



**INDIANA VETERAN BENEFITS AS OF MAY 2018**

**HIGHER EDUCATION BENEFITS**

**Free College for Purple Heart Recipients**

- The State pays for 8 semesters (124 credits) of college for honorably discharged Purple Heart recipients from Indiana. (FY 17 \$32.5K)

**Free College for Children of Wounded Veterans**

- The State pays for 8 semesters (124 credits) of college for children of honorably discharged Hoosier Purple Heart recipients and Hoosier veterans wounded in enemy action. (FY 17 \$378K)

**Financial Aid for Children of Disabled/Deceased Veterans**

- For children of certain honorably discharged Hoosier disabled veterans, the State pays a percent of their college costs equal to 20% plus the parent's percent disability.
- Eligible disabled veterans must have suffered a service-connected death or disability during a war or "performed duty equally hazardous that was recognized by the award of a service or campaign medal." (FY 17 \$22.4M)

**In-State Tuition for Veterans**

- All honorably discharged veterans who enroll in an Indiana public college within one year of discharge are eligible for in-state tuition, even if they haven't lived in Indiana long enough to meet the college's normal requirements for in-state tuition.
- All honorably discharged veterans who have served at least 180 days on the USS Indiana are eligible for in-state tuition at Indiana public universities if they enroll within at least one year of discharge, even if they are not Indiana residents.

**College Credit for Military Work**

- State universities are required to award credit to veterans for courses they completed at other higher education institutions during their military service and competency tests they passed during their military service.

**Free College for Indiana National Guard Members**

- The National Guard Supplemental Grant ensures that all Indiana Air and Army National Guard members receive 100% tuition and fee support while attending higher education (2016: \$153K)

**Free College for Children and Spouses of Deceased Indiana National Guard members**

- Guarantees 100% tuition and fee support for students who are the children or spouse of a member of the Indiana national Guard who suffered a service connected death while serving on state active duty

**Free Reenrollment or Refund for Military Deployment**

- If a college student is called for active duty after having paid their tuition for the semester, they may reenroll free of charge when they return or they may receive a full refund for the tuition.

## **HEALTH CARE**

### **Indiana Veterans' Home**

- The Indiana Veterans' Home in West Lafayette offers independent living, comprehensive care, and short-term rehabilitation options to all honorably discharged Hoosier veterans.
- There is a cost to live at the Veterans' Home, but for the vast majority of residents, that cost is covered by Medicaid or federal Veterans Affairs benefits.

### **Hyperbaric Treatment Pilot Program**

- Running until 2020, Indiana offers a hyperbaric oxygen treatment pilot program for qualifying veterans suffering from a traumatic brain injury or PTSD (FY 2018 \$500,000 & FY 2019 \$500,000)

## **TAX BENEFITS**

### **Military Homesteads and Leases**

- Allows a property to continue to qualify as a homestead even if the property is leased while the owner is serving on active-duty in the armed forces, so long as the owner has lived at the property at any time in the past 10 years

### **Property Tax Deduction for Partially Disabled Veterans**

- An honorably discharged veteran with a service-connected disability of at least 10% or the veteran's surviving spouse is entitled to a \$24,960 property tax deduction each year
  - CY 2016: 58,257 deductions were taken for a total of \$1.239M in assessed value

### **Property Tax Deduction for Totally Disabled Veterans or Partially Disabled Veterans Age 62+**

- An honorably discharged veteran with a total disability or who is at least 62 years old with a disability of at least 10% (or the veteran's surviving spouse) is entitled to a \$12,480 property tax deduction if the assessed value of the property is less than \$175,000.
  - CY 2016: 18,626 deductions were taken for a total of \$203.3M in assessed value
- An honorably discharged veteran with at least a 50% disability is entitled to a property tax deduction for their home if it was donated to them by a tax-exempt organization. The veteran's percent-disability rating equals the percent AV that is deducted. (For example, 60% disability gets 60% AV deduction.)

### **Vehicle Excise Tax Credit**

- If a veteran or surviving spouse qualifies for a property tax deduction described above but doesn't own real property, he/she can receive a credit of up to \$70 toward his/her vehicle excise tax instead.

### **Military Service Deduction: Active, Reserve and Retirement Pay**

- If a person reports income from active or reserve military pay, then he/she is eligible to deduct up to \$5,000 of the income earned. If the person and his/her spouse both earned military income, they may claim up to \$10,000
- Military income earned while in a combat zone is exempt from Indiana income tax, provided that it is also exempt from federal income tax.
- A person who is retired from the military and receiving military retirement or survivor's benefits (or the person's surviving spouse) is also eligible for a \$6,250 deduction.  
(Tax Year 2014: \$217M)

### **National Guard and Reserve Component Members Deduction**

- Members of the reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or the Merchant Marine, or members of the Indiana National Guard may receive an income tax deduction for qualified military income received while they were deployed and mobilized for full

time service, or during the period their National Guard unit was federalized.

- Qualified military income is military wages paid to a member of a reserve component or the Indiana National Guard for the period during the member's full-time service or when the Guard unit was federalized.
- A person cannot claim both this deduction and the Military Service Deduction based on the same income.  
(Tax Year 2014: \$42.6M)

#### **Non-Resident Military Spouse Earned Income Deduction**

- An Indiana non-resident military spouse may be eligible for an earned income deduction equal to the amount of his/her Indiana earned income if the military member and his/her spouse are domiciled in the same state, the military member is in Indiana on military orders, and the spouse is in Indiana to live at the same address as the military member.

### **VETERANS' SERVICES**

#### **Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA)**

- The 2018-2019 budget provides the IDVA with \$5.7 million in funding over the biennium—a more than 300% increase since 2013
  - Services expanded in FY 2018 to include six new state veterans' service officers (\$300,000 per year)

#### **Hoosier Women Veterans Program**

- Provides outreach to the over 33,000 women veterans living in Indiana

#### **Veterans' Service Organizations**

- Provides funding to veterans' service organizations including the:
    - American Legion
    - Disabled Veterans
    - Veterans of Foreign Wars
    - AMVETS
- (FY 2018 \$910,000, FY 2019 \$910,000)

#### **Veterans' Problem-Solving Courts**

- These courts are meant to help veterans that commit low-level offenses who may be dealing with drug addiction or mental health issues.
- Upon successful completion of the program, participants can receive a reduced penalty.
- State funding for veterans courts was doubled in the 2018-2019 budget from \$500,000 per year to \$1 million per year.

### **BUSINESS LICENSING BENEFITS**

#### **Exemption from Professional Licensing Requirements**

- Veterans are exempt from professional licensing requirements if they received relevant training as part of their military service.
- Military spouses are exempt from professional licensing requirements if they held a similar license in another jurisdiction and demonstrate professional competence.

#### **Vendor's Licenses**

- Any wartime veteran who has been honorably discharged is exempt from the city and county fees for licenses to sell goods door-to-door, provide a business service, or sell merchandise from various locations

#### **Local Government License Fees**

- Local governments waive business and professional license fees for veterans and their spouses.

## **JOB TRAINING ASSISTANCE**

### **Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP)**

- DWD program that specializes in tailored training and job placement opportunities for veterans with service-connected disabilities

### **Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) Program**

- DWD program that coordinates services provided to veterans, including counseling, testing and identifying training and employment opportunities

### **Veterans' Employment and Training Program Preference**

- Veterans and their spouses receive priority placement in any federal or state employment or training program administered by DWD.

## **HIRING PREFERENCES**

### **Private Employment Preference Policies**

- Allows private employers to establish an employment preference policy for hiring, promoting or retaining veterans.

### **State Employee Hiring**

- Provides for the addition of points for veterans applying for merit positions or promotions within state government

### **State Contracting Goal**

- The State has established a goal of making 3% of its contracts with Indiana veteran-owned businesses. The State doubled that goal in 2014, signing 6% of its contracts with Indiana veteran-owned businesses.

## **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**

### **Military Family Relief Fund**

- Provides emergency financial assistance with utility bills, food purchases, etc. to households of veterans who served on active-duty for at least one year during any armed conflict.

### **Indiana Servicemembers Civil Relief Act**

- Supplements the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act by allowing members of the military to cancel contracts for telecommunications services, Internet, gym memberships, etc. without penalty upon active duty call-up.

### **Homeless Veterans Pilot Program**

- Supports programs and organizations helping homeless Hoosier veterans (FY 2017 \$500,000, FY 2018 \$500,000)

## **RECREATION PERKS**

### **Golden Hoosier Passport**

- Provides unlimited admission to all Indiana state-owned parks, recreation areas, reservoirs and forests.
- Those eligible for the Disabled American Veteran license plate may purchase the Passport for \$20, which is a 50% discount from the Resident Annual Entrance Permit.
- Indiana residents who are former POWs and their surviving spouses are entitled to a free Golden Hoosier Permit.

### **Resident Veteran Hunting & Fishing License**

- Indiana residents with a service-connected disability can purchase an Indiana license to hunt and fish for a very reduced fee (\$2.75 each for fishing and small game vs. \$17 each, \$2.75 for hunting and fishing combined vs. \$25 combined).

**Veteran' Service Organization Charity Gaming License**

- The Indiana Gaming Commission may issue special three-year charity gaming licenses to veterans' service organizations. These permits can be used for charity games such as raffles and bingo that raise money for the veterans' organizations.