

**Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
Veterans Education and Training Section**

IDVA-VETS - Federal Mission

State Approving Agency

Per a federal contract with USDVA, perform all duties necessary for the inspection, approval and supervision of programs offered by qualified educational institutions, training establishments, and tests for licensing and certification exams in accordance with both federal and state laws and regulations.

Conduct risk-based surveys of approved educational institutions and training establishments.

Provide in-depth technical assistance, outreach and liaison with all related organizations, agencies, individuals and activities.

Actively encourage and promote the increased usage of the GI Bill® through a vigorous and aggressive outreach program.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>."

IDVA-VETS - State Mission

Deceased, Disabled, and MIA-POW Veterans Dependents Scholarship

Administer an education scholarship for dependents of veterans who are either Missing in Action, a Prisoner of War, died while on active duty, 100% disabled due to service-connected disabilities or died as a result of service-connected disabilities.

Deceased, Disabled, and MIA-POW Veterans Dependents Educational Opportunity Grant

Provide financial aid (\$250) annually to each child between the ages of 10 and 18 of a veteran who died or became 100% total and permanently disabled as a result of service in the Armed Forces.

IDVA-VETS - Personnel

Administrator: Dan Wellman (Springfield)

State Approving Agency:

Janine Arriola (Wheaton)

Enrique Cabrera (Joliet)

Melissa Cushman (Springfield)

Jay Hoffman (Springfield)

Tiffany Perry (Deerfield)

Andrew Pieper (Deerfield)

Deceased, Disabled, and MIA-POW Veterans Dependents
Scholarship and Educational Opportunity Grant:

Tracy Kimmel (Springfield)

IDVA-VETS - Illinois State Approving Agency Program Approvals

Number of Approved Facilities by Facility Type

Facility Type	Explanation	Approved Facilities
IHL	Degree Granting Institutions, Residencies, and Fellowships	195 (-4)
NCD	Vocational Schools	120 (-17)
APP	Apprenticeship Programs	151 (3)
OJT	On-the-Job Training Programs	500 (25)
FLT	Vocational Flight Schools	5
HS	High Schools	285 (31)
L&C	Licensing and Certification Exams	59
L&C PC	Licensing and Certification Exam Prep Course	1
	Total	1316 (37)

Number in parenthesis indicates change from October 2022

Data as of March 13, 2023

IDVA-VETS - GI Bill Impact

Top 20 Illinois Universities, Colleges or Vocational Schools by Total Number of GI Bill Beneficiaries

DeVry University-Online	1898 ↑	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	566 ↑
Chamberlain University	464 ↓	Illinois State University	421 ↓
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	390 ↑	Southwestern Illinois College	360 ↓
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign	340 ↓	DePaul University	340 ↑
University of Illinois Chicago	321 ↓	Northern Illinois University	293 ↓
College of DuPage	219 ↓	Western Illinois University	197 -
Loyola University	175 ↓	College of Lake County	149 ↓
Eastern Illinois University	133 ↑	Universal Technical Institute	126 ↑
University of Illinois Springfield	124 -	Concordia University	117 ↑
McKendree University	107 ↑	Lewis Univ. and Joliet Junior Coll	103 ↑

Table updated every April and October. Arrows indicate change in GI Bill beneficiary population from last update (April 2022).

Data from October 2023

IDVA-VETS - GI Bill Impact

Number of Illinois GI Bill Recipients in Universities, Colleges and Vocational Schools by Year

	Average Per Month	High Month	Low Month
2013	18,470	23,199	11,327
2014	17,686	23,636	10,604
2015	15,479	20,461	10,306
2016	13,876	18,544	8761
2017	13,130	18,261	7543
2018	11,604	16,731	6630
2019	10,924	14,324	6040
2020	9620	13,007	5529
2021	9503	13,935	5105
2022	8663	11,573	4877

These numbers do not include 1000-1500 GI Bill Recipients in Illinois enrolled in apprenticeship and OJT programs monthly. Illinois is the number one provider of apprenticeship and OJT programs in the nation.

IDVA-VETS - GI Bill Impact

GI Bill Fiscal Impact in Illinois by Chapter

	30	32	33	35	1606/1607	Total
FFY22	\$8,660,960	\$151,656	\$169,722,845	\$21,667,131	\$5,910,285	\$206,112,877
FFY21	\$9,478,793	\$8,369	\$187,304,395	\$18,883,734	\$5,670,707	\$221,345,998
FFY20	\$11,634,405	\$0	\$207,391,246	\$17,590,451	\$6,186,942	\$242,803,044
FFY19	\$17,065,853	\$5117	\$220,090,592	\$15,747,179	\$6,398,566	\$259,307,307
FFY18	\$10,509,973	\$3414	\$225,514,659	\$11,508,434	\$6,300,501	\$253,836,981
FFY17	\$12,685,207	\$25	\$182,718,872	\$8,422,386	\$5,201,957	\$209,028,422
FFY16	\$24,184,162	\$5980	\$249,763,389	\$11,206,089	\$7,395,912	\$292,555,532
FFY15	\$30,332,513	\$5619	\$235,172,404	\$10,493,863	\$8,035,616	\$284,040,015
FFY14	\$47,837,321	\$5475	\$239,013,032	\$11,561,005	\$8,332,713	\$306,749,546
FFY13	\$44,951,092	\$8216	\$220,997,149	\$585,098	\$9,011,721	\$274,968,178
FFY12	\$40,215,314	\$19,600	\$192,133,249	\$8,355,228	\$8,382,795	\$249,106,186

IDVA-VETS - Scholarship

Claims and Total Waiver Amount by Fiscal Year

	Claims	Total Scholarships	Total Paid by IDVA
FY23 (Fall 22)	737	\$3,198,514.77	\$3,198,514.77
FY22	1287	\$4,490,590.30	\$3,500,000.00
FY21	1237	\$3,943,487.07	\$3,500,000.00
FY20	1415	\$3,982,295.69	\$3,500,000.00
FY19	1352	\$3,488,804.82	\$0
FY18	1197	\$3,124,326.20	\$0
FY17	1216	\$3,025,089.44	\$0
FY16	1166	\$2,978,378.33	\$0

Claims and Total Expenditures by Fiscal Year

	Claims Approved	Total Expenditures	Notes
FY23	272	\$68,000	
FY22	344	\$86,000	
FY21	306	\$76,500	
FY20	307	\$100,000	
FY19	227	\$50,000	
FY18	182	\$50,000	
FY17	198	\$45,000	
FY16	161	\$40,250	

IDVA-VETS - Educational Opportunity Grant

IDVA-VETS - Challenges and Opportunities

- Rewrite State Approving Agency Approval Database with Microsoft (Final phase in January 2023 – building portal)
- Decreasing student veteran population in Illinois
- Expanding education and training opportunities for Illinois veterans while approving only quality programs of education and training meeting both federal and state laws, rules, and regulations
- Managing change for the State Approving Agency in the administration of the GI Bill. In addition to Isakson-Roe, there are 2-3 new federal laws per year, no regulatory updates, and constant and frequently conflicting policy advisories from USDVA). Additional requirements are a challenge for schools for also.

IDVA-VETS - Successes

- Moved the administration of the Scholarship to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission GAP Access Online Program
- Increased Appropriations for Educational Opportunities Grant Program from \$50K to \$100K
- Received funding for Scholarship Program – FY20 first time program funded in over ten years - \$3.5 million
- Established paperless, electronic approval process of education and training facilities for GI Bill
- Continued 10 year run as the SAA with the most active apprenticeship and OJT programs in the nation

IDVA-VETS - A few notes

- Enrollment Manager Implementation
- Chapter 35 must be charged in-district/in-state tuition rates per federal and state law
- USDVA compliance surveys conducted by third-party contractor (St. George)
- Risk Based Surveys conducted by SAA
- Veterans Coordinator Meetings

**IDVA-VETS
- Contact
Information
and
Questions**

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