



Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs

2021 Legislative Initiatives



We support the protection, growth, full funding and financial integrity of the following agencies and programs:

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

Top priorities:

We fully support an increase and sustainable subsequent increase of funds for the **Military Home Ownership Assistance Program**.

Full support of the **Veterans Home carry over** funds. Iowa Code 35D.18 states that should the Iowa Veterans Home have any carry forward balance it will remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of the fiscal year, and does not revert but remains available for expenditure. **HF2643** proposed reducing any carry over.

Veterans Treatment Courts: **SF2287** was voted for but never went to the floor in 2020.

County Allocation funds and **County Education** funds discussed last year, are still needed to improve the education of our County Service officers. **HF 2618** was undecided last year.

Support of the **Veterans Home non-smoking** policies and procedures. **SF 2355** did not make it to the floor for vote.

Awareness Issues

*We support any and all legislation pertaining to **Mental Health** for our Disabled Veterans, their families and all Iowans suffering from these diverse life-taking conditions.

*Support of the Iowa National Guard **STEM/STEAM** programs, specifically transitioning of allocated funds to expand scholarship opportunities to the states youth.

*Support of the **Military Property Tax** exemption, and an annual **cost of living** increase.

* Support legislation directing all state agencies in all locations to fly the **POW/MIA flag** directly below the United States Flag and above the Iowa State Flag, at least on the federally mandated holidays: POW/MIA Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day.

* Support of any legislation to eradicate **Homelessness** in the state of Iowa.