

Veterans Voice



PAPERLESS NEWSLETTERS

If you would like our newsletter sent to your email address please call our office & we will add you to our new email list.

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THE OFFICE

Hours:

Monday thru Friday
8:00am to 4:30pm
Closed Noon to 1pm for lunch

Director

Shannon Kreger

Secretary

Katie L. Creguer

Contact us!

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Temporary disability rating after surgery or cast



Are you recovering from surgery or a disability related to your military service that's left you unable to move? You may be able to get a temporary 100% disability rating and disability compensation or benefits if you have this kind of immobilizing disability. Find out if you can get this benefit.

Am I eligible for disability benefits from VA?

You may be eligible for disability benefits if you've had surgery or received other treatment at a VA hospital, approved hospital, or outpatient center for a disability related to your military service (called a service-connected disability). You must meet one of these requirements.

If you had surgery, both of these must be true for you:

- The surgery required a recovery time of at least one month or reports show that the

surgery or treatment was for a service-connected disability, **and**

- The surgery resulted in severe issues, like:
 - Surgical wounds that haven't totally healed
 - Stumps of recent amputations
 - Being unable to move due to being put in splints or casts to help with healing (known as therapeutic immobilizations)
 - Being unable to leave your house (known as house confinement)
 - Being required to use a wheelchair or crutches

If you didn't have surgery, this must be true:

You had one or more major joints immobilized by a cast.

Please contact the office at 810-648-0212 with any questions.

*Thank you for the
millage!*

Department of Veterans Affairs Committee

John Nezworski, Chairman

Michael Hare

Frederick Buchner

Donald Rudy

Charles Cunningham

Donald Maury

Justin Faber

VA automobile allowance and adaptive equipment

Do you have a disability related to your military service that prevents you from driving? If you do, you may be able to get disability compensation or benefits.

Am I eligible for disability benefits from VA?

You may be eligible for disability benefits if you have a disability that's related to your service (called a service-connected disability) and that includes at least one of these conditions.

At least one of these must be true for you:

- You have loss, or permanent loss of use, of 1 or both feet, **or**
 - You have loss, or permanent loss of use, of 1 or both hands, **or**
 - You have permanent decreased vision in both eyes: 20/200 vision or less in your better eye with glasses, or greater than 20/200 vision but with a visual field defect that has reduced your peripheral vision to 20 degrees or less in your better eye, **or**
 - You have a severe burn injury, **or**
 - You have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), **or**
 - You have ankylosis in 1 or both knees or hips
- Note:** This qualifies you for an adaptive-equipment grant only

Who's covered?

- Veterans
- Service members

What kind of disability benefits can I get?

- A one-time payment to help you buy a specially

equipped vehicle

- In some situations, one or more adaptive-equipment grants to change a vehicle so it has features like power steering, brakes, seats, windows, or lift equipment to help you get into and out of the vehicle

How do I get these benefits?

You'll need to file a claim for disability compensation and get our approval **before** buying a vehicle or adaptive equipment. You can apply for—and use—either grant before or after military discharge.

When you file, you'll need to show that your disability is service connected or treated as if service connected under 38 U.S.C. 1151.

For the one-time payment to help you buy a specially equipped vehicle

- You'll need to fill out an Application for Automobile or Other Conveyance and Adaptive Equipment (VA Form 21-4502).
- We'll pay the vehicle's seller directly.

For the adaptive-equipment grant

- If you qualify for adaptive equipment only, you'll need to fill out an Application for Adaptive Equipment—Motor Vehicle (VA Form 10-1394).
- We may pay you, or we may pay the equipment seller directly.

Please call our office at 810-648-0212 for questions or to setup an appointment for assistance with this benefit.



Emergency Care

In a medical emergency, you should immediately seek care at the nearest hospital. In an emergency it doesn't matter if it is a VA medical center or not. Veterans do not need to check with VA before calling an ambulance or going to a community hospital emergency department. However, for VA to coordinate and potentially pay for emergency care, you **MUST** contact and notify the VA within 72-Hour of your hospital visit at **1(844) 724-7842**.



You can request a VA home loan Certificate of Eligibility through VA.gov



Are you planning to buy a home and want the cost savings of a VA home loan? The first thing you need to do is request your VA home loan Certificate of Eligibility (COE).

A COE does just what its name implies: It certifies to lenders that you are eligible to apply for a VA home loan.

To help improve this important early step in the VA home loan process, VA has launched a new streamlined, user-friendly portal on VA.gov where you can:

- Request a COE
- Request to restore entitlement
- Request modifications to existing COE records (e.g., name, date of birth, branch of service)
- Verify if an active COE is available
- View the status of a COE application in process

Although it's easier than ever to request a COE, the best way to get your COE is to have your lender do the work. They can obtain a COE on your behalf.

If you want to request a COE on your own, you can do

that on the VA.gov website. In many cases, VA has sufficient information to automatically determine eligibility and provide you with a downloadable COE.

If the VA is unable to automatically issue your COE, and there isn't an active COE on file, simply complete an online application to begin the process.

The application will be pre-populated with your personal and contact information, along with your verified service history. A list of recommended documents will also display as guidance for which documents to upload in support of your online application.

On the new portal, you can do more than just request your COE.

If you had a previous VA-guaranteed home loan, you can request to restore your entitlement. Even those who have faced foreclosure can verify if they still have entitlement.

Visit the new COE landing page on VA.gov to learn more.

Or, as always you can contact our office at 810-648-0212 or stop in anytime for assistance with this benefit.

New lifetime pass available for Military Veterans to access public lands

Starting on Veterans Day (Nov. 11, 2022), veterans of the U.S. Armed Services are now able to a free lifetime pass to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests.

Each lifetime pass covers entrance fees for a driver and all passengers in a personal vehicle (or passholder and up to three adults at sites that charge per person) at national parks and national wildlife refuges, as well as standard amenity fees at national forests and grasslands, and at lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Veterans can present one of the four forms of acceptable ID (Department of Defense ID Card, Veteran Health ID (VHIC), Veteran ID Card, or veteran's designation on a state-issued US driver's license or ID card) at participating federal recreation areas that normally charge an entrance fee.

