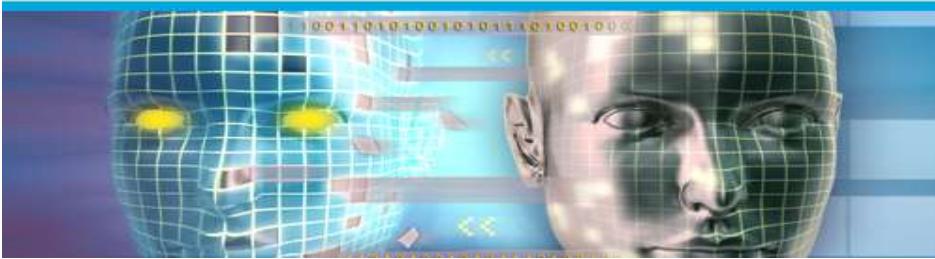


MORE
THAN A NUMBER

DEFEND VETERANS' IDENTITIES



Continued...

- **Bogus employment offers:** When posting fake job descriptions to collect personal information from Veterans' job applications, scammers often also charge an employment fee.
- **Fake charitable-giving requests:** Often using plausible branding techniques, scammers make fraudulent claims about collecting charitable donations that do not actually benefit Veterans or wounded service members.
- **Fraudulent records promotions:** Scammers try to charge Veterans fees to access military records or government forms - information that is available for free through the National Archives (for military records) and VA.gov for local VA offices (for forms).
- **VA Phishing scamming:** Posing as VA employees, fraudsters call Veterans to "phish" for Social Security numbers and personal financial information. Which they use to access bank accounts or open fake credit card accounts.

Veterans are so susceptible to these scams because Veterans implicitly trust fellow members of the military, making them vulnerable to imposters claiming to be Veterans themselves. Sometimes, because of their military experiences, Veterans also find it more difficult to recognize and combat the emotional manipulation used by scam artists.

With their continued partnership, VA Privacy Service and USPIS share a common goal: educating Veterans and their families on simple [precautions](#) they can take to protect their identity. Whether it's mail fraud, bank fraud, or some other type of scheme, both the US Postal Inspection Service and VA want to help Veterans and their dependents avoid becoming victims.

A toll-free Identity Theft Resource Line for Veterans and their beneficiaries has been created to call for more information or if they suspect that their identities may have been compromised. The toll-free number is 855-578-5492.

Identity Theft

National Identity Theft Awareness Month

December is National Identity Theft Prevention and Awareness Month. The hustle and bustle of the holidays often means we're all a bit more preoccupied both on and off the clock - creating an opportunity for fraudsters to take advantage of that distraction. December is often a time when data breaches increase and sensitive data gets leaked, making this month a great time to review tips and resources to help build strong habits that protect your personal information and safeguard yourself, your family, and your organization from identity fraud year-round.

Identity theft happens when someone uses your Social Security number or other personal information to open new accounts, make purchases, or get a tax refund.

There are many ways that you might discover that someone is using your information. You might get a notice from the IRS or find unfamiliar accounts on your credit report. You might notice strange withdrawals from your bank account, get bills that aren't yours, or get calls about debts you don't owe.

If you see one of these warning signs of identity theft, act quickly. Call the companies where fraud occurred, place a fraud alert on your credit reports, report identity theft to the FTC, and file a report with the police. Your next step might be closing accounts opened in your name, or reporting fraudulent charges to your credit card company. No matter your situation, IdentityTheft.gov can help.

Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant

The Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant is a State of Wisconsin veterans benefit available to qualified veterans, as well as certain spouses and children of qualified veterans, for use at a private nonprofit educational institution that is a [member of the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities \(WAICU\)](#). Dependent children of qualified veterans must be at least 17 but not yet 26 years of age in order to qualify. The amount of a grant for an eligible student for a semester or session is equal to the lesser of the following:

1. Two thousand dollars.
2. Fifty percent of the amount of tuition charged by the private institution in which the eligible student is enrolled less one of the following amounts. If the:
 - Eligible student is a veteran, the amount of tuition paid under [10 USC 2107 \(c\)](#), [38 USC 3104 \(a\) \(7\) \(A\)](#), and [38 USC 3313](#)
 - Eligible student is a dependent, the amount of tuition paid under [28 USC 3319](#).

For each grant, the private institution at which the eligible student is enrolled shall match the amount of the grant to offset the tuition charged to the student.

Grants may be made for up to 128 credits or eight semesters, less the number of credits or semesters for which the student received tuition remission under the Wisconsin G.I. Bill. This means that the 128 credits or eight semesters of coverage between the Wisconsin G.I. Bill and Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant are combined and that there is not a separate pool of credits or semesters for each benefit.

In order to qualify for the Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant, a veteran must meet service and residency requirements. If submitting an application for a spouse or dependent child, a veteran must meet an additional disability requirement.

1. Service Requirements: The individual upon whom eligibility is based (qualified veteran) must have separated from the military under honorable conditions and meet at least one of the following:
 - Served on active duty for at least 90 (cumulative) days during wartime
 - Served on active duty for at least two consecutive years during peacetime or the full period of initial service obligation
 - Was discharged due to a service-connected disability, disability later adjudicated to be service-connected, reasons of hardship, or reduction in forces
 - Received the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, or an equivalent expeditionary or service medal
 - Served for any period of service under section 1 of executive order 10957 dated August 10, 1961
2. Residency Requirements: A qualified veteran is a current Wisconsin resident who either:
 - Entered active military service as a Wisconsin resident (Home of Record was Wisconsin)
 - Has been a Wisconsin resident for at least five consecutive years immediately preceding the start of any semester or session
3. Disability Requirements: These requirements apply only when spouse or dependent child is the applicant.
 - Veteran must have been awarded at least a 30% service-connected disability rating by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) or died in the line of duty or of a service-connected disability.

To apply please complete the [WDVA 2059 \(Request for Certification for Wisconsin Veteran Student Assistance Grant\)](#) and submit via:

1. Email to Madison.Records@dva.wisconsin.gov or
2. Fax to (608) 267-0403 or
3. Mail to Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, PO Box 7843, Madison, WI 53707-7843

Then contact the private institution at which the student is enrolled or the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board.

Upcoming Events



Drive-thru MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Hosted By:



Dates: Mondays 11/23-12/28

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: Oshkosh West High School – 375 N Eagle Street, Oshkosh

How it Works:

- OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
- Do not exit your vehicle at any time.
- Follow directions of posted signs.
- Have room in your vehicle's trunk or backseat to accommodate box of food.
- Please wait patiently while others are served.

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin has partnered with the USDA to distribute healthy food directly to high-need areas, free of charge.

* Quantities are limited and will be given away on a first come, first served basis.

* Limit ONE box per vehicle unless picking up on behalf of a homebound individual.

Important Message:

These boxes are paid for through a government program and not packaged by our staff or volunteers. They may contain a letter from The White House. Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin does not affiliate with any political party.

Farm to Family Drive-Up Food Distribution Schedule

Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to distribute healthy food directly to high-need areas, free of charge. Quantities are limited and will be given away on a first come, first served basis. Limit ONE box per vehicle unless picking up on behalf of a homebound individual.

How it Works:

- OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
- Do not exit your vehicle at any time.
- Follow directions of posted signs.
- Have room in your vehicle's trunk or backseat to accommodate box of food.
- Please wait patiently while others are served.



Wednesdays: December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

Nathan Calder Stadium

1065 Racine Road, Menasha, WI 54952

1 pm- 3 pm

CONTACT US

**Winnebago County
Veterans Service Office**

Oshkosh Location

112 Otter St.
Oshkosh, WI 54901
(920) 232-3400

Neenah Location

211 N. Commercial
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 729-4820

**Stay informed about benefits; join our e-mail list.
Send a request to:**

CVSO@co.winnebago.wi.us

Visit us on the web at:

[www.co.winnebago.wi.us/
veterans](http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/veterans)



[www.facebook.com/
WinnebagoCVSO](http://www.facebook.com/WinnebagoCVSO)

**For a list of more events,
check out our calendar!**