

Wisconsin State Approving Agency – Federal Veterans’ Education Benefits

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, Madison, Wisconsin

FACT SHEET

Overview

Over fifty State Approving Agencies (SAA) approve programs for veterans’ education benefits to pursue educational and non-college degree programs, e.g. cosmetology or truck driving (CDL) training programs, as well as Apprenticeship/OJT programs. The Wisconsin SAA is a contractor with VA and is administratively attached to WDVA. The FFY15 allocation of \$287,427, funds one Operations Program Associate and two Education Consultant positions. Wisconsin is one of six states where the approval process of App/OJTs is separate from that of educational approval. Wisconsin’s App/OJT approval office, also an SAA, is located within Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development. In FY17 the VA may combine both SAAs in WDVA.

Mission Statement

- To assist VA in preventing waste, fraud and abuse in the administration of the GI Bill
- To provide quality assurance for veterans’ education and accountability for the taxpayers’ investments
- To ensure greater educational and training opportunities to meet the changing needs of veterans
- To promote and safeguard quality education and training programs for persons eligible for the GI Bill

Primary Tasks and Goals

1. Approval of Programs: Evaluate compliance with federal regulations and take action on new or continued approval of education and training programs.
2. Compliance Surveys: Generally through an on-site, school visit the SAA reviews enrollment of eligible persons in approved programs and verifies VA payments to schools and beneficiaries. Surveys provide assistance, prevent deficiencies, and identify and correct school compliance issues. Each SAA professional is assigned 20 surveys.
3. School Visits: The SAA conducts inspection visits to new schools or facilities applying for program approval and provides technical assistance visits, as needed, to schools currently approved.
4. Technical Assistance: Provide assistance to school certifying officials (SCO), eligible persons, etc., regarding approval criteria, certification of enrollment, facility or program issues and facilitation of benefits delivery.
5. Liaison & Outreach: Interact with the VA, other governmental agencies, schools, eligible persons and professional organizations regarding the GI Bill.
6. Contract Compliance: Prepare and submit contract, invoices and reports (e.g., monthly, quarterly report, LVER liaison, annual business plan and self-evaluation) to the VA.

Economic Impact - Federal GI Bill Benefits Paid to Wisconsin Veterans and Dependents (\$000):

Programs	FFY13 (Updated)	FFY14 (Updated)	FFY15
Chapter 33, Post-9/11 GI Bill	\$10,159,781	\$10,754,649	\$11,199,215
Chapter 30, Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB-AD; VRAP FFY13-14 only)	\$1,203,812	\$924,258	\$442,174
Chapters 1607 (REAP; sunset 11/2015) and 1606 (MGIB-SR)	\$225,233	\$206,161	\$181,883
Chapter 35, Survivors’ & Dependents’ Ed. Assist. Program (DEA)	\$483,281	\$513,633	\$493,224
Chapter 32, Post Vietnam Benefit	\$496	\$424	\$275
TOTAL	\$12,072,603	\$12,399,125	\$12,316,795