

Iowa Veterans Home

Serving Iowans since 1887

IVH purpose and mission

Purpose: Provide individualized quality health care in a community atmosphere where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

Mission: Caring, our only reason for being.

IVH qualities

- Sense of community
- Comfort and security
- Resident focus
- Excellent medical care
- Genuine people with unique experiences

Who qualifies for IVH admission?

- Honorably discharged veterans, their spouses, and/or widowed spouses who demonstrate either medical or financial need and meet
- Iowa residency requirements
- Veteran eligibility for admission to VA Medical Centers

How much does the IVH care cost?

- Eligible veterans, their spouses, and/or widowed spouses are admitted without regard to their financial status
- The rate of payment is based on the cost of care and the individual's ability to pay using available resources

Health care services at IVH

- IVH offers nursing, medical, rehabilitative care, and mental health services.
- Many aspects of medical care are covered.
- Doctors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Care services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Social work services
- Substance abuse
- Counseling
- Psychiatry and psychology services

- Physical and occupational therapy
- Audiology and speech therapy

More services at IVH

- Pastoral care and chapel services
- Special places on campus for family visits, reunions, overnight stays, and Cookouts
- Barber and beauty shops, gift shop, library, computers, wheelchair services.

IVH History

- Governor Samuel J. Kirkwood proposed building a home for disabled Civil War Iowa veterans. The war took lives of 13,001 Iowans.
- Marshalltown citizens raised \$30,000 to meet the Iowa House and the Senate's approval for the site of the Iowa Soldiers Home.
- Totally, 75 Iowa counties competed to locate the soldiers home at their site.
- In March 1886, the General Assembly appropriated \$75,000 for the purchase of a site and another \$25,000 to maintain the home for one year.
- In April 1886, Marshalltown was selected as the site for a home for disabled soldiers.

Budget: the first year (1888)

- \$6,000.00: salary and wages for officers and employees
- Commandant's salary was set not to exceed the sum of \$1,200.00 a year
- \$10.00 a month for the general support of the members of the home In the beginning...
- Early rules of the home said that "No person shall be admitted to the home who has an income of \$16.00 per month or more."

In the beginning...

- Residents were required to pay the commandant any amount of income in excess of \$6.00 per month.
- In 1939, this was raised to \$16.00 per resident (\$26.00 a couple), but not to exceed \$35.00
- Veterans used to go fishing on the Iowa River, just west of the Soldiers Home.
- Local children were paid to collect the clams, the shells of which were shipped to the Mississippi river button factory.
- Residents turned out every Saturday morning for inspection and up through the mid-1940s the bugler sounded reveille and retreat daily.
- Breaking the rules, drinking, or fighting was punished by a stay in a special "unit" in the Old Main Building.

First residents at the IVH

- Amos Fox was the first resident admitted on December 1, 1887.
- Mary Warrington was the first woman admitted on March 5, 1893.

History of IVH campus

- On November 30, 1887, the Main Building was completed.
- The Main became the men's dormitory and was used until its demolition in 1963.
- The Main Building had a capacity of 200 residents
- In April 1890, the Legislature grants \$25,000 for a hospital building;
- \$12,000 for a boiler room and electrical plant buildings; and
- \$1,250 for sewerage.
- In 1892, the Board of Commissioners authorized construction of buildings, called cottages, each at a cost of not more than \$500.
- The cottages were to be used by veterans and their spouses who wished to live together.
- The renovated cottages are being used today by residents and employees.
- Construction of the Old People's Building (now Heinz Hall) began in 1896
- The total cost of the project was \$15,000. The north half was added in 1923.
- The Iowa Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million for the Sheeler Building construction during its 1958-59 session.
- The Loftus Building was opened in 1969. The total cost of construction: \$1,065,000.00
- The Malloy Hall was dedicated on January 5, 1978.
- Cost of the building: \$12.5 million.
- The Dack Building was completed in 1981 at a cost of \$9.5 million.

Facts to consider

- IVH is the third largest State Veterans Home in the United States
 - We have a total of 755 beds available
 - 113 beds are residential
 - 642 are nursing beds
- IVH operates the largest Medicaid program in the state
- No resident is denied care due to financial need
- Residents in need of wheelchairs get them from the IVH Wheelchair Department.

If you have any questions, please call the IVH at 1-800-645-4591.

We will be glad to assist you.