250
Yorkville, Illinois 60560
clockman@co.kendall.il.us

Lake County – 847-377-3344

20 South Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
mpeck@lakecountyil.gov

LaSalle County – 815-433-1761

119 West Madison Street
Courthouse Room 103A
Ottawa, Illinois 61350
skreitzer@lasallecounty.org

McHenry County – 815-334-4229
McHenry County Government Center
Administrative Building
667 Ware Road
Woodstock, Illinois 60098
veterans@co.mchenry.il.us

Will County – 815-740-8389
Executive Center
128 North Scott Street
Joliet, Illinois 60432
vacwc@willcountyillinois.com

Winnebago County – 815-987-2542
215 North Main Street
Rockford, Illinois 61101
rhughes@wincoli.us

Veterans' Service Organizations (Advocates)

*All co-located with the VA regional office at
2122 W. Taylor Street, Chicago, IL 60612*

American Legion – Room 106
312-980-4266

AMVETS – Room 109
Jose Garcia, VSO
312-980-4256
jose.garcia9@va.gov

Disable Veterans of America (DAV) – Room 104
312-980-4242

Military Order of the Purple Heart – Room 108
Delores Cooley, VSO
312-980-4271
delores.cooley@va.gov

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) – Room 105
312-980-4284

American Legion – Room 106
Wayne Macejak, VSO
312-980-4266
wayne.macejak@va.gov

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCES:

Andy Balafas, Vitas
Department of Veterans Affairs



Chapter

2

**Medical Centers &
Community Based
Outpatient Clinics**

NOTES

[illegible]

Medical Centers & Community Based Outpatient Clinics

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Administration Medical Centers and Community Based Outpatient Clinics provide a wide range of medical and behavioral services to veterans. VA healthcare does not cover the veteran's family unless the veteran is determined to be 100% permanent and totally disabled for service connected conditions. In this case, the spouse is eligible for CHAMPVA. Veterans must complete VA Form 10-10EZ Applications for Health Benefits. Once received by the VA, the veteran (or spouse) will be assigned a provider(s). Veteran families should bring the veteran's DD-214 and private insurance information (if any) with when applying for benefits. See provider information or visit a local VSO for more detail.

COST: varies

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Medical Centers

Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center

The Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC) is a first-of-its-kind partnership between the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense (DoD), integrating all medical care into a fully-integrated federal health care facility with a single combined VA and Navy mission. It provides a variety of medical and behavioral services such as internal medicine, mental health care, dental, diagnostic and ancillary service.

3001 Green Bay Road
North Chicago, Illinois 60064
847-688-1900, 800-393-0865

Go to www.lovell.fhcc.va.gov/contact/index.asp to view the FHCC phone directory.

Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital

Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital provides a variety of services such as extended care and rehabilitation, hospice/palliative care, medical foster home, mental health, dental, pharmacy and counseling.

5000 S. Fifth Avenue
Hines, Illinois 60141
708-202-8387
www.hines.va.gov

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center provides a variety of services such as counseling, surgical procedures, mental health programs, pharmacy, primary care, community services, physical medicine and rehabilitation. This center consists of a 200 bed acute care facility and four community-based outpatient clinics.

820 S. Damen Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60612
312-569-8387, 800-591-4815, 888-569-5282
www.chicago.va.gov

VA Illiana Health System

VA Illiana Health System provides a variety of services such as counseling, surgical procedures, mental health programs, pharmacy, primary care, community services, palliative care, minority veterans program, physical medicine and rehabilitation. In addition to the main facility, services are offered in four community-based outpatient clinics.

1900 E. Main Street
Danville, Illinois 61832
217-554-3000, 800-320-8387
888-838-6446 (after business hours)
www.danville.va.gov

Marion

Marion provides a variety of services such as counseling, rehabilitation, mental health, emergency care, spinal cord injury clinic, pharmacy and specialty care. This health system includes a general medical and surgical facility and ten outpatient clinics in surrounding communities.

2401 W. Main Street, Marion, Illinois 62959
618-997-5311, 866-289-3300, and
800-574-8387 (after business hours)
www.marion.va.gov

Community Based Outpatient Clinics

Aurora

- 161 S. Lincoln Way
North Aurora, Illinois 60542
630-859-2504

Chicago

- 7731 S. Halsted Street
Chicago, Illinois 60620
773-962-3700
- 211 E. Ontario Street, 12th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312-469-4850

Chicago Heights

- 30 E. 15th Street, Suite 314
Chicago Heights, Illinois 60411
708-754-8880

Evanston

- 1942 Dempster Street
Evanston, Illinois 60202
847-869-6315

Freeport

- 1301 Kiwanis Drive
Freeport, Illinois 61032
815-235-4881

Great Lakes

- USS Tranquility
2430 Illinois Street
Great Lakes, Illinois 60088
847-688-6755

- USS Red Rover
1020 11th Avenue
Great Lakes, Illinois 60088
847-688-5568
- Zachary & Elizabeth Fisher
2410 Sampson Street
Great Lakes, Illinois 60088
847-688-2469
- USS Osborne Dental Clinic
3440 Ohio Street
Great Lakes, Illinois 60088
847-688-2100

Hoffman Estates

- 4885 Hoffman Boulevard
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60192
847-645-1443

Joliet

- 1201 Eagle Street
Joliet, Illinois 60432
815-740-8100

Kankakee

- 581 William Latham Drive, Suite 301
Bourbonnais, Illinois 60914
815-932-3823

LaSalle

- 4461 N. Progress Boulevard
Peru, Illinois 61354
815-223-9678

McHenry

- Center Medical Arts Complex
620 S. Route 31, Suite 3-4
McHenry, Illinois 60050
815-759-2306

Oak Lawn

- 10201 S. Cicero
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
708-499-3675

Rockford

- 816 Featherstone Road
Rockford, Illinois 61107
815-227-0081

Sterling

- 406 Avenue C
Sterling, Illinois 61081,
815-632-6200

Kenosha, WI

- 8207 22nd Avenue, Kenosha
Wisconsin 53140
262-663-9286
- 800 55th Street, Kenosha
Wisconsin 53140
262-653-9286

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Elderwerks 2016 Senior Directory, pages 185-186

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Choice Program. If a veteran is already enrolled in VA health care, the Choice Program allows the veteran to receive health care within his/her community. Using this program does NOT impact existing VA health care, or any other VA benefit.

Eligibility

If already enrolled in VA health care, a veteran may be able to receive care within his/her community instead of waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility.

A veteran is eligible if any of these situations apply:

- You have been (or will be) waiting more than 30 days for VA medical care
- You live more than 40 miles away from a VA medical care facility or face one of several excessive travel burdens.

To talk to someone about the Veterans Choice Program, call 1-866-606-8198.

There are a number of healthcare providers to choose from in Illinois. Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care is proud to be a part of Presence Health.

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Presence Health is the name used for the system of affiliated entities that own and operate hospitals, nursing homes, physician practices, clinics, diagnostic centers, home health, hospice and other healthcare services. This system is sponsored by five Congregations of Catholic religious women.

Presence Health offers:

- More than 150 locations around the state, including 11 hospitals, 27 long-term care and senior living facilities.
- One of the largest behavioral health service networks in Illinois.
- Care for people through every stage of life. Whether patients just need a check-up with a physician, physical therapy for a recovering injury or skilled nursing care, Presence has options throughout Illinois to meet the individual needs of patients and residents.
- Nationally recognized hospitals for quality heart care, including high ratings for open heart surgery.
- All hospitals are designated Primary Stroke Centers, recognized for their ability to rapidly diagnose, treat, and in some cases, stop a stroke.
- Hospitals ranked as one of U.S. News and World Report's 2015 Best Hospitals for Common Care list.
- Home Care named to the 2014 HomeCare Elite™, an annual ranking of the top 25 percent in-home care providers in the nation.
- Fully accredited Resurrection University with its College of Nursing. This institution is celebrating more than 100 years and has one of the highest state board rates in the state of Illinois.
- One of the largest sponsors of graduate medical education in Illinois with nearly 300 residents, 80 percent of whom are primary care physicians.

- All hospitals are equipped for Telestroke, a comprehensive stroke care program which allows stroke symptoms to be monitored remotely by a vascular neurologist.

COST: varies

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Hospitals:

Presence Covenant Medical Center

1400 West Park Street
Urbana, Illinois 61801
217-337-2000

Presence Holy Family Medical Center

100 North River Road
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
847-297-1800

Presence Mercy Medical Center

1325 North Highland Avenue
Aurora, Illinois 60506
630-859-2222

Presence Resurrection Medical Center

7435 West Talcott Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60631
773-774-8000

Presence Saint Francis Hospital

355 Ridge Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60202
847-316-4000

Presence Saint Joseph Hospital – Chicago

2900 North Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60657
773-665-3000

Presence Saint Joseph Hospital – Elgin

77 North Airlite Street
Elgin, Illinois 60123
847-695-3200

Presence Saint Joseph Medical Center

333 North Madison Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435
815-725-7133

Presence Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center

Saint Mary Campus
2233 West Division Street
Chicago, Illinois 60622
312-770-2000

Presence St. Mary's Hospital

500 West Court Street
Kankakee, Illinois 60901
815-937-2400

Presence United Samaritans Medical Center

812 North Logan Avenue
Danville, Illinois 61832
217-443-5000

SOURCE:

Presence Health



Chapter

3

**Mental Health
Services**

NOTES

[illegible]

Mental Health Services

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Administration Community Based Outpatient Clinics – See Chapter 2.

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

McHenry County Veterans and Family Services offers mental health and support services to veterans, active duty military personnel and their families.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

McHenry County Veterans and Family Services
5330 W. Elm Street
McHenry, Illinois 60050
815-322-2620

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Elderwerks 2016 Senior Directory, Page 183

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Lake County Veterans and Family Services offers mental health and support services to veterans, active duty military personnel and their families.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lake County Veterans and Family Services
100 South Atkinson, Suite 110
Grayslake, Illinois 60030
847-377-8386
www.lakevetsfound.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Elderwerks 2016 Senior Directory, Page 183

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

VetCenters are funded by the VA, but maintain separate records and can provide service to veterans free of cost even if they do not qualify for cost free healthcare with the VA. To be eligible, the veteran must be either be a combat veteran or a victim of military sexual trauma. VetCenters offer individual, group, and marriage counseling. This is a great resource for veterans that want a less formal atmosphere. You do not need to be service connected or diagnosed with PTSD to utilize these services. Combat experience is just a qualifying criteria. Veterans can receive counseling from VetCenters for completely unrelated issues. VetCenters are not able to prescribe medication or make a diagnosis.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chicago Heights Vet Center

1010 Dixie Hwy, 2nd Floor
Chicago Heights, Illinois 60411
708-754-8885 or 877-927-8387

Chicago Vet Center

3348 W. 87th Street, Suite 2
Chicago, Illinois 60652-3767
773-962-3740 or 877-927-8387

DuPage County Vet Center

750 Shoreline Drive, Suite 150
Aurora, Illinois 60504
630-585-1853 or 877-927-8387

East St. Louis Vet Center

1265 N. 89th Street, Suite 5
East Saint Louis, Illinois 62203
618-397-6602 or 877-927-8387

Evanston Vet Center

1901 Howard Street
Evanston, Illinois 60202
847-332-1019 or 847-332-1019

Oak Park Vet Center

1515 South Harlem
Forest Park, Illinois 60130
708-457-8805 or 877-927-8387

Orland Park Vet Center

8651 W.159th Street, Suite 1
Orland Park, Illinois 60462
708-444-0561 or 877-927-8387

Peoria Vet Center

8305 N. Allen Road, Suite 1
Peoria, Illinois 61615
309-689-9708 or 877-927-8387

Quad Cities Vet Center

465 Avenue of the Cities, Suite 140
Moline, Illinois 61244
319-383-4782 or 877-927-8387

Rockford Vet Center

7015 Rote Road, Suite 105
Rockford, Illinois 61107
815-395-1276 or 877-927-8387

Springfield Vet Center

1227 S. Ninth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62703
217-492-4955 or 877-927-8387

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Crisis Line offers veterans a confidential chat online or by phone. Recognize the signs of suicide risk:

- thinking or looking for ways to hurt yourself
- talking about death, dying or suicide
- self-destructive behavior such as drug or alcohol abuse, inappropriate use of weapons
- feelings of hopelessness
- feeling like there's no way out
- anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness
- mood swings
- rage or anger
- engaging in risky activities without thinking
- withdrawing from friends or family

Presence of any of these signs requires immediate attention.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Veterans Crisis Line
800-273-8255
www.veteranscrisisline.net

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Elderwerks 2016 Senior Directory, Page 184

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Rush Medical Center Road Home Program offers veterans and their families:

- An adult mental health clinic focused on psychological and psychiatric assessment and treatment for PTSD, clinical depression or anxiety
- Child and family services focused on consultation, counseling and parent guidance:
 - FOCUS Resiliency Model to help families build resilience and work through challenges
 - Do You Love a Veteran Community Support Group provides adults with the opportunity to meet once a month to support each other
- Couples Counseling for veterans and their loved ones
- Traumatic Brain Injury: diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitative services
- Military Sexual Trauma Clinic: prolonged exposure therapy and cognitive processing therapy
- Non Clinical: peer to peer outreach and navigation, assistance with accessing benefits, fitness and recreational events

COST: varies with benefit eligibility and services needed

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Road Home Program
1645 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 602
Chicago, Illinois 60612
312-942-8387
www.RoadHomeProgram.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Road Home Program



Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care is looking for veteran volunteers to join our patient care team and support our veteran patients and their families as friendly visitors.

Volunteer near your home! We have patients in nine counties: Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will and portions of Boone.

To learn more about veteran volunteer positions, requirements and training, please visit Rainbow's website and complete the Volunteer Information Request form.

Go to www.RainbowHospice.org.



Chapter

4

Aid and Attendance, Pensions

(Nursing Homes, Home Care)

NOTES

[illegible]

Aid and Attendance, Pensions **(Nursing Homes, Home Care)**

PROVIDER/S NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

VA Veterans Services Offices (VSOs)

VSOs provide assistance free of charge. See Chapter 1 for a list of Veterans Service Officers near you.

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Consultants Inc. is a private financial services group that provides assistance in learning about and meeting requirements for the VA Aid & Attendance benefit.

COST:

Please note that, unlike with VSOs, there may be a cost with private providers.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Veterans Consultants Inc.

20855 S. LaGrange Road, Suite 100
Frankfort, Illinois 60423
815-277-2667
www.veteranconsultants.us

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non-profit

SOURCES:

Elderwerks 2016 Senior Directory, page 180

Seniors BlueBook, October 2015 – March 2016, pages 84-88 (Available from Silver Connections at 866-421-8266)

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Illinois Veteran Homes (Long Term Care services)

Nursing and health care services are provided for Illinois veterans with military service of one day or more during WWII, the Korean, Vietnam, or Persian Gulf conflicts, or during any period of time now, or in the future recognized by the U.S.D.V.A. as a period of war. Note that not all periods of war are listed here. Veterans must have entered service from or have been a resident of Illinois for one year preceding application for admittance into a Veterans' Home. Peacetime veterans with one year of honorable military service may also be eligible for admission at Quincy or Anna. *Other qualifying conditions may have to be met.* A spouse, or surviving spouse, may also qualify for admittance to the Quincy Home.

Illinois Veteran Homes (Long Term Care services)

Illinois Veteran Home at Anna

Located at 792 N. Main Street in Anna, Illinois, this Home sits on 16 acres in southern Illinois and provides light, intermediate and skilled nursing care services. The Home has a 50-bed nursing care capacity and 12 beds in six adjoining apartment-style domiciliary units.

Illinois Veteran Home at LaSalle

Located at 1015 O'Connor Avenue in LaSalle, Illinois, this Home sits on more than four acres and provides intermediate and skilled nursing services. They have a total capacity of 120 beds including 18 special needs beds for veterans suffering from Alzheimer's Disease or related dementias.

Illinois Veteran Home at Manteno

Located on 122 acres, this Home is comprised of four major nursing care units and two ancillary service and support buildings. With a total capacity of 352 beds, the Home offers a broad range of programs and services, including a program for homeless veterans.

Illinois Veteran Home at Quincy

Located on 210 acres, this Home provides a broad range of facilities and services including domiciliary, intermediate and skilled care. With a total capacity of 683 beds, the Home also provides a special needs unit of care for residents with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. Guest accommodations are available for families of residents at a nominal charge.

COST:

Residents help pay for their care by paying a monthly maintenance fee. This fee is assessed based on individual income (not assets). The ability-to-pay-plan has a maximum charge, currently capped at \$1,429.00 per month, and covers room, food (including special diets and supplements), medication, all levels of medical care, recreation and activities, and any special therapy or treatment prescribed by the attending physician. Some costs of care are not covered. These include, but may not be limited to, eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, prostheses, and special wheelchairs or mechanical devices.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
833-35 South Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9432
800-437-9824

You may also contact the Homes directly to speak to the Home Adjutant:

Anna: 618-833-6302
LaSalle: 815-223-0303
Manteno: 815-468-6581
Quincy: 217-222-8641

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

State of Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
Brochure, Illinois Veterans' Homes

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Coravir Congregate Home for Veterans provides transitional housing and services to honorably discharged veterans who are disabled physically or emotionally, elderly, and/or homeless who qualify. Residents must be able to function with minimal assistance and have some affiliation with northern Illinois.

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Coravir Congregate Home for Veterans
1805 27th Street
Zion, Illinois 60099
224-456-1638
www.coravir.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Elderwerks 2016 Senior Directory, page 181

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Independence Program offers services to eligible veterans to meet their disability needs so they may live independently at home. Services provided may include a comprehensive assessment, veteran-directed home based goods and services, options counseling and support services, financial management services, caregiver support and respite care. Eligibility includes veterans of any age, enrolled in the VA health care system, interested in self directed care and in need of nursing home care.

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Hines VAMC: 708-202-5072
Jesse Brown: 312-569-7592
North Chicago: 800-393-0865

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Elderwerks 2016 Senior Directory, page 185

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

HUD/VA Supportive Housing Program, a collaborative of HUD (Housing and Urban Development) and the Department of Veterans Affairs, provides housing and rent assistance to veterans and their families. Rent vouchers pay for one year's rent. The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA provides these services for participating veterans at VA medical centers (VAMCs) and community-based outreach clinics. Every year since 2008, HUD and VA have awarded HUD-VASH vouchers based on geographic need and public housing agency (PHA) administrative performance. The allocation process for HUD-VASH vouchers is a collaborative approach that relies on three sets of data: HUD's point-in-time data submitted by Continuums of Care (CoCs), VAMC data on the number of contacts with homeless veterans, and performance data from PHAs and VAMCs. After determining which areas of the country have the highest number of homeless veterans, the VA central office identifies VA facilities in the corresponding communities. HUD then selects PHAs near to the identified VA facilities, taking into consideration the PHAs' administrative performance, and sends the PHAs invitations to apply for the vouchers. In general, veterans should apply for these services through their VA medical center.

COST: no cost if selected

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

HUD

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCES:

Elderwerks 2016 Senior Directory, page 185

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/vash

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

VA Medical Foster Home allows a veteran who has no family to care for him/her and is unable to care for his/her self, to select a foster home. The Medical Foster Home is matched with the veteran's physical, social and emotional needs, including a safe and secure home. The caregiver of the home will provide a suitable environment which includes the caregiver's family, room, board, and personal care.

The veteran will receive:

- a furnished private room
- 24-hour plan of care
- the caregiver lives in home and provides hands on daily care
- medication management
- personal care (dressing, grooming, bathing)
- meals, laundry, cleaning
- flexible daily routine with various recreational options
- maximum of 2 residents per home
- high levels of caregiver and veteran satisfaction

- a signed care agreement between caregiver, veteran or his/her legal representative
- home based primary care provided for the veteran in the Medical Foster Home

The metro area is expanding to serve Hines and the clinics affiliated with Hines. Exact locations are dependent upon the Home Based Primary Care catchment area.

Medical Foster Home caregivers:

- live in home and are experienced with providing daily hands on patient care
- must be physically able to provide the needed care per physician determination
- provide a compassionate, friendly, family environment (this is not shift-care nursing)
- must own or rent the home
- must be 21 years or older and financially stable
- must have written backup plan if unable to provide care
- must pass initial and annual inspection by the VA Inspection Team
- must be flexible and have positive problem solving skills
- must work with the VA Home Based Primary Care Team and complete annual training

This is a long-term commitment to the veteran where he/she may live for many years, often for the remainder of his/her life. The Medical Foster Home Program is seeking dedicated caregivers, who live in ranch homes, with compassion, skills and a desire to care for our disabled veterans with complex medical needs.

COST:

Cost is generally \$2,000 – \$3,000 a month and varies depending on veteran medical needs. Once a veteran enters the home, MHF has a special provision that he/she can apply for called NCS and AA, which may assist in care payment.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Hines
708-202-7878
www.hines.va.gov

SOURCES:

Elderwerks 2016 Senior Directory, page 184
<http://www.hines.va.gov/services/mfoster.asp>

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

VA Disability Compensation Benefits for Veterans
(Disclaimer: it is not advisable for veterans to file VA claims without the assistance of an accredited Veterans Service Officer)

File a claim by completing VA Form 21-526EZ, the Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits.

There are three key elements to establishing a Service Connected Claim:

- *evidence* of an in-service diagnosis which was proven to be chronic for injuries and physical disabilities or a verified in-service stressor for mental health claims
- proof of a currently diagnosed disability
- a nexus which links the in-service injury to the current diagnosis

Without clear evidence of each element, the VA cannot approve a claim for Service Connection. Disability Compensation is a monthly tax-free benefit paid to veterans who are at least 10% disabled because of injuries or diseases that were incurred in or aggravated during active duty, active duty training, or inactive duty training. A disability can apply to physical conditions, such as a chronic knee condition, as well as mental health conditions, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The benefit amount is graduated according to the degree of the veteran's disability on a scale from zero percent to 100 percent (in increments of 10 percent). Compensation may

also be paid for disabilities that are considered related to or secondary to disabilities occurring in service and for disabilities presumed to be related to circumstances of military service, even though they may arise after service. Generally, the degrees of disability specified are also designed to compensate for considerable loss of working time from exacerbations or illnesses.

For more about current benefit rates (noted below), visit the VA benefits website at http://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources_comp01.asp.

Basic Rates - 10%-100% Combined Degree Only Effective 12/1/16

Without Children	With Children
30% – 60%	30% – 60%
70% – 100%	70% – 100%

10% - 20% (No Dependents)

Percentage	Rate
10%	\$133.57
20%	\$264.02

30% - 60% Without Children

Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran Alone	\$408.97	\$589.12	\$838.64	\$1,062.27
Veteran with Spouse Only	\$456.97	\$654.12	\$919.64	\$1,159.27
Veteran with Spouse and One Parent	\$495.97	\$706.12	\$984.64	\$1,237.27
Veteran with Spouse and Two Parents	\$534.97	\$758.12	\$1,049.64	\$1,315.27
Veteran with One Parent	\$447.97	\$641.12	\$903.64	\$1,140.27
Veteran with Two Parents	\$486.97	\$693.12	\$968.64	\$1,218.27
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$45.00	\$59.00	\$74.00	\$89.00

70% - 100% Without Children

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Alone	\$1,338.71	\$1,556.13	\$1,748.71	\$2,915.55
Veteran with Spouse Only	\$1,451.71	\$1,686.13	\$1,894.71	\$3,078.11
Veteran with Spouse and One Parent	\$1,542.71	\$1,790.13	\$2,011.71	\$3,208.56
Veteran with Spouse and Two Parents	\$1,633.71	\$1,894.13	\$2,128.71	\$3,339.01
Veteran with One Parent	\$1,429.71	\$1,660.13	\$1,865.71	\$3,046.00
Veteran with Two Parents	\$1,520.71	\$1,764.13	\$1,982.71	\$3,176.45
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$105.00	\$119.00	\$134.00	\$149.08

30% - 60% With Children

Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran with Spouse and Child	\$492.97	\$702.12	\$978.64	\$1,230.27
Veteran with Child Only	\$440.97	\$632.12	\$892.64	\$1,127.27
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$531.97	\$754.12	\$1,043.64	\$1,308.27
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$570.97	\$806.12	\$1,108.64	\$1,386.27
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$479.97	\$684.12	\$957.64	\$1,205.27
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$518.97	\$736.12	\$1,022.64	\$1,283.27
Add for Each Additional Child Under Age 18	\$24.00	\$32.00	\$40.00	\$48.00
Each Additional Schoolchild Over Age 18 (see footnote a)	\$78.00	\$104.00	\$130.00	\$156.00
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$45.00	\$59.00	\$74.00	\$89.00

70% - 100% With Children

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran with Spouse and Child	\$1,534.71	\$1,781.13	\$2,001.71	\$3,197.16
Veteran with Child Only	\$1,414.71	\$1,642.13	\$1,845.71	\$3,024.27
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$1,625.71	\$1,885.13	\$2,118.71	\$3,327.61
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$1,716.71	\$1,989.13	\$2,235.71	\$3,458.06
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$1,505.71	\$1,746.13	\$1,962.71	\$3,154.72
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$1,596.71	\$1,850.13	\$2,079.71	\$3,285.17
Add for Each Additional Child Under Age 18	\$56.00	\$64.00	\$72.00	\$80.76
Each Additional Schoolchild Over Age 18 (see footnote a)	\$182.00	\$208.00	\$234.00	\$260.91
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$105.00	\$119.00	\$134.00	\$149.08

FOOTNOTES:

- Rates for each school child are shown separately. They are not included with any other compensation rates. All other entries on this chart reflecting a rate for children show the rate payable for children under 18 or helpless. To find the amount payable to a 70% disabled veteran with a spouse and four children, one of whom is over 18 and attending school, take the 70% rate for a veteran with a spouse and 3 children, \$ 1642.71, and add the rate for one school child, \$182.00. The total amount payable is \$1824.71.
- Where the veteran has a spouse who is determined to require A/A, add the figure shown as "additional for A/A spouse" to the amount shown for the proper dependency code. For example, veteran has A/A spouse and 2 minor children and is 70% disabled. Add \$105.00, additional for A/A spouse, to the rate for a 70% veteran with dependency code 12, \$1,590.71. The total amount payable is \$1,695.71.

If you have dependents, an additional allowance may be added if your combined disability is rated 30% or greater. Your compensation may be offset if you receive military retirement pay, disability severance pay, or separation incentive payments.

Eligibility

All must apply:

- Service in the Uniformed Services on active duty, or active duty for training, or inactive duty training
- Discharged under other than dishonorable conditions
- At least 10% disabled by an injury or disease that was incurred in or aggravated during active duty or active duty for training, or inactive duty training

Note: If you were on inactive duty for training, the disability must have resulted from injury, heart attack, or stroke.

Evidence Required

Evidence can be derived from current and past private medical records, military medical records, well supported doctor's opinion specific to your condition, and in some cases, lay statements from family and friends.

Note: Under certain circumstances, VA may conclude that certain current disabilities were caused by service, even if there is no specific evidence proving this in your particular claim. The cause of a disability is presumed for the following veterans who have certain diseases:

Presumed Disability

- Former prisoners of war
- Veterans who have certain chronic or tropical diseases that become evident within a specific period of time after discharge from service
- Veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation, mustard gas, or Lewisite while in service
- Veterans who have proof of service on the ground in Vietnam during designated period, on the DMZ in Korea during the designated period, or on specified bases in Thailand during the designated period (Thailand veterans must prove that their duties placed them on the perimeter of the base).

- Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War

How to Apply:

It is most advisable to file all claims for VA benefits through an accredited VSO. See Chapter 1 for Veterans Service Officer information. Or, apply online using the VA's eBenefits (www.benefits.va.gov). Applying online through eBenefits works best for individuals who have been out of the military for less than 12 months, or have a presumptive condition and all medical treatment has been through the VA healthcare system. Even then, it is advisable to work with a Veterans Service Officer.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Department of Veterans Affairs

Contact a Veterans Service Officer near you. See Chapter 1 for contact information.

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/types-disability.asp>

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

VA Pension Benefit for Veterans is an income based supplemental benefit for wartime veterans.

It is a tax-free monetary benefit payable to low-income wartime veterans to help veterans and their families cope with financial challenges.

Eligibility

Generally, a veteran must have at least 90 days of active duty service, with at least one day during a wartime period to qualify for a VA Pension. If the veteran entered active duty after September 7,

1980, generally he/she must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which he/she was called or ordered to active duty (with some exceptions), with at least one day during a wartime period. In addition to meeting minimum service requirements, the veteran must be:

- age 65 or older, or
- totally and permanently disabled, or

- a patient in a nursing home receiving skilled nursing care, or
- receiving Social Security Disability Insurance, or
- receiving Supplemental Security Income

The veteran's yearly family income must be less than the amount set by Congress to qualify for the Veterans Pension Benefit.

Veterans Pension Rate Table – Effective 12/1/16

Veteran - Alone & With Dependents

Date of Cost-of-Living Increase: 12/1/16

Increase Factor: .3%

Standard Medicare Deduction: Actual amount will be determined by SSA based on individual income.

Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR) Category	Amount
If you are a veteran...	Your yearly income must be less than...
Without Spouse or Child	\$12,907
	To be deducted, medical expenses must exceed 5% of MAPR, or \$645
With One Dependent	\$16,902
	To be deducted, medical expenses must exceed 5% of MAPR, or \$845
Housebound Without Dependents	\$15,773
Housebound With One Dependent	\$19,770
A&A Without Dependents	\$21,531
A&A With One Dependent	\$25,525
Two Vets Married to Each Other	\$16,902
Two Vets Married to Each Other One H/B	\$19,770
Two Vets Married to Each Other Both H/B	\$22,634
Two Vets Married to Each Other One A/A	\$25,525
Two Vets Married to Each Other One A/A One H/B	\$28,385
Two Vets Married to Each Other Both A/A	\$34,153
Add for Early War Veteran (Mexican Border Period or WW1) to any category above	\$2,932
Add for Each Additional Child to any category above	\$2,205
Child Earned Income Exclusion Effective: 01-02-2017	\$10,400

Learn more about income and net worth limitation at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/PENSION/pencalc.asp>. If eligible, your pension benefit is the difference between your “countable” household income and the annual pension limit set by Congress. VA generally pays this difference in 12 equal monthly payments. Countable household income includes income from most sources as well as from any eligible dependents. It generally includes earnings, disability and retirement payments, interest and dividend payments from annuities, and net income from farming or a business. Some expenses, such as unreimbursed medical expenses, may reduce your countable income. Net worth includes assets such as bank accounts, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, annuities, and any property other than your residence and a reasonable lot area. All net worth should be reported. VA will determine whether reported assets are of a sufficiently large amount that the veteran could live off of them for a reasonable period of time. The pension is calculated to be an amount equal to the difference between countable household income and the annual pension limit set by Congress.

Additional Pension Allowances: Veterans or surviving spouses who are eligible for VA pension and are housebound or require the aid and attendance of another person may be eligible for an additional monetary payment.

How to Apply

It is most advisable to file all claims for VA benefits through an accredited VSO. See Chapter 1 for Veterans Service Officers. Veterans may also apply for Veterans Pension by downloading and completing VA Form 21-527EZ (for veteran)/VA 21-534EZ (for surviving spouse) Mail your application to the Pension Management Center or visit your local regional benefit office and turn in your application for processing. In addition to the VA 21-527EZ/VA 21-534EZ, to apply for an increased pension based on Aid and Attendance or Housebound payments requires the submission of additional documentation:

- your doctor must complete VA Form 21-2680
- an Attendant affidavit (if receiving caregiver services)

- VA 21-0779 (if in a nursing home)
- 21-8416 (to report medical expenses)
- If residing in an assisted living facility, you will need to submit a statement of care and itemized bill from the facility.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

VA Pension Management Center serving Illinois:
Department of Veterans Affairs
Claims Intake Center
PO Box 4444
Janesville, Wisconsin 53547-4444
Or contact a Veterans Service Officer near you.
See Chapter 1 for VSO information.

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

VA Aid and Attendance Benefit is available to the veteran or surviving spouse of a veteran who served during wartime era for at least 90 days of active service with one of those days being during wartime. Eligible dates are:

(WWI) May 9, 1916 – Nov. 11, 1918
(WWII) Dec. 7, 1941 – Dec. 31, 1946
(Korean Conflict) June 27, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955
(Vietnam) Aug. 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975
(Vietnam in Country) Feb. 28, 1961 – Aug. 4, 1964
(Persian Gulf) Aug. 20, 1990 – present

In general, veterans can not receive both VA Disability Compensation and VA Aid and Attendance (A&A). Veterans can receive A&A as a special monthly compensation in addition to

VA Disability Compensation if they have a 100% service connected disability. If a veteran has a service-connected disability less than 100%, and qualifies for A&A, the VA will grant the greater benefit for the veteran. A&A helps to cover the cost of caregivers (can be a family member, but not a spouse), assisted living facilities, or nursing homes. The veteran must need assistance with at least two activities of daily living such as bathing, meal preparation, medication monitoring, and other needs. With blindness or dementia, only one ADL (assisted daily living need) is required. Qualifying medical expenses must exceed gross household income in order to receive the Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR) depicted below. Assets can be no greater than \$80,000, not including primary home and vehicle. The amount one may receive is based on current income.

Important Note: Be aware that you cannot restructure financial assets in preparation of an application. The VA is in process of approving a five year "lookback" into assets for A&A. If the veteran restructures his/her assets and then does an annual eligibility verification after the lookback is approved, the VA could state that the veteran never should have qualified for the benefit initially and reclaim all benefits granted. Private practices can provide this service now (March 2017), but when the lookback is approved, this will seriously hurt the veteran and his/her surviving spouse. It is permissible to cash out an IRA and deposit the full amount to a savings or checking account. This will keep the IRA from being counted as both an asset and income.

COST: no cost

NOTE: A 3% increase was approved for 2017.

Veteran Status (2016)	2016 Eligible Monthly Assistance	2016 Eligible Annual Assistance
Married Veteran	\$2,120/month	\$25,448/year
Single Veteran	\$1,788/month	\$21,466/year
Veteran with Sick Spouse Two Married Qualifying Veterans both needing A&A	\$2,837/month	\$34,050/year*
Widow of Veteran	\$1,149/month	\$13,794/year



Chapter

5

Prescription Services

NOTES

[illegible]

Prescription Services

Special Note: For VA related services in this chapter, please refer to a Veterans Service Officer to determine eligibility since there are various priority groups. See Chapter 1 for VSO contact information.

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

My HealtheVet Vet Pharmacy, a program of the VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services, offers a broad range of services and is committed to provide and deliver veterans' personalized, proactive, patient-driven health care. They work to improve the health status of veterans by encouraging the appropriate use of medications in a comprehensive medical care setting and provide veterans with reliable, evidence-based medication information in an efficient manner so that informed decisions can be made about medications.

There are four features available in the Department of Veterans Affairs My HealtheVet Vet Pharmacy section of the www.myhealth.va.gov website:

- **My Medication + Supplements** – for any user with a My HealtheVet account
- **Refill My Prescriptions** – for any user registered as a VA patient
- **Refill Prescription History** – for any user registered as a VA patient
- **My VA Medication List** – for any user with an upgraded My HealtheVet account

Sign up to order prescriptions online. To order your prescriptions, visit https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/anonymous.portal?_nfpb=true&_nfto=false&_pageLabel=pharmacyHome where you can register to manage your VA prescription refills.

COST: varies

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

My HealtheVet Vet Pharmacy

To access Pharmacy, you must be logged into your personal My HealtheVet account. If you do not have an account, register under the pharmacy tab on the website noted below.

www.myhealth.va.gov or

https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/anonymous.portal?_nfpb=true&_nfto=false&_pageLabel=pharmacyHome

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Illinois Rx Buying Club Veterans Care provides access to comprehensive, affordable healthcare for uninsured Illinois veterans who have the least access to reliable healthcare. Illinois Rx Buying Club is available to uninsured Illinoisans who meet certain income limits.

- Members save an average of 24% on hundreds of the most popular prescription drugs, enjoy discounts on prescription drugs, both brand name and generic, savings average 20%; individual discounts may vary.
- The card is accepted at 50,000 locations nationwide. There are 2,500 pharmacies in Illinois; customers can go anywhere in the U.S.
- No limits. No paperwork after enrollment.
- There is also a mail order service for greater savings on the prescription drugs taken daily.
- Larger discounts on certain preferred drugs.

COST: varies

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Illinois Rx Buying Club
1-877-4VETSRX (1-877-483-8779)
(TTY: 1-877-204-1012)
www.illinoisveteranscare.com

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

www.illinoisveteranscare.com

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The TRICARE Pharmacy Program provides prescription drugs through military pharmacies, TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery, and TRICARE retail network and non-network pharmacies. The TRICARE Pharmacy Program is available to all TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), except those enrolled in the US Family Health Plan. Express Scripts, Inc. (Express Scripts) administers the TRICARE pharmacy benefit, which includes retail pharmacies in the United States and U.S. territories (Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery, and stateside specialty pharmacy services. Options for filling a prescription depend on the type of drug the provider prescribes. For more information, visit www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE or call 1-877-363-1303.

At military pharmacies, veterans may receive up to a 90-day supply of most medications at no cost. Most military pharmacies accept prescriptions from both civilian and military providers, regardless of whether you are enrolled at a military hospital or clinic. To check the availability of a particular drug, contact the nearest military pharmacy in person or by phone.

There is no cost for TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery for active duty service members (ADSMs). For all other beneficiaries, there is no cost to receive up to a 90-day supply of generic formulary medications. Copayments apply for

brand-name and non-formulary medications (up to a 90-day supply). Home delivery is best suited for maintenance medications, which are medications you take on a regular basis for chronic health conditions (e.g., high cholesterol, high blood pressure). Prescriptions are delivered with free standard shipping, and refills can be easily ordered online, by phone, or by mail. Home delivery also provides convenient notifications about order status, refill reminders, and assistance in renewing expired prescriptions. For information about using home delivery overseas, contact TRICARE. Reduce out-of-pocket costs by moving current retail maintenance medication prescriptions to TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery. Veterans may also convert current military pharmacy prescriptions to home delivery (copayments apply to brand-name and non-formulary medications). To get started, call 1-877-363-1303 or visit www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE and click on "TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery."

Fill prescriptions at TRICARE retail network pharmacies (one copayment for each 30-day supply) when you present your prescription along with your uniformed services identification card or Common Access Card to the pharmacist. This option allows a veteran to fill prescriptions without having to submit a claim. There are more than 57,000 TRICARE retail network pharmacies in the United States and the U.S. territories of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. To find a TRICARE retail network pharmacy, visit www.tricare.mil/networkpharmacy.

COST: varies

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

TRICARE Pharmacy Program
1-877-363-1303
www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Non-Profit

SOURCE:

file:///C:/Users/kkirby/Downloads/Pharmacy_FS.pdf



Chapter

6

**Palliative Care &
Hospice Services**

NOTES

[illegible]

Palliative Care and Hospice Services

Note: Veterans can receive hospice care through the Department of Veterans Affairs or the VA can purchase hospice services from community providers such as Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care. Hospice care can be provided at home or in an institution as an inpatient.

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Hospice and Palliative Care Program at Hines VA Hospital aims to help veterans and their families as they deal with the burdens of advanced illness. The interdisciplinary team consists of physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists, chaplains, and social services staff. All are trained to help with the symptoms of advanced illness.

Hines VA Hospice and Palliative Care

At Hines, hospice and palliative care collectively represent a continuum of symptom management and comfort services for veterans and families as they cope with advanced illness. This continuum is centered around the veteran's wishes and is aimed at achieving the best possible quality of life. Program services also emphasize the comprehensive management of mind, body, and spirit.

Hines VA defines **palliative care** as a broad term that emphasizes symptom control but does not require the presence of a life-limiting prognosis. Palliative care can be provided alongside curative treatments.

For Hines VA, **hospice care** signifies the presence of a terminal illness with limited life expectancy and it should be considered when curative treatments are no longer effective or no longer desired. The goal of hospice care is to improve quality of life through symptom management rather than prolong life.

Hines offers a 15 bed inpatient hospice unit.

The Team

The Palliative Care Team (PCCT) includes a core interdisciplinary group of professionals from:

- Medicine
- Social Work
- Chaplaincy
- Dietary
- Recreation Therapy
- Nursing
- Mental Health
- Pharmacy
- Restorative Therapy

The PCCT addresses specific issues relating to palliative care such as symptom control/pain management, veteran/family education, and the psychosocial and spiritual needs of the veteran/family. In addition, grief and bereavement follow-up for family members is offered.

What The Team Does

It may be difficult to know when palliative care services are right for you. The Hospice and Palliative Care Team can assist veterans and families with a variety of needs such as:

- When a life-limiting illness is causing pain or other symptoms that affect quality of life
- When you want to plan ahead if your disease gets worse
- When you want to understand options for end-of-life care
- When you want help putting your wishes into writing or explaining your wishes to family
- When you are a caregiver and feeling overwhelmed by the needs of your loved one's life-limiting illness

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

VA Palliative Care Provider for Chicago area:

Edwards Hines Jr. VA Hospital

5000 S. Fifth Avenue

Hines, Illinois 60141

708-202-8387

www.hines.va.gov

http://www.hines.va.gov/services/Hospice_and_Palliative_Care.asp

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care (Rainbow) is at the highest level of We Honor Veterans partnership. Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care empowers people to live with hope and resilience throughout the journey with illness and loss. Rainbow provides comfort and dignity for individuals dealing with advanced, complex illness. Rainbow also extends support to bereaved loved ones of their patients and community members not served in hospice.

Rainbow Hospice serves nine counties in Illinois: Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will and portions of Boone. The interdisciplinary team includes: Medical Director, Attending Physician, Nurse, Home Health Aide, Social Worker, Chaplain, Music Therapist, Massage Therapist and Patient Care Volunteers (e.g., Friendly and Respite Care Visits, Pet Therapy, Threshold Choir).

Rainbow Palliative Care has more than a quarter century of experience in pain and symptom management and is currently staffing palliative care teams in Presence Health hospitals. This care allows patients with any illness to benefit from Rainbow's expertise in alleviating pain and controlling symptoms caused by disease or by other treatments such as chemotherapy. Patients maintain the highest possible quality of life, no matter what their illness. Palliative Care can help patients and their loved ones to:

- navigate the maze of complex medical options and decisions related to seeing multiple doctors
- avoid crisis moments/hospital visits whenever possible through improved, advanced preparation related to disease progression
- manage pain
- meet their own personal, non-medical goals in life

Palliative Care is appropriate for patients who are seeking curative treatment and for patients in hospice care.

The Palliative Care Consultation service area covers a smaller footprint than the overall service area for Rainbow Hospice. Currently, services are available throughout the City of Chicago and out to a northern border of Waukegan (IL-120), a Western border of Bartlett (IL-59) and a Southern border of Bolingbrook (95th Street).

COST:

In most cases, *hospice* services are covered by private health insurance, Medicare or Medicaid. Medicaid, Medicare and most private insurance will completely cover the costs of hospice care. If a patient is uninsured or underinsured, Rainbow Hospice is able to provide financial assistance for eligible patients.

Medicare and many private insurance plans cover the cost of *palliative care*. This coverage is different from, and does not impact, a current or anticipated hospice care benefit.

Rainbow can handle all billing procedures so families can focus on what matters most – sharing moments, telling stories and plans for the future.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care (Main Office)
1550 Bishop Court
Mount Prospect, IL 60056
847-685-9900
www.RainbowHospice.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care



Chapter

7

**Vision, Hearing &
Medical Equipment**

NOTES

[illegible]

Vision, Hearing & Medical Equipment

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

VA Eye Glasses and Hearing Aids. The VA will provide eyeglasses and hearing aids to veterans who meet the following criteria:

- veterans with any compensable service-connected disability
- former Prisoners of War
- Purple Heart recipients
- veterans getting benefits under Title 38 United States Code
- veterans who are qualified for an increased pension based on being permanently housebound and in need of regular aid and attendance
- veterans with vision or hearing impairment resulting from diseases or the existence of another medical condition for which the veteran is receiving care or services from VHA, or which resulted from treatment of that medical condition, e.g., stroke, polytrauma, traumatic brain injury, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, vascular disease, geriatric chronic illnesses, toxicity from drugs, ocular photosensitivity from drugs, cataract surgery, and/or other surgeries performed on the eye, ear, or brain resulting in vision or hearing impairment
- veterans with significant functional or cognitive impairment evidenced by deficiencies in the ability to perform activities of daily living
- those who have vision and/or hearing impairment severe enough that it interferes with their ability to participate actively in their own medical treatment and to reduce the impact of dual sensory impairment (combined hearing and vision loss). NOTE: The term “severe” refers to a vision and/or hearing loss that interferes with or restricts access to, involvement in, or active participation in health care services (e.g., communication or reading medication labels). The term is not to be interpreted to mean that a severe hearing or vision loss must exist to be eligible for hearing aids or eyeglasses.

- those veterans who have service-connected vision disabilities rated zero percent or service-connected hearing disabilities rated zero percent if there is organic conductive, mixed, or sensory hearing impairment, and loss of pure tone hearing sensitivity in the low, mid, or high-frequency range or a combination of frequency ranges which contribute to a loss of communication ability; however, hearing aids are to be provided only as needed for the service-connected hearing disability.
- veterans meeting the eligibility requirements to receive health care are eligible for diagnostic audiology services and eye & vision care services. Veterans cannot be denied access to audiology services and/or eye & vision care services covered by the Medical Benefits Package even if they do not meet the eligibility criteria for hearing aids and/or eye glasses.

COST: Contact the provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Apply at nearest VA health care facility.
See Chapter 2.

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) provides comprehensive support to optimize health and independence of the veteran. The vision is to be the premier source of prosthetic and orthotic services, sensory aids, medical equipment, and support services for veterans.

Guide and Service Dog Benefits

VHA published comprehensive regulations effective October 5, 2012, to include guide, hearing and mobility dogs. The regulations provide for veterinary benefits to include prescriptions, medical care, equipment to perform specialized tasks, and handler training with new guide/service dog paid for by the VA. VA is working to provide a “pet insurance” to cover the veterinary benefits to make it easier for Veterans to access medical care for their dogs. VHA does not purchase or in any way provide a dog. Veterans who have obtained dogs must have approval from a VA medical care provider stating that the dog is an essential part of the treatment plan for the veteran in order to be eligible for the veterinary benefits. For more information please go to <http://www.va.gov/health/ServiceAndGuideDogs.asp>

Use website below to submit general questions regarding artificial limbs/orthotics, automobile adaptive equipment, clothing allowance, durable medical equipment, eyeglasses, hearing aids, HISA, home oxygen, wheelchairs or any other PSAS related device/service.

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

VA Central Office Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service
Contact IRIS at <https://iris.va.gov>.

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Devices 4 the Disabled provides no cost or minimal cost medical equipment to those in need in Cook County. Devices 4 The Disabled is opening a resource center for power equipment

and appreciates the donation of any powered wheelchairs, scooters and Hoyer lifts. Devices 4 the Disabled (D4D) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Its mission: to collect, refurbish, and distribute used durable medical equipment to people in need.

D4D’s immediate focus is on gathering inventory and developing a medical equipment distribution system: collecting and refurbishing, and redistributing equipment to those in need. D4D is working to match the need in the disabled community for durable medical equipment and the supply of equipment in the Cook County area to that need. Ultimately, D4D envisions a DME Resource Center: an all-encompassing resource for collection, repair, refurbishing, delivery, and pickup of DME.

Here is how the process works, step-by-step:

- D4D receives donations of equipment at its drop-off locations and brings the equipment to its main facility.
- The equipment is cleaned and refurbished to like-new condition.
- You, the patient, have a need for a device. You contact us and we check our inventory.
- If we don’t have a match, you’re put on a waiting list. If we have a match, we work out rental or purchase terms.
- Once terms are agreed on, we send the device.
- When you’re done with your device, we pick it up and make it ready for the next patient.

COST: varies

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Devices 4 the Disabled
773-870-1553
info@supportD4D.org
<http://supportd4d.org/>

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Devices 4 the Disabled

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Outreach, Education and Installations (OEI) raises awareness of programs that provide free captioned telephone service to individuals with hearing loss. If you or someone you care about has trouble hearing over the phone, OEI can help.

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Outreach, Education and Installations (OEI)
1-877-473-4003
outreach@oeius.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Nonprofit

SOURCE:

Outreach, Education and Installations



Honoring the United States Army

The Army Goes Rolling Along

The Official Song of The United States Army

The song was originally written by field artillery First Lieutenant [later Brigadier General] Edmund L. Gruber, while stationed in the Philippines in 1908 as the "Caisson Song." The song was transformed into a march by John Philip Sousa in 1917 and renamed "The Field Artillery Song." It was adopted in 1956 as the official song of the Army and retitled, "The Army Goes Rolling Along."

Verse:

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name!
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:

Chorus:

First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Refrain:

Then it's hi! hi! hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong;
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That The Army Goes Rolling Along.



Chapter

8

**Home Improvement &
Home Related Services**

NOTES

[illegible]

Home Improvement and Home Related Services

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Home Improvement and Alterations Program

The VA has three main grant programs to assist disabled veterans and service members with necessary home modifications.

Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant

The SAH Grant is designed to help provide a barrier-free living environment that affords the individual a level of independent living they may not otherwise enjoy, such as creating a wheelchair accessible home. Veterans and service members with specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a grant for the purpose of constructing or modifying a home to meet their adaptive needs. This grant is currently limited to \$63,780.

The SAH grant is available to veterans who are and service members who will be entitled to disability compensation for permanent and total disability due to:

- loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair, or
- blindness in both eyes, having only light perception, plus loss or loss of use of one lower extremity, or
- loss or loss of use of one lower extremity together with (1) residuals of organic disease or injury, or (2) the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity, which so affects the functions of balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair, or
- loss or loss of use of both upper extremities such as to preclude use of the arms at or above the elbow, or
- a severe burn injury (as so determined)

Special Home Adaptation (SHA) Grant

The SHA grant is for modifying an existing home to meet adaptive needs, such as assistance with mobility throughout the home. Veterans and service members with specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to this type of grant.

The grant is currently limited to \$12,756. A temporary grant may be available to veterans and service members who are/will be temporarily residing in a home owned by a family member.

The SHA grant is available to veterans who are and service members who will be entitled to disability compensation for permanent and total disability due to:

- blindness in both eyes with 5/200 visual acuity or less or,
- the anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands or extremities below the elbow, or
- a severe burn injury (as so determined).

Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) Grant

Under the HISA program, veterans may receive assistance for any home improvement necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. A HISA grant is available to veterans who have received a medical determination indicating that improvements and structural alterations are necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of their disability. A veteran may receive both a HISA grant and either a SHA or SAH grant. The HISA program is available for both service-connected veterans and non service-connected veterans.

- Home improvement benefits up to \$4,100 may be provided to service-connected veterans.
- Home improvement benefits up to \$1,200 may be provided to non-service-connected veterans.

How Can You Apply?

You can apply for the SAH and SHA grants by completing VA Form 26-4555, *Veterans Application in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation Grant*, and submitting it to your local VA regional office. See Chapter 1.

You can apply for a HISA grant by completing VA Form 10-0103, *Veterans Application for Assistance in Acquiring Home Improvement and Structural*

Alterations, and submitting it to your local VA medical center. See Chapter 2.

COST: no cost to apply

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

VA Home Improvement and Alterations Program
1-800-827-1000
<http://www.homeloans.va.gov/sah.htm>

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Home Loan Benefit for Service Members and Veterans. File your claim by completing VA Form 26-1880, the Request for Certificate of Eligibility. Mail the form to VA Loan Eligibility Center, Attn: COE (262), PO Box 100034, Decatur, GA 30031 or apply online at ebenefits.va.gov. You can also apply for a Certificate of Eligibility through www.ebenefits.va.gov. The fastest way to attain your Certificate of Eligibility is often through your bank or mortgage company.

VA Loan vs. Traditional Mortgages

Military homebuyers have access to one of the most unique and powerful loan programs ever created. See how the VA Loan compares to traditional home mortgage in the chart below:

VA Loans	Conventional Loans
0% Down (for qualified borrowers) VA Loans are among the last 0% down home loans available on the market today.	Up to 20% Down Conventional loans generally require down payments that can reach up to 20% to secure a home loan, pushing them out of reach for many homebuyers.
No PMI Since VA Loans are government backed, banks do not require you to buy Private Mortgage Insurance.	PMI Required Private Mortgage Insurance is a requirement for borrowers who finance more than 80% of their home's value, tacking on additional monthly expenses.
Competitive Interest Rates The VA guaranty gives lenders a greater degree of safety and flexibility, which typically means a more competitive rate than non-VA loans.	Increased Risk for Lenders Without government backing, banks are taking on more risk which, in turn, can result in a less-competitive interest rate on your home loan.
Easier to Qualify Because the loan is backed by the government, banks assume less risk and have less stringent qualification standards for VA Loans, making them easier to obtain.	Standard Qualification Procedures Conventional options hold stricter qualification procedures that can put homeownership out of reach for some homebuyers.

Regulations and Fees: The government does not generally make direct loans to veterans. Instead, private lenders including Veterans United Home Loans finance the loan while the Department of Veterans Affairs offers a guaranty. This protects the lender and provides incentive for private lenders to offer loans with better terms.

COST:

Loan Limits: In most parts of the country, veterans who qualify for the VA Loan can purchase a home worth up to \$417,000 without putting any money down; however, with the 2013 VA Loan Limits, borrowers in high-cost counties may be able to purchase higher cost homes without the down payment.

Funding Fees: The VA Funding Fee goes directly to the VA to ensure the program keeps running for future generations of military homebuyers by removing any additional burdens off tax payers and veterans. The fee varies depending on the borrower's circumstances and does not apply for veterans with service-connected disabilities. For example, if this is your first time using the VA Home Loan Program, the funding fee is typically 2.15 percent of the purchase price of the home. For subsequent use of your VA Loan Benefit, the fee is 3.3 percent. VA borrowers can roll the funding fee into their overall loan amount. The VA also limits closing costs for veterans and allows sellers to pay most or all of those expenses. Many of the veteran borrowers purchase a home with no money due at closing. To calculate your VA Funding Fee, you can use Veteran United Home Loans' Funding Fee Calculator.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

VA Home Loans Benefit
1-855-533-0954
www.ebenefits.va.gov

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

www.veteransunited.com

A photograph of four United States Marines in dress uniform marching in formation. They are wearing dark blue jackets with red piping, white trousers, and white gloves. They are holding M1 Garand rifles. The background is a blurred crowd of people.

Honoring the United States Marines

Marines' Hymn

The music to the hymn is believed to have originated in the comic opera Geneviève de Brabant composed by the French composer Jacques Offenbach. Originally written as a two-act opera in 1859, Offenbach revised the work, expanding it to three acts in 1867. This revised version included the song "Couplets des Deux Hommes d'Armes" and is the musical source of The Marines' Hymn. The author of the words to the hymn is unknown.

From the Halls of Montezuma
To the shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marine.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far-off Northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes,
You will find us always on the job
The United States Marines.

Here's health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life
And never lost our nerve.
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes,
They will find the streets are guarded
By United States Marines.



Chapter

9

**Chaplain & Other
Supportive Services**

NOTES

[illegible]

Home Improvement & Home Related Services

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital Chaplain

Service's primary mission is to provide for the religious and spiritual care of patients and their family members. The chaplains provide individual patient care as well as group leadership in the following areas:

- educational and therapeutic groups throughout the Hines Campus Visitation to most newly-admitted patients within 48 hours of admission and follow-up visits as needed
- pre and post-operation visits
- seriously ill patient visits
- spiritual assessments for long term care patients are done within 14 days of admission and hospice patients within 3 days
- special requests of the patient and/or family members
- referrals from other members of the staff
- memorial services for the deceased veterans are held two times a year (April and May)
- chaplains are on duty in the medical center seven days a week
- in addition, a chaplain is on call each night to provide emergency patient care

Chapel Worship

- Catholic Sunday Mass, Bldg. 200 (C-101), Main Chapel at 8:30 am and Bldg. 217 ECC/CLC (A 108) at 11:00 am.
- Catholic Mass held Monday thru Friday in Bldg. 200 (C-101), Main Chapel, at noon.
- Protestant Sunday Worship, Bldg. 200 (C-101), Main Chapel at 9:45 am, and Bldg. 217, ECC/CLC (2A-26) at 11:00 am.
- Protestant Wednesday Service held Bldg. 200 (C-101), Main Chapel at 1:00 pm.

Ward Worship Services (on locked wards)

- Protestant Sunday Worship Services Bldg. 228/2 S at 8:00 am (locked ward).

Other: By special arrangement

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital

<http://www.hines.va.gov/services/chaplain.asp>

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Military Outreach USA is a faith-based organization with a mission of empowering a Military Caring Network dedicated to serving those who have served in our nation's military. Imagine a single national Military Caring Network of Military Caring Houses of Worship and Organizations working together to provide resources and assistance to the members of our military community.

A Military Caring House of Worship can be of any religious affiliation. The criteria is only that it welcomes and then serves the men and women in the active military, National Guard, Reserves, veterans and their families, regardless of their faith. A Military Caring House of Worship is committed to providing spiritual support and practical care to all who come to them for help. A Military Caring House of Worship will use the resources and programs provided by Military Outreach USA to develop and expand their service to those who have served us. Some resources available are as follows:

VA Resources
Suicide Prevention
Surviving a Suicide
Caregiver Support
Government and NGO Resources
Deployment Resources

Visit the website provided below for detailed information.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Military Outreach USA
3020 Milwaukee Avenue
Northbrook, Illinois 60062
877-734-4244
www.militaryoutreachusa.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Military Outreach USA

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

C.M. Ministries was founded by Kendal Bishop, an ordained minister. Its goals are to meet the needs of first responders, veteran families, and then the general public. The ministers of this organization focus on different sets of faiths, including the universal Unitarian community, the Jewish population, main line Christian faiths, and other faiths as well. Many veterans are not affiliated with church or veteran groups and thus, would not receive spiritual services without C.M. Ministries. Services to veterans include: bedside visits and last rites, general visitation, wake and memorial services, funeral and grave side services, and bereavement council (single or group).

COST:

Services to veterans and first responders are free of charge. Travel expenses may be requested.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

C.M. Ministries
2924 Ernst Street
Franklin Park, Illinois 60131
Reverend Paul E. Laws, DD
847-447-3212 H
847-452-9700 C
Reverend.gnome@gmail.com

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Non-Profit

SOURCE:

C.M. Ministries

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The **LCC Kare 9 Military Ministry** is a ministry by veterans for veterans. They strive to serve military, veterans and their families. The Kare 9 Military Ministry dogs and their trained veteran handlers visit many places, including VFWs, VA hospitals, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Care Centers, homes of veterans that are home bound, Expos, Vet Clinics, Yellow Ribbon Ceremonies and various other activities to help spread the mercy and compassion of Christ Jesus.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lutheran Church Charities
Tim Hetzner, President of Lutheran Church Charities
866-455-6466
TimHetzner@LutheranChurchCharities.org.
https://lcc.ccbchurch.com/form_response.php?id=1006

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Lutheran Church Charities

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Flying for Hope helps serve others by providing financial assistance for individuals and/or families to connect them to their loved ones in an event of a crisis situation.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Flying for Hope, NFP
2601 Hanford Avenue
Batavia, Illinois 60510
630-780-0129
info@flying4hope.com

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Flying for Hope, NFP

Honoring the United States Navy

Anchors Aweigh

The Navy's official song was composed in 1906 by Charles A. Zimmermann with lyrics by Alfred Hart Miles. Revised Lyrics of 1997 by MCPON John Hagan, USN (Ret) which is used today in the fleet.

Stand Navy out to sea,
Fight our battle cry;
We'll never change our course,
So vicious foe steer shy-y-y-y.
Roll out the TNT,
Anchors Aweigh.
Sail on to victory
And sink their bones to Davy Jones, hooray!

Anchors Aweigh, my boys,
Anchors Aweigh.
Farewell to foreign shores,
We sail at break of day-ay-ay-ay.
Through our last night ashore,
Drink to the foam,
Until we meet once more.
Here's wishing you a happy voyage home.

Blue of the mighty deep:
Gold of God's great sun.
Let these our colors be
Till all of time be done, done, done, done.
On seven seas we learn
Navy's stern call:
Faith, courage, service true,
With honor, over honor, over all.



Chapter

10

**Homeless Veteran
Services**

NOTES

[illegible]

Homeless Veteran Services

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital has many offerings for homeless veterans. Supporting and assisting veterans who are at risk and/or homeless is a top priority for Hines. The HCHV Program assists veterans in accessing stable housing, obtaining a regular source of income and establishing medical and mental health services. Hines offers the following services:

Shelter Referrals – For those in need of an immediate place to stay, referrals to local and rural community shelters can be made.

Homeless Veterans Dental Program – Dental referrals for certain eligible veterans after the establishment of a relationship with a HCHV case manager and 60 days in the program.

HCHV Case Management Program – Veterans may be enrolled in case management for short-term support to establish or maintain housing, income, and clinical stability.

Rural Outreach – Help to veterans who are currently living in rural areas served by Hines VA Hospital and its surrounding Community Based Outpatient Clinics.

Contract Emergency Residential Services (CERS) – Prioritizes those who are currently or imminently homeless in need of short-term transitional housing in the community.

Grant & Per Diem Program – Transitional housing and case management services are provided by community agencies receiving payment and over-site by VA HCHV program. Short-term housing while veterans gain stability to transition into permanent housing.

HUD-VASH Program – The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and VA Supported Housing, working together to provide permanent housing and case management services to chronically homeless veterans.

- **Veterans Justice Outreach/Veterans Court Program** – Helps eligible justice involved veterans get timely access to VA services to avoid unnecessary criminalization and incarceration of veterans with a variety of issues including homelessness.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation Services** – Case management services for veterans interested in employment, vocational training, or educational goals.
- **Stand Down** – Summer and Winter outreach events to link homeless veterans to VA and community services and resources.
- **Special Populations** – Hines acknowledges the unique needs of individuals and groups. Special veteran populations such as chronically homeless, women, disabled, elderly, and those veterans with families are prioritized when appropriate.

If you are a veteran who has lost your home, VA can help you get back on your feet. Contact VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838) to speak to a trained VA responder. The hotline and online chat are free and neither VA registration nor enrollment in VA healthcare is required to use either service. When you call or join the online chat:

- You will be connected to a trained VA responder.
- The responder will ask a few questions to assess your needs.
- If you're a veteran, you may be connected with the Homeless Program point of contact at the nearest VA facility.
- Contact information will be requested so staff may follow up.

VA offers these services, all available via 1-877-4AID-VET, to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness and their families:

Opportunities to return to employment

VA's **Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)** is comprised of three unique programs which assist homeless veterans in returning to competitive employment: Sheltered Workshop, Transitional Work, and Supported Employment. Veterans in CWT are paid at least the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is higher.

The **Homeless Veteran Supported Employment Program (HVSEP)** provides vocational assistance, job development and placement, and ongoing supports to improve employment outcomes among homeless veterans and veterans at-risk of homelessness. Formerly homeless veterans who have been trained as Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists (VRSs) provide these services.

Safe Housing

The **Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program** provides grants and per diem payments (as funding is available) to help public and nonprofit organizations establish and operate supportive housing and service centers for homeless veterans.

HUD-VA Supportive Housing (VASH) Program is a joint effort between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and VA. HUD allocated nearly 38,000 "Housing Choice" Section 8 vouchers across the country. These vouchers allow veterans and their families to live in market rate rental units while VA provides case management services. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord on behalf of the participating veteran. The veteran then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program.

The **Acquired Property Sales for Homeless Providers Program** makes all VA foreclosed properties available for sale to homeless provider organizations-at a 20 to 50 percent discount-to shelter homeless veterans.

The **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program** provides grants and technical assistance to community-based, nonprofit organizations to help veterans and their families stay in their homes.

Health care

VA's **Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program** offers outreach, exams, treatment, referrals, and case management to veterans who are homeless and dealing with mental health issues, including substance use. At more than 135 HCHV sites, trained, caring VA specialists provide tools and support necessary for veterans to get their lives on a better track.

VA's **Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (H-PACTs) Program** provides a coordinated "medical home" specifically tailored to the needs of homeless veterans that integrates clinical care with delivery of social services with enhanced access and community coordination. Implementation of this model is expected to address many of the health disparity and equity issues facing this population and result in reduced emergency department use and hospitalizations, improved chronic disease management, improved "housing readiness" with fewer veterans returning to homelessness once housed.

VA's **Homeless Veterans Dental Program** provides dental treatment for eligible veterans in a number of programs: Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment, VA Grant and Per Diem, Compensated Work Therapy /Transitional Residence, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (contract bed), and Community Residential Care. VA is working to expand dental care to all eligible veterans within this program.

Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups) brings together providers, advocates, and other concerned citizens to identify the needs of homeless veterans and work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action. This process has helped build thousands of relationships between VA and community agencies so that together they can better serve homeless veterans.

Mental health services

Veteran Justice Outreach provides eligible, justice-involved Veterans with timely access to VA's mental health and substance use services when clinically indicated, and other VA services and benefits as appropriate.

VA's Substance Use Disorder Treatment Enhancement Initiative provides substance use services in the community to aid homeless veterans' recovery.

The Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans Program helps incarcerated veterans successfully rejoin the community through supports including those addressing mental health and substance use problems.

The Readjustment Counseling Service's Vet Center Programs feature community-based locations and outreach activities that help to identify homeless veterans and match homeless veterans with necessary services.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital

<http://www.hines.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp>

See Chapter 2.

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

All Chicago serves the homeless in Chicago. Their 2015 Veteran Resource Guide is available on the web. Google *Veteran Resource Guide All Chicago* to find a downloadable pdf of this guide.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

All Chicago

651 W. Washington, Suite 504

Chicago, Illinois 60661

312-379-0301

info@allchicago.org

www.allchicago.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non-Profit

SOURCE:

All Chicago

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Military Outreach USA is a faith-based organization with a mission of empowering a Military Caring Network dedicated to serving those who have served in our nation's military. Imagine a single national Military Caring Network of Military Caring Houses of Worship and Organizations working together to provide resources and assistance to the members of our Military Community. Military Outreach USA is establishing such a network and can help a veteran to discover Military Caring organizations in their area.

When a veteran moves into a new residence, he/she typically has no furniture or bedding. **The Beds for Vets Program** is designed to provide those qualified veterans in need with a set of bedding, at no charge, to help them as they exit homelessness.

Many times when a home is sold or new items are purchased a household will look for ways to donate what is being replaced or not needed. The **Furniture for Veterans Program** helps address both the needs of the donor and the veteran in need.

The **Move-in Essential Program**, a collaborative effort between Military Outreach USA and the Department of Veterans Affairs, seeks to provide the basic essentials a veteran needs as he/she transitions from his/her life in a shelter to a more stable living environment. Those essentials include

such items as paper towels, a shower curtain, bath towels, a razor, shaving cream, aluminum foil, garbage bags, trash cans and more than 20 other items.

Veteran Transit Cards: Military Outreach USA, in a pilot program with Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, will purchase individual \$3.00 Ventra transit cards. These passes will be then provided to Jesse Brown VAMC for distribution to qualified veterans in need. Without these passes, many homeless veterans have no means of transportation to the VA Medical Center.

Military USA can help direct a veteran who may be suffering from **Moral Injury** to a source for help. Moral Injury is at the root of many psychological issues facing our returning troops and veterans. It is a wound that occurs when one violates his/her own moral code.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Military Outreach USA
3020 Milwaukee Avenue
Northbrook, Illinois 60062
877-734-4244
www.militaryoutreachusa.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Military Outreach USA

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans provides homeless veterans and veterans at risk of becoming homeless with information that they can use to seek help. Information includes addresses, phone numbers, and websites to find out about services, programs, and other help that is available.

Keep in mind that the Coalition website does not include all services offered. What is available in one area may be different from what is available in another. Information about resources available to address specific needs, how to replace personal records, seeking VA benefits, and a summary of valuable phone numbers and websites useful to homeless or at-risk veterans is included. Some areas of assistance are covered in their web-based Step-by-Step Guide.

- Locate a Community-Based Organization
- Immediate Help
- Step-by-Step Guide
- Replacing Personal Records
- Seeking Federal Benefits
- Women Veterans
- Incarcerated Veterans

COST: no cost for information

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
1-800-VET-HELP

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Nonprofit

SOURCE:

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Catholic Charities Supportive Services for Veterans and Families serves veterans and families who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Veterans must have discharge other than dishonorable. The SSVF program may provide assistance with rent, past due rent, security deposits, moving costs, utilities, budgeting, benefits and more.

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Catholic Charities

Cicero –1400 S. Austin Avenue
Cicero, Illinois 60804
708-222-1491

Des Plaines – 1717 Rand Road
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
847-376-2100

South Holland – 16100 Seton Drive
South Holland, Illinois 60473
708-333-8379

Waukegan – 671 S. Lewis
Waukegan, Illinois 60085
847-782-1373

Worth – 7000 W. 111th Street
Worth, Illinois 60482
708-430-0428
www.catholiccharities.net

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private / Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Catholic Charities

- *Housing Assistance* for those in danger of becoming homeless
- *Counseling and caregiver support*, family and group, individual
- *Drop-in Center* with food pantry, peer support and outreach

Programs include:

- Funded by the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs, the **Supportive Services for Veteran Families** program is administered through TLS Veterans to provide supportive services for low or very low income veteran families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing.
- Since 2001, TLS Veterans has owned and operated **New Horizons**, a center in Hebron, Illinois, for homeless veterans who want a chance to rebuild their lives. New Horizons shelters 30 to 45 veterans a year and offers a wraparound program. This intervention strategy is designed to address each veteran's individual needs by wrapping a comprehensive array of services around the veteran. TLS' rules and regulations reflect a philosophy of self-help, discipline and reward. Finding sustainable employment is stressed. Direct case management services, maintaining sobriety, and efforts toward stability and independent living are key to success.
- The **McHenry County Veterans Resource Center** is located at 5330 W. Elm St. (Rt. 120) in McHenry, Illinois and is part of a Lake-McHenry County initiative funded by a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The McHenry County Veterans Resource Center offers free support services to veterans, active duty personnel, and their families in a confidential setting. Services include peer to peer support by veterans, individual counseling/therapy, case management, linkages to services such as emergency housing and food, and family support groups. The program serves any American veteran with any type of discharge including Active Duty service members in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, including Reserves and National Guard, as well as family members/support persons of veterans or military service members, and families of the fallen. Call 815-322-2620.

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

TLS Veterans offers a transitional living program for homeless veterans, housing and employment assistance, food pantries, peer-to peer-support and counseling. TLS Veterans offers 5 core services:

- *New Horizons – Transitional Living Shelter* includes substance abuse counseling, employment assistance, independent living skills development and aftercare, including a food pantry
- *Employment Assistance*: Employment specialists based at the VAs and New Horizon are available weekly to help veterans transition from military to civilian workforce

- TLS veterans operate a **Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program** that is funded from the U.S. Dept. of Labor and designed to help struggling veterans find meaningful employment. HVRP serves veterans who may be ineligible for other programs because of concerns such as a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, addiction and legal issues. Case managers work with veterans in Lake, McHenry, Northern Kane and Cook Counties.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

TLS Veterans
5330 Elm Street
McHenry, Illinois 60050
815-679-6667
info@tlsveterans.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non-Profit

SOURCE:

TLS Veterans

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Jesse Brown Medical Center Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program offers a variety of services for homeless veterans:

Homeless Veterans

If you are a veteran who has lost your home, VA can help you get back on your feet. Contact VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838) to speak to a trained VA responder. The hotline and online chat are free and neither VA registration nor enrollment in VA healthcare is required to use either service. When you call or join the online chat:

- You will be connected to a trained VA responder.
- The responder will ask a few questions to assess your needs.

- If you're a veteran, you may be connected with the Homeless Program point of contact at the nearest VA facility.
- Contact information will be requested so staff may follow up.

VA offers these services, all available via 1-877-4AID-VET, to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness and their families:

Opportunities to return to employment

VA's *Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)* is comprised of three unique programs which assist homeless veterans in returning to competitive employment: Sheltered Workshop, Transitional Work, and Supported Employment. Veterans in CWT are paid at least the federal or state minimum wage, whichever is higher.

The *Homeless Veteran Supported Employment Program (HVSEP)* provides vocational assistance, job development and placement, and ongoing supports to improve employment outcomes among homeless veterans and veterans at-risk of homelessness. Formerly homeless veterans who have been trained as Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists (VRSs) provide these services.

Safe Housing

The *Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program* provides grants and per diem payments (as funding is available) to help public and nonprofit organizations establish and operate supportive housing and service centers for homeless veterans. Learn more at <http://www.va.gov/homeless/GPD.asp>.

HUD-VA Supportive Housing (VASH) Program is a joint effort between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and VA. HUD allocated nearly 38,000 "Housing Choice" Section 8 vouchers across the country. These vouchers allow veterans and their families to live in market rate rental units while VA provides case management services. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord on behalf of the participating veteran. The veteran then pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord and the amount subsidized by the program. Learn more at <http://www.va.gov/homeless/hud-vash.asp>.

The *Acquired Property Sales for Homeless Providers Program* makes all VA foreclosed properties available for sale to homeless provider organizations-at a 20 to 50 percent discount-to shelter homeless veterans.

The *Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program* provides grants and technical assistance to community-based, nonprofit organizations to help veterans and their families stay in their homes. Go to <http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.asp> to learn more.

Health care

VA's *Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program* offers outreach, exams, treatment, referrals, and case management to veterans who are homeless and dealing with mental health issues, including substance use. At more than 135 HCHV sites, trained, caring VA specialists provide tools and support necessary for veterans to get their lives on a better track. Go to <http://www.va.gov/homeless/hchv.asp> for additional information.

Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (H-PACTs) Program provides a coordinated "medical home" specifically tailored to the needs of homeless veterans that integrates clinical care with delivery of social services with enhanced access and community coordination. Implementation of this model is expected to address many of the health disparity and equity issues facing this population and result in reduced emergency department use and hospitalizations, improved chronic disease management, improved "housing readiness" with fewer veterans returning to homelessness once housed. Go to http://www.va.gov/homeless/h_pact.asp for more information.

VA's *Homeless Veterans Dental Program* provides dental treatment for eligible veterans in a number of programs: Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment, VA Grant and Per Diem, Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (contract bed), and Community Residential Care. VA is working to expand dental care to all eligible veterans within this program. Go to <http://www.va.gov/homeless/dental.asp> for more information.

Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking

Groups) brings together providers, advocates, and other concerned citizens to identify the needs of homeless veterans and work to meet those needs through planning and cooperative action. This process has helped build thousands of relationships between VA and community agencies so that together they can better serve homeless Veterans. For more information on Project CHALENG, call VA's toll-free hotline or visit <http://www.va.gov/homeless/chaleng.asp> for more information.

Mental health services

Veteran Justice Outreach provides eligible, justice-involved veterans with timely access to VA's mental health and substance use services when clinically indicated, and other VA services and benefits as appropriate.

VA's *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Enhancement Initiative* provides substance use services in the community to aid homeless veterans' recovery.

The Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans Program helps incarcerated veterans successfully rejoin the community through supports including those addressing mental health and substance use problems.

The Readjustment Counseling Service's Vet Center Programs feature community-based locations and outreach activities that help to identify homeless veterans and match homeless veterans with necessary services.

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Jesse Brown Medical Center Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program

VA's National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 1-877-4AID-VET (1-877-424-3838)

<http://www.chicago.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp>

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

<http://www.chicago.va.gov/services/homeless/index.asp>

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans provides veterans and their families with housing and supportive services that lead to self-sufficiency.

The Marine LCpl. Nicholas Larson Home provides transitional housing and supportive services to U.S. veterans of any era who meet the following criteria:

- 180 days of active duty service
- greater than dishonorable military discharge
- diagnosis or symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, substance abuse/dependence or other mental health issues
- abstinence from drugs and alcohol for 30 days (preferred)
- able to pass a breath test and drug screen at time of admission
- no convictions for sex-related crimes or history of violence or aggressive behavior

The average length of stay at the Larson Home, which is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is eight to nine months.

The Army SSgt. Robert J. Miller Home and Tammy's Trace provide affordable housing to low-income, single male and female veterans, respectively. The Miller Home includes one unit that is ADA accessible. Veterans must meet income guidelines, have stable employment or income to pay rent and agree to maintain a sober lifestyle while a resident. Support services including counseling, case management, and employment services are available to assist veterans with improving their overall quality of life.

Freedom Harbour is the Midwest Shelter's scattered site Permanent Supportive Housing program for chronically homeless veterans. Veterans are housed in one-bedroom apartments in the local community. Eligible veterans must be able to

demonstrate that he/she has experienced four or more episodes of homelessness in the last three years or has been continuously homeless for a year or longer. Veterans must also demonstrate a disabling condition. MSHV staff provide in-home case management services designed to help these veterans stabilize and maintain housing.

Support Services for Veteran Families is a homeless prevention and rapid re-housing program for low-income veterans and their families, who are homeless or who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Through SSVF, veterans and their families receive intense short-term case management, housing stabilization services, linkage to VA and mainstream benefits, as well as limited temporary financial assistance (as available). MSHV offers SSVF across seven northern Illinois counties: DuPage, DeKalb, Kane, Kendall, Will, Grundy, and LaSalle.

Veterans Employment Program assists unemployed and underemployed veterans with gaining meaningful, long-term employment. Services focus on providing veterans with the tools and resources they need to overcome employment barriers, including comprehensive individualized assessment, resume and job readiness development, vocational counseling and job placement assistance, as well as veteran-to-veteran mentoring.

The Midwest Shelter's Army Capt. Kevin C. Landeck Freedom Commissary is a voucher-based, free thrift store, located at the administrative site, that is designed to meet the clothing, household and basic needs of low-income veterans and their families.

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans
433 S. Carlton Avenue
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
630-871-VETS (8387)

Contact Intake Coordinator at 630-871-8387 to complete an application.

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Inner Voice assists homeless veterans with counseling, housing, employment and supportive services. The *Eddie Beard Homeless Veterans' Housing Program (Vet House)* provides interim housing for honorably discharged veterans. The program works closely with the V.A. Hospital and the Inner Voice HVRP program to ensure that residents receive on-going medical services and job placement assistance. The HUD funded EBVH provides housing for up to 15 veterans who have lived on the streets, in emergency shelters or places not meant for human habitation for up to 24 months, with management, stabilization and thorough assessments to assist participants with acquiring income and permanent housing. However, the goal of the program is to move program participants into permanent housing as quickly as possible. Participants who are physically and emotionally able to seek employment are linked to our *Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP)* for assistance with securing employment.

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Inner Voice
1700 W. 18th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60608
312-994-5830
www.innervoicechicago.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Inner Voice

Honoring the United States Army Air Corps and Air Force



Air Force Song

Originally, the song was titled "Army Air Corps". Robert MacArthur Crawford wrote the lyrics and music during 1938. During World War II, the service was renamed "Army Air Force", and the song title changed to agree. In 1947, when the Air Force became a separate service, the song became the "Air Force Song".

Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder
At 'em boys, Give 'er the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing can stop the U.S. Air Force!

Minds of men fashioned a crate of thunder
Sent it high into the blue
Hands of men blasted the world a-sunder
How they lived God only knew!
Souls of men dreaming of skies to conquer
Gave us wings, ever to soar!
With scouts before And bombers galore.
Nothing can stop the U.S. Air Force!

Here's a toast to the host
Of those who love the vastness of the sky,
To a friend we send a message of his brother men who fly.
We drink to those who gave their all of old
Then down we roar to score the rainbow's pot of gold.
A toast to the host of men we boast, the U.S. Air Force!

Off we go into the wild sky yonder,
Keep the wings level and true
If you'd live to be a grey-haired wonder
Keep the nose out of the blue!
Flying men, guarding the nation's border,
we'll be there followed by more!
In echelon we carry on
Oh, nothing'll stop the Air Force!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!
With honor, over honor, over all.



Chapter

11

**Legal Rights &
Assistance**

NOTES

[illegible]

Legal Rights & Assistance

Please note: It is important that veterans contact a VA veterans service officer before paying for any private service, since the same service may be offered with the VA at no cost.

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Military and Veterans Rights Bureau, Illinois Attorney General is dedicated to ensuring that veterans receive the benefits they have earned.

Case Advocacy

The laws and regulations governing cases before the VA can be complex. Making sure your case receives adequate representation requires a thorough understanding of these rules and procedures. Military and Veterans Rights Bureau staff can help you understand your due process rights in filing claims for compensation or pension benefits.

Publications

The Office of the Attorney General has developed reference materials to help understand the benefits to which a veteran may be entitled:

The Legal Rights of Illinois Veterans discusses benefits for veterans and the procedures for obtaining them. If you are new to veterans benefits or need a broad overview of the benefits system, this resource is for you.

The Supplements series covers special topics in depth, including health care issues and exposure to chemical weapons. New editions are published as issues arise.

The Illinois Veterans' Advocate, a quarterly newsletter, advises veterans on significant appeals before the VA and the techniques employed in developing those cases.

To receive any of these publications, call the Military and Veterans Rights Hotline.

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Military and Veterans Rights Bureau,
Illinois Attorney General
100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601
500 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701
1001 East Main Street, Carbondale, Illinois 62901
Military and Veterans Rights Hotline – 800-382-3000
TTY:800-964-3013

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Military and Veterans Rights Bureau, Illinois Attorney General

SERVIC E/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago or LAF provides free civil legal services to people living in poverty in Cook County. All clients must be registered by telephone and screened for eligibility through the Client Screening Unit at 312.341.1070. The phone menu and staff communicate in English and Spanish.

LAF provides free legal services in non-criminal matters to low-income people in metropolitan Chicago. LAF also provides advocacy, outreach and education in civil legal matters. LAF's Veterans' Rights Project provides representation, advocacy, and know-your-rights presentations to low-income service members, veterans, and their families in the areas of service-connected veterans' benefits, VA pension, other veterans' benefits, public benefits, social security, family law, consumer law, immigration, housing, employment and other civil legal issues. In 2015, LAF provided legal services to over 800 veterans.

Eligibility

Persons with limited assets and income at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level are financially eligible for services. There are higher income limits for homeowners at risk of foreclosure, seniors, veterans, people living with HIV-AIDS, and domestic violence survivors seeking protection from an abuser. In addition, a person must be a: 1) U.S. citizen, 2) lawful permanent resident, 3) asylee, refugee, or a person who has been granted Withholding of Removal, 4) an Adjustment of Status applicant who also has a U.S. citizen spouse, parent, or child (under 21), 5) a victim of human trafficking, 6) a victim of domestic battery (including domestic violence), sexual assault, extreme mental cruelty, or a number of other crimes which are included in the U.S. visa laws.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Legal Assistance Foundation of
Metropolitan Chicago
Client Screening Unit at 312.341.1070

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Legal Aid Society (VLAS) consults with veterans, surviving spouses, and their families to determine their planning options when they have limited income and high out-of-pocket health care expenses. The VLAS assists veterans with VA pension applications and appeals. They will also provide referrals to qualified attorneys in areas such as estate planning, elder law, personal injury, debt consolidation, family law, and criminal law. Serves only Illinois residents.

COST:

VLAS may charge fees (based on a potential client's limited ability to pay) for the following services:

- Initial consultation – No charge for the initial consultation unless VLAS accepts a person as a client, informs the client of fees for its services, and the client agrees to the fees for the services provided
- Reviewing income, medical, and expense records
- Researching what options may be available to a potential client
- Counseling a potential client on his/her planning options
- VLAS uses fees generated from providing consultative services to support its effort in providing pro bono (free) assistance to veterans, surviving spouses, and dependents in filing for VA pension benefits. VLAS fees are based on a client's income, household size, and assets. Fees can be waived in cases of economic hardship. No charge for assistance with Initial Applications for Veterans' Benefits. By law, an organization or attorney cannot charge for the following services: 1) assisting with initial applications for VA benefits; 2) gathering necessary information to file a claim for VA benefits; 3) preparing initial VA claims; 4) submitting information to the VA; 5) communicating with the VA on behalf of a client who files an initial claim for benefits.

Appeals for denial of benefits or denial of a claim for increased benefits are normally handled on a contingent fee basis, meaning that no fee is charged unless there is a favorable outcome. The typical fee is 20% of past due benefits.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Veterans Legal Aid Society
773-340-3838
www.veteranslegalaids.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Non-profit

SOURCE:

www.veteranslegalaids.org



Chapter

12

Life & Health Insurance

NOTES

[illegible]

Life Insurance

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is a program that allows a veteran to continue life insurance coverage after he/she separates from service.

Coverage

Veterans' Group Life Insurance VGLI provides lifetime coverage as long as the veteran pays the premiums. Veterans may enroll for a maximum amount of coverage that is equal to the amount of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage they had when they separated from service. Lesser amounts of coverage are also available in increments of \$10,000. Once enrolled in VGLI, a veteran will have the opportunity to increase coverage by \$25,000 every five years up to the legislated maximum of \$400,000, until age 60. This is a benefit that the veteran must voluntarily enroll in when he/she separates from the service. It is not automatic. No proof of good health is required.

Enrollment Period

Veterans have one year and 120 days from their date of separation to apply for VGLI. If they apply for coverage within 240 days of the date of separation, the veteran will not need to answer health questions.

Eligibility

Veterans are eligible to apply for VGLI, if they had SGLI, and are within one year and 120 days of the following events:

- release from active duty or active duty for training under a call or order to duty that does not specify a period of less than 31 days.
- separation, retirement or release from assignment from the Ready Reserves/National Guard.
- assignment to the Individual Ready Reserves (IRR) of a branch of service or to the Inactive National Guard (ING). This includes members of the United States Public Health Service Inactive Reserve Corps (IRC).
- placement on the Temporary Disability Retirement List (TDRL).

A veteran is also eligible to apply for VGLI, if he/she had part-time SGLI and while performing duty, suffered an injury or disability that rendered him/her uninsurable at standard premium rates. This includes travel directly to and from duty.

Deadline to Convert SGLI to VGLI

The veteran must apply to convert SGLI to VGLI within one year and 120 days from discharge. If he/she submits their application within 240 days after discharge (for those discharged on or after November 1, 2012) or within 120 days after discharge (for those discharged before November 1, 2012), he/she does not need to submit evidence of good health. Those who apply after the no-health period are required to answer questions about their health.

How to Apply

Applying for VGLI is simple using one of the following methods:

Apply online at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage> or complete SGLV 8714, Application for Veterans' Group Life Insurance and mail it to the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

COST:

VGLI Premiums are based upon the Veterans age. Premium rates increased for VGLI insureds age 70 and older effective July 1, 2014. Go online to http://www.benefits.va.gov/INSURANCE/vgli_rates_new.asp to view VGLI premium rates. Use the Insurance Needs Calculator online at http://www.benefits.va.gov/INSURANCE/vgli_rates_new.asp to assess your life insurance needs and determine if you have enough coverage.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Office of Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (OSGLI)
PO Box 70173
Philadelphia, PA 19176-9912
1-800-419-1473

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Servicemembers Group Life Insurance

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**Life Insurance Benefits for Service Members.**

Coverage is automatic. Servicemembers do not need to apply. To designate beneficiaries, or reduce, decline or restore coverage, complete and submit SGLV 8286, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate to your branch of service personnel clerk.

COST: no information provided

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance
1-800-419-1473

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Servicemembers Group Life Insurance

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Life Insurance Benefits for Family Service Members. To decline, reduce or restore Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, download and complete SGLV 8286A, Spouse Coverage Election and Certificate, with your branch of service.

COST: no information provided

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Family Servicemembers' Life Group Insurance
1-800-419-1473

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Servicemembers Group Life Insurance

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Life Insurance Benefits for Family Service Members (Traumatic Injury). To file a claim for Traumatic Injury Group Life Insurance, complete and file SGLV 8600, Application for TSGLI Benefits with your branch of service.

COST: no information provided

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection Program
1-800-419-1473

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Servicemembers Group Life Insurance

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance. To file for S-DVI, complete VA Form 29-4364, Application for Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance. A claim for Traumatic Injury Group Life Insurance, complete

and file SGLV 8600, Application for TSGLI Benefits with your branch of service. Mail your form to Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office and Insurance Center (RH), PO Box 7208, Philadelphia, PA 19101. To secure form, go to: www.va.gov/forms.

COST: no information provided

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance
Toll-free: 1-800-669-8477

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Service Disabled Veterans' Insurance

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance. To file for VMLI, complete VA Form 29-8636, Application for Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance to your Specially Adapted Housing Agent. The agent will help you complete the application. You must provide information about your current mortgage.

COST: no information provided

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance
Mailing Address:
VAROIC
P.O. Box 7208 (VMLI)
Philadelphia, PA 19101
Toll-free: 1-800-669-8477
E-mail: vainsurance@vab.va.gov

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Care was created by the State of Illinois so that every veteran could have access to affordable, quality health insurance. The program offers access to affordable, comprehensive healthcare to veterans across Illinois. Under this program, veterans receive medical, limited dental and vision coverage. Illinois is the first state in the nation to create a program like this. Veterans Care serves those veterans who have limited incomes. Veterans Service Officers stand ready to assist you and answer any questions you may have.

COST: monthly premium of \$40 or \$70 depending on income

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Veterans Care – State of Illinois
1-877-4VETSRX

As of 2016 Illinoisveteranscare.com is sponsored by *Loans with Guarantor* – A service providing loans to veterans as well as members of the public who are unable to attain credit on their own.

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Veterans Care – State of Illinois

Honoring the United States Coast Guard



Coast Guard Anthem

*The official song of the Coast Guard was created by
Captain Francis Saltus Van Boskerck, USCG.*

Verse

From Aztec Shore to Arctic Zone
To Europe and Far East.
The Flag is carried by our ships,
In times of war and peace.
And never have we struck it yet
In spite of foe-men's might,
Who cheered our crews and cheered again,
For showing how to fight.

Chorus

We're always ready for the call,
We place our trust in Thee.
Through surf and storm and howling gale,
High shall our purpose be.
"Semper Paratus" is our guide,
Our fame, our glory, too.
To fight to save or fight and die,
Aye! Coast Guard we are for you!



Chapter

13

Financial Assistance

NOTES

[illegible]

Financial Assistance

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Assistance Commissions: Interim or emergency funds may be available to veterans. The amount of assistance and qualifications for financial assistance varies from county to county. Please contact the County Veterans Assistance Commission nearest the veteran's home for program specifics. See Chapter 1.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Veterans Assistance Commission
See Chapter 1.

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans United Foundation welcomes nominations and recommendations for veterans, military families and nonprofit organizations in need of assistance. The Foundation committee evaluates every nomination received. The Foundation is dedicated to helping individuals and families during disasters and tragedies, including unforeseen and uncontrollable natural events, such as illness, fire or accident. Individual donations do not include payment of bills, mortgages or home improvement projects due to everyday life happenings. If you know a candidate who meets the criteria, we encourage you to submit the nomination.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Veterans United Foundation
www.enhancelives.com

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non Profit

SOURCE:

Veterans United Foundation

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

GoFundVeterans provides a platform that allows people to directly support veterans, active military, and their families raise money for personal needs, medical needs, or business needs. They acknowledge there are many organizations and charities who serve military men and women and their families, but want to give direct access to ordinary citizens who honor and thank them for all that they have done and sacrificed. *GoFundVeterans* verifies each project creator as being a veteran, active military, or a family dependent.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

GoFundVeterans
<http://www.gofundveterans.com/>

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non Profit

SOURCE:

GoFundVeterans

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Operation Once in a Lifetime's mission is to make the dreams of soldiers and their families come true by providing free financial and moral support. Operation Once in a Lifetime was created by a soldier to help other soldiers; a soldier knows what a soldier needs and a soldier knows what a soldier does not need. A soldier does not need to worry about providing beds for his kids, worry if his electricity will still be on when he goes home or if his house will be foreclosed on when serving his/her country. A soldier needs a program that will provide free financial assistance regardless of his rank, race, branch of service, physical condition or his deployment status. A soldier needs a program that can help make a life altering contribution when he is in his/her greatest need; Operation Once in a Lifetime is that program.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Operation Once in a Lifetime
www.operationonceinalifetime.com

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non Profit

SOURCE:

Operation Once in a Lifetime

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The American Patriot Heroes' Fund, Help a Hero Project is unique and is the backbone of what the Fund does as a non-for-profit organization. They receive weekly requests from dozens of heroes around the country that are in need of support. They are veterans from all eras and all have served their country honorably. The program is effective, direct and easy. A veteran comes to the Fund with a simple request, something that is important, pressing and needs attention, and they take that request and find the means to provide funding for that particular request. The Fund does not stop until the mission is complete.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

The American Patriot Heroes' Fund,
Help a Hero Project
<http://www.americanpatrioheroesfund.org/the-help-a-hero-project/>

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non Profit

SOURCE:

The American Patriot Heroes' Fund, Help a Hero Project

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Modest Needs empowers members of the general public to make small, emergency grants to low-income workers who are at risk of slipping into poverty. They have elected to undertake this mission because they recognize that a significant gap exists in the social service "safety nets" of developed nations like the United States. This gap leaves low income but generally self-sufficient individuals and families without access to small amounts of one-time, emergency assistance in favor of providing significant amounts of long-term aid to these same individuals and families once they've fallen into the cycle of poverty. Through the use of online crowd funding technology, Modest Needs Foundation promotes the idea that any individual can make a huge impact in a neighbor's life by giving as little as \$10 or \$15 at a time.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Modest Needs
www.modestneeds.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non Profit

SOURCE:

www.modestneeds.org



Chapter

14

**Honoring, Fun
Opportunities &
Wishes Granted**

NOTES

[illegible]

Honoring & Fun Opportunities

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Honor Flight Chicago has a mission to thank and pay tribute to our Chicago area heroes – especially our World War II and Korean War veterans – by bringing them to Washington, D.C. for a day of honor and remembrance.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Honor Flight Chicago
938 West Montana Street
Chicago, Illinois 60614
773-227-8387

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Honor Flight Chicago

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Freedom Farm for Vets is a safe place to go any time a veteran needs a break from the daily stresses of life. All veterans and members of their families are welcome. At Freedom Farm for Vets, they do not use words like “handicapped” or “challenged”. The farm is about helping veterans, the farm feeding the hungry in their community and in time, experiencing the rewards of another kind of service.

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Freedom Farm for Vets
13155 West Hart Street
Wadsworth, Illinois 60083
224-399-7464
thefarm@freedomfarmforvets.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non Profit

SOURCE:

Freedom Farm for Vets

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veterans Network Committee will erect a flag at a veteran home and provides trips to Washington D.C. to visit memorials.

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Veterans Network Committee
Fox River Grove

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non Profit

SOURCE:

Veterans Network Committee
www.veteransnetworkcommittee.com

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Military License Plates may be displayed on passenger vehicles, trucks and vans weighing 8,000 pounds or less, and motorcycles (except Gold Star.)

Some plates include:

Afghanistan Campaign – Any Illinois resident who has been awarded the Afghanistan Campaign medal may apply.

Armed Forces Reserves – Any Illinois resident who is an active or former member of the Armed Forces Reserves, or a surviving spouse, may apply.

Army Veteran – Any Illinois resident who has served in the U.S. Army may apply.

Bronze Star – Any Illinois resident who has been awarded the Bronze Star medal, or a surviving spouse, may apply.

Congressional Medal of Honor – Any Illinois resident who has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, or a surviving spouse, may apply.

Disabled Veteran – Any U.S. Armed Forces veteran who has a military-service disability and a licensed physician has certified that because of the service-connected disability, the veteran qualifies for issuance of a disabled license plate (625 ILCS 5/3-616). Vehicles displaying these plates may park in spaces reserved for persons with disabilities.

Ex-Prisoner of War – Any U.S. citizen who was a prisoner of war while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or with any of its allies, or a surviving spouse, may apply.

Gold Star – Any Illinois resident who is a surviving widow / widower or parent of a person who lost his/her life while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces during peacetime or war may apply. The widow / widower and each parent, or in the absence of a parent, one sibling, may be issued one set of plates.

Illinois National Guard – Any Illinois resident who is an active or former member of the Illinois National Guard, or a surviving spouse, may apply.

Iraq Campaign – Any Illinois resident who has been awarded the Iraq Campaign medal may apply.

Korean Service – Any Illinois resident who participated in the U.S. Armed Forces on or after July 27, 1954, in Korea may apply.

Korean War Veteran – Any Illinois resident who served in the U.S. Armed Forces between June 27, 1950, and July 27, 1954, or who has been awarded the Korean War Service Medal or Korean Service Bonus may apply.

Marine Corps – Any Illinois veteran who is an active or former member of the U.S. Marine Corps may apply.

Navy Veteran – Any Illinois resident who has served in the U.S. Navy may apply.

Paratrooper – Any Illinois resident who has completed paratrooper training while a member of the U.S. Armed Forces may apply.

Pearl Harbor Survivor – Any Illinois resident who served at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, or a surviving spouse, may apply.

POW/MIA Illinois Remembers – These plates honor Illinois residents who were prisoners of war or missing in action while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Any Illinois resident may apply and no special military documentation is required.

Purple Heart – Any Illinois resident who has been awarded the Purple Heart medal, or a surviving spouse, may apply.

Purple Heart Motorcycle – Any Illinois resident who has been awarded the Purple Heart medal, or a surviving spouse, may apply.

Retired Armed Forces – Any Illinois resident who is a retired member of the U.S. Armed Forces may apply.

Service Cross – Any Illinois resident who has been awarded the Service Cross by a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, namely the Air Force, Army or Navy, or a surviving spouse may apply.

Silver Star – Any Illinois resident who has been awarded the Silver Star medal, or a surviving spouse, may apply.

Universal Veteran – Any Illinois resident who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces may apply. Branch of service and /or theater of action decals are available at the American Legion, Department of the Adjutant.

Universal Veteran Motorcycle – Any Illinois resident who has served in the U.S. Armed Forces may apply.

Vietnam Veteran – Any Illinois resident who has been awarded the Vietnam service medal may apply.

West Point Bicentennial – These plates commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of West Point Military Academy in New York. Any Illinois resident may apply and no special military documentation is required.

Women Veterans – Any Illinois female resident who is an active or former member of the U.S. Armed Forces may apply.

World War II Veteran – Any Illinois resident who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II may apply.

Documentation verifying military status or receipt of medal is required for most military plates. Documentation may include DD Form 214, DD Form 2, separation papers, Veterans Administration award letter or other military documents verifying service record. All military plate applications will be verified with the Department of Veterans' Affairs before plates are issued.

COST:

Military plate fees vary and are subject to standard registration and replacement plate fees. Most military plates are available in vanity or personalized at no extra charge. Congressional Medal of Honor, Disabled Veteran and Ex Prisoner of War plates are available at no cost for the first set of plates. Circuit Breaker recipients are eligible for reduced registration fees for most military plates (except Afghanistan, Congressional Medal of Honor, Ex Prisoner of War, POW/MIA, Iraq and West Point Bicentennial) Some military plates require additional fees upon original issuance and/or renewal. Please refer to individual military plate request forms for complete fee schedules.

To purchase military plates, please submit the appropriate request form along with your license plates registration or renewal application, the required military documentation and any applicable fees to the address below. (Veteran status must already be filed through the Secretary of State in order to request military plates online.)

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

For military documentation, please contact:

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
833 S. Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9432
217-782-3418 or 800-437-9824

Veterans Administration Regional Office
536 S. Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60605
312-663-5519 or 800-827-1000

National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63132

Request forms are available at:

Illinois Secretary of State
Non-Standard Plates Section
501 S. Second Street, Room 541
Springfield, Illinois 62756
217-785-4175
www.cyberdriveillinois.com
(click Publications, Military Plates)

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Veteran Driver's License allows veterans to get an updated driver's license/ID card with the word VETERAN under the signature on the front of the card. This designation helps ensure military veterans who have received an Honorable or General under Honorable Conditions discharge receive the services and benefits for which they are entitled. To receive the VETERAN designation on the driver's license/ID card, veterans must obtain official certification from the Illinois Department of

Veterans' Affairs (IDVA). They can do so by one of two means. They can visit one of the IDVA offices throughout the state and provide a copy of their DD-214 or Certificate of Military Service (NA Form 13038) or they may complete the process by mail.

To obtain the certificate by mail, veterans must complete a "Consent to Release of Information" from <http://www.illinois.gov/veterans/documents/consentrelease.pdf> and send it along with their DD-214/NAF 13038 and a legible copy of their driver's license/ID card to the local veteran service officer. Requests may also be faxed to 217-782-4161 or mailed to the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. The IDVA will certify the discharge document and mail it back to the veteran. After the necessary certification is obtained from the IDVA, the veteran may apply for a new, renewal, or updated driver's license or ID card at any Secretary of State Driver Service's facility.

Former members of the Guard and Reserve who do not have periods of active duty other than their initial active duty for training and annual training are now eligible to receive VETERAN on their driver's licenses. In order to receive that designation, veterans of the Guard and Reserve are required to present a copy of their certificate of release or discharge from initial active duty, certified and stamped by the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, to the Secretary of State. Prior to receiving the stamp they must provide documentation of satisfactorily completing the time for which they were contracted to attend month drills and annual training. Presentation of one of the following documents will be accepted as proof of service:

1. Army or Air National Guard NGB 22 Report of Separation and Record of Service
2. Army Reserve DARP FM 249-2E Chronological Statement of Retirement Points
3. Navy Reserve NRPC 1070-124 Annual Retirement Point Record
4. Air Force Reserve AF 526 Point Summary Sheet
5. USMC Reserve NAVMC 798 Reserve Retirement Credit Report
6. Coast Guard CTG 4175 Coast Guard Reserve Annual or Terminal Statement of Retirement Points.

COST:

The designation will be no additional cost for first-time driver's license applicants and driver's license renewals. If veterans choose to add the designation before their renewal date, they may obtain an updated driver's license for \$5 and an updated ID card for \$10. Veterans over the age of 65 can obtain an updated state ID card at no cost.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
P.O. Box 19432 (Attn: DL Cert)
833 S. Spring Street
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9432

Veterans are encouraged to contact or visit a local IDVA office for assistance obtaining any of the above documents. To find the closest VSO, call 800-437-9824 or see Chapter 1.

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Brat Pack 11 is an organization founded by Kenzie Hall to show honor and gratitude to our nation's youngest boots on the ground. Brat Pack 11 is dedicated to supporting the children of our wounded and fallen heroes by providing them with unforgettable experiences and connecting them with a network for continued support throughout their childhood.

COST: no cost

Wishes Granted

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Brat Pack 11
<http://www.bratpack11.com/>

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non Profit

SOURCE:

<http://www.bratpack11.com/>

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Dreams for Veterans serves our nation's military communities by giving back to terminally ill veterans and their families through the fulfillment of a final dream. Final dreams range from basic need items (like a working appliance or mobility scooter) to bedside reunions, final vacations with family, "meet and greets" with personal heroes or reconnecting with aspects of former military service. Dreams for Veterans serves veterans in all 50 states and partners with America's hospice professionals and veterans organizations to meet the unique needs of our nation's veterans.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dreams for Veterans
<http://www.dreamfoundation.org/veterans>

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non Profit

SOURCE:

<http://www.dreamfoundation.org/veterans>

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Hero's Wish (Veteran Tickets Foundation – Vet Tix) allows members who meet certain criteria to request specific tickets for any single event (NOTE: They are not capable of fulfilling meet and greets, trips, cruises, hotel stays or flights), and have donors fulfill that request either by ticket donation or by donating money to make the hero's wish come true. The Hero's Wish program can be used by active duty military personnel (one month prior to, while on leave from or one month after their deployments), severely wounded warriors and the families of men and woman killed in action (KIA). After submitting a Hero's Wish, Vet Tix will work with the veteran to verify the Hero's Wish requirements are met. If all criteria are met, a member of the Hero's Wish will be assigned to facilitate wish fulfillment. The Vet Tix Hero's Wish team and other volunteers explore possible ways to make the Hero's Wish come true for our veteran. Most Hero's Wishes are funded on a case by case basis by posting on our website with a donate button, and by the Hero's Wish team hard at work behind the scenes making phone calls, sending faxes and emails to make the Hero's Wish a reality.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Hero's Wish
www.Vettix.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non Profit

SOURCE:

www.heroswish.org

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Hope for The Warriors. *A Warrior's Wish*® – It is with great pleasure that Hope For The Warriors® grants wishes to severely injured service members in an effort to restore hope in the eye of a hero. While disabilities are not a barrier in life, they can create some monumental hurdles. Priorities change and sometimes the small important wishes for life must be set aside. Beyond meeting immediate physical and emotional needs, A Warrior's Wish fulfills a desire for quality of life beyond recovery and a quest for life gratifying endeavors. Whether realizing a dream to go hunting, ride a bike again or own a home adapted to their specialized needs, it is the mission of Hope For The Warriors® to see that wounded warriors and their families are actively engaged.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Hope for the Warriors®
8003 Forbes Place, Suite 201
Springfield, VA 22151
www.hopeforthewarriors.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Not for Profit

SOURCE:

Hope for the Warriors®

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Grant-A-Wish Mission of A Million Thanks raises funds to grant the wishes of injured military in all branches. With the help of grateful Americans, it is our goal to make sure those injured from the War on Terror have their dreams realized. No wish is too big or too small.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Grant-A-Wish of A Million Thanks
1-844-MILLTHX (645-5849)
info@AMillionThanks.org
www.AMillionThanks.org

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private/Not for Profit

SOURCE:

Grant-A-Wish of A Million Thanks



Chapter

15

Burial & Funeral

NOTES

[illegible]

Burial and Funeral

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

VA Burial Benefits

Certain monetary, recognition and service benefits may be available, but benefits are limited and usually only apply to veterans who: died because of a service-related disability, or was receiving or was entitled to receive a VA pension or compensation at the time of death, or died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under contract at a non-VA facility.

Documentation required: Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (before 1950 known as Report of Separation). It includes documents WD AGO 53-55, NAVPERS 553, NAVMC 78PD or NAVCG 553. After 1950, it is known as the DD 214.

Eligible **veterans buried in a private cemetery** may be eligible for partial reimbursement for burial costs. If a death is service-related, benefits up to \$2,000 may be paid for burial expenses. For non-service related deaths, the VA will pay up to \$700 toward burial and funeral expenses (if hospitalized by the VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by VA at time of death), and a \$700 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). An annual increase in burial and plot allowances will be based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.

Eligibility requirements for **burial at a VA national cemetery** include any member of the Armed Forces who dies while on active duty or any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Under certain conditions, the surviving spouse and minor children may be entitled to this benefit. Non-veteran parents may be interred in a national cemetery with their child if that child was killed in combat and has no other eligible survivors. In order for such a burial to occur an official must determine that space is available. **Burial (including cremation) includes:** an assigned gravesite, opening and closing of the grave, grave liner for casketed remains, government headstone or marker, and perpetual care at not cost to the family. If you are considering

burial in a VA national cemetery, be aware that you may not reserve a space ahead of time; arrangements are only allowed at the time of death, so family members may not be interred side by side or even nearby; burials are not usually conducted on weekends.

Any deceased veteran discharged under conditions other than dishonorable is eligible for a standard **headstone, marker or medallion**. A bronze medallion in several sizes is also available to be placed on existing privately purchased headstones or markers. The government is not responsible for costs associated with affixing the medallion to the headstone. To request, submit an Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veteran's Cemetery (VA Form 40-1330). VA Form 40-1330M must be submitted if requesting the medallion. Your funeral director may help you secure the forms.

Veteran family must **request a United States Flag**. To request a free flag, submit VA Form 27-2008 along with the above noted discharge papers to the VA regional office near you or most post offices.

At your request, your funeral director can request funeral honors ceremonies (folding and presentation of the flag, playing of "Taps").

Cost of the casket is generally only covered if the veteran died while on active duty. Some Funeral/Burial providers, like Dignity Memorial, will provide a discount. Dignity Memorial provides a discount to American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War members.

A **Presidential Memorial Certificate** can be requested at the VA regional office or by U.S. Mail. Your funeral provider may assist your family in obtaining this certificate.

The issuance or **replacement of military service medals**, awards and decorations must be requested in writing to the appropriate military service branch division of the National Personnel Records Center. Next of kin can submit a request by using Standard Form 180 (SF-180), available through the NPRC website, www.archives.gov/veterans/. There is generally no charge.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Department of Veterans Affairs

Dignity Memorial Veteran Planning Guide provides information and many required forms related to VA Burial Benefits.

800-Dignity (800-344-6489)

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Dignity Memorial

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Homeless Veterans Burial Program. Homeless and indigent veterans who have no family to claim them are identified and provided with a proper military burial. Dignity Memorial providers donate preparation of the body, transportation, clothing, casket and coordination of the funeral service. The U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs provides eligible veterans with opening and closing of the gravesite, a grave liner, a headstone or marker, a gravesite ceremony and burial in a national cemetery.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dignity Memorial Homeless Veterans Burial Program

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private and Public: Dignity Memorial and U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

SOURCE:

Dignity Memorial

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

VA Burial/Cemeteries

COST: Contact provider for cost information.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

National Cemeteries in Illinois

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 W. Hoff Road
Elwood, Illinois 60421
Phone: 815-423-9958

Alton National Cemetery

600 Pearl Street
Alton, Illinois 62002
Phone: 314-845-8320

Camp Butler National Cemetery

5063 Camp Butler Road
Springfield, Illinois 62707-9722
Phone: 217-492-4070

Danville National Cemetery

1900 East Main Street
Danville, Illinois 61832
Phone: 217-554-4550

Mound City National Cemetery

Junction - Highway 37 & 51
Mound City, Illinois 62963
Phone: 314-845-8320

Quincy National Cemetery

36th & Maine Street
Quincy, Illinois 62301
Phone: 309-782-2094

Rock Island National Cemetery

Bldg 118 Rock Island Arsenal
Rock Island, Illinois 61299
Phone: 309-782-2094

Illinois State Cemeteries

Many states have established state veterans cemeteries. Eligibility is similar to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries, but may include residency requirements. Even though they may have been established or improved with Government funds through VA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Program, state veterans cemeteries are run solely by the states. Please contact the specific cemetery for information.

Sunset Cemetery

1707 N. 12th Street

Quincy, Illinois 62301

John Wingerter, Acting Administrator

Phone: 217-222-8641, Ext 202

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs

- Programs such as the **Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall®** and the **Dignity Memorial Homeless Veterans Burial Program**
- Educational resources such as the **Veterans Planning Guide**, which includes the handy guide “**10 Important Facts About Your VA Burial Benefits.**” and **seminars for VFW and American Legion members**
- Sponsor of this **Veteran Guide to Health, Home and Honors: Benefits and Opportunities for Veteran Families in Chicagoland**
- With their distinctive expertise, care and compassion, Dignity Memorial providers are the right choice for veterans, active military personnel and their families. In fact, their commitment to veterans is so strong, the Dignity Memorial network is the Founding Community Partner of the **We Honor Veterans** program, a collaboration of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

COST: varies

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dignity Memorial providers:

Andrew J. McGann & Son Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by S.E. Funeral Homes of Illinois, Inc.

10727 S Pulaski Road

Chicago, Illinois 60655

773-783-7700

Beverly Cemetery

Proudly owned and operated by Chicago Cemetery Corporation.

12000 S Kedzie Avenue

Blue Island, Illinois 60406

708-385-0750

Blake-Lamb Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

5015 Lincoln Avenue

Lisle, Illinois 60532

630-964-9392

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Because **Dignity Memorial®** providers serve more veterans than any other funeral service provider, their professionals are experts in veterans' burial benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. That means when you choose a Dignity Memorial provider, you can be confident you'll understand what your VA burial benefits include and how to apply for them. Plus, Dignity Memorial takes great pride in providing veterans with respectful, dignified funerals and burials befitting of their service.

Knowledge of **veterans' burial benefits** and **military funeral honors** is just one reason so many veterans choose Dignity Memorial providers. Other offerings demonstrating support of veterans and military personnel include:

- **Benefits** such as special pricing for members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion may be available

Blake-Lamb Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

4727 W. 103rd Street
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
708-636-1193

Chapel Hill Gardens South Cemetery & Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

11333 S. Central Avenue
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
708-636-1200

Chapel Hill Gardens West Cemetery & Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

17w201 Roosevelt Road
Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181
630-941-5860

Cypress Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

1698 N. Bloomingdale Road
Glendale Heights, Illinois 60139
630-653-7666

Drake & Son Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

5303 N. Western Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60625
773-561-6874

Elmwood Cemetery & Mausoleum

Proudly owned and operated by Elmwood Acquisition Corp.

2905 N. Thatcher Road
River Grove, Illinois 60171
708-453-0273

Evergreen Cemetery

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

3401 W. 87th Street
Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805
708-422-9051

Irving Park Cemetery

Proudly owned and operated by Elmwood Acquisition Corp.

7777 Irving Park Road
Chicago, Illinois 60634
773-625-3500

Kenny Brothers Funeral Directors

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

3600 W. 95th Street
Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805
708-425-4500

Lauterburg-Oehler Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by Alderwoods (Chicago North), Inc.

2000 E. Northwest Hwy.
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004
847-253-5423

Lincoln Cemetery

Proudly owned and operated by Chicago Cemetery Corporation.

12300 S. Kedzie Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60655
773-445-5400

Malec & Sons Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

6000 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60646
773-774-4100

Marsh Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

305 N. Cemetery Road
Gurnee, Illinois 60031
847-336-0127

Memorial Park Cemetery

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

9900 Gross Point Road
Skokie, Illinois 60076
847-677-4401

Memory Gardens Cemetery

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

2501 E. Euclid Avenue
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004
847-255-1010

Montclair-Lucania Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Services, Inc.

6901 W. Belmont Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60634
773-622-9300

Mount Auburn Cemetery & Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by Mount Auburn Memorial, Park, Inc. and Alderwoods (Chicago Central), Inc.

4101 S. Oak Park Avenue
Stickney, Illinois 60402
708-749-0022

Mount Emblem Cemetery

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Servics, Inc.

520 E. Grand Avenue
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126
630-834-6080

Mount Olive Cemetery

Proudly owned and operated by Alderwoods (Chicago Central), Inc.

3800 N. Narragansett Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60634
773-286-3770

Oak Hill Cemetery II

Proudly owned and operated by Chicago Cemetery Corporation.

11900 S. Kedzie Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60803
708-385-0132

Oak Woods Cemetery

Proudly owned and operated by Oak Woods Cemetery Association.

1035 E. 67th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637
773-288-3800

Oakland Memory Lanes

Proudly owned and operated by Alderwoods Illinois, Inc.

15200 Lincoln Avenue
Dolton, Illinois 60419
708-841-5800

Oehler Funeral Home-Des Plaines

Proudly owned and operated by Alderwoods (Chicago North), Inc.

2099 Miner Street
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
847-824-5155

Orland Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by S.E. Funeral Homes of Illinois, Inc.

9900 W. 143 Street
Orland Park, Illinois 60462
708-460-7500

Ridge Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Servics, Inc.

6620 W. Archer Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638
773-586-7900

Ridgewood Memorial Park

Proudly owned and operated by Ridgewood Cemetery Company.

9900 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
847-824-4145

Rosehill Cemetery

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Servics, Inc.

5800 N. Ravenswood Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60660
773-561-5940

Weinstein & Piser Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by Alderwoods (Chicago North), Inc.

111 Skokie Boulevard
Wilmette, Illinois 60091
847-256-5700

Wm. H. Scott Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by SCI Illinois Servics, Inc.

1100 Greenleaf Avenue
Wilmette, Illinois 60091
847-251-8200

Woodlawn Funeral Home & Memorial Park

Proudly owned and operated by Woodlawn Cemetery of Chicago, Inc.

7750 W. Cermak Road
Forest Park, Illinois 60130
708-442-8500

Zimmerman & Sandeman Funeral Home

Proudly owned and operated by S.E. Funeral Homes of Illinois, Inc.

5200 W. 95th Street
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
708-424-0340

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Dignity Memorial
Get in touch 24/7 at 1-800-343-4464
www.dignitymemorial.com

Honoring the United States National Guard

Always Ready, Always There

*Music and lyrics by
Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Myers,
40th Army Band,
Vermont Army National Guard.*

We are the Guard,
Soldiers and Airmen all prepared.
We are the National Guard
we serve on land and in the air.
We go where duty calls
around the world and here at home.
Stand tall in the National Guard,
Always Ready, Always There!

We represent our nation's best,
men and women serving true.
In times of strife or nature's wrath,
the Guard will always see us through!
We rise across the U.S.A.
from sea to sea our land so fair.
We're proud of the National Guard,
Always Ready, Always There!

We serve the call around the world,
nation to nation we support.
As friends we work in partnership
to train or fight as duty calls.
While here at home, from state to state
community service we prepare,
We serve in the National Guard,
Always Ready, Always There!





Chapter

16

**Pensions & Benefits
After Death**

NOTES

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Pensions & Benefits After Death

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

VA Pension Benefits for Survivors and VA Death Pension and/or Accrued Benefits (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Benefits for Survivors and Dependents)

The best results are attained when you contact your local VSO for assistance in applying. If you choose to apply on your own, you can file a claim by completing VA Form 21-534EZ, the Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits.

Survivor's (Widow's) Pension

Survivor's Pension is awarded to the surviving spouse of a veteran who served 90 days continuous service, at least one of which was during one of the established wartime eras. This benefit is income and asset based.

VA Death Pension and/or Accrued Benefits (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Benefits for Survivors and Dependents)

To be eligible for DIC, you must be the surviving spouse of a veteran whose death was due to a service connectable disability or was continuously rated 100% disabled for service connected conditions for ten years prior to the veteran's death.

COST: no cost

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

VA Death Pension and/or Accrued Benefits (Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Benefits for Survivors and Dependents)

Contact your veterans service officer. See Chapter 1.

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

VA Home Loan Benefit for Survivors. File your claim by completing VA Form 26-1817, the Request for Determination of Loan Guaranty Eligibility – Unmarried Surviving Spouses. The spouse must mail the form to VA Loan Eligibility Center, Attn: COE (262), PO Box 100034, Decatur, GA 30031. You may call 1-888-768-2132 and follow the prompts for eligibility and the VA will send you a form. Call or visit your local VA service officer for assistance.

COST: no information provided

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

VA Home Loan Benefits for Survivors

PROVIDER TYPE:

Public/Government

SOURCE:

Department of Veterans Affairs

Honoring the United States Merchant Marines

Heave Ho! My Lads! Heave Ho!

Official Song of The U.S. Maritime Service.

Song of the Merchant Marine.

Words and Music by Lieut. (jg) Jack Lawrence, USMS, 1943.

Verse:

Give us the oil, give us the gas
Give us the shells, give us the guns.
We'll be the ones to see them thru.
Give us the tanks, give us the planes.
Give us the parts, give us a ship.
Give us a hip hoo-ray!
And we'll be on our way.

Chorus:

Heave Ho! My Lads, Heave Ho!
It's a long, long way to go.
It's a long, long pull with our hatches full,
Braving the wind, braving the sea,
Fighting the treacherous foe;
Heave Ho! My lads, Heave Ho!
Let the sea roll high or low,
We can cross any ocean, sail any river.
Give us the goods and we'll deliver,
Damn the submarine!
We're the men of the Merchant Marine!



Chapter

17

**Bereavement &
Loss Support**

NOTES

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Bereavement and Loss Support

SERVICE/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care offers bereavement support to hospice families as well as to those who have experienced a significant loss outside of our hospice. Our services include individual and family counseling, support groups and educational workshops.

Rainbow counselors are licensed clinical professionals with expertise in issues related to grief and loss, living with advanced illness, depression and anxiety. Our hope for the bereaved is that when they graduate from counseling they will have learned something about themselves, have found relief from their grief, and feel courage and resilience in their lives.

Rainbow's *Good Mourning Program for Children, Teens and Families* is the longest-running and most comprehensive bereavement support program for children and their families in the Chicagoland area. Families benefit from monthly meetings and an annual family camp.

COST:

If the bereaved is a family/loved one of a Rainbow patient, then fees are waived for up to six counseling sessions per family within the first 13-months of services. For Community Counseling, fees are collected through Medicare, insurance companies and private pay (sliding scale available). There is a nominal fee for groups and workshops.

PROVIDER NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care
1550 Bishop Court
Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056
847-653-3141

PROVIDER TYPE:

Private or Non-Profit

SOURCE:

Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care

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Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care Board of Directors

John Kolb – Chair
Retired
Hewitt Associates

George Gatto – Vice Chair
President/CEO
Gatto Industrial Platers, Inc.

Jeannie Frey – Secretary
Sr. VP/Chief Legal Officer
Presence Health

Clayton Bond – Member
Retired
Toshiba America

Susan Enright –
Interim President
Rainbow Hospice and
Palliative Care

Marvin Feig – Member
President
Good Earth Lighting

Masako Mayahara, RN, PhD –
Member
Assistant Professor
Rush University

Reverend Thomas Rogers, III –
Member
Executive Director
Bishop Anderson House

Sharon Rudnick – Member
President
Presence Health Partners

Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care We Honor Veterans Advisory Council

Dollard Carey
Smith Bucklin Board Chairman,
Pet Therapy Volunteer with
Rainbow Hospice and Palliative
Care, and Volunteer with
Hines Mental Health Unit

Jim Karol
Marine Veteran

Katie Curran Kirby
Rainbow Hospice and Palliative
Care Volunteer Services Manager

Mike Lake
Commander – Veterans of
Foreign Wars Des Plaines
Post 2992

Reverend Paul Laws
Merel Guild American Legion
Post #208, Arlington Heights
and C. M. Ministries

Tom Mattison
Catholic Charities

Manny Mendoza
Marine Veteran and Chicago
Police Corps League Member

Jim Morrison
Lutheran Church Charities Kare
9 Military

**Major General James H.
Mukoyama, Jr.**
President, Military Outreach USA

Diane Nowak
Dignity Memorial

Greg Padovani
Veteran, Chairman of Veterans
Memorial Committee of
Arlington Heights, Board
Member of Honor Flight of
Northern and Western Illinois

Keith Renner
Senior Vice Commander,
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Des Plaines Post 2992

Henry Jean Ricard Thelemaque
Catholic Charities – Intake
Coordinator/Intake and
Outreach for Supportive
Service for Veteran Families

Marisol Wallscetti
Army Reserves

General William D. Razz Waff
Army (Retired)

Jim Zarno
Army Veteran

*We remember founding member
Tom Amirante, a Vietnam veteran
who dedicated his life to his fellow
veterans.*

This guide provides information related to the following benefits and opportunity categories:

- Veterans Service Officers
- Medical Centers
- Community Out-patient Clinics
- Mental Health
- Aid and Attendance
- Pensions (Nursing Homes, Home Care)
- Prescription Services
- Palliative Care and Hospice
- Vision, Hearing and Medical Equipment
- Home Improvement/Home Related Services
- Chaplain and Other Supportive Services
- Homeless Veterans
- Legal Assistance
- Life and Health Insurance
- Financial Assistance
- Honors, Fun Opportunities & Wishes Granted
- Burial and Funeral
- Pensions and Benefits After Death
- Bereavement & Loss Support

Please let us know if you've found the guidebook helpful.
Email us at Veterans@RainbowHospice.org with your comments.

You may secure a free, downloadable copy of this guide
on the Rainbow Hospice and Palliative Care website:
www.RainbowHospice.org.



1550 Bishop Court • Mount Prospect, IL 60058
847-685-9900 • www.RainbowHospice.org