



HOOSIER VETERAN

IDVA Newsletter

August 2025



Welcome to the August edition of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs newsletter. This newsletter is one way IDVA is committed to veterans and the veteran community. Over the past year, our devoted staff and partners have successfully expanded our reach, now serving over 500,000 veterans. This milestone reflects our ongoing dedication to enhance the lives of those who have served our nation. I hope you enjoy this edition.

Jake Adams
Director,
Indiana Department of
Veterans Affairs

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Years of Dedication: IDVA and Department of Workforce Development's Commitment Indiana Veterans

By Travis Higham

Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) have partnered with the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) for over 7 years as together we seek to build strong connections in the veteran community, inform veterans of their benefits, and overall help them turn their lives around for the better.

The Department of Labor–Veteran Employment and Training Services (DOL VETS) is the parent organization for Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG). Fifty-four state workforce agencies are provided federal funding through the JVSG program to hire dedicated staff to provide individualized career and training services to veterans and eligible persons. JVSG provides a staffing grant to a state agency, in Indiana's case, the Department of Workforce Development.

Local Veteran Employment Representatives (LVERs) conduct outreach to the employer community and facilitate employment, training, and placement services under the state's employment service delivery system (Indiana Career Connect).

The Disabled Veteran Outreach Specialists (DVOP), are case managers and work directly with eligible veterans and eligible persons who have employment barriers and other authorized populations. The services provided by a DVOP specialist are referred to as individualized career services.

The Resource Coordinator (VRC) is housed inside the Indiana Department of Veteran Affairs (IDVA) and covers responsibilities similar to a DVOP. They also specialize in partnerships that result in gathering and distributing resources that may hinder veterans from gaining or maintaining employment. Example: bikes for transportation.

The Veteran Employment Coordinator (VEC) is housed inside IDVA and covers responsibilities similar to a LVER. They also specialize in all business partnerships for IDVA and work on creating and maintaining meaningful relationships with large companies and organizations

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Left: Travis Higham
DWD Veteran Employment Coordinator
Right: Darrell Johnson Jr.
DWD Resource Services Coordinator

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across the state and the Midwest.

Over the past years our partnership has covered many avenues for assisting veterans. Such examples include clothes and food drives for homeless veterans, creating a bike program for veterans in need of transportation to work (see article below), assisting veterans to get employment, partnering with companies to hire and retain veteran staff, connectivity between county veteran service officers and JVSG staff, and so much more. We at JVSG are proud of our partnership, and how it has helped our veteran community, and we look forward to the continued work we will accomplish together in the future.

Pedaling with Purpose: Bike Partnership Empowers Veterans in Indiana

By Darrell Johnson Jr.



The Indiana Veteran Bike Program is a partnership between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development- Jobs for Veterans State Grant, Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and Nine13Sports. This collaboration helps veterans overcome their transportation barriers and assists them with regaining their personal independence. This program has provided 18 bikes to veterans across Indiana since May 1, 2025.

**To find out more about this program, please visit the
Indiana Veterans Center
at 777 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.**



Dogs Helping Heroes: Veterans Find Hope Through IDVA Grant



Dogs Helping Heroes (DHH), a nonprofit organization committed to restoring freedom and peace of mind, is proud to serve wounded veterans, first responders, and Gold Star family members by pairing them with specially trained and certified service dogs. Thanks to a crucial grant from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), DHH is delighted to announce that three Indiana veterans will soon be matched with service dogs to support them in overcoming challenges such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, mobility limitations, and other physical or emotional needs.

The generous support from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is a game-changer for the DHH mission in the Hoosier State. This grant empowers DHH to fully fund the placement of three service dogs for Indiana veterans, covering all associated costs, including adoption fees, training equipment, veterinary care, and months of individualized training. By removing financial barriers, the IDVA grant ensures that these heroes receive the life-changing support they deserve at no cost to them. This partnership reflects Indiana's deep commitment to honoring and supporting its veterans, and we are immensely grateful for the IDVA's trust in our mission.

The IDVA grant, combined with the generosity of our donors, allows DHH to cover costs for our Hero Teams, ensuring that no veteran faces financial barriers when receiving a service dog. From adoption to training to ongoing care, we are committed to making this process seamless and accessible. The support from the IDVA and our community of donors makes it possible to deliver on this promise, creating lasting change for both veterans and their canine partners.

Support Our Work: Your donations help us sustain and grow our mission, ensuring more heroes and dogs find their perfect match.

Apply for a Service Dog: If you're an Indiana veteran, first responder, or Gold Star family member in need of a service dog, visit our website to learn about the application process.

Learn More: Discover the stories of our Hero Teams and the impact of our work at DogsHelpingHeroes.org.

County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO) spotlight

Faith Weir – Jefferson County

I served in the US Navy from 1991-1998. I was attached to VP-23 in Brunswick, Maine and did 2 deployments.

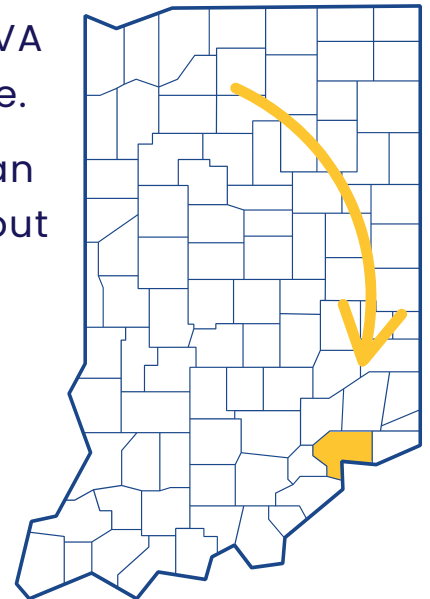
I love the idea of connecting with other veterans and their spouse and being able to help them obtain their benefits including VA Healthcare, VA Disability, Financial Assistance. We also ensure that the transitioning veterans are aware of their VA benefits and community resources, as well as submitting Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) claims for disability and enrolling them in VA Healthcare.

I am the service officer for our American Legion Post, I am the Vice Chair of our Veterans council. I work closely with our DVOP as well as my CVSO counterparts to ensure that our veterans are getting the help that they need with their VA benefits, employment and financial assistance.

Find out who your vet rep/CVSO is and make an appointment to have those conversations about VA benefits and enrolling in VA healthcare.



Follow the Jefferson County
Veteran Service Office on
social media



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Courthouse Annex

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Madison, IN 47250-3409



[Find YOUR CVSO](#)

Your Voice, Your Story



Meet Mike. He served in the Army and National Guard 1966–1999

I got drafted in 1966, as did many others in my age group. After Basic and AIT (Ft. Polk), I went to Vietnam as a straight-leg Infantryman. After nine months, I was wounded badly enough to be sent home. After hearing about some of my fellow Veterans and their experiences on the home front, I wanted to be there, but was also skeptical.

After I ETS'd, I was instructed to go to my local VA Hospital for an evaluation for possible disability. This I did, but the reception there was less than hospitable, and I left after being referred to as a shammer looking for a free ride. Never went back until after I finished my National Guard/Active Duty stint and retired with 33 years of service.

This time, I was welcomed with open arms. The VA has come a long way in its treatment of the injured, both mentally and physically. Everybody seems open, straight forward, and interested in securing the proper diagnosis. The VA as a whole can be proud of what it's done to aid veterans past and present in their quest to seek help. I want to thank you on behalf of my fellow veterans for your help in trying to make us whole again.

Thank you for sharing your story with us, Mike!
From the IN Dept. of Veterans Affairs

We invite you to share your story with IDVA and each other!

Let us know about your experience with our team.

Post your personal stories and experiences that have shaped your lives while in service, as a veteran, or as a family member.

Your narratives can serve as a guiding light, encouraging fellow veterans to open up and share their own meaningful journeys.

Each story has the potential to foster connection and understanding within our community.





Veteran Affairs News & Notes

Benefits and Healthcare

This achievement is a powerful testament to the dedication and collaboration of organizations like HVAF of Indiana (HELPING VETERANS AND FAMILIES), alongside state and local partners...



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BREAKING NEWS!

**VETERAN HOMELESSNESS
DOWN 26%
IN MARION COUNTY**



Survey taken in January 2025 as part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's required Point-in-Time (PIT Count) - a count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night.



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Five tips on how to help homeless Veterans

Practical advice so you can be part of the
solution

Don't stay silent about PTSD

VA is the national leader in treating PTSD

[Read More](#)



**Supporting the mental Health
Needs of Women Veterans**

[WATCH](#)



Military & Veteran Community Observances



August

National Wellness Awareness Month



- August
- 4 Coast Guard Birthday
 - 6 **Indiana State Fair** First Responder/Military Day
 - 7 Purple Heart Day
 - 14 Code Talker Day
 - 16 National Airborne Day
 - 19 National Aviation Day
 - 29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday

Select any date to see details of the
IDVA Calendar of Events.

Fri Sat
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Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
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Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
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Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
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24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Sun
31



IDVA Calendar of Events

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