National Association of County Veterans Service Officers

Special Benefits
Special Benefits

- Dental Care
- Prosthetics – Medical Equipment
- Clothing Allowance
- Prosthetics – Hearing Aids and Glasses
- Automobile Adaptive Equipment
- Housing Grants
- CHAMPVA
- Women Veterans Services
- Military Sexual Trauma Services
- Spina Bifida & Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Benefits
- Bereavement Counseling
- Blind Veterans Services
- Temporary Healthcare
- Homeless Programs
- Vocational Rehabilitation
Dental Care

Will be provided on an outpatient basis under the following conditions:

- to 100% service-connected veterans
- receives service-connected compensation for a dental condition or disability
- was a prisoner of war, with no distinctions based on length of captivity
- is participating in a VA Vocational Rehabilitation program
Dental Insurance

ADD SLIDE ABOUT DENTAL INSURANCE

SEE VA FACT SHEET IN MISC FOLDER
Prosthetics
(Medical Equipment)

- **Veterans enrolled in the VA Healthcare System**
  - vets the VA is “caring for” -
  VA will provide **any medically necessary** prosthetic appliances, equipment, and devices
  - i.e., artificial limbs, orthopedic braces, shoes, wheelchairs, crutches, canes, and other durable medical equipment and supplies

- **Veterans not enrolled in the VA Healthcare System**
  - Service-connected vets who don’t get their care at the VA
  - Veterans service-connected at 50% or more

VA will provide prosthetic items **for the service-connected disability only**
Clothing Allowance(s)

- For service-connected conditions
- Required use of orthopedic or prosthetic appliance(s) – such as wheelchair, back brace, knee brace, etc.
- Topical Medication, e.g., for a skin condition
- Apply annually to VA Medical Center
  - Unless permanent in nature
- Paid annually in August
Prosthetics – Hearing Aids and Glasses

“discretionary funding”

- receiving compensation for any condition
- receiving HB or A&A benefits
- former prisoners of war

Otherwise, only in special circumstances, and not for “normally occurring” hearing or vision loss
Automobile Adaptive Equipment

- A one time payment toward the purchase and adaptation of a vehicle **
- Not more than $19,505  (10-01-12)
- Pays for the purchase of adaptive equipment and for equipment repair, replacement, or reinstallation
- Apply at the VAMC where enrolled

Eligibility for Service-Connected Veterans

- Loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both hands or feet
- Permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a certain degree
- Ankylosis (immobility) of one or both knees or one or both hips
Housing Grants
...a little confusing

Referred to as “Specially Adapted Housing Grants” and/or “HISA Grants” - not quite correct

Three basic grants:
1. Specially Adapted Housing Grant (SAH)
2. Special Housing Adaptation Grant (SHA)
3. Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Grant (HISA)
Specially Adapted Housing Grant (SAH) $63,780

Up to $63,780 or up to 50% of the cost of:

- Building
- Buying
  - Remodeling an already-adapted house
  - Paying on the loan of a previously purchased house

- Active duty members, 1151 veterans, and IU veterans are eligible too

- VA 26-4555
$63,780 Grant Eligibility
(may be referred to by the VA as a Paraplegic Housing, or “PH”, Grant)

- Loss or loss of use of both lower extremities
- Blindness in both eyes with a corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye
- Loss or loss of use of one lower extremity and residuals of disease or injury, or
  Loss or loss of use of one upper extremity that affects balance or propulsion
  - **Key Phrase** for these is - “precludes locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair”
- Loss or loss of use of both upper extremities so as to preclude use of the arms at or above the elbow
Special Housing Adaptation Grant (SHA) $12,756

Actual cost up to $12,756
- To adapt the veteran’s existing house
- To help pay for an already-adapted house

**ONLY** for veterans
  - Blind in both eyes (5/200 or less)
  - Loss of both hands (or LOU)

- Active duty members and 1151 veterans are eligible; IU vets are not eligible
- VA 26-4555

If veteran is eligible for both the SAH and the SHA – can only get the SAH
Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Grant (HISA)

Home improvements for:
- continuation of treatment, or
- access to the home and
  essential lavatory and sanitary facilities

Can get both HISA and SAH or SHA grant

- $4100 for service-connected (lifetime)
- $1200 for non-service-connected

VA 10-0103
Recent Changes in Housing Grants

- **Specially Adapted Housing Grant (SAH)**
  - No longer a ‘one-time’ benefit
  - Can be used ‘up to’ three times
  - Total grants however cannot exceed $63,780

- **Special Housing Adaptation Grant (SHA)**
  - No longer a ‘one-time’ benefit
  - Can be used ‘up to’ three times
  - Total grants cannot exceed $12,756

- **See 38 USC 2101 and 2102**
A ‘cost-sharing’ program similar to TriCare

Services provided by local providers with bills going to CHAMPVA (Health Administration Center, Denver, CO)

VA pays 75% of ‘allowable fee’

There are annual deductibles for outpatient services
- $50 pp, $100 per family

Services “may” be provided at VA facilities; if so, there is no charge
CHAMPVA - Eligibility

**Dependent Spouse and Children**

Veteran rated permanently and totally disabled for a service-connected disability

**Surviving Spouse and Children**

- Service member who died on active duty (no misconduct)
- Veteran died of a service-connected disability, or who was, at the time death, rated permanently and totally disabled for service-connected condition(s)
- After February 4, 2003 – surviving spouse over age 55 who remarries retains eligibility
- Child in school who becomes disabled during a break or vacation period
  
  No misconduct
  
  Results in inability to continue
  
  Remains eligible for
  
  Six-months after disability if removed
  
  Two-years after disability occurred
  
  23rd birthday
  
  Whichever is first

**Cannot be eligible for TRICARE**

If they’re eligible for TriCare, they must use TriCare
CHAMPVA for Life (CFL)(2001)

CHAMPVA and Medicare Entitlement

Dates to remember…June 5, 2001 and October 1, 2001

65 on or after June 5, 2001

- Enrolled in BOTH Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B
- Eligible for CHAMPVA as secondary payer to Medicare Parts A and B (and other Medicare plans)

- For services received on or after October 1, 2001
CHAMPVA for Life (CFL)(2001)
CHAMPVA and Medicare Entitlement

65 or older prior to June 5, 2001

1) Entitled to Medicare Part A and NOT purchased Medicare Part B
   ● Eligible for CHAMPVA as secondary payer to Medicare Part A and any other health insurance

2) Entitled to Medicare Part A and have Medicare Part B
   ● Must keep both A and B
   ● Eligible for CHAMPVA as secondary payer to Medicare Parts A and B and any other health insurance

   ● For services received on or after October 1, 2001
Women Veterans Services

- The same medical benefit package as male veterans - PLUS gender-specific health care

Such as
- hormone replacement therapy
- breast care
- gynecological care
- maternity care
- limited infertility treatment (excludes in-vitro fertilization)

Additionally…
- A Sexual Trauma Treatment Center affiliated with the Women's Clinic
  - treatment for the psychological effects of sexual trauma
- Contact the Women Veterans Coordinator at your VA health care facility
Military Sexual Trauma Counseling

- Counseling and treatment to help veterans overcome psychological trauma resulting from sexual trauma while serving on active duty
- Care for physical conditions resulting from the traumatic event including medications
- Veterans will receive care at no charge for conditions related to military sexual trauma
- Contact the Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator or Women Veterans Program Manager at your local VA medical facility
Spina Bifida for Children of Vietnam Veterans

1997 by Public Law 104-204

- Service in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975
- Provides
  - a monthly benefit
  - vocational rehabilitation and training
  - healthcare
- Administered by the VA’s Health Administration Center (HAC) in Denver, Colorado
- Claims still filed through your local Regional Office
2003 by Public Law 108-183

Extended Spina Bifida benefits to the natural child of a service member who served in or near the demilitarized zone in Korea between September 1, 1967 and August 31, 1971.

“The veteran must have served in the active military, naval or air service in or near the Korean demilitarized zone…and is determined by the VA to have been exposed to a herbicide agent during such service.”
Children of Women Vietnam Veterans (CWVV)

- A monthly benefit - same as spina bifida rates
- Training and vocational rehabilitation (if practical)
- A “Fee-for-Service” healthcare program
- Biological Children
- Service in Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975
- A list, “including, but not limited to,” is at 38 CFR 3.815

CWVV is administered by the VA’s Health Administration Center (HAC) in Denver, Colorado
Spina Bifida and CWVV Benefits

- Are not dependent on the veteran’s character of service
- Do not affect other VA benefits
- May be paid directly to the child
- Healthcare is typically provided by local, non-VA providers; the bills are submitted to the VA
Bereavement Counseling

- Veterans and their family members
  - If they are receiving VA health care benefits
- Also...
- Spouse, children, and parents of service members who die on active duty
- Family members of Reserve Component and National Guard members who die on duty
- Counseling is provided at Vet Centers
- Call 800-827-1000 for the nearest Vet Center
- www.va.gov/rcs/
Blind Veterans Services

- Services at all VA Medical Centers
  - Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinator

- Aids and services include:
  - A total health and benefits review by a VIST team
  - “Adjustment to Blindness” training
  - Structural adaptations (alterations) to existing houses
  - Specially Adapted Housing Grants (for a new house)
  - Low vision aids and training in their use
Blind Veterans Services - cont

- Electronic and mechanical aids such as
  - adaptive computers
  - computer-assisted devices such as reading machines
  - electronic travel aids
- Guide dogs, including the expense of training the veteran to use the dog and the cost of the dog's medical care
- Talking books, tapes and Braille literature

- Blindness does not have to be service-connected
Combat Veteran Eligibility for Temporary VA Healthcare

- Service after November 11, 1998
- Service in a “Theater of Combat Operations against a hostile force”
- Cost-free care for conditions ‘potentially’ related to combat
- Five years
- Assigned Priority Group 6 (unless higher due to other factors)
- Establish status with VA Enrollment Coordinator with
  - DD 214 indicating service in a designated combat theater of operations; or
  - Afghanistan Campaign Medal          Iraq Campaign Medal
    Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal      Kosovo Campaign Medal
    Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (does not include Global War on Terrorism Service Medal)
    Southwest Asia Campaign Medal; or
  - Proof of receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay (commonly referred to as “combat pay”) after November 11, 1998; or
  - Proof of Federal tax exemption for receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay
Homeless Programs

Special programs and initiatives to help homeless veterans live as independently as possible

VA’s goal is to offer a “continuum of services”

- outreach to veterans living on the streets and in shelters who otherwise would not seek assistance
- clinical assessment and referral to needed medical treatment for physical and psychiatric disorders including substance abuse
- long-term “sheltered transitional assistance”, case management, and rehabilitation
- Employment assistance
- supported permanent housing
“VetSuccess”

Special Training Program for Service-Connected Disabled Veterans
Vocational Rehabilitation

- 48 month entitlement
- 12 years for completion - date of separation or date of award, whichever is later
- Veteran must be evaluated to determine whether program is feasible based on various factors
- Counseling and other services remain following course completion
Vocational Rehabilitation

- To overcome employment handicaps
- Counseling, testing and monitoring
- Pays for employment services, school costs, and provides a monthly subsistence allowance
- Medical care/post completion assistance
- Provided by local Regional Office
Vocational Rehabilitation

- Training and job assistance
- Rated 20% or more with an employment handicap
- Rated 10% or more with a serious employment handicap
Rates for Subsistence Allowance
(Based on full-time attendance)
(October 1, 2011)

- No Dependents: $566.97
- One Dependent: $703.28
- Two Dependents: $828.76
- Each Additional Dependent: $60.41
Vocational Rehabilitation Forms

21-22 Appointment of Veterans Service Organization

28-1900 Application for Vocational Rehabilitation
“VetSuccess”

New name for the VR & E programs

New website - www.vetsuccess.gov