

LAKE COUNTY SERVICES FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

LET US
WORK FOR
YOU...

Here in Lake County, Illinois, we appreciate the dedication and commitment of the men and women who have served in the United States Military. In honor of your service, we have numerous resources to help support you and your families. You have served your country; now let us work for you.



www.lakecountyil.gov

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

The mission of the Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) is to provide support to veterans and eligible dependents who reside within Lake County. This includes VA benefits, job coaching, and emergency financial assistance.

How can we help?

Claims are the primary function of the VAC. The VAC assists in filing all veteran affairs claims which range from compensation for service-connected injuries, aid and attendance, burial benefits (when applicable), and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC).

All staff members are certified by the Veterans Affairs General Counsel. The VAC's accredited attorney is admitted to practice and represents veterans at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Location

Veterans Assistance Commission
501 N. Route 21, Suite 106
Gurnee, IL 60031



Phone: 847-377-3344

Email: veterans@lakecountyil.gov

Hours: Monday - Friday

8 a.m. – 3 p.m. (by appointment only)

Closed 12 – 1 p.m. for lunch

Stay Connected with the VAC

Get the latest veterans news and information from the Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission:

Newsletter: Sign up by emailing veterans@lakecountyil.gov

Website: lakecountyil.gov/veterans

Facebook: facebook.com/LakeCountyVAC

VETERAN AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



To better address veteran homelessness and veterans in need and in crisis, the Lake County Sheriff's Office is partnering with the Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) and other County partners on the Veteran Ambassador Program.

To ensure crisis services are available to veterans at all times, select Sheriff's Office employees are trained on issues of veteran homelessness and veterans "in crisis" as well as transport, shelter, and referral options for immediate assistance. Training was provided by VA staff, the Lake County VAC, and PADS Lake County.



Martin Paulson, Chief County Assessment Officer, and the Chief County Assessment Office (CCAO) recently received the Seven Seals Award in recognition of their outstanding support of the military and veterans. The CCAO has worked in partnership with the Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission to ensure a continuation of the Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities.

CHIEF COUNTY ASSESSMENT OFFICE

Multiple exemptions are available through the Chief County Assessment Office that can help eligible veterans save money on their property taxes. This includes the Standard Homestead Exemption for Veterans with Disabilities (SHEVD). The SHEVD provides an annual reduction in the equalized assessed value of a primary residence occupied by a veteran with a disability or the veteran's surviving spouse.

The benefit of this exemption is as follows:

- If the veteran has a service-connected disability of 30% or more but less than 50%, then the annual exemption is \$2,500;
- If the veteran has a service-connected disability of 50% or more but less than 70%, then the annual exemption is \$5,000;
- If the veteran has a service-connected disability of 70% or more, then the residential property is exempt from taxation.

Eligibility Criteria

- Be an Illinois resident who served as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty or state active duty, Illinois National Guard, or U.S. Reserve Forces, and who has an honorable discharge; and
- Have at least a 30 percent service-connected disability certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and
- Own and occupy the property as the primary residence on January 1 of the assessment year or lease and occupy a single family residence on January 1 of the assessment year and be liable for the payment of the property taxes to the county.

Please note: This exemption is limited to residential property with an equalized assessed value of less than \$250,000. For more information on this exemption and other exemptions available to veterans, contact the Chief County Assessment Office.

Chief County Assessment Office

18 N. County St., 7th Floor, Waukegan

Phone: 847.377.2050

Email: Assessor@lakecountyil.gov

RECORDER OF DEEDS

The Lake County Recorder of Deeds is the official keeper of your Military Discharge records. These records date back to 1919.

A Request for Discharge Record must be completed to receive a copy of any military service discharge record that has been recorded in Lake County, IL. Only qualified people listed on this form with proper identification are eligible to request a military service discharge record. Please visit www.lakecountyil.gov/recorder to review or complete the form. Either fax or mail the completed form to the Lake County Recorder's Office to receive a copy of your military paperwork.

If a Military Service Discharge Form was not previously recorded in Lake County, then you must request copies of military service discharge records from the National

Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, MO. Your military service discharge record entitles you and your family to benefits you deserve. These forms are provided to our veterans and their families at no cost.



Recorder of Deeds Office
18 N. County Street, 6th Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085
Phone: 847.377.2575
Fax: 847.984.5860
Email: recorder@lakecountyil.gov

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Lake County Workforce Development offers a variety of job search services and training opportunities to help Lake County job seekers of all ages and at all levels of experience gain the necessary skills to be competitive in today's job market. Veterans receive priority service, which includes specialty workshops for military veterans. Training grants are available under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).



An Army veteran, Sheila looked for work for almost two years after she was laid off from a position as a claims adjuster. Lake County Workforce Development funded her to get an Associate degree in Human Services. As part of her studies, Sheila completed an externship at a non-profit agency specializing in behavioral health. Upon completing her degree, Sheila was offered a full-time position at that agency as a Client Services Representative. Sheila advises others to use the Job Center and tap into training scholarships.



James is a military veteran who went through a lengthy unemployment that led to homelessness and health struggles. He needed new skills to compete in today's job market. Workforce Development funded him for training as a professional commercial truck driver. He obtained a CDL license and accepted a driving position that almost doubles his past annual income. "Although times were rough, Workforce Development provided hope during a very bleak time in my life and helped me to defeat those challenges, and I am very optimistic going into the future."

Attend an information session to learn more about the job and training opportunities offered to veterans! See the latest workshop schedule, events and other job information at www.lakecountyjobcenter.com.

Job Center of Lake County: 1 N. Genesee St., Waukegan, Phone: 847.377.3450

Information sessions are held every Tuesday at 3 p.m. and Thursday at 11 a.m.

See our website for other site locations and events: www.lakecountyjobcenter.com

VETERANS TREATMENT AND ASSISTANCE COURT

The Veterans Treatment and Assistance Court (VTAC) is a program that provides veterans involved in the justice system help and favorable alternatives. Through the VTAC, the court partners in this collaborative program work to reduce recidivism, enhance public safety and reduce the cost of the criminal justice process, including incarceration, by focusing on the underlying problems that the veteran is encountering with treatment, support and structure. The philosophy is that the VTAC Team's help and supervision will assist the veteran in resolving the issues that contributed to the criminal behavior, resulting in a permanent life change and preventing a recurrence.

Eligibility Criteria

- Honorable or General Discharge, after completion of boot camp, the veteran has a service related disability or is currently on active military duty
- Probation / supervision eligible felony, misdemeanor, DUI, and petty offenses
- Crimes against a person must have consent of victim (excludes violent offenses with serious injuries or where death occurred)
- Pre and post plea participation
- Willingness to participate in the program and preferably eligible for veterans benefits

Mentoring Program

Veteran mentors supporting the participating veterans during the program are an integral and essential component to success. It is the mission of the mentoring program to help the veterans navigate through the court process, the VA system and community readjustment. Mentors become guides, advocates and allies to the veteran. If you are a veteran yourself and interested in becoming a mentor, contact Rudy Martin at Adult Probation Services – 847.377.3964.

For more information about the VTAC program, please contact:

Suzanne Willett
Chief of Specialty Court Program
Phone: 847.377.3077

Greg Ticsay
Lake County Public Defender's Office
847.377.4042

John Hock
Lake County Public Defender's Office
847.377.4043



LakeCounty

Veterans Assistance Commission

501 N. Route 21, Suite 106

Gurnee, IL 60031

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW!

Would you like to receive notifications about veterans programs and services throughout the year? Send us your email and we will add you to our mailing list. Veterans@lakecountyil.gov



Veterans Assistance Commission Superintendent Andrew Tangen, along with Mary Ellen Vanderverter, Lake County Recorder of Deeds. Vanderverter was presented with the Seven Seals Award for meritorious leadership in support of the men and women who serve America in the National Guard and Reserves.

CONTACT US

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