



Lyon County Welcome Package

Home Base Iowa's mission is to make Iowa the state of choice for military men and women as they transition to civilian careers. Home Base Iowa will provide veterans with resources that can open doors to job opportunities, welcoming communities, and on-going engagement with the military community.

For more information on the State of Iowa Home Base Iowa program go to:

www.homebaseiowa.org

Lyon County Economic Development welcomes veterans to Lyon County and hopes you take the time to explore all we have to offer. It's a great place to live, work, play and raise a family! We want it to be the next place you call home!

Community Single Point of Contact – Your primary point of contact and boots on the ground for community, lifestyle and employment information:

Steve Simons, Director

Lyon County Economic Development

712-470-6508

ssimons@co.lyon.ia.us

Your point of contact for Federal VA benefits and assistance:

Jared Ageson, Director

Lyon County Veterans Affairs

veterans@co.lyon.ia.us

712-472-3405

Welcome Basket – Each veteran that visits Lyon County will receive a welcome basket/bag.

Community Tour – Lyon County Economic Development (LCED) will arrange for a community tour and facilitate arranging meetings with various service providers in their community.

Hotel Incentive – The following hotel incentives will be made available for each Home Base Iowa veteran visiting an employer in Lyon County. Please contact LCED to arrange for lodging and taking advantage of the incentive.

- Four Seasons Motel – Rock Rapids - \$49/night plus tax, subject to availability.
- Grand Falls Casino & Golf Resort – Larchwood - \$69.95 plus tax/night Sunday-Thursday, subject to availability.

Closing Cost Incentive - The following programs are available to any Home Base Iowa veteran who relocates to Lyon County.

- American State Bank (Alvord) - Waive \$500 origination fee for a residential real estate loan for a veteran. www.ambankiowa.com
- Frontier Bank (Rock Rapids, George, Little Rock) - \$500 off closing costs of a new home mortgage. \$50 deposited into any new checking or savings account. www.frontierbk.com
- Peoples Bank (Lester) - \$5,000 grant available for down payment and/or closing cost assistance - Iowa Finance Authority Military Homeownership Assistance Program lender. If you do not qualify for the grant then you will be eligible for \$500 off closing costs. www.peoples-ebank.com
- Security Savings Bank (Larchwood, Inwood, George) - \$500 off closing costs of a new home mortgage. www.ssbia.net
- US Bank – U.S. Bank has products especially for military service members, including VA loans and great checking benefits. For details visit <https://www.usbank.com/military.aspx>

Housing Incentive

- Rock Rapids – Abatement of property taxes on the first \$75,000 assessed valuation for five years for new home construction.
- Rock Rapids – Affordable Existing Housing Program - \$2,000 grant on existing home purchase for income qualifying applicants.

Lyon County Veterans Affairs Office – Lyon County has a part-time veterans affairs office in Rock Rapids to assist veterans. The Sioux Falls Veterans Medical Center is located 35 miles from Rock Rapids (center of Lyon County).

Lyon County offers a wide range of other advantages including:

- Unique county assets include the Lake Pahoja Recreation Area (biking, hiking, running, camping, swimming, fishing), Four golf courses, annual community celebrations, Blood Run National Historic Landmark and Gitchie Manitou state preserve.

- Close proximity to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, a regional entertainment, health and retail center (169,000 population).
- Three highly ranked high school systems (Central Lyon, George-Little Rock and West Lyon community schools).
- Glynlyon Teaching Technology offers Christian and public school home-schooling curriculum.
 - **10% off AOA Tuition** - For families choosing to educate their children in a home setting, Alpha Omega Academy (AOA) is an online Christian school for K-12 that offers students – options from over 160 courses, live teacher support, grading and record keeping, along with a fully accredited diploma upon graduation.
 - **30% off AOP Curriculum** - For parents who choose to homeschool their students, Alpha Omega Publication (AOP) offers a variety of curriculum for Pre-School – 12th grade.
- Northwest Iowa Community College, a CHAMP institution, in Sheldon serves the area. Education assistance available.

Entrepreneurs and business start-ups

- Lyon County Economic Development and Rock Rapids Development Corporation bring together key partners, including the Small Business Development Center, Northwest Iowa Community College and Sheldon SCORE Chapter to serve our veterans that are aspiring entrepreneurs.
 - Several funding sources and help with your business plan.