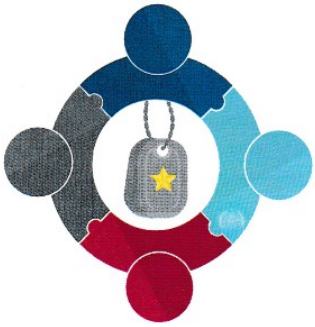
VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.

Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:

Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.

Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.

Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.

Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.

Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

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Learn more and sign up at VA.gov/PACT
Download the VA Health and Benefits App
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at VA.gov/find-locations/

PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The Act **(1)** expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and **(2)** expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

VETERANS AND SURVIVORS CAN FILE CLAIMS FOR ALL CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE PACT ACT IMMEDIATELY.

For Gulf War and post 9-11 Veterans, that includes:

Brain cancer, Glioblastoma, Respiratory *(breathing-related)* cancer of any type, Gastrointestinal cancer of any type, Head cancer of any type, Lymphoma of any type, Lymphatic cancer of any type, Neck cancer, Pancreatic cancer, Reproductive cancer of any type, Kidney cancer, Melanoma, Asthma *(diagnosed after service)*, Chronic rhinitis, Chronic sinusitis, Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis, Emphysema, Granulomatous disease, Interstitial lung disease *(ILD)*, Pleuritis, Pulmonary fibrosis, Sarcoidosis, Chronic bronchitis, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease *(COPD)*.

For Vietnam Veterans and other Veterans exposed to tactical herbicides, that includes two Agent Orange presumptive conditions:

Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance *(MGUS)*, High blood pressure *(hypertension)*.

How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply **online** at VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction.

Call our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits (VA Form 10-10EZ).

Bring a completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ with you to your nearest medical center or clinic or get help through your state's Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer.

Get help filing your claim by working with an accredited representative.

What are the PACT Act key components?

The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.

VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.

Every enrolled Veteran will **receive an initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.

VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training.**

The Act requires **research studies** on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.

The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.

The Act authorizes **31 new medical facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

How can a Veteran file a claim?

Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete VA Form 21-526EZ to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.

To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file.

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, **Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim** are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.

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