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## BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2018

Fiscal Services Division

November 30, 2017



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

## Department of Veterans Affairs — General Administration

### History and Purpose

The Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) was created in 1978 Iowa Acts, chapter 1040 (Department of Veterans Affairs Act), and was reorganized into the Veterans Affairs Division within the Department of Public Defense (DPD) with 1986 Iowa Acts, chapter 1245 (State Government Reorganization Act). The Division was removed from the DPD and became an independent commission in 1992 Iowa Acts, chapter 1140 (Veterans Affairs Act), and was re-established as a department in 2005 Iowa Acts, chapter 115 (Veterans Affairs Act). Prior to the inception of the IDVA, many of the Department's current duties were assigned to the Adjutant General.

The mission of the IDVA is to serve veterans and their families, to connect veterans with available benefits, to provide dignified services and compassionate family assistance, and to provide high-quality operations at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery. The administrative staff is located at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. The overall responsibilities can be summarized as:

- Educating veterans and active duty reserve members on entitlements and resources under State and federal laws.
- Being a central point of contact in State government for veterans' issues.
- Maintaining the burial records of over 185,000 deceased Iowa veterans.

### Services Provided

The IDVA is responsible for fulfilling the following tasks:

- Maintain and disseminate information to veterans and the public regarding facilities, benefits, and services available to veterans and their families, and assist veterans and their families in obtaining such benefits and services.
- Maintain information and data concerning the military service records of Iowa veterans.
- Assist County Veteran Affairs Commissions established pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 35B.
- Oversee the Iowa Veterans Cemetery.

State programs that the IDVA operates or participates in include:

- County Veterans Affairs Commission Grants.
- A variety of assistance grants from the Veterans Trust Fund.
- War Orphans Education Assistance.
- Home Ownership Assistance Program.
- Vietnam Conflict Veterans Bonus.
- Home Base Iowa Initiative.

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### More Information

Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs: [va.iowa.gov](http://va.iowa.gov)  
LSA Staff Contact: Kenneth Ohms (515.725.2200) [kenneth.ohms@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:kenneth.ohms@legis.iowa.gov)

### **Funding**

The overall budget for IDVA general administration is completely supported by the State General Fund. Funding is used for both general operations and cemetery operations. Budget support is provided through the DPD.

### **Related Statutes and Administrative Rules**

Iowa Code chapter [35A](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [801](#)