



Facts and Figures

1.6 million Americans have served in Iraq or Afghanistan

More than 540,000 troops have deployed more than once

375,000 troops separate from the military each year to resume their civilian lives

90% of enlisted soldiers do not have a college degree

Active duty soldiers are required to pay a \$1,200 "user fee" in order to receive education benefits.

Combat veterans of the Reserve and National Guard are eligible for only 40% of active duty benefits.

Average four-year cost of attending...

a public college/university as an in-state student: \$65,428

a public college/university as an out-of-state student: \$105,216

a private college/university: \$133,204

Total maximum educational benefit over four years available to veterans who served with active duty units: \$39,636

What is the Fund for Veterans' Education?

The Fund for Veterans' Education (FVE) was established to provide scholarships to veterans of all branches of the United States Armed Forces who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Why is the Fund for Veterans' Education needed?

The educational opportunities that the G.I. Bill of 1944 gratefully offered to veterans of World War II are no longer provided to today's generation of veterans.

While the cost of tuition, room, board and fees has increased, the benefits available to veterans have decreased. The College Board reports that the average yearly expenses for an in-state student at a public institution are \$16,000 and more than \$26,000 for an out-of-state student. By contrast, the maximum educational benefit available to veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan is just \$1,101 per month. Those veterans who served combat tours in the National Guard or Reserves are eligible for even less — typically just \$440 per month.

What scholarships are provided by the Fund for Veterans' Education?

The Fund for Veterans' Education will provide more than \$1,000,000 in scholarships for undergraduate study during the 2008 and 2009 academic years. Scholarships will be awarded to veterans from all fifty states and the District of Columbia who are pursuing undergraduate degrees at four-year colleges and universities, two-year community colleges, and a range of technical and vocational schools.

Selection of recipients is made by Scholarship America, the nation's largest nonprofit administrator of scholarship programs: www.ScholarshipAmerica.org.

Who will benefit from the scholarships?

A Congressional study found that for every \$1 invested in education under the original G. I. Bill of 1944, the nation received between \$5 and \$12 in new economic activity and increased tax revenue. Just as the first G.I. Bill transformed American society, investments in today's generation of veterans will benefit both individual veterans and society as a whole.

Thank our veterans. Send them to college.