



Idaho Division of
**VETERANS
SERVICES**

*Caring for
America's
Heroes*

**The Office of Veterans
Advocacy
Bulletin**

January 2026



STATE OF IDAHO

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To be connected to a VA Suicide prevention and mental health professional, call the toll-free National Suicide Prevention Hotline, and indicate you are a veteran.

Call or Text **988** or **(800) 273-8255**

ALL EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES ARE ADMINISTERED IN A NON-DISCRIMINATORY MANNER IN CONFORMANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE EEO AND CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS



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To receive the bulletin and other important information for Idaho Veterans via email, provide your location, and contact the Veterans Outreach & Community Support Team to join the Joining Forces Idaho distribution list for your area.

JFIdaho@Veterans.Idaho.Gov



FROM BILL'S DESK

I hope everyone had a Great Holiday Season and hunkering down for winter. Heck, in the Treasure Valley area, it's been pretty mild so far and I am looking forward to some snow! I want to thank the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Veterans Service, for most of the updates that I am providing.

Personnel- The State of Idaho has (18) VFW Accredited Veteran Service Officers- (7) at the Boise VARO, (1) in Mountain Home, (2) in Caldwell, (2) in Twin Falls, (2) in Pocatello, (2) in Lewiston and (2) in Post Falls. Along with our World Class Administrative Assistants at most of our locations. Anita Monroe (Administrative Assistant at the Lewiston Office) just retired after 24 ½ years. We want to wish Anita the Best of Luck with her well-deserved Retirement! We would like to welcome her replacement U.S. Coast Guard Veteran, Michael Regan, to the OVA Team!

This long awaited, much anticipated rebuild of the Idaho State Veterans Home in Boise is now underway with the Groundbreaking Ceremony being held this past October 3rd and will take years to complete. We are expecting that the Lewiston State Veterans Home Grant will be approved this year and the State will try to get approved for the Pocatello Home remodel next year.

The **Cost-of-Living Allowance for 2026** has been released and it will be 2.8%. This will be for VA Benefits as well as Social Security Awards. Following the COLA increase, the **Non-Service-Connected Burial Allowance** has increased to **\$1,002** as well as the **Plot Allowance rate (\$1,002)** if a Veteran is buried in a private cemetery. The **Service-Connected Burial Allowance** remains at **\$2,000** and VA does not permit plot allowance rates to be paid if a Service-Connected Burial Allowance is paid.

Burials/Inurnments at the State or National Veteran Cemeteries are at no charge for Veterans. State Veteran Cemeteries charge the current plot allowance rate for non-Veteran spouses. The Snake River National Cemetery in Buhl is considered a National Cemetery and does not charge for spouse internments.

Some examples of the new **Cost of Living Allowance Rates** are:

- 10% S/C- \$180.42
- 100% S/C (Single)- \$3,938.38, (Married)- \$4,158.17
- Non-Service-Connected Pension at the A&A Rate (Single/Max)- \$2,424 (Married/Max)- \$2,874
- Dependency Indemnity Compensation-\$1,699.36, 8-year Enhanced Rate- \$360.85, A&A- \$421.00
- Survivor Pension A&A Rate (Max)- \$1558

* At no time does the VA allow surviving spouses to assume the Veterans VA Award. DIC can be awarded for a service-connected disability rating as low as 0% as long as it is on the Death Certificate

** All VA Awards are Tax Exempt. VA will not send out 1099s or W-2s for VA Benefit Awards

Concurrent Receipt- **CRDP** (for 20+ years of service) and Veterans rated 50% disabled or higher is an **Automatic Benefit** and is **taxable**. **CRSC** (Combat Related Special Compensation)- Normally less than 20 years (Medical Retirement) for VA service-connected disabilities that were incurred in combat, training for combat, instrument of war or simulated war- Must file the application with all supporting documentation to the Branch of Service for approval and is **Tax Exempt**.

Here are some of the recent statistics and information from the Boise VA Regional Office-

- 579k claims pending Nationwide with claims backlog (claims over 125 days old) now below 100k claims. Average number of days for processing- 83.
- There are currently 3,600 claims for Idaho Veterans pending with an average of 86 days for claims to be completed
- Rashetta Smith continues to serve as the Acting Boise VA Regional Office Director and serves as the Director of the VA Regional Office in Reno as well.
- Boise VA Regional Office currently has 133 full-time claims processors working in the Service Center and has 1,001 claims currently being worked.
- Boise VARO remains instrumental in the development and testing for the VA's Automated claims processing.

On November 17, 2025, the VA announced that potentially thousands of Veterans who were discharged from service by the Biden Administration for refusing the COVID vaccine may regain eligibility for GI Bill education benefits. The President Trump issued Executive Order 14184, [Reinstating Service Members Discharged Under the Military's COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate](#). Following that, the Secretary of War directed the military departments to facilitate, among other things, discharge upgrades for individuals involuntarily separated solely for refusing to take the COVID-19 vaccine and whose service was characterized as less than fully honorable. In September, VA sent letters to Veterans who have already received upgraded discharges to inform them of their potential eligibility for GI Bill education benefits. VA encourages all Veterans who were discharged from service for refusing the COVID vaccine to seek an upgraded status and apply for GI Bill benefits.

What Veterans should know:

- Veterans who believe they were discharged inappropriately or believe their military personnel records still reflect an error or injustice (for example, separation under the COVID-19 mandate) may request review from a Discharge Review Board or Board for Correction of Military or Naval Records. For more information, visit the Military Department Review Boards website at <https://www.milreviewbds.mil/>.
- Once Veterans receive official notification that their discharge status has been upgraded to fully honorable, they can [submit a new education benefits claim](#) to VA.

VA Dental Coverage- The VA will only provide dental treatment to Veterans enrolled in the VA Healthcare system that are rated 100% service connected, approved for Individual Unemployability or are service connected for dental trauma-related issues. For all other Veteran who are enrolled in VA Healthcare and Dependents of 100% service-connected Veterans (or Surviving Spouses approved for Dependency Indemnity Compensation) and on CHAMPVA, you are eligible for the VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP). Again, this is a monthly premium-based dental insurance that is managed by MetLife and Delta Dental, but it is very good dental insurance. More information can be found at: www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/dental-care/dental-insurance/

The Department of Veterans Affairs will soon propose a rule extending eligibility for legacy veterans and caregivers in the **Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers** (PCAFC) for three years, until September 30, 2028. During this extension, legacy participants will keep their current status and benefits, unless they request a new assessment. Legacy participants are those who were in PCAFC as of September 30, 2020, and those applicants who applied prior to October 01, 2020, and were accepted into the program October 01, 2020, or afterwards.

Apportionments- On Friday, January 9, 2026, VA posted a final rule in the Federal Register that discontinues the authority for VA to make need-based apportionment awards. **This means that effective February 9, 2026, veterans and family members can no longer request apportionments** unless the veteran or surviving spouse is incarcerated, or the veteran is incompetent without a fiduciary and institutionalized at government expense. VA will not process apportionments for other situations such as child or spousal support after February 8, 2026. **Please note:** VA will not discontinue any current apportionments because of this rulemaking.

Gulf War Illness: The latest news all on internet news outlets and social media pertains to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) acknowledging Gulf War Illness. The 38 Code of Federal Regulations does not grant presumptive service connection for Gulf War Illness, but it does include 38 CFR 3.317 for **Compensation for certain disabilities occurring in Persian Gulf Veterans** to include:

- An Undiagnosed Illness
- A medically unexplained chronic Mult symptom illness that is defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms, such as:
 - o Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
 - o Fibromyalgia
 - o Functional Gastrointestinal Disorder

*Signs or symptoms of undiagnosed illness and medically unexplained chronic Mult symptom illness means a diagnosed illness without conclusive pathophysiology or etiology, that is characterized by overlapping symptoms and signs, have Fatigue, Signs or Symptoms involving skin, Headache, Muscle pain, Joint pain, Neurological signs or symptoms, Neuropsychological signs or symptoms, Signs or symptoms involving the respiratory system, Sleep disturbances, Gastrointestinal signs or symptoms, Cardiovascular signs or symptoms, abnormal weight loss or menstrual disorders.

Veterans who served in qualifying locations are also covered under 38 CFR 3.320 **Claims based on exposure to fine particulate matter** as well as the presumptive conditions under the **Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022- Burn Pits**

The VA also considers all of the previously approved presumptive conditions to include:

- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)
- Chronic Conditions (within 1 year of leaving active duty)
- Diseases specific to former prisoners of war
- Diseases specific to radiation exposure
- Diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents (Agent Orange)
(Vietnam, within 12 nautical miles of the Vietnam Coastline, C-123 Air or Ground Crew until 1986, service in Thailand (until June 30, 1976, Guam or American Samoa from January 9, 1962, through July 31, 1980, Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972, until September 20, 1977, Service on the DMZ in Korea from 1968 until 1971)
- Diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, NC from 1953-December 31, 1987

Veterans who are an Idaho resident, homeowner and have a 100% service-connected disability or receive 100% compensation due to individual employability may qualify for the **Idaho Veterans Property Tax Reduction Program**. This program could reduce property taxes on your home and up to one acre of land by as much as **\$1,500**. For Veterans who do not qualify for the 100%/\$1,500 you may qualify for the Property Tax Reduction program, also known as the Circuit Breaker program. Please see the attached Property Tax Reduction Program Fact Sheet for eligibility requirements. Once granted to a qualifying Veteran, a surviving spouse can use this benefit. However, the benefit isn't transferable to a new property after the death of a Veteran. More information can be found at the State's Tax Commission at:<https://tax.idaho.gov/taxes/property/homeowners/veteran-benefit/>

Please contact myself or one of my Team Members if you have any questions.

Respectfully

Semper Fidelis

Bill Heyob

SgtMajor/USMC (Retired)
VFW Department Service Officer (Idaho)
Bureau Chief/State Veteran Service Officer
Office of Veterans Advocacy
Idaho Division of Veterans Services
Boise VA Regional Office
(208) 780-1380

New Pension, DIC, Survivor's Pension Rates with the 2026 2.8% COLA increase

2026 Non-Service-Connected Pension Rates



Office of Veterans Advocacy



Income Limit (Effective December 1, 2025)

VA Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans with limited income and who are permanently and totally disabled or age 65 or older.

You may be eligible if:

- You were discharged from the service under other than dishonorable conditions

And

- You served 90 days or more of active duty with at least one day during a wartime period (no requirement that service be in a combat zone)

And

- Your countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law

And

- You are permanently and totally disabled or you are age 65 or older

VA Pension pays at three different levels based on the veteran's care needs.

Base rate

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Veteran | \$17,441/ | \$1,453 mthly |
| Veteran & Spouse | \$22,839/ | \$1,903 mthly |

Housebound rate

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Veteran | \$21,313/ | \$1,776 mthly |
| Veteran & Spouse | \$26,710/ | \$2,225 mthly |
| (2) Vets Married to Each Other | \$30,580/ | \$2,548 mthly |

Aid & Attendance rate

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Veteran | \$29,093/ | \$2,424 mthly |
| Veteran & Spouse | \$34,488/ | \$2,874 mthly |
| (2) Vets Married to Each Other | \$46,143/ | \$3,845 mthly |

To qualify at the base rate the veteran can be completely independent, however, needs to be considered permanently and totally disabled.

VA considers a veteran housebound if they are independent at home but need assistance in getting out and about for physician visits, grocery shopping, etc.

VA evaluates a veteran for aid and attendance if they require help in bathing, dressing, toileting, etc. (assistance with at least two activities of daily living) or are legally blind or require to be on a secure unit/facility due to dementia. This evaluation is based on a medical determination completed by a physician.

VA pays you the difference between your countable family (veteran and spouse if married) income and the income rate/limit noted previously.

For example, if a single veteran qualified for the base rate of pension and had a monthly income of \$500 VA will pay approx. \$953 per month—enough to increase their income to the full \$1,453 per month.

Recurring monthly medical expenses can be used by the VA to decrease countable income, in efforts to increase the amount of the monthly VA benefit received.

Net worth Determinations

Veteran (and spouse if married) must have less than **\$163,699** in assets (savings, stocks, bonds, IRA's) to qualify. The VA has also implemented a 36-month (3 year) look back period to review asset transfers that reduce net worth and create pension entitlement.

The VA **will** count monies placed in a special or medical trust account as an asset and **will** include those amounts in overall assets when determining eligibility.

<https://www.va.gov/pension/veterans-pension-rates/>

2026 Dependents Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Rates



Office of Veterans Advocacy

What is Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)?

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivor's of:

- Servicemembers who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR
- Veterans whose death resulted from a service-connected injury or disease, OR
- Veterans whose death resulted from a non-service-connected injury or disease, and who were permanent and totally disabled from their service-connected disabilities for
 - at least 10 years immediately preceding their death, OR
 - since the veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, OR
 - at least one year immediately preceding death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after Sept. 30, 1999.



★ WHO IS ELIGIBLE? ★

Surviving Spouse

- Was married to a military servicemember who died on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR,
- Married the veteran before January 1, 1957, OR
- Married the veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the veteran's death began or was aggravated, OR
- Was married to the veteran for at least one year, OR
- Had a child with the veteran, AND
- Cohabited with the veteran continuously until the veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, AND
- Is not currently remarried*

**You may be eligible to continue receiving DIC benefits if you remarried on or after Dec. 16, 2003, and were at least 57 years of age.*

Surviving Child

- Unmarried AND
- Under the age 18, or between the ages of 18-23 and attending school*

**Certain helpless adult children may be entitled to DIC if child was deemed disabled before the age of 18*

Parents

- You may be eligible for DIC if you are the surviving parent of a military servicemember who died in the line of duty or a veteran whose death resulted from a service - connected injury or disease.

DIC Rates for Spouses (Effective December 2025)

If you're the surviving spouse of a veteran, your monthly payment rate is: **\$1,699.36**

| If this description is true... | You may qualify for this benefit | Added monthly amount (in U.S. \$) |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Veteran had a VA disability rating of totally disabling (including for individual unemployability) for at least the 8 full years leading up to their death, and • You were married to the veteran for those same 8 years | 8-Year Provision | \$360.85 |
| You have a disability and need help with regular daily activities (like eating, bathing, or dressing) | Aid and Attendance | \$421.00 |
| You can't leave your house due to a disability | Housebound | \$197.22 |
| You have 1 or more children who are under 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional benefit, and • DIC apportionment rate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$359.00 for the first 2 year after the Veteran's death • \$421.00 for each eligible child |

DIC Rates for Children

If you're a surviving dependent child of a veteran, your monthly payment rate is: **\$717.50**

| Child Status | Monthly Payment (in U.S. \$) |
|---|------------------------------|
| Child between 18 and 23 who's in a qualified school program | \$356.66 |
| Helpless child over 18 (An adult child who became permanently unable to support themselves before age 18) | \$717.50 |

<https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/>
<https://www.va.gov/disability/parent-dic-rates/>

<https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/survivor-compensation/dependency-indemnity-compensation/survivor-rates/>

2026 Survivor's Pension Rates



Office of Veterans Advocacy



VA Improved Death Pension is a benefit paid to eligible dependents of deceased wartime veterans with limited income.

You may be eligible if:

- If the deceased veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions
And
- He or she served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war**
And
- Your countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law

***Note:**

- **World War II** (December 7, 1941- December 31, 1946)
- **Korean conflict** (June 27, 1950 - January 31, 1955)
- **Vietnam era** (February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975 for Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period; otherwise August 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975)
- **Gulf War** (August 2, 1990 -Present)

** Anyone who enlists after September 7th, 1980, generally must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty.

Income Limit (Effective December 1, 2025)

If you are a... Your yearly income must be less than...

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Surviving Spouse with no dependent children | \$11,699/ \$975 mthly |
| Surviving spouse with one dependent child (Add \$2,984 to the limit for each additional child) | \$15,311/ \$1,275 mthly |
| Housebound surviving spouse with no dependents | \$14,298/ \$1,191 mthly |
| Housebound surviving spouse with one dependent | \$17,902/ \$1,491 mthly |
| Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with no dependents | \$18,697/ \$1,558 mthly |
| Surviving spouse who needs aid and attendance with one dependent | \$22,304/ \$1,858 mthly |
| Surviving child (no eligible parent) | \$2,984 / \$248 mthly |

Note: Some income is not counted toward the yearly limit (for example, welfare benefits, some wages earned by dependent children, and Supplemental Security Income)

VA pays you the difference between your countable family (spouse and child) income and the income rate/limit noted previously. For example, if a single surviving spouse qualified for the base rate of pension and had a monthly income of \$500 VA will pay approx. \$475 per month—enough to increase their income to the full \$975 per month.

Recurring monthly medical expenses can be used by the VA to decrease countable income, in efforts to increase the amount of the monthly VA benefit received.

Net worth Determinations

Surviving spouse also needs to have less than \$163,699 in assets (savings, stocks, bonds, IRA's) to qualify.

The VA has also implemented a 36-month (3 year) look back period to review asset transfers that reduce net worth and create pension entitlement.

The VA **will** count monies placed in a special or medical trust account as an asset and **will** include those amounts in overall assets when determining eligibility.

<https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/survivor-compensation/survivors-pension/rates/>



State of Idaho
DIVISION OF VETERANS SERVICES
"Caring for America's Heroes"



BRAD LITTLE
Governor

MARK TSCHAMPL
Chief Administrator

JAKE FAULKNER
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Idaho State Veterans Cemetery
10100 Horseshoe Bend Rd
Boise, Idaho 83714
(208) 780-1340

September 23, 2025

Attn: All Funeral Directors

We hope this letter finds you and your team well.

Effective **October 1, 2025**, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has verified that the burial plot allowance will be **\$1,002** for all. Payments may be made on the day of service by cash, check, or money order, payable to *Idaho State Veterans Cemetery*.

Please note, our scheduling process has also been updated. Scheduling will only be confirmed once all current forms have been fully completed and received. To ensure we remain compliant with both state and federal requirements, it's important that all documentation is accurate and up to date. If we receive an incomplete or outdated form, our office will kindly reach out to request the needed corrections. This change is intended to streamline scheduling and improve accuracy.

All forms are available on our website, and we encourage you to download and distribute them for use.

Thank you for your continued support of our Veterans and their families.

Respectfully,

Idaho State Veterans Cemetery

REQUEST FOR VETERAN BURIAL / INURNMENT

IDAHO STATE VETERANS CEMETERY - BOISE

10100 Horseshoe Bend Rd. Boise, ID 83714 www.veterans.idaho.gov/cedeteries
Phone: (208) 780-1340 Fax: (208) 780-1341 Email: BoiseCemetery@veterans.idaho.gov

PLEASE READ INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE.

THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED AND ELIGIBILITY MUST BE VERIFIED BEFORE AN INTERMENT CAN BE SCHEDULED.

FY26

REQUESTS SUBMITTED AFTER 4:00 PM WILL BE PROCESSED THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS DAY.

REQUEST IS FOR: Veteran Spouse (Fee applies; see pg 2) Minor/ Disabled Dependent (Fee applies; see pg 2)

NAME OF DECEASED: _____
(Full Legal Name) First Middle Last

SSN: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Gender: M F Marital Status: Married Widowed Divorced Never Married

City of Residence: _____
City State Zip Code

Was the Deceased pre-registered? Yes No Unknown

DD-214 (or equivalent) and Marriage Certificate (if applicable) must be INCLUDED if the Deceased was NOT pre-registered.

PLOT TYPE: URN: Columbarium Wall Niche In-Ground Cremation Scatter Garden
CASKET: Lower Burial Section Upper Burial Section (\$700 fee applies to first interment)

SERVICE TYPE: Shelter Use & Military Honors Shelter Use Only
 Simple Placement (Columbarium or Scatter Garden) Direct Interment (No One Attending Placement)

Add to an Existing Gravesite? No Yes (If yes, name): _____

Are Both Spouses Veterans? Yes No N/A (Provide marriage certificate & DD-214 for each veteran)

MILITARY SERVICE DATA (Complete as much as possible)

VETERAN'S NAME: _____
(Required) First Middle Last

SSN: _____ Service # _____
(Required) (Optional)

Service Branch: _____ Rank: _____ Retired Military? Yes No

Active-Duty Entry Date: _____ Exit/ Retirement Date: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION (Required)

NEXT-OF-KIN: _____ Relation: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street or Mail City State Zip Code

Phone: _____ Email: _____
(Required)

EMAIL CONFIRMATION PACKET TO: Next-Of-Kin Funeral Director

FUNERAL DIRECTOR: _____ Will they be present at cemetery? Yes No

Funeral Home: _____ City & State: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: By signing below I certify that all information on this form is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the deceased has never committed or been convicted of any of the following: a) a capital crime, such as murder or other offense that could have resulted in imprisonment for life; b) a Tier III sexual offense that could have resulted in imprisonment for life; or c) committed suicide to avoid prosecution. I acknowledge that all services must be paid for at the time of placement.

| | | |
|--|---------------|-------|
| Signature of Next-of-Kin or Authorized Representative: | Relationship: | Date: |
| | | |

PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO REQUEST BURIAL / INURNMENT

The "Next-of-Kin" is, in this order: A) the family's representative, appointed in writing, B) Surviving Spouse, C) Surviving Children, D) Surviving Parent, Sibling or other relative. Written authorization may be required. Or the Funeral Director may represent the family.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility for interment in the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery follows National Cemetery Administration eligibility requirements and Idaho law. Those terms include a prohibition of interment for an individual who has been convicted of or, in certain cases, committed a State or Federal Capital Crime or sexual offense, as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 2411.

There is no requirement to be a resident of Idaho.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The **Veteran's Military Service Record (DD – 214)** and **Spouse's Marriage Certificate (if applicable)** are required.

A Veteran's minor child or disabled dependent, under certain conditions, may also be interred.

Contact cemetery office for details.

The DD-214, or equivalent service record(s), must include **all the following information**:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1) Active Duty Service (other than training) or Retirement Status | 2) Character of Service |
| 3) Dates of Entry into and Exit from Service | 4) Highest Rank Achieved |

Please submit COPIES of records (not originals) as documents will not be returned.

As a state agency, ISVC does not have access to VA databases, veteran's military service records, etc.

It is the responsibility of the Veteran or Next-of-Kin to acquire all necessary documentation. Any missing information, such as the veteran's highest rank, retirement status, awards received, etc. will not be included for interment purposes until proof is provided.

Obtaining Military Service Records (National Archives)

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans>

Information on Eligibility Requirements

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/eligibility/>

Find a VA Regional Office near you

1-800-827-1000 or <https://www.va.gov/find-locations/>

Office of Veterans Advocacy

208-780-1380 or <http://veterans.idaho.gov/advocacy>

SCHEDULING A SERVICE

A service can consist of: **Shelter Use & Military Honors** (for Veterans), **Shelter Use** (no honors), **Simple Placement** (immediate family meets staff at the Columbarium Wall or Scatter Garden to lay their loved one to rest without any services on-site), or **Direct Interment** (the urn or casket is delivered to the cemetery office for placement without family present).

1. **Contact a Funeral Director** to make funeral arrangements. They can coordinate with the Veterans Cemetery on your behalf, or you can meet with Cemetery Staff in person to make arrangements (after your initial meeting with the Funeral Director).
 - a. If the Deceased was not pre-registered, you will need to bring the required eligibility documents with you to this meeting.
2. **Submit the "Request for Burial/ Inurnment"** and any required documentation needed if not pre-registered.
3. **Schedule a Committal Service and/or Interment** with cemetery staff once **eligibility is verified & request received**.
 - a. Please have two preferences for date/time in mind when scheduling, as the cemetery calendar fills quickly.
4. **A confirmation & details will be emailed to the Primary Contact.** (*Primary Contact must provide an email address.*)
Please ensure that you bring all necessary paperwork & items on the day of the interment or bring in beforehand.

CEMETERY HOURS

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Office Hours: | MON – FRI | 8 am – 5 pm | (Closed weekends & holidays) |
| Cemetery Gates open to Visitors: | DAILY | 8 am – Sunset | (Open weekends & holidays) |

BURIAL BENEFITS & FEES

The Veterans Cemetery will bill the VA directly for the **burial plot allowance** for eligible veterans.

Burial Plot Allowance **does not include** the following:

- **Funeral Home expenses/** preparation costs (must be arranged through a funeral home of your choice)
- **Interment fees for spouses/ dependents** (equal to the current plot allowance price set by the VA, see below)
- **Upper Casket Burial Fee (\$700 first interment;** available for non-cremated remains)

All cemetery fees are due on the day of interment. The cemetery is **unable** to accept pre-payments.

Current Plot Allowance/ Interment Fee: \$1,002* (Fiscal Year 2026)

Check, Cash or Money Order accepted made payable to Idaho State Veterans Cemetery.

*prices subject to change every October 1st.

Comparing CRSC and CRDP

Retirees cannot receive both Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP). If you qualify for both, in the initial year of your joint eligibility, DFAS will automatically apply the entitlement that is most beneficial to you based on your gross amount of each entitlement. This will remain in effect until the next CRDP/CRSC Open Season. You will receive an initial CRDP/CRSC Election form shortly following your joint eligibility. Complete and return the form within 45 days if you wish to change to the entitlement that we did not select for you. In subsequent years, you will need to make this determination yourself during Open Season. Open season usually takes place in January.

The chart below highlights the differences between the two programs to help you decide which one is better for you.

| | CRSC | CRDP |
|---|---|--|
| Qualified Injury | combat-linked disabilities | service-connected disabilities |
| Classification | Special Compensation (not subject to rules and regulations governing military retired pay) | Military retired pay (subject to rules and regulations governing military retired pay) |
| Full Concurrent Receipt? | Yes - Retirees can receive either part or all of both their military retirement pay and VA disability compensation | No - Restoration of pay is phased in over 10 years (from 2004 to 2014) |
| Claim Process | Must apply through Branch of Service | Automatic |
| Eligibility | Eligible claimants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are entitled to and/or receiving military retired pay • Are rated at least 10% by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) • Are least 60 years old or retired under Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA) if they are a reservist • Have waived their VA pay from their retired pay | Eligible claimants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are retired with 20 years Active or Reserve Duty • Are receiving retired pay (that is offset by VA payments) • Have a 50% + VA disability rating • Reservists and national guardsmen must be eligible to retire based on service, normally 60 years old |
| Retroactive Entitlement | May go back to June 1, 2003 , for any month in which all eligibility requirements are satisfied but may be limited to retirement date. Disability retirees with less than 20 years will be automatically limited to a retroactive date of January 1, 2008 as required by legislation passed by Congress effective 2008. | May go back to January 1, 2004 , for any month in which all eligibility requirements are satisfied, but may be limited to retirement date. CRDP is not payable before January 1, 2004. |
| Federal Taxation | Non-taxable | Taxable, according to your current retired pay Federal Income Tax Withholding (FITW) tax rate |
| Issue of Payment | CRSC payments are deposited to the same account where you receive your retired pay. If your VA disability compensation offset exceeds your retired pay, your CRSC payment will be deposited into the account most recently designated as your current checking address. | CRDP is not a new payment, but rather an increase in your retired pay. CRDP decreases your VA waiver so that you receive more of your gross retired pay. Your new pay amount will continue to be deposited into the same account and will not affect your compensation from the VA. |
| Subject to Division with a Former Spouse | No* | Yes |
| Subject to Collection / Garnishment | Yes | Yes |
| SBP (Survivor Benefit Plan) Premiums Deducted | Yes** | Yes |

**Beginning with the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) recurring monthly premiums due in April of 2018, DFAS is deducting SBP monthly premiums from Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) when retired pay is not sufficient to cover the full amount of the recurring monthly premiums.

Find out more about the VA Waiver, CRDP and CRSC on the webpage: [Understanding the VA Waiver and Retired Pay/CRDP/CRSC Adjustments](#)

If you need help, contact DFAS at 800-321-1080. Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (ET).

Note: The information on this website is provided to explain typical situations regarding retiree and annuitant benefits. For details and exceptions, please see applicable laws, financial management regulations, and instructions.

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/newsevents/news/crscan/dcrdpopenseason/>

PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

REINSTATING SERVICE MEMBERS DISCHARGED UNDER THE MILITARY'S COVID-19 VACCINATION MANDATE

The White House
January 27, 2025

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose and Policy. On August 24, 2021, the Secretary of Defense mandated that all service members receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The Secretary of Defense later rescinded the mandate on January 10, 2023. The vaccine mandate was an unfair, overbroad, and completely unnecessary burden on our service members. Further, the military unjustly discharged those who refused the vaccine, regardless of the years of service given to our Nation, after failing to grant many of them an exemption that they should have received. Federal Government redress of any wrongful dismissals is overdue.

Sec. 2. Redress. Consistent with the policies announced in section 1 of this order, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as appropriate, shall take all necessary action permitted by law to:

- (a) make reinstatement available to all members of the military (active and reserve) who were discharged solely for refusal to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and who request to be reinstated;
- (b) enable those service members reinstated under this section to revert to their former rank and receive full back pay, benefits, bonus payments, or compensation; and
- (c) allow any service members who provide a written and sworn attestation that they voluntarily left the service or allowed their service to lapse according to appropriate procedures, rather than be vaccinated under the vaccine mandate, to return to service with no impact on their service status, rank, or pay.

Sec. 3. Additional Agency Responsibilities. (a) Nothing in this order precludes disciplinary or administrative action for conduct that is proscribed by chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (Uniform Code of Military Justice, 10 U.S.C. 801-946a).

(b) Within 60 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall report to the President through the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs on their progress in implementing this order.

Sec. 4. Severability. If any provision of this order, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this order and the application of its provisions to any other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 5. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department, agency, or the head thereof; or
 - (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- (c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

January 27, 2025.

<https://www.war.gov/Spotlights/COVID-19-Reinstatement/>

<https://www.milreviewbds.mil/>



Veterans Affairs Dental Insurance Program

Delta Dental is proud to offer valuable dental benefits to help improve the health and lives of Veterans and CHAMPVA beneficiaries through the Veterans Affairs Dental Insurance Program (VADIP).

Eligible beneficiaries include Veterans enrolled in Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and people enrolled in the VA's Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA). Choose between three plans and enjoy access to our large, nationwide network of dentists. All three VADIP plans offer 100% coverage for in-network cleanings, exams and x-rays.

| Benefits | Enhanced plan | | Comprehensive plan | | Prime plan | |
|---|---------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|
| | In-network | Out-of-network | In-network | Out-of-network | In-network | Out-of-network |
| Benefits available upon enrollment | | | | | | |
| Diagnostic and preventive¹ Routine cleanings, x-rays, oral exams, sealants | 100% | 80% | 100% | 80% | 100% | 90% |
| Basic restorative Fillings | 50% | 30% | 60% | 40% | 70% | 60% |
| Simple extractions² | 50% | 30% | 50% | 30% | 50% | 40% |
| General services | Not covered | Not covered | 50% | 30% | 50% | 40% |
| Additional benefits available after nine months of enrollment | | | | | | |
| Major restorative³ Crowns | Not covered | Not covered | 50% | 30% | 70% | 60% |
| Oral surgery³ | Not covered | Not covered | 50% | 30% | 50% | 40% |
| Endodontics³ Root canals | 50% | 30% | 50% | 30% | 50% | 40% |
| Periodontics³ Treatment for gums | 50% | 30% | 50% | 30% | 50% | 40% |
| Prosthodontics⁴ Bridges, dentures, implants | Not covered | Not covered | 50% | 30% | 50% | 40% |
| Deductibles and maximums | | | | | | |
| Deductible | \$50 | \$50 | \$0 | \$50 | \$0 | \$50 |
| Annual maximum | \$1,000 | \$1,000 | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | \$1,000 | \$3,000 |

¹ The deductible is waived for diagnostic and preventive procedures for all plans.

² Simple extractions under the Enhanced Plan includes removal of teeth without requiring a surgical flap and/or removal of bone; dental procedure codes D701 and D710. These are the only covered oral surgery services under the Enhanced Plan (lifetime). Simple extractions are the only covered oral surgery services during the first nine months under the Comprehensive and Prime plans.

³ The waiting period is nine months for major restorative (Comprehensive and Prime; Enhanced not covered), endodontics (all plans), periodontics (all plans), oral surgery (all plans) and prosthodontics (Comprehensive and Prime; Enhanced not covered).

⁴ For the missing tooth clause, services or treatment for the provision of an initial prosthodontic appliance (i.e. fixed bridge restoration, implants, removable partial or complete denture, etc.) when it replaces natural teeth extracted or missing, including congenital defects, prior to the effective date of coverage are not eligible for coverage.

Orthodontics (braces) are not a covered benefit.

Enrollment is quick and easy

Visit deltadentalins.com/vadip and select **Enroll now**. Be sure to enter your name exactly as it is listed in the VA system.

Don't have internet access? Call Delta Dental at 855-460-3302 and request an enrollment application kit or simply enroll over the phone.

Delta Dental coverage is affordable

Receive quality dental care at a price you can afford. Easily look up plan rates in your area and compare options to find the right fit for your needs. Your premium rate is based on where you live.

| Region 1 | Region 2 | Region 3 | Region 4 | Region 5 |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Connecticut | Alabama | Illinois | Arkansas | Alaska |
| Delaware | Florida | Indiana | Colorado | American Samoa |
| Maine | Georgia | Iowa | Louisiana | Arizona |
| Maryland | Kentucky | Kansas | Mississippi | California |
| Massachusetts | Puerto Rico | Michigan | Montana | Guam |
| New Hampshire | South Carolina | Minnesota | Oklahoma | Hawaii |
| New Jersey | Tennessee | Missouri | Texas | Idaho |
| New York | U.S. Virgin Islands | Nebraska | Utah | Nevada |
| North Carolina | | North Dakota | Wyoming | New Mexico |
| Pennsylvania | | Ohio | | Northern Mariana Islands |
| Rhode Island | | South Dakota | | Oregon |
| Vermont | | Wisconsin | | Philippines |
| Virginia | | | | Washington |
| Washington D.C. | | | | |
| West Virginia | | | | |

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

| Rating region | Veteran | | CHAMPVA | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| | 1 Veteran | 2 Veterans | 1 beneficiary | 2 beneficiaries | 3 or more beneficiaries |
| Enhanced Plan | | | | | |
| 1 | \$21.50 | \$43.00 | \$21.50 | \$43.00 | \$64.50 |
| 2 | \$20.51 | \$41.02 | \$20.51 | \$41.02 | \$61.53 |
| 3 | \$22.61 | \$45.22 | \$22.61 | \$45.22 | \$67.83 |
| 4 | \$18.87 | \$37.74 | \$18.87 | \$37.74 | \$56.61 |
| 5 | \$26.05 | \$52.10 | \$26.05 | \$52.10 | \$78.15 |
| Comprehensive Plan | | | | | |
| 1 | \$36.89 | \$73.78 | \$36.89 | \$73.78 | \$110.67 |
| 2 | \$35.07 | \$70.14 | \$35.07 | \$70.14 | \$105.22 |
| 3 | \$38.91 | \$77.83 | \$38.91 | \$77.83 | \$116.74 |
| 4 | \$32.10 | \$64.19 | \$32.10 | \$64.19 | \$96.29 |
| 5 | \$45.16 | \$90.32 | \$45.16 | \$90.32 | \$135.48 |
| Prime Plan | | | | | |
| 1 | \$45.88 | \$91.76 | \$45.88 | \$91.76 | \$137.64 |
| 2 | \$43.58 | \$87.16 | \$43.58 | \$87.16 | \$130.74 |
| 3 | \$48.47 | \$96.94 | \$48.47 | \$96.94 | \$145.41 |
| 4 | \$39.79 | \$79.58 | \$39.79 | \$79.58 | \$119.37 |
| 5 | \$56.41 | \$112.82 | \$56.41 | \$112.82 | \$169.23 |

You can find an in-network dentist and more detailed information on the VADIP plans at deltadentalins.com/vadip.

VADIP is administered and underwritten by Delta Dental of California through its subsidiary Delta Dental Insurance Company.



LifePerks keeps you shining through a well-balanced lifestyle

Wellness is more than oral health. That's why, as a Delta Dental member, you have access to thousands of local and national offers to help you maintain a healthy life.

Register for LifePerks and you'll receive special offers on:

- Oral health services including whitening and dental care products
- Health and wellness services such as hearing aid and LASIK discounts from Amplifon and QualSight, as well as whole-body health deals for fitness equipment and gym memberships
- Lifestyle deals ranging from pet insurance, child care and travel to financial and auto services
- Entertainment discounts for movie theaters and theme parks

Learn more and register at lifeperksvad.lifemart.com

Delta Dental is a registered mark of Delta Dental Plans Association.

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VADIP Fact Sheet #263859 (rev. 12/24)

The Department of Veterans Affairs Dental Insurance Program



Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)



PCAFC Announcements

Important Update Impacting the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)

PCAFC VA has published a final rule which extends the transition period of legacy participants, legacy applicants, and their Family Caregivers (the legacy cohort), through September 30, 2028. [Link to final rule.](#)

This means legacy participants, legacy applicants, and their Family Caregivers will remain eligible for PCAFC and will not experience a decrease in the monthly stipend amount based on a reassessment for the duration of the transition period (certain exceptions apply).

A link to the final rule is here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2025-18827>

If you have questions about this final rule, or to learn more about supports and services available to Veterans and their caregivers, contact your local [Caregiver Support Program team](#) or reach out to the Caregiver Support Line Mon-Fri, 8am-8pm ET at 1-855-260-3274.

Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

Eligibility Criteria Fact Sheet



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) offers enhanced clinical support for Family Caregivers of eligible Veterans.



Veteran Eligibility Requirements:

A Veteran or Service member may be eligible for a Family Caregiver if all of the following requirements are met:

- 1** The individual is either:
 - A Veteran; or
 - A member of the Armed Forces undergoing a medical discharge from the Armed Forces.
- 2** The individual has a serious injury (including serious illness) incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service.
 - For purposes of PCAFC, serious injury means any service-connected disability that: (1) Is rated at 70 percent or more by VA; or (2) Is combined with any other service-connected disability or disabilities, and a combined rating of 70 percent or more is assigned by VA.
- 3** The individual is in need of in-person personal care services for a minimum of six (6) continuous months based on any one of the following:
 - An inability to perform an activity of daily living;
 - A need for supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury; or
 - A need for regular or extensive instruction or supervision without which the ability of the Veteran to function in daily life would be seriously impaired.
- 4** It is in the best interest of the individual to participate in the program.
- 5** Personal care services that would be provided by the Family Caregiver will not be simultaneously and regularly provided by or through another individual or entity.
- 6** The individual receives care at home or will do so if VA designates a Family Caregiver.
- 7** The individual receives ongoing care from a Primary Care Team or will do so if VA designates a Family Caregiver.



To apply online, visit

<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers>

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Family Caregiver Eligibility Requirements

A Family Caregiver must:

- 1 Be at least 18 years of age.
- 2 Be either:
 - The eligible Veteran's spouse, son, daughter, parent, stepfamily member, or extended family member; or
 - Someone who lives with the eligible Veteran full-time or will do so if designated as a Family Caregiver.
- 3 Be initially assessed by VA as being able to complete caregiver education and training.
- 4 Complete caregiver training and demonstrate the ability to carry out the specific personal care services, core competencies, and additional care requirements.

In addition, there must be no determination by VA of abuse or neglect of the eligible Veteran by the caregiver.



Stipend Levels:

The amount of the monthly stipend the Primary Family Caregiver is eligible to receive, is determined based on information gathered during VA's evaluation of the Veteran's personal care needs.

Level One: The Primary Family Caregiver's monthly stipend is calculated by multiplying the monthly stipend rate [Office of Personnel Management (OPM) General Schedule (GS) Annual Rate for grade 4, step 1, based on the locality pay area in which the eligible Veteran resides] divided by 12 multiplied by 0.625.

- o For example, the GS rate at grade 4, step 1, in Dallas, Texas, for 2022 was \$34,916 annually.
- o Thus, the monthly stipend amount for a Primary Family Caregiver of an eligible Veteran in Dallas, Texas, at this rate (\$34,916, divided by 12 multiplied by 0.625) was approximately \$1,818.54 in 2022.

Level Two: If VA determines the eligible Veteran meets the definition of "unable to self-sustain in the community" for the purposes of PCAFC, the designated Primary Family Caregiver's monthly stipend is calculated by multiplying the monthly stipend rate (OPM GS Annual Rate for grade 4, step 1, based on the locality pay area in which the eligible Veteran resides) divided by 12 multiplied by 1.00.

- o For example, the GS rate at grade 4, step 1, in Dallas, Texas, for 2022 was \$34,916 annually.
- o The 2022 monthly stipend amount for a Primary Family Caregiver of an eligible Veteran in Dallas, Texas, at this rate (\$34,916, divided by 12 multiplied by 1.00) was approximately \$2,909.67

Veterans and caregivers can find their local CSP Team by:



Calling the VA Caregiver Support Line **1-855-260-3274**



Using the CSP Teams locator at www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New_CSC_Page.asp

To apply online, visit

<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers>



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Definitions

Unable to Self-sustain in the Community

For purposes of PCAFC, “unable to self-sustain in the community” means that an eligible Veteran either:

- Requires personal care services each time he or she completes three or more of the seven activities of daily living (ADL) listed in the definition of an inability to perform an activity of daily living in this section, and is fully dependent on a caregiver to complete such ADLs; or
- Has a need for supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury on a continuous basis; or
- Has a need for regular or extensive instruction or supervision without which the ability of the Veteran to function in daily life would be seriously impaired on a continuous basis.



Inability to Perform Activity of Daily Living (ADL)

For purposes of PCAFC, the “inability to perform an ADL” means the Veteran or Service member requires personal care services each time he or she completes one or more of the ADLs listed below.

- Dressing or undressing oneself
- Bathing
- Grooming oneself in order to keep oneself clean and presentable
- Adjusting any special prosthetic or orthopedic appliance, that by reason of the particular disability cannot be done without assistance (this does not include the adjustment of appliances that nondisabled persons would be unable to adjust without aid, such as supports, belts, lacing at the back, etc.)
- Toileting or attending to toileting
- Feeding oneself due to loss of coordination of upper extremities, extreme weakness, inability to swallow, or the need for a non-oral means of nutrition
- Mobility (walking, going up stairs, transferring from bed to chair, etc.)

Requiring assistance with an ADL only some of the time does not meet the definition of an “inability to perform an ADL.”



Updated: October 2022

To apply online, visit

<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers>



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA limits apportionment of disability benefits

January 13, 2026

Currently, in limited situations, VA may pay a portion of a beneficiary's monetary benefits directly to the beneficiary's dependent, referred to as an apportionment. VA has implemented a new ruling that will limit the circumstances in which compensation, pension, and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) benefits are apportioned and will stop making need-based apportionments going forward.

This change serves to avoid conflicts with awards granted by state family courts. State family courts are usually more familiar with family circumstances and therefore better suited to make decisions regarding financial matters.

Understanding apportionments- An apportionment is when VA pays a portion of monetary benefits directly to dependents, rather than to the Veteran or beneficiary. A beneficiary must specifically request an apportionment by submitting an [apportionment claim](#).

Need-based apportionment claims are challenging for many reasons. These usually involve complex issues of family law. Additionally, claims for apportionment require a substantial amount of information, which is typically available to state courts, but not readily accessible by VA. This requires VA beneficiaries and dependents to be contacted multiple times by VA to gather this information and can be a lengthy process.

Because of their proximity, state courts have more expertise and authority in family law and therefore are better equipped to handle apportionment claims. VA apportionment decisions may conflict with the awards of better-situated state family courts which have the authority and expertise to make fully informed, accurate and economically appropriate awards.

Limitations on new apportionments- For these reasons, VA will no longer grant need-based apportionments of compensation, pension, and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) awards in most circumstances.

VA will continue to make apportionments where a Veteran or surviving spouse is incarcerated and where an incompetent Veteran without a fiduciary is institutionalized at government expense. For example, if a Veteran is incarcerated at a federal penitentiary on felony charges, or institutionalized at a VA Medical Center, a portion of their benefits can be paid directly to their dependents if they are eligible.

Current apportionments- Dependents who currently receive an apportionment will not be affected by these changes. VA will continue apportionments currently being paid; however, adjustments to current need-based apportionments will not be made.

These changes will go into effect on Feb. 9, 2026.

Additional Information- Eligible Veterans and surviving spouses who wish to request apportionments under the stated exceptions can do so using VA Form 21-0788, "Information Regarding Apportionment of Beneficiary's Award." VA forms are available at <https://www.va.gov/find-forms>.

<https://news.va.gov/144460/va-limits-apportionment-disability-benefits/>

Gulf War Veterans' Medically Unexplained Illnesses

Read about [presumptive conditions for Gulf War Veterans](#).

A prominent condition affecting Gulf War Veterans is a cluster of medically unexplained chronic symptoms that can include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders, and memory problems.

VA refers to these illnesses by any of the following terms:

- Undiagnosed illness
- Gulf War Illness
- Chronic multisymptom illness
- Medically unexplained chronic multisymptom illness

We prefer not to use the term “Gulf War Syndrome” because symptoms reported by Gulf War Veterans vary widely.

Presumptive conditions for Gulf War Veterans

Gulf War Veterans who meet the criteria below do not need to prove a connection between their military service and illnesses in order to receive VA disability compensation.

VA presumes certain chronic, unexplained symptoms existing for 6 months or more are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause. These "presumptive" illnesses must have begun, or been exacerbated after active duty in the [Southwest Asia theater of military operations](#).



These illnesses include:

- [Chronic Fatigue Syndrome \(CFS\)](#), a condition of long-term and severe fatigue that is not relieved by rest and is not directly caused by other conditions.
- [Fibromyalgia](#), a condition characterized by widespread muscle pain. Other symptoms may include insomnia, morning stiffness, headache, and memory problems.
- **Functional gastrointestinal disorders**, a group of conditions marked by chronic or recurrent symptoms related to any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Functional condition refers to an abnormal function of an organ, without a structural alteration in the tissues. Examples include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional dyspepsia, and functional abdominal pain syndrome.
- **Undiagnosed illnesses** with symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, fatigue, cardiovascular signs and symptoms, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and

neuropsychological problems, gastrointestinal problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances.

VA benefits

Gulf War Veterans may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits, including a [Gulf War Registry health exam](#), the [Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#), health care, and disability compensation for diseases related to military service. Their dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits. Gulf War Veterans are eligible for presumptive conditions due to exposure to airborne hazards. Find these conditions in the Health Care and Benefits section of the [Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures web page](#).

Learn more about [benefits related to Gulf War service](#).
Research on Gulf War Veterans' illnesses

VA and other researchers [continue to conduct research](#) to investigate how service in the Gulf War is linked to illnesses Gulf War Veterans have experienced. Research includes:

- [Multiyear health survey of Gulf War-era Veterans](#) to find out how their health has changed over time
- [Studies by VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Center](#)

VA [contracts with the Health and Medicine Division \(HMD\)](#) (formally known as the Institute of Medicine) of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to scientifically review the evidence for possible connections between Gulf War Veterans' illnesses and exposure to environmental agents or preventive medicine during service, and the best treatments for these illnesses.

VA is currently reviewing HMD's latest Gulf War and Health report, [Gulf War and Health: Volume 10: Update of Health Effects of Serving in the Gulf War, 2016](#).

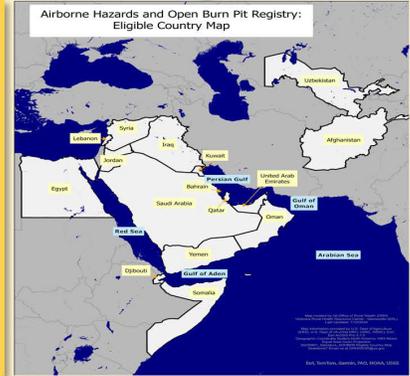
<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/medically-unexplained-illness.asp>

AIRBORNE HAZARDS

Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures

Did you serve or know someone who served in

- Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, Yemen or the airspace above any of these locations during the Persian Gulf War, from September 11, 2001, to the present, **OR**
- Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, The United Arab Emirates (UAE), or the airspace above any of these locations of operations from August 2, 1990, to the present, were exposed to:



- Smoke and fumes from open burn pits
- Sand, dust, and particulate matter
- General air pollution common in certain countries
- Fuel, aircraft exhaust, and other mechanical fumes
- Smoke from oil well fires

Diagnosed with one or more of these conditions

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| • Acute and Chronic Leukemias | • Chronic Sinusitis | • Pleuritis |
| • Multiple Myelomas | • Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) | • Pulmonary Fibrosis |
| • Myelodysplastic syndromes | • Constrictive Bronchiolitis or Obliterative Bronchiolitis | • Reproductive Cancer of any type |
| • Myelofibrosis | • Emphysema | • Sarcoidosis |
| • Urinary Bladder, ureter and related genitourinary cancers | • Gastrointestinal Cancer | • Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the trachea or larynx |
| • Male Breast Cancer | • Glioblastoma | • Adenocarcinoma of the trachea |
| • Urethral Cancer | • Granulomatous Disease | • Salivary gland-type tumors of the trachea |
| • Cancer of the Para-Urethral Glands | • Head Cancer of any type | • Adenosquamous carcinoma of the lung |
| • Asthma (<i>that was diagnosed after service</i>) | • Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) | • Large cell carcinoma of the lung |
| • Brain Cancer | • Kidney Cancer | • Salivary gland-type tumors of the lung |
| • Chronic Bronchitis | • Lymphatic cancer of any type | • Sarcomatoid carcinoma of the lung |
| • Chronic Rhinitis | • Lymphoma of any type | • Typical and atypical carcinoid of the lung |
| | • Melanoma | • Respiratory (breathing-related) cancer of any type |
| | • Neck Cancer | |
| | • Pancreatic Cancer | |

If you are a veteran with an honorable discharge and served during the time mentioned above, and you are diagnosed with one of these conditions, you may be entitled to service-connected disability benefits from the VA.



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Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures

Surviving Spouse of a Veteran?

Or

**Know a Surviving Spouse of a Veteran
Who Passed Away from One of the Conditions Above?**
(or one of the above conditions was listed as contributing
factor in the Veteran's death on the death certificate)

If you are the surviving spouse of a qualifying Veteran who passed away due to one of the conditions listed above, or due to complications from those primary conditions, you may be entitled to
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits based on the Veteran's death.

Please Call Us Today to See if You May Qualify!

Idaho Division of Veterans Services

Office of Veterans Advocacy

444 W. Fort Street, Room 140

Boise, ID 83702

(208) 780-1380

www.veterans.idaho.gov



Vietnam Veteran?

Or

Know a Vietnam Veteran with One or More of the following Conditions?

- | | |
|---|---|
| √ AL Amyloidosis | √ Multiple Myeloma |
| √ Bladder Cancer | √ Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma |
| √ Chronic B Cell Leukemias | √ Parkinsonism or Parkinson-Like Symptoms |
| √ Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia | √ Parkinson's Disease |
| √ Chloracne (<i>must occur within one year of exposure</i>) | √ Peripheral Neuropathy, early onset |
| √ Diabetes ,Type II (adult –onset) | √ Porphyria Cutanea Tarda |
| √ High Blood Pressure /Hypertension | √ Prostate Cancer |
| √ Hodgkin's Disease | √ Respiratory Cancers (cancer of the lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea) |
| √ Hypothyroidism | √ Soft Tissue Sarcomas (<i>other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma</i>) |
| √ Ischemic Heart Disease | |
| √ Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undermined Significance (MGUS) | |

If you are a veteran with an honorable discharge who served between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975 and served for any length of time in at least one of these locations you may be entitled to service connected benefits:

- In the **Republic of Vietnam**, or
- Aboard a U.S. military vessel that operated in the inland waterways of Vietnam, or
- On a vessel operating not more than **12 nautical miles** seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of **Vietnam** and **Cambodia**, or
- Any **U.S.** or **Royal Thai** military base in Thailand from January 9, 1962, through June 30, 1976, or
- **Laos** from December 1, 1965-September 30, 1969
- **Guam** or **American Samoa** from January 9, 1962-July 30, 1980
- **Cambodia** at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province from April 16, 1969-April 30, 1969
- **Johnston Atoll** or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll from January 1, 1972-September 30, 1977

Or at least one of these must be true:

- You served in or near the **Korean DMZ** for any length of time between September 1, 1967, and August 31, 1971, or
- You served on active duty in a regular Air Force unit location where a **C-123 aircraft** with traces of Agent Orange was assigned, and had repeated contact with this aircraft due to your flight, ground, or medical duties, or
- You were involved in transporting, testing, storing, or other uses of Agent Orange during your military service, or
- You were assigned as a Reservist to certain flight, ground, or medical crew duties at one of the below locations:

Eligible Reserve locations, time periods, and units include:

- **Lockbourne/Rickenbacker Air Force Base** in Ohio, 1969 to 1986 (906th and 907th Tactical Air Groups or 355th and 356th Tactical Airlift Squadrons)
- **Westover Air Force Base** in Massachusetts, 1972 to 1982 (731st Tactical Air Squadron and 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, or 901st Organizational Maintenance Squadron)
- **Pittsburgh International Airport** in Pennsylvania, 1972 to 1982 (758th Airlift Squadron)

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Surviving Spouse of a Vietnam Veteran?

Or

**Know a Surviving Spouse of a Vietnam Veteran
Who Passed Away from One of the Conditions listed?**
(or one or more conditions listed as a contributing factor in
the Veteran's death on the death certificate)

If you are the surviving spouse of a qualified Vietnam Veteran who passed away due to one of the conditions listed on the first page, or due to complications from those primary conditions, you may be entitled to *Dependency and Indemnity Compensation* benefits based on the Veteran's death.

Please Call Us Today to See if You May Qualify!

Idaho Division of Veterans Services

Office of Veterans Advocacy

444 W. Fort St., Room 140

Boise, ID 83702

(208) 780-1380

www.veterans.idaho.gov



Great people | Helping you | Serving Idaho

The Veterans Property Tax Reduction benefit reduces property taxes for qualified veterans with a 100% service-connected disability or receive 100% compensation due to individual unemployment.

If you qualify, the property taxes on your home and up to one acre of land might be reduced by as much as \$1,500. The program doesn't have an income limit.

If we grant this benefit to a qualifying veteran who then dies, the surviving spouse can use it for the current property. The benefit isn't transferable to a new property.

Note: The benefits won't reduce solid waste, irrigation, or other fees that government entities charge.

Who qualifies

You might qualify for Veterans Property Tax Reduction in 2026 if you meet both of these requirements:

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes you as 100% service-connected disabled, or you receive 100% compensation due to individual unemployment, as of January 1, 2026.
- You owned and lived in a home in Idaho that was your primary residence before April 15, 2026.
 - The property must have a current homeowner's exemption.
 - The home can be a mobile home.

Note: You might qualify if you lived in a care facility or nursing home. Contact your county assessor's office for information.

How to apply

1. Contact your county assessor for an application or download one from tax.idaho.gov/property.
2. Get a current letter from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs confirming your 100% service-connected disability rating or individual unemployment, as of January 1, 2026.

3. Complete the application. The assessor's office will help you. You must file the application with your assessor's office from **January 1 through April 15, 2026**.

Notes:

- You must apply and qualify each year unless your disability is permanent and total.
- If approved, your benefit will appear on your December 2026 property tax bill.

More tax relief options

You also might qualify and apply for the following tax relief programs in addition to, or instead of, the Veterans Property Tax Reduction benefit:

- **Property Tax Reduction** – This program reduces the amount of taxes qualified individuals pay on their home and up to one acre of land. Benefits range from \$250 to \$1,500. There's an income limit for this program.
- **Property Tax Deferral** – This program defers the taxes on the home and up to one acre of land for qualified individuals. The deferred taxes become a lien on the property and must eventually be repaid, with interest, to the State of Idaho. There's an income limit for this program.

Contact your county assessor for more program information and an application.

To learn more, contact:

- Your county assessor
- Tax Commission: (208) 334-7736 in the Boise area or toll free at: (800) 334-7756 ext. 2
- Hearing impaired: Use the Idaho Relay Service (TDD) (800) 377-3529
- tax.idaho.gov

This information is for general guidance only. Tax laws are complex and change regularly. We can't cover every circumstance in our guides. This guidance may not apply to your situation. Please contact us with any questions. We work to provide current and accurate information, but some information could have technical inaccuracies or typographical errors. If there's a conflict between current tax law and this information, current tax law will govern.

If you're a qualified Idaho homeowner, you might be eligible for the Property Tax Reduction program, also known as the Circuit Breaker program.

Based on your income for 2025, the program could reduce property taxes on your home and up to one acre of land by as much as \$1,500.

Who qualifies

You might qualify for a property tax reduction if all of these are true:

- You're an Idaho resident.
- You own and occupy your home or mobile home, and the value doesn't exceed a limit set by law that will be calculated in June 2026.
- Your total 2025 income, after deducting medical expenses, was \$39,130 or less.
- You're any of the following as of January 1, 2026:
 - 65 or older
 - Former POW or hostage
 - Motherless or fatherless child under 18
 - Blind
 - Widow(er)
 - Disabled as recognized by the Social Security Administration, Railroad Retirement Board, Federal Civil Service, Veterans Affairs, or a public employment retirement system not covered by these agencies

Note: Property Tax Reduction benefits won't reduce solid waste, irrigation, or other fees charged by government entities.

How to apply

You can get the application through your county assessor's office or the Idaho State Tax Commission website at tax.idaho.gov/property.

The Tax Commission administers the program, but you apply through your county assessor's office. They'll help you fill out the application. **Apply from January 1 through April 15, 2026.**

When you file your application, you must provide proof of:

- Income
- Payment of medical and funeral expenses
- Requirements (age over 65, blind, VA disability, etc.)
- Home ownership

If you don't yet have all of your income information, complete as much of the application as you can, and file it by the deadline. If your application is approved, your property tax reduction will appear on your December 2026 tax bill.

Applicants must apply every year.

Additional Option – Property Tax Deferral Program

The Property Tax Deferral Program offers certain qualified individuals a way to defer property taxes on their home and up to one acre of land. A qualified applicant might qualify separately for this program or use this program along with the Property Tax Reduction Program to receive additional property tax assistance.

Deferred taxes and interest must be repaid to the state of Idaho when ownership of the property changes or the property no longer qualifies for the Homeowner's Exemption. Contact your county assessor for additional program information and an application.

To learn more, contact:

- Your county assessor
- Tax Commission: (208) 334-7736 in the Boise area or toll free at: (800) 972-7660 ext. 7736
- Hearing impaired: Use the Idaho Relay Service (TDD) (800) 377-3529
- tax.idaho.gov

VETERAN RESOURCE GUIDE

QUICKLY FIND VETERAN RESOURCES NEAR YOU

Benefits

Education

Social

Work

Legal

Housing

& more



Where Idaho Veterans Can:

- Find trusted organizations in your area
- Search anonymously from anywhere
- Customize search options to find all local available resources



www.idahoveteransguide.org

FAIRY GODMOTHER



MITZI CHELDELIN

Director

IDVS Veterans Outreach
& Community Support

- 📞 208-957-3633 (cell)
- ✉️ mitzi.cheldelin@veterans.idaho.gov
- 🌐 www.veterans.idaho.gov
- 📍 351 N Collins Rd. Boise ID 83702

"CARING FOR AMERICA'S HEREO'S"

ARMY VETERAN



JASON LEGLER

Community Resource Specialist

IDVS Veterans Outreach
& Community Support

- 📞 208-985-6632 (cell)
- ✉️ jason.legler@veterans.idaho.gov
- 🌐 www.veterans.idaho.gov
- 📍 1182 S. Clearwater Loop, Post Falls ID 83854

"CARING FOR AMERICA'S HEREO'S"

AIR FORCE VETERAN



ROBERTTA MATULIS

Community Resource Specialist

IDVS Veterans Outreach
& Community Support

- 📞 208-816-0562 (cell)
- ✉️ robertta.matulis@veterans.idaho.gov
- 🌐 www.veterans.idaho.gov
- 📍 1957 Alvin Ricken Drive, Pocatello 83201

"CARING FOR AMERICA'S HEREO'S"



Joining Forces

Idaho Conference

Registration!



Thursday April 9, 2026
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

The Salvation Army Kroc Center, 1765 West Golf Course Rd.

A day of interaction and collaboration with other organizations that serve Veterans to ensure we never turn away an Idaho Veteran or their family in need.



Register by scanning the QR code
or visit

www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-joining-forces-idaho-conference-registration-1979347644086





U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS

VA'S BURIAL BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

Native Americans serve in the military in numbers far higher than their proportion of the U.S. population. They've served with distinction in every major conflict for over 200 years.



Eligible Veterans have earned burial benefits at a VA national cemetery for themselves, their spouses, and qualifying family members.

-  155+ VA national cemeteries
-  110+ VA grant-funded state and territorial cemeteries
-  14 VA grant-funded tribal cemeteries
-  50 states
-  3 territories (Guam, Saipan, and Puerto Rico)

Benefits for Veterans at a VA national cemetery or VA grant-funded state or tribal cemetery:

-  Burial site
-  Burial of a casket or urn
-  Government headstone or marker
-  Perpetual care of the burial site and cemetery grounds
-  United States burial flag
-  Presidential Memorial Certificates
-  Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) profile page
-  **Military funeral honors** (provided by the Defense Department)

Honoring your heritage

When choosing burial in a VA national cemetery or VA grant-funded state or tribal cemetery, the cemetery staff can try to accommodate desired cultural practices. VA recommends families notify staff as soon as possible when planning a burial.

Government headstones and markers allow families to create inscriptions in native languages and choose from many emblems of belief. Learn more about [VA's burial and memorial benefit items](#) and [emblem of belief options](#).

Tribal cemeteries

There are 14 VA grant-funded tribal cemeteries built and operated by tribes on tribal trust land. VA works closely with tribal leadership to make sure tribal culture and traditional preferences are represented within the cemetery's design elements and the features reflect the unique heritage of each tribe. Tribal standards for burial eligibility apply.

Pre-need burial eligibility application

Veterans and spouses who want to be buried in a VA national cemetery can apply to find out in advance if they are eligible. Completing the simple, online pre-need burial eligibility application is the starting point in end-of-life planning with your family.



Explore NCA's [Find a Cemetery](#) page to search for VA national cemeteries or VA grant-funded state or tribal cemeteries near you.



[VA's burial and memorial benefits](#) can save you and your family thousands of dollars and planning in advance can reduce your family's stress at a difficult time.



**Plan Today.
Honor Forever.**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration



Native American Direct Loan Program

Opening Doors for Native American Veterans



You've earned an opportunity for homeownership through your military service.

The Native American Direct Loan (NADL) program offers VA-direct loans to help Native American Veterans **buy, build, or improve** a home on **Federal trust land**.

What are the Benefits of NADL?

01

Low fixed
interest rate

02

No down
payment

03

No private
mortgage
insurance

04

Limited
closing costs

05

Reusable
benefit

06

Ability to
refinance
NADL loans

Who is Eligible for a NADL?

If you are a Native American Veteran enrolled as a member of a Federally recognized tribe, you and your spouse are eligible for a NADL if you meet all of the following requirements:

- » Your Tribal Government has a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** with VA regarding NADL. Go to https://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/nadl_mou.asp to find a complete list of Tribes with MOUs.
- » You have a valid VA home loan **Certificate of Eligibility (COE)**.
- » You can provide proof that your income will cover the mortgage payments and costs of owning a home.
- » You meet VA's flexible credit standards.
- » The home you are seeking to buy, build, or repair using NADL loan funds will be your residence.

For more information, visit the NADL homepage at www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/nadl.asp or call **888-349-7541** and request to speak to a NADL team member.



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Boise VA Medical Center



2026 VETERANS LEGAL CLINICS



FREE TO ATTEND
FOR VETS & SPOUSES

*Space is limited.
You must register to attend!*



Legal Clinics are held from 2PM to 4PM in Bldg. 54 at the Boise VA Medical Center 500 W. Fort St. Boise, ID 83702.

Assistance with Estate Planning & Wills are not included at these Legal Clinics.

Please contact the Veterans Justice Outreach team at (208) 422-1064 to register.

JAN 15

FEB 19

MAR 19

APR 16

MAY 21

JUN 18

JUL 16

AUG 20

SEP 17

OCT 15

NOV 19

DEC 17



HOME LOAN GUARANTY



SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING PROGRAM

The Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program offers grants to certain Servicemembers and Veterans with severe service-connected disabilities to assist them in building, remodeling, or purchasing an adapted home.

WHAT IS A SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING (SAH) GRANT?

The SAH grant is designed to help disabled Veterans by providing a barrier-free living environment, such as a wheelchair accessible home, that affords them a level of independent living they may not otherwise enjoy. Veterans and Service members with specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a grant for the purpose of constructing or modifying a home to meet their adaptive needs, up to the current maximum of \$126,526.

The SAH grant can be used up to six times and is available to certain Veterans and Servicemembers who are entitled to VA disability compensation due to:

- Loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair, or
- Blindness in both eyes having only light perception, or
- Loss or loss of use of one lower extremity together with (1) residuals of organic disease or injury, or (2) the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity, affecting balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair or,
- Loss or loss of use of both upper extremities at or above the elbows, or
- A severe burn injury.
- The loss, or loss of use, of one lower extremity (foot or leg) after September 11, 2001, which makes it so you can't balance or walk without the help of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair

WHAT IS A SPECIAL HOUSING ADAPTATION (SHA) GRANT?

The SHA grant can be used up to six times to increase the mobility of eligible Veteran and Servicemembers throughout their residences. Veterans and Servicemembers with specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to this type of grant, up to the current maximum of \$25,349.

The SHA grant is available to certain Veterans and Servicemembers who are entitled to disability compensation due to:

- The anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands or extremities below the elbow, or
- A severe burn injury.



Disabilities determined by VA to be related to your military service can lead to monthly non-taxable compensation, enrollment in the VA health care system, a 10-point hiring preference for federal employment and other important benefits. Ask your VA representative or Veterans Service Organization representative about Disability Compensation, Pension, Health Care, Caregiver Program, Career Services, Educational Assistance, Home Loan Guaranty, Insurance and/or Dependents and Survivors' Benefits



**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

WHAT IS A TEMPORARY RESIDENCE ASSISTANCE (TRA) GRANT?

A temporary grant may be available to SAH/SHA eligible Veterans and Servicemembers for one-time use who are or will be temporarily residing in a home owned by a family member. The maximum amount available to adapt a family member's home for the SAH grant is \$50,961 and for the SHA grant is \$9,099.

OTHER VA PROGRAMS

Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) Benefit

Veterans and Service members may receive assistance for a medically prescribed home improvement necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home and essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. A Veteran may receive the HISA benefit in conjunction with either a SAH or SHA grant. The HISA program is available for both Veterans and Service members with service-connected disabilities and Veterans with non-service-connected disabilities.

- The HISA lifetime benefit for Veterans and Service members with service-connected disabilities may be approved up to \$6,800, and up to \$2,000 may be approved for Veterans with non-service-connected disabilities.

Please visit www.prosthetics.va.gov/HISA2.asp to learn more about the HISA benefit.

Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) - Independent Living (IL) Adaptations

VR&E sponsored Independent Living services may be provided to individuals who are not currently able to work because of the effects of service-connected disabilities. Provided services are limited to those required to improve independence at home and in the community and may include home adaptations.

- Home adaptation benefits up to \$116,084 may be provided to Veterans with service-connected disabilities as part of an approved Independent Living Plan.

Please visit www.benefits.va.gov/vocrehab/independent_living.asp to learn more about VR&E IL grants.

HOW CAN YOU APPLY?

You can apply by completing VA Form 26-4555, *Veterans Application in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation Grant* and submitting it to your local VA Regional Loan Center. You may also apply online; please visit the Veteran's portal at www.ebenefits.va.gov to register and submit an application for Specially Adapted Housing benefits.

Please visit <https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/disability-housing-grants/> to learn more about SAH grants.

For more information, call toll-free 1-877-827-3702 or visit Our Web Site at <https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/disability-housing-grants/>

Contact us: www.va.gov 1-877-827-3702



October
2025



DON'T FEED

THE SHARKS

We define a "**Claim Shark**" as anyone who:

- **Charges hefty fees** to "guide, assist, advise or consult" veterans with filing or appealing their VA benefit claims — this practice is illegal!
- Asserts they are an "expert" or "guardian" but **evades the professional and ethical standards of VA accreditation** — their advice can be misleading or even fraudulent!
- **Hooks you** — once you're in, you can't get out and may be subject to new and hidden fees whenever you get a new rating — no matter who does the work!

Some of their predatory practices include:

- Claiming they are an "insider" or have inside information to fast track or maximize your VA disability rating.
- Touting better outcomes because you are paying for services.
- Advertising faster VA claims decisions.
- Requesting login credentials to access sensitive personal information through government websites like VA.gov.
- Using confusing tactics or ambiguous language to mislead claimants or coerce them into signing a contract.
- Telling veterans to forego VA exams and offering health consultations within their own network of doctors.

Here is how veterans can help protect themselves:

- Always ask "**Are you accredited with VA?**"
- Insist on signing a VA Power of Attorney before agreeing to any other terms and conditions.
- Refuse to sign legal waivers of your right to accredited representation.
- Never agree to contingent payments based on your future benefits.
- Avoid medical exams or opinions from doctors affiliated with consultation companies.
- Always attend exams ordered by VA.
- Never provide access to private and secure systems or personal information.
- Always ask "**If I have to appeal VA's decision, will you still help me?**"

Who is NOT a Claim Shark?

- VA accredited veterans service organization representatives, like VFW's Accredited Service Officers.
- Private VA accredited agents.
- VA accredited attorneys, to include pro bono law clinics.
- All those who turn up here when searched:
www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation.



Who are the Claim Sharks?

We used to list the usual Claim Sharks, but it began reading like a phone book. By this point you know the type – all charm up front, hidden fees in the back.

For free, accredited help from VFW's Accredited Service Officers visit

www.DontFeedTheSharks.org



2026



Annual County and Post Veteran Service Officer Training

August 5th-7th

Riverside Hotel - Boise, ID

Topics covered in past trainings:

- Current Information and updates from the Veterans Affairs and Veterans Health Administration
- New information regarding benefits for veterans, surviving spouses, and their family members
- Classes on how to correctly fill out and file claims for Compensation, and Pension
- Presentations and information regarding VA debts, Appeals, Compensation , Non-Service Connected Pension, PACT Act, Suicide Prevention, Rating Tables, to include so much more!

This is an Outstanding 3-day Training full of great information on Everything VA!

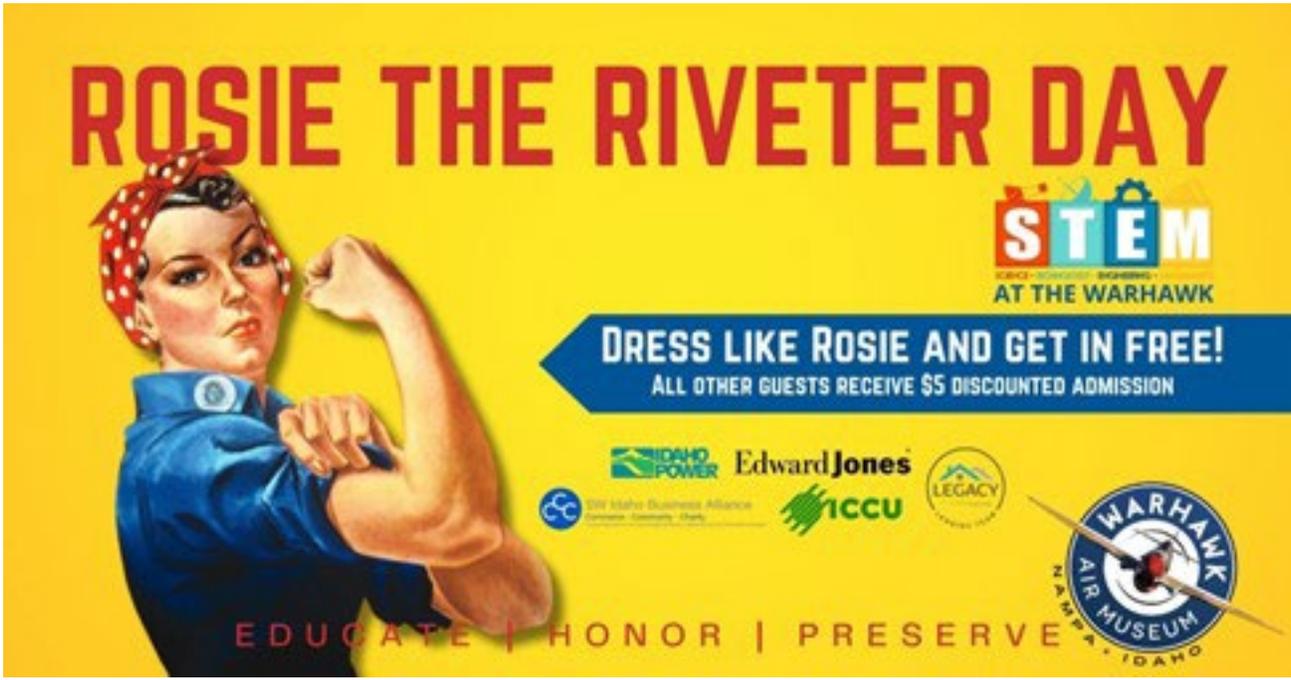
Brought to you by the Idaho Division of Veterans Services

Office of Veterans Advocacy

If you would like to be included in the Invitation Distribution List, please email

Tiffany Barrett at

tiffany.barrett@veterans.idaho.gov. Invitations will go out by June 2026!!



Rosie the Riveter Day at the Warhawk Air Museum Sat March 21st, 2026.

This year we are going for our biggest Rosie day ever and offer free admission if you dress like a Rosie and \$5 admission to the entire Warhawk Air Museum for anyone else that day! We have a whole new hangar to explore so that's quite a deal!

GO GREEN AND GET THE BULLETIN VIA EMAIL



In our continual effort to reduce costs and lessen our “ecological footprint,” the Office of Veterans Advocacy is again asking for your help. In order to reduce printing and mailing costs, as well as the amount of paper used, we are asking you to volunteer to receive the bulletin via email.

The bulletin will arrive in your in-box every quarter as a PDF document, which will allow to you forward or print and disseminate as many copies as you like.

If you can help us with our goal of reducing costs and the saving paper, please email

JFIdaho@Veterans.Idaho.Gov

Thanks for your help with this most worthwhile endeavor! And don't forget you can always view and print the Bulletin by visiting our website at www.veterans.idaho.gov.

DATES TO REMEMBER



- American Legion**
National August 28- September 3, 2026, Louisville, KY
- Disabled American Veterans**
National August 1-4, 2026, Orlando, FL
- Marine Corps League**
National August 10-14, 2026, Indianapolis, IN
- Military Order of the Purple Heart**
National TBD –(July) -New Bern, NC
- Veterans of Foreign Wars**
State June 4-7, 2026, Boise, ID
National July 24-30, 2026, Reno, NV



DAV VAN CONTACTS TO AND FROM VA MEDICAL CENTERS

BOISE & SURROUNDING AREA TO BOISE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, call Tami McMurtry or Phil Johnson at (208) 422-1177.

LEWISTON & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

LIBBY & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

COEUR D'ALENE & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, Call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

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SANDPOINT & SURROUNDING AREA TO SPOKANE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, call the DAV Transportation Office at the Spokane VA Medical Center (800) 325-7940.

LEWISTON TO WALLA WALLA VAMC

Thursdays: Walla Walla VA Medical Center Van. 8:00 a.m. departure from the CBOC at 1630 23rd Avenue, Building 2. Arrives at Walla Walla at 10:00 a.m. Departs Walla Walla at 1:30 p.m. Arrives Lewiston at 3:30 p.m.

If your appointment runs past the departure time of 1:30, there is no alternative for returning to Lewiston.

POCATELLO, IDAHO FALLS, & SURROUNDING ARE TO SALT LAKE CITY VAMC

All appointments for rides should be made 72 hours in advance.

For the schedule or an appointment, call the VTS/DAV Transportation Office at (800) 613-4012 ext. 2003 or 1027.

