

FY 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025



INDIANA DEPARTMENT

OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Mission

The mission of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is to Support, Serve, and Advocate for the Indiana Veteran Community.

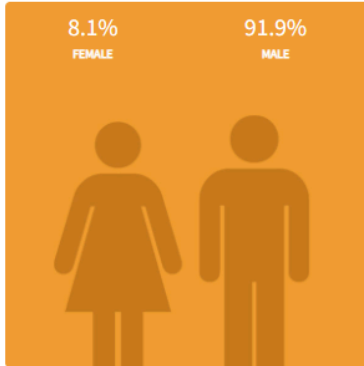
Indiana's Veterans, by the Numbers	01
Executive Team*	02
IDVA Team*	03
Agency Overview	06
Division Overviews:	
Training & Services	07
Military Family Relief Fund	08
State Approving Agency	09
Legal & Legislative	10
Outreach & Communications	11
Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery	13
Indiana Veterans Home	14
Indiana Veterans Center	15

**All Staff reflects current team members.*

INDIANA VETERANS BY THE NUMBERS



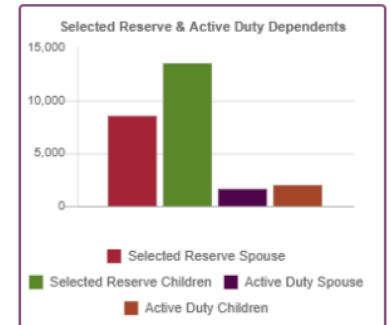
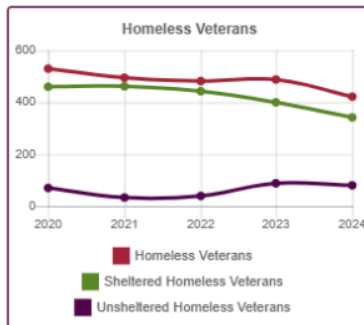
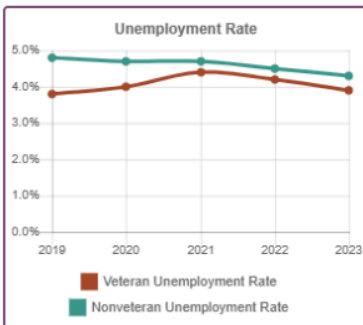
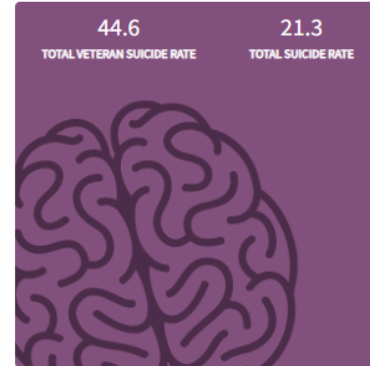
Veteran Population by % Male and Female



Number of Veteran Treatment Courts



Suicide Rates (per 100,000 population)

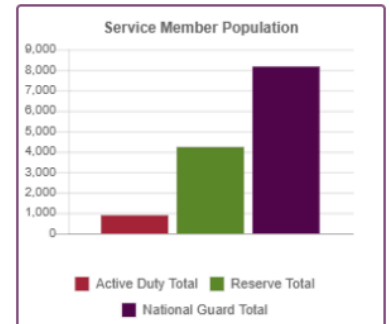


\$4,516,491,680
Total Federal VA Investment

3,247
Est. Veteran Owned Businesses

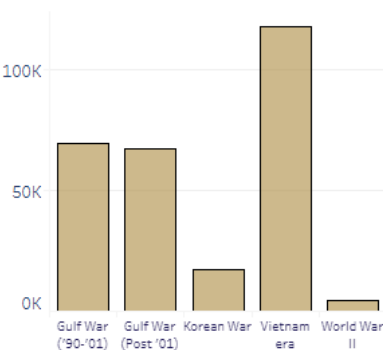
\$1,960,074,658
VA Homeloans awarded in FY 24

78.70%
Workforce Participation

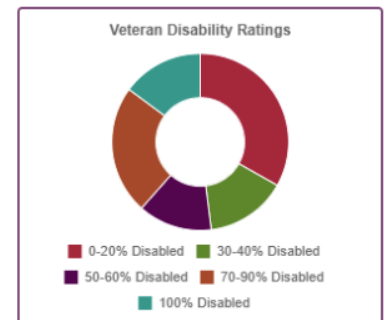
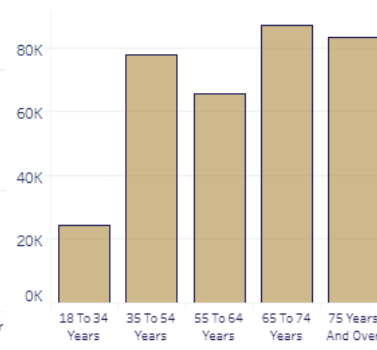


The State of Indiana has contracted **\$1,790,427,294** on veteran owned small businesses in the 2024 Fiscal Year.

Veterans by Period of Service



Veterans by Age



Makeup of VA Expenditures

Compensation & Pension	\$2,185,707,290
Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Emp	\$133,119,580
Medical Care	\$2,114,882,750
Insurance & Indemnities	\$9,872,000
Construction	\$1,379,000
General Operating Expenses	\$71,529,000

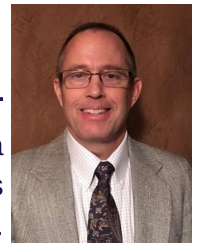
Data last updated on 4/25/2025

Dashboard created by: MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE LAB



Jacob “Jake” Adams, Director

A native of Carroll County, Jake is a proud Indiana University graduate and a dedicated public servant. Following his nine years of service in the U. S. Marine Corps, Jake returned to Indiana to work in the family business. Jake has dedicated his career to community service, believing that a strong community starts with its people. As the Director of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, he is committed to building trust, enhancing transparency, and ensuring Hoosier veterans receive the benefits and support they have earned.



Tim Winslow, Assistant Director

Before retirement, Tim rose to the Assistant Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard. As the IDVA Assistant Director he collaborates with various organizations and State agencies to help veterans access their earned benefits.



Gabrielle Owens, General Counsel & Chief of Staff

Gabrielle brings over 25 years of legal experience to the team. She also provides leadership in policy, audit, and legislative functions. Gabrielle’s father is a retired Air Force colonel.



Amy Gibson, IVH Superintendent

Amy brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our community of veterans at the Home. With over 10 years of experience as a Nursing Home Administrator in various communities, she provides oversight and ensures quality care. Amy is a proud graduate of IUPUI and Indiana Wesleyan.



Bryan Schmidt, Operations Director

Bryan, a Marine Corps Veteran, served as a member of the Security Forces and as an Infantry Squad Leader. After service, Bryan returned to Indiana and attended Ball State University. Bryan continued serving the Indiana veteran community in many roles and now as the IDVA Operations Director.



Joseph DeVito, Communications Director

Joe is a Coast Guard veteran, Indiana University Southeast graduate, and veteran advocate since 2010 He is passionate about reaching veterans and increasing the number of veterans served and benefits awarded across the state.



TRAINING & SERVICES



Timothy E. Dyke
Director



Phil A. Krumm
Training Manager



Gary Bengé
Service Officer



Mark Gourley
Service Officer



Kevin Hinton
Service Officer



Ronald Higgins
Service Officer



Cambria Sparks
Service Officer



Cameron Lochner
Service Officer



Josh Tolen
Service Officer

CUSTOMER SERVICE



Kelly Cherry
Office Manager



Shannon Nicoloff
Customer Service



INDIANA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY



Alan J. Burnham
Superintendent



Charlie J. Burton
Asst. Superintendent



Albert S. Bennett
Foreman



David McKay
Foreman

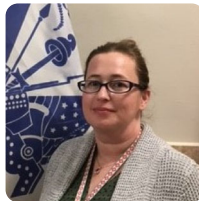


Sam Harmon
Operations

MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND



Lynn Dickey
Director



Janie Gregory
Assistant Director

LEGAL & LEGISLATIVE



Kyle Gross
Legislative Director



Brookelynn Deaton
Grant & Compliance Administrator

TECHNOLOGY



Devon Sprong
IT Director



STATE APPROVING AGENCY



Amber R. Mertens
Director



Tim Wilson
Assistant Director



Gary Rainey
Program Director



Sean Litchford
Program Director



Kimberly Bloodgood
Program Director

COMMUNICATIONS



Laura McKee
Outreach Director



Lesley Evans
Communications Supervisor



Brad Harper
ICC Community
Engagement Coordinator



Randy Moulder
ICC Veteran
Care Coordinator



Support, Serve, and Advocate for the Indiana Veteran Community

The Indiana Military and Veteran Community includes veterans, Indiana National Guard members, active duty personnel, reservists, and their family members and caregivers. It also extends to organizations, agencies, and providers who impact this community. Indiana owes a great debt to this community for their personal sacrifices and dedicated service to our nation and each other. The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) is committed to providing quality services, benefits, and programs. We are devoted to enhancing and expanding Indiana's resources while continuing our vision to:

Serve More, Serve Better, and Serve Together.

Improving the Lives of Indiana Veterans: The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA)

Since its establishment in 1945, the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) has been committed to enhancing the welfare of Indiana veterans. As benefits and veteran communities have evolved, IDVA has customized its communication to accommodate all veteran groups. Its staff members organize and participate in various events and activities across the state to reach out to veterans and their families throughout the year.

IDVA's partnerships with other state agencies and public and private organizations continue to expand. The Indiana Veterans Center houses numerous veteran agencies, including federal, state, city, and nonprofit organizations. This combination is unparalleled to any other facility in the country.



The organization is growing rapidly, and IDVA has been expanding its operations and staff to meet its goal of Supporting, Serving, and Advocating for Indiana's entire veteran community. Under the guidance of Director Jake Adams, the executive team focuses on transparency, implementing effective policies, empowering staff, and striving for positive change.

The entire IDVA, including the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery and the Indiana Veterans Home, is dedicated to achieving its vision that Indiana is the ideal place for veterans to live, work, and thrive.



The IDVA Training and Services Division comprises several key members, including the Director of Veterans Services, the Training Manager, and the State Veteran Service Officer. In addition, the mobile team consists of six District Service Officers (DSOs).

The Director of Veterans Services and the Training Manager manage daily state benefits applications and online Tuition and Fee Exemption applications. The State Service Officers specifically focus on assisting veterans applying for federal benefits, VA pension benefits, and VA health care enrollment.

IDVA maintains a quality partnership with Indiana's County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO). The CVSOs provide front-line state and federal benefit services for Indiana's Veteran Community. While the CVSOs are county staff, IDVA assists them with attaining and maintaining state-mandated VA accreditation. IDVA provides full access to VetraSpec, a standardized veteran claims management system that includes one account per CVSO office at no charge.

IDVA's six District Service Officers each cover 13-15 CVSO offices. They provide on-site accreditation training and special projects assistance to the CVSO and office staff. The DSOs provide full training and support for the claims management system, federal benefits application, and VA healthcare eligibility.



170 Total Active VetraSpec Accounts

90 IDVA Sponsored Accounts

Tuition & Fee Exemption Applications
2023-2024 Academic Year **2,215**

- 2,043 Awarded
- 72 Denied
- 101 On Hold

Indiana Veteran Benefits

Applications Processed

Veteran License Plates 1,078

- Disabled Veteran
- Purple Heart
- POW/MIA

Property Tax Deductions 634

- Disabled Veteran
- Peacetime & Wartime
- Surviving Spouse

Hunting & Fishing License 363

- Disabled Veteran
- Reduced Fee
- One Year & Ten Year

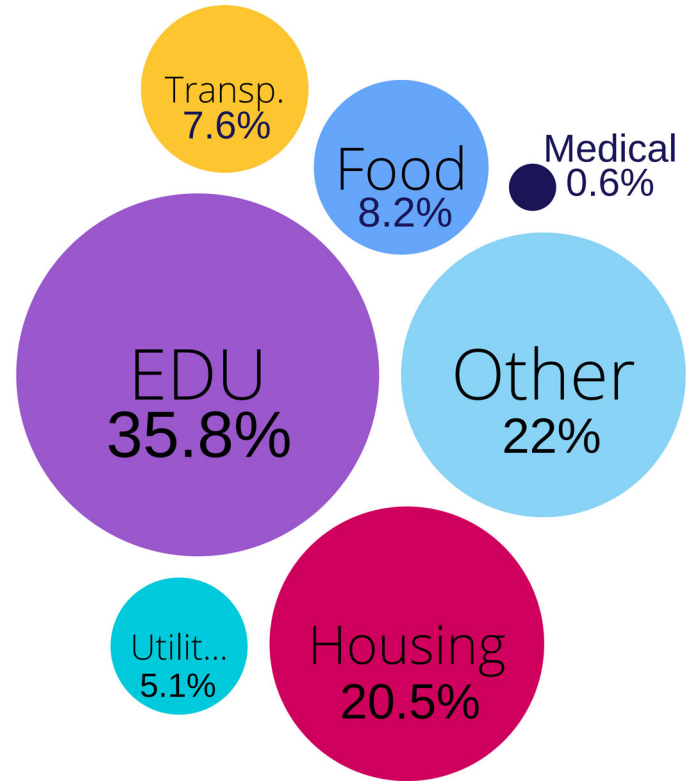


The Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF) is dedicated to supporting veterans and their dependents who are faced with financial hardships. The fund assists with essential household expenses that have become difficult to afford. In fiscal year 2025, the MFRF continued to offer its regular program and two specialty programs: Operation Holiday Program and Operation Back to School.

To streamline the application process, the MFRF has created an online portal for submitting applications on its website. Additionally, a new digital case management system is in place to ensure more efficient and accurate processing of applications.

The MFRF has established a robust network of partners to support veterans in various areas of need, including job searches, financial counseling, federal and health benefits, and legal counsel.

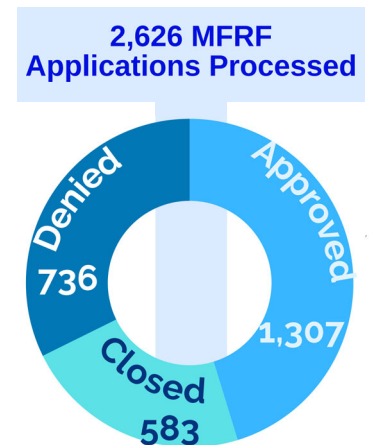
MFRF Expenditures by need:



MFRF Denial Reasons:



Total MFRF Expenditures
\$978,406.16



We make every effort to contact applicants and obtain any necessary information when an incomplete application is received. If we're unable to reach them after 30 days, the application is **closed without any impact on the applicant's ability to reapply.*



The State Approving Agency (SAA) is responsible for approving a variety of educational programs, including college and non-college degree programs, vocational flight training, high schools, apprenticeships, and other on-the-job training programs. These approvals enable veterans and other eligible individuals to receive federal educational assistance benefits through programs managed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Working in conjunction with the VA, the SAA is responsible for approving and maintaining the approval of educational and training facilities. The agency successfully fulfilled all requirements of the federal fiscal year 2024 cooperative agreement.

The SAA received a Satisfactory rating, the highest rating score from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, in FY 2025.

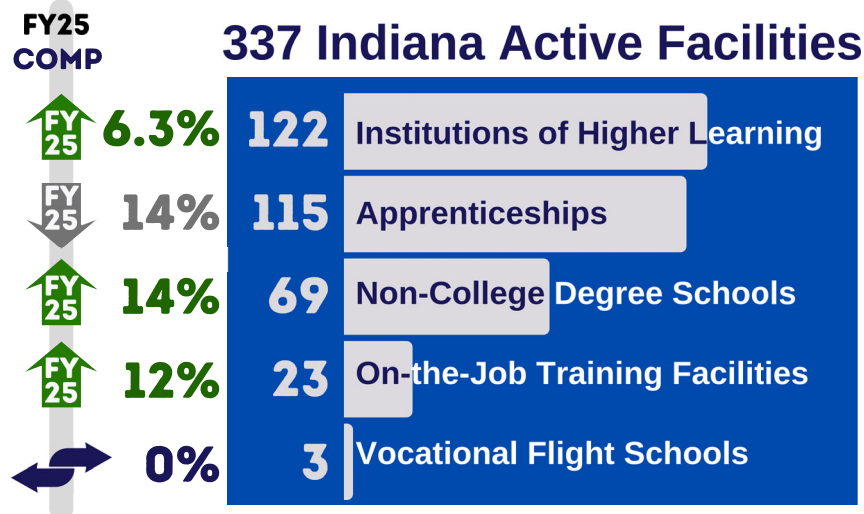
Apprenticeship Program (APP)

APP attracts veterans and their families from across the nation to live, work & thrive in Indiana



Without these APP programs, many federal GIBILL® benefits would remain unused!

337 Indiana Active Facilities



100% Completed

10

The purpose of Risk-Based Surveys is to review and mitigate potential fraud, waste, and abuse by utilizing data and risk factors that are outside of the normal approval, compliance, and liaison processes.

Assigned by the VA

Supervisory Visits are on-site reviews of an institution's records and practices to ensure compliance with VA requirements regarding veteran benefits and training quality.

20

100% Completed



The IDVA Legal & Legislative Division (ILL) serves as a trusted advisor to the IDVA Executive Team and all other divisions of IDVA. ILL is responsible for representing IDVA in appeals, coordinating all IDVA legislative functions, administering grants to nonprofit organizations that assist veterans and nationally chartered veteran service organizations, conducting compliance monitoring of state grant funds, executing contracts and other legal memoranda, and overseeing administrative activities for the Indiana Veterans Affairs Commission.

Grants For Veterans Services

GRANTEE	AWARD	SPENT
Echo Housing	\$44,000	100.00%
Family Association of Howard County	\$30,000	77.78%
Indiana Legal Service	\$45,000	100.00%
InteCare	\$20,000	100.00%
Indy Warrior Partnership	\$15,754	81.86%
Liberty Place	\$35,840	100.00%
Lafayette Transitional Housing Center	\$20,000	93.44%
NeighborLink Fort Wayne	\$19,172	100.00%
Operation Charlie Bravo	\$40,000	100.00%
Reach Services	\$35,000	24.57%
SIVLARF	\$10,000	54.08%
Turnstone	\$17,389	100.00%
True Top 1%	\$14,960	88.58%
Vets to Refs	\$10,000	65.34%
Veterans Changing Service	\$45,000	99.81%
YMCA	\$27,000	76.89%

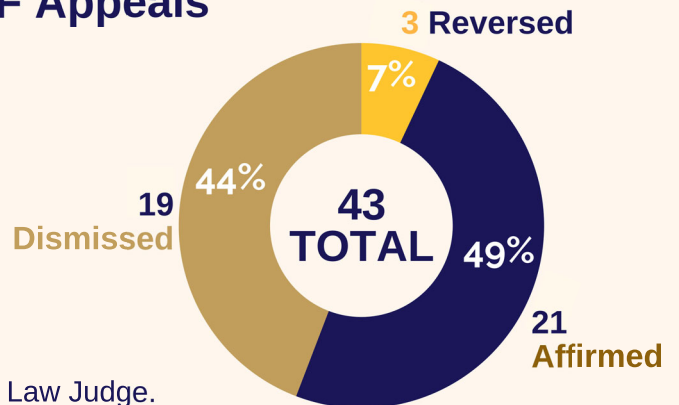
Tuition & Fee Exemption Appeals



MFRF OVER \$2,500 REQUESTS

148 Applications - 148 Approved
Total Awarded \$240,010.00

MFRF Appeals



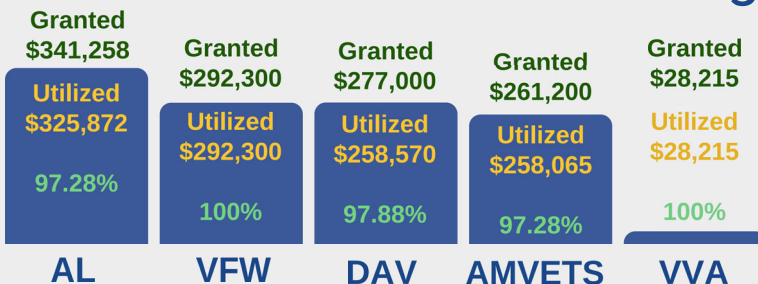
Decisions on MFRF appeals are adjudicated by an Administrative Law Judge.

Reversed Decision: Reverses the original MFRF denial and awards the applicant the funds requested.

Affirmed Decision: Affirms the original MFRF denial of the funds.

Dismissed Decision: The appeal hearing request was withdrawn by, or abandoned by the applicant.

Veteran Service Organization Grants



- AL - American Legion
- VFW - Veterans of Foreign Wars
- DAV - Disabled American Veterans
- AMVETS - American Veterans
- VVA - Vietnam Veterans of America



21,430 Unique Engagements



The number of unique interactions with the military community through multiple divisions in the agency.

38,187 Communications

Social media presence, direct subscription emails, intake phone calls, technical support, text, and engagement.



\$1,822,941.14 Awarded



Military Family Relief Funding, Grants for Veteran Services, and coalition grants for the ICC.



In January 2022, the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) accepted a challenge from VA/SAMHSA to prevent suicide among service members, veterans, their families, and caregivers through partnership, research, and data. The Indiana plan, which aims to foster partnerships and empower community-led coalitions and nonprofit organizations across Indiana to address this critical issue giving birth to the Indiana Community Challenge (ICC). By providing data, information, and funding, the plan supports locally envisioned strategies based on ICC provided data, resources and professional strategic planning.

The ICC team is lead by the IDVA Outreach Director and leads the Indiana state plan for suicide prevention for the Indiana military and veteran community. The team provides specialized support in community engagement with upstream prevention support, mental health provider engagement with crisis intervention support, and public health engagement with postvention support.

Empowering Communities to Serve those Who Served.

181

MILITARY & VETERAN COMMUNITY SPECIFIC EVENTS SUPPORTED BY IDVA OUTREACH



Social Media

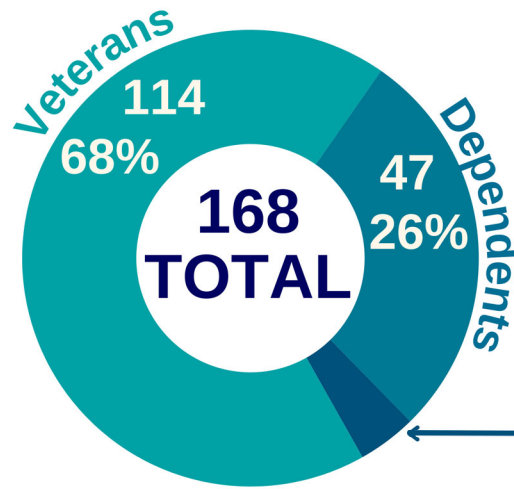




Honoring Veterans and Their Families at the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery

The Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery serves as both a final resting place and a lasting tribute to veterans and their families. It stands as a symbol of appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices made in service to our country.

IVMC INTERMENTS



7 National Guard

IVMC is now open to honoring Indiana's National Guard Veterans with full interment accesses.

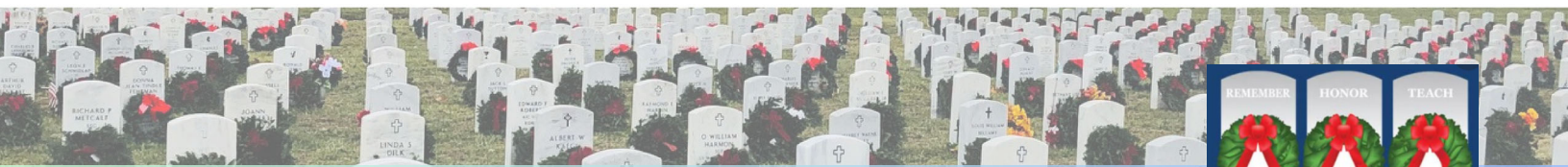


On May 26, 2025, IVMC hosted 250 guests for a Memorial Day service. The event was hosted by IVMC Superintendent Alan Burnham and featured poignant words by Madison Mayor Bob Courtney and Jefferson Co. Veteran Service Officer Faith Weir.

**PRE-NEED
BURIAL
APPLICATION**
216 Submitted
214 Approved

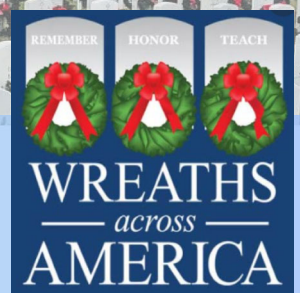


**Governor's Memorial
Certificates Issued**



Honoring Our Fallen Heroes: Wreaths Across America at IVMC

On December 13, 2025, IVMC hosted Wreaths Across America, an event that saw a remarkable turnout from the community with around 400 attendees. Together, we laid wreaths on every gravesite to honor those who sacrificed everything for our country. Nearly 2000 wreaths were placed, each one a symbol of gratitude for our fallen heroes.





Our Mission

To meet the unique needs of Indiana's veterans, spouses and families. Deliver high level care in a therapeutic home-like environment with compassion and comprehensive skilled care while integrating arts, and cultural programming.

Our Vision

Honor Indiana's veteran community through high level care, enhancing health, and yielding optimal quality of life while preserving the rich history of the home.



VA Nursing Hiring and Retention Grant

This grant, part of the VA Nursing Hiring and Retention Program, specifically focuses on increasing the hiring and retention of direct-care nursing staff at IVH, helping achieve the goal of employing more state nursing staff rather than relying on agency staff.



Residents: 120



as of 06/30/2025

Fishing Pond

The deck over the fishing pond was in need to be replaced. The American Legion and the DAV paid for the fishing pond deck replacement. The renovations of the area were completed along with a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 28, 2025. IVH Residents are excited to have the opportunity to continue fishing at the pond during the warm weather months.



IVH Recreation Activities



IVH hosts a wide range of activities throughout the year. Residents enjoy attending a Casino Trip to Golden Nugget casino in Danville, IL. This is a newer activity that IVH residents love!

American Legion brought back Legion Day to IVH in June 2025! American Legion Day is the second Sunday in June and began in 1986 as a traditional event that kicks off the beginning of Recognition Week.





FIRST FLOOR Veterans Administration

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) (800) 827-1000
Veterans Readiness & Employment (VBA) (800) 827-1000
VA HUD-VASH Vocational Rehabilitation (317) 464-1400

Indiana Veteran Service Organizations

Volunteers of America (463) 202-5864
Disabled American Veterans (317) 319-3844
INVETS (317) 353-3674
American Legion (317) 916-3605



SECOND FLOOR VA HUD-VASH Veteran Health Initiative Clinic (317) 778-0217

THIRD FLOOR Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (317) 232-3910

Indiana Department of Workforce Development (317) 234-8661

Local Veterans Employment Specialist (LVER)
Disabled Veteran Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP)

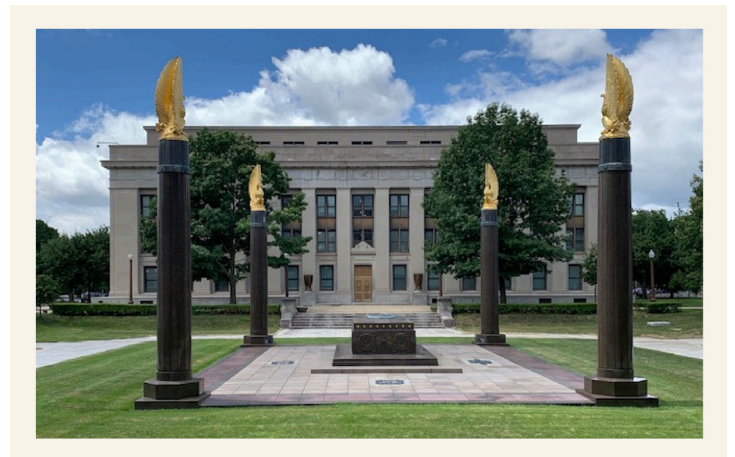
FOURTH FLOOR Operation Job Ready Vets

Historic Auditorium - Conference/Meeting Space (317) 921-5563



On March 15, 1919, members of the American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris to form the first American Legion caucus. This historic event marked the start of an organization dedicated to veteran benefits, resources, and programs, marking the start of a legacy of caring for veterans in the state of Indiana. In 1925, the American Legion took up residence in the four-story, 40,000 square foot iconic structure at 777 N. Meridian Street in downtown Indianapolis, IN.

"The Indiana Veterans Center is your one-stop shop for all veteran needs," said Joseph DeVito, Communications Director for IDVA. "Whether you're a veteran or a family member seeking assistance, our doors are open to help you. We are committed to supporting, serving, and advocating for Indiana's veteran community, and we strive to achieve these goals right here at the Indiana Veterans Center."





INDIANA DEPARTMENT of VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mission

The mission of the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is to Support, Serve, and Advocate for the Indiana Veteran Community.

Indiana Veterans Center

777 North Meridian Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204

