VA Caregiver Support Programs

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

• Monthly Stipends
• Health Coverage – CHAMPVA
• Case Management
• Mental Health Counseling
• Enhance Caregiver Training
• Enhance Respite Services
VA Caregiver Support Programs

Program of General Caregiver Support Services

- Training and Education
- Caregiver Support Line
- Peer Support Mentoring
VA Caregiver Support Programs

VHA Home Based Services and Supports

- Veteran Directed Care
- Home-Based Primary Care
- Home Telehealth
- Respite Care
- Adult Day Health Care
- Home Hospice Care
- Homemaker and Home Health Aides
VA MISSION Act of 2018

Passed on June 6, 2018 – Public Law 115-182

- Replaced and Expanded VA Choice Program
- Increased VA Internal Health Care Capacity
- Established Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR)
- Expands VA Caregiver Program to All Eras
Caregiver Expansion

Expands to Pre-9/11 Veterans in Two Phases

• WWII, Korean and Vietnam War (On or Before May 7, 1975)
  ➢ Law Required Expansion with IT Certification – by October 1, 2019

• Persian Gulf & Others (May 8, 1975 to September 10, 2001)
  ➢ Law Required Two Years After 1st Phase – by October 1, 2021

• However, VA Failed to Meet IT Deadline by One Year
  ➢ Caregiver Records Management Application (CARMA)
New and Expanded Caregiver Program

New Caregiver Regulations Published on July 31, 2020

• New Eligibility Criteria
  ➢ 70% or More Service-Connected Disabilities

• New Clinical Criteria
  ➢ “In Need of Personal Care Services”
    ❖ Needs Help with At Least 1 ADL “Each Time”
      or
  ➢ “Need for Supervision, Protection, or Instruction”
    ❖ Functional Impairment That Impacts Personal Safety Daily
New and Expanded Caregiver Program

New Caregiver Regulations Published on July 31, 2020

• Changed From 3 Tiers to 2 Tiers
  ➢ Level 2 – “Unable to Self-Sustain in the Community”
    ❖ Needs Help with At Least 3 ADLs “Each Time”
    ❖ or “Needs Supervision”
  ➢ Level 1 – Able to Self-Sustain in the Community

• New Stipend Rates
  ➢ GS-4, Step 1, with Locality Pay Adjustments
    ❖ Level 2 – 100% of Rate
    ❖ Level 1 – 62.5% of Rate
New and Expanded Caregiver Program

New Caregiver Regulations Published on July 31, 2020

• Will Take Effect on October 1, 2020

• All Current (Legacy) Caregivers Re-evaluated Within One Year
  - Will not be dropped or reduced for one year
  - If proposed to be reduced or dropped, 60 days to appeal
  - If dropped, 90 days of transition support

• ALSO Adds New Services for Comprehensive Program
  - Financial Planning
  - Legal
New and Expanded Caregiver Program

Centralized Eligibility and Appeals Teams (CEAT)

• Remains Clinical Appeal, May Not Go to Board of Veterans Appeals
• Aligned Administratively Under VISN Chief Medical Officers
• CEATS Consist of At Least Three Clinical Members, Including:
  ➢ Physician or Nurse Practitioner
  ➢ Psychologist
  ➢ Social Worker, Registered Nurse or Licensed Mental Health Counselor
  ➢ Optional - Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Other Clinician
New and Expanded Caregiver Program

*Expected* to Begin on October 1, 2020

- VA Anticipates Completing Final IT Testing Next Week
  - *IT Certification Announcement Expected Within 10 Days*
- “Effective Date” for Newly Eligible - Date of Receipt of Application
  - *HOWEVER, Must Be On or After IT Certification Date*
  - *PLUS, Must Already Be Receiving Caregiver Services in Home*
  - *PLUS, Family Caregiver Must Be Approved Into Program*
- May Apply Online or By Mail

[www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov)
Additional Proposals for Caregiver Program

Legislation to Make Improvements

• S. 2293 & H.R. 6571
  ➢ Formally Recognize Family Caregivers in VA Records
  ➢ Require “7-Point” Notification Letters
  ➢ Codify Transitions Out of Program

• Phase Two Expansion Acceleration Legislation
  ➢ VA Intends to Implement Phase Two in October 2022
  ➢ DAV Advocating to Keep October 2021 Date as Intended in MISSION Act
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

www.caregiver.va.gov

Caregiver Support Line:
1-855-260-3274