



**ILLINOIS JOINING FORCES**  
*Supporting Service Members, Veterans  
and their Families*

**Illinois Joining Forces, through the support of the Dunham Foundation, is offering free Veteran Peer Supporter Training to Aurora area Veterans to serve fellow Veterans.**

**AURORA, ILLINOIS** – [Illinois Joining Forces](#) (IJF) announced today they are partnering with the Roosevelt-Aurora American Legion Post #84 and the Kane County Veterans Assistance Commission and other area stakeholders to provide Veteran Peer Supporter Training. IJF is recruiting veterans to be professionally trained as Community Veteran Peer Supporters to assist area Veterans.

**Community Veteran Peer Supporter Training** – for 10 Aurora region veterans to serve their brothers and sisters in arms. Based on the principle of shared experience, peer support has proven to be an extremely effective way of assisting fellow veterans transition back into civilian life and address the many challenges they face along the way.

- **The Course** – Three days of virtual Veteran Peer Supporter Training provided by DBSA where Veterans will learn: Problem Solving, Effective Listening, The Art of Asking Questions, Facing Our Fears, Cultural Competency, Understanding Intervention Strategies, The Importance of Accomplishing Goals. One additional day of Mental Health First Aid training will be offered as part of the overall training.
- **The Requirements** – Prior military Service. Internet connection to support ZOOM video conferencing (webcam). Computer, laptop, or smartphone with the functionality to access a ZOOM link.
- **The Commitment** – Applicants must be available for all-day training on each of the following Days: November 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> (2021). Be willing to serve fellow Veterans in the Aurora Region for a period of 12 months after completion of training. Be willing to dedicate at least 10 hours a month to Veteran seeking peer support.
- **How to Apply** – If you would like to receive training to become a Community Veteran Peer Supporter, please complete the application here: <https://forms.gle/tiNWkqBN3ifJQfJ98> or you can contact IJF by email at [info@illinoisjoiningforces.org](mailto:info@illinoisjoiningforces.org) with “PEER TRAINING” in the subject line.

Illinois Joining Forces and our community partners would like to thank the Dunham Foundation for their generous financial support of this vital Community Veteran Peer Supporter Training Initiative.

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**About Illinois Joining Forces**

Illinois Joining Forces (IJF) was launched in 2012, through an inter-governmental agreement between the Illinois Departments of Veterans’ Affairs (IDVA) and Military Affairs (IDMA) as a statewide, public-private network of military and veteran serving organizations working together to improve services for Service Members, Veterans and their Families (SMVF).’

**About The Dunham Foundation**

[The Dunham Foundation](#) seeks grant applications from nonprofits whose work aligns with the Foundation’s mission. Organizations that encourage innovation and collaboration in educational and community development programs and projects to effect positive change in the Dunham Foundation service area.