

Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

2024 Legislative Initiatives

In order to continue the programs that support Iowa veterans and their families, we support the protection of the financial integrity of the following agencies and programs:

- Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
- Iowa Veterans Home
- Iowa Veterans Cemetery
- Military Home Ownership Program
- Iowa Veterans Trust Fund
- County Allocation Funds
- Injured Veteran Grant Program
- Veterans License Fee Fund

TOP PRIORITIES

1. **Align ‘Veteran’ Definition:** We fully support changes to the Iowa Code *definition of a “Veteran”* to match the *Federal Code* definition, and updates Iowa Code section 35.
2. **Property Tax Relief:** We fully support Disabled Veterans rated 10% thru 90% having their **property taxes offset** by the percentage of their United States Department of Veteran Affairs Disability Compensation rating.
3. **Veterans Treatment Courts:** We fully support legislation to establish and expand **Veterans Treatment Courts**.
4. **Ensure Training Support for County Veterans Affairs Offices:** We fully support a change to Iowa Code, specifying **\$3,000** of the annual \$10,000 allocation of county funding for Veterans Affairs Offices be for the exclusive use of mandatory certified state and federally-provided professional VSO credential training.
5. **Support Veteran Service Organizations:** We fully support proposals for **partial grants** to help maintain Veteran Service Organization officers and services currently co-located in downtown Des Moines.

AWARENESS ISSUES:

- A) We support any legislation that will improve **Mental Health** support and **Suicide Prevention** for our veterans, their families, and all Iowans.
- B) We support legislation that supports the needs of **homeless and under-served veterans**.
- C) We support legislation to align Iowa Code with Federal Code regarding the timing and manner of display of the **National League of POW/MIA families’ flag** on all State of Iowa properties.

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You can find your legislator at: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>

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