

**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 and supervisory visits at 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 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.

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.

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	186 (-9)
NCD	Vocational Schools	121 (1)
APP	Apprenticeship Programs	161 (10)
OJT	On-the-Job Training Programs	458 (-42)
FLT	Vocational Flight Schools	5
HS	High Schools	367 (82)
L&C	Licensing and Certification Exams	61 (2)
L&C PC	Licensing and Certification Exam Prep Course	2 (1)
	Total	1361 (45)

Number in parenthesis indicates change from October 2023

Data as of March 4, 2024

IDVA-VETS - GI Bill Impact

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

DeVry University-Online	3353 ↑	Chamberlain University	958 ↑
SIUE	671 ↑	UIUC	551 ↑
ISU	545 ↑	Southwestern Illinois College	468 ↑
UIC	450 ↑	SIUC	414 ↑
NIU	395 ↑	DePaul University	342 ↑
College of DuPage	310 ↑	University of Chicago	275 ↑
WIU	258 ↑	Loyola University	247 ↑
College of Lake County	217 ↑	EIU	174 ↑
Lewis University	160 ↑	Lincoln Land Community College	159 ↑
UIS	158 ↑	Columbia College	144 ↑

Table updated for every fall and spring term. Arrows indicate change in GI Bill beneficiary population from last update (Fall 2023).

Data from February 2024

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
2023	9764	13,074	5623

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
FFY12	\$40,215,314	\$19,600	\$192,133,249	\$8,355,228	\$8,382,795	\$249,106,186
FFY13	\$44,951,092	\$8216	\$220,997,149	\$585,098	\$9,011,721	\$274,968,178
FFY14	\$47,837,321	\$5475	\$239,013,032	\$11,561,005	\$8,332,713	\$306,749,546
FFY15	\$30,332,513	\$5619	\$235,172,404	\$10,493,863	\$8,035,616	\$284,040,015
FFY16	\$24,184,162	\$5980	\$249,763,389	\$11,206,089	\$7,395,912	\$292,555,532
FFY17	\$12,685,207	\$25	\$182,718,872	\$8,422,386	\$5,201,957	\$209,028,422
FFY18	\$10,509,973	\$3414	\$225,514,659	\$11,508,434	\$6,300,501	\$253,836,981
FFY19	\$17,065,853	\$5117	\$220,090,592	\$15,747,179	\$6,398,566	\$259,307,307
FFY20	\$11,634,405	\$0	\$207,391,246	\$17,590,451	\$6,186,942	\$242,803,044
FFY21	\$9,478,793	\$8,369	\$187,304,395	\$18,883,734	\$5,670,707	\$221,345,998
FFY22	\$8,660,960	\$151,656	\$169,722,845	\$21,667,131	\$5,910,285	\$206,112,877
FFY23	\$8,405,051	\$52,624	\$175,837,264	\$29,268,011	\$6,423,460	\$219,986,410

IDVA-VETS - Scholarship

Claims and Total Waiver Amount by Fiscal Year

	Claims	Total Scholarships	Total Paid by IDVA
FY16	1166	\$2,978,378.33	\$0
FY17	1216	\$3,025,089.44	\$0
FY18	1197	\$3,124,326.20	\$0
FY19	1352	\$3,488,804.82	\$0
FY20	1415	\$3,982,295.69	\$3,500,000.00
FY21	1237	\$3,943,487.07	\$3,500,000.00
FY22	1287	\$4,490,590.30	\$3,500,000.00
FY23	1872	\$7,127,472.93	\$3,500,000.00
FY24 (Fall 23)	999	\$4,205,620.25	\$3,500,000.00

Claims and Total Expenditures by Fiscal Year

	Claims Approved	Total Expenditures	Notes
FY16	161	\$40,250	
FY17	198	\$49,500	
FY18	182	\$45,500	
FY19	227	\$50,000	27 claims paid with FY23 funding
FY20	313	\$85,000	
FY21	306	\$76,500	
FY22	344	\$86,000	
FY23	421	\$100,000	21 Paid with FY24 Funding
FY24	379	\$100,000	53 Claims Pending

IDVA-VETS - Educational Opportunity Grant

IDVA-VETS - Thoughts and Trends

- Slight uptick in student veteran population with significant increase in dependents using benefits
- Managing change for the State Approving Agency in the administration of the GI Bill. With 2-3 new federal laws per year, no regulatory updates, additional and more stringent approval criteria, and constant and frequently conflicting policy advisories from USDVA, it is difficult to keep small vocational schools in the program, and to keep all other facilities in line with requirements.
- 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
- Increased supervisory visits, and more targeted, but less risk based surveys

IDVA-VETS - Thoughts and Trends

- Move to an online application system challenges with uniform application, development of system delayed
- Education Grant application system going online at GAP Access
- Enrollment Management Challenges
- IVG/ING/IDVA Scholarship Funding

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

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