

# Iowa Veterans Home

## Interoffice Memo



**Date:** January 17, 2003  
**To/Office:** Sue Lerdal, LFB on behalf of the Appropriation Subcommittee for Health & Human Services  
**From/Office:** Byron Coghlan, Commandant  
**Subject:** Explanation of Budget Unit

The Iowa Veterans Home (IVH) was established in 1887. As mandated under Iowa Code Chapter 35D, IVH shall be maintained as a long-term health care facility for veterans who have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces and their spouses/widows. Eligible persons must complete an admission application through the County Commission of Veterans Affairs in their home county to verify residency requirements. This application is then forwarded to IVH whereby a committee meets to determine what level of care is required for this person. The Iowa Code mandates that IVH provide multiple levels of care:

- Domiciliary (similar to residential care) – 113 operating beds available
  - Physically high functioning – need minimal assistance for day to day activities, but can no longer live independently
  - Disorders include substance abuse dependence, mental health disorders, etc.
- Infirmary Care (similar to light hospital care) – 26 operating beds available
  - Need constant medical attention and nursing supervision
  - Conditions may include urinary tract infections, tracheotomy care, tube feedings, pneumonia, and upper respiratory infections.
- Nursing Care – 629 operating beds available
  - Residents range from needing limited to complete assistance with their activities of daily living.
  - Complex care includes IV's, catheters, 252 oxygen beds, bladder scans, wound treatments, pulse oximetry, amputee care, infection isolation, etc.
  - Three specialty units include Alzheimers (37 beds), Dementia (41 beds) and the Special Care Unit (37 beds) for residents requiring a more structured program in which to reside.

The Iowa Veterans Home has a “one stop shop” for care. Services provided include:

- Nursing and Physician care.
- Resident's prescriptions, glasses, hearing aides, special equipment (including beds), oxygen, etc.
- Physician fees, lab work, transportation to and from hospitals and clinics
- Physical therapy, occupational therapy, social services, psychiatry, psychology, nutrition therapy, recreational therapy, speech and hearing, hospice, etc.
- Chaplains performing religious ceremonies and counseling, arts and craft/ceramics, woodworking and a library.
- Meals catered to the resident's diet according to medical need.
- Laundry, housekeeping and sewing services.
- Banking services on site.