




Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

Legacy Participants Fact Sheet



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) offers enhanced clinical support for caregivers of eligible Veterans who are seriously injured. Changes to the program result from the new "Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Improvements and Amendments Under the VA MISSION Act of 2018" Final Rule, RIN 2900-AQ48, effective October 1, 2020. These changes include:

-  Expanding eligibility for PCAFC
-  Offering legal and financial services for designated Primary Family Caregivers of eligible Veterans in 2021
-  Making other changes affecting program eligibility and VA's evaluation of PCAFC applications



Who Qualifies?

Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury (including a serious illness) in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service on or after September 11, 2001, or on or before May 7, 1975.

Note: PCAFC eligibility for all remaining eras will expand on October 1, 2022

Who is a Legacy Participant?

If you and your Family Caregiver(s) were approved and designated by VA as eligible for PCAFC before October 1, 2020, you are considered a "Legacy Participant."

What Do I Need to Do?

No immediate action is required if you want to stay in the Caregiver Program.

VA will schedule an appointment to reassess your continued eligibility and care needs. You maintain your automatic eligibility for one year – through September 30, 2021 no matter when your reassessment occurs.

Is My Stipend Going to Change Due to a Reassessment?

For Legacy Participants who meet the new eligibility requirements and the reassessment results in

- A higher stipend amount, then the increase will take effect immediately with retroactive payment to October 1, 2020.
- A lower stipend amount, then the Legacy stipend amount remains through the duration of the transitional period.

For Legacy Participants who do not meet the new eligibility requirements (and who are not discharged or revoked on another basis) they will continue to receive their Legacy stipend amount for the transitional period.

Legacy Participants: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q1. Why do I need to be reassessed?

A1. VA is making changes to improve and expand the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), including changes to eligibility criteria. Accordingly, all Legacy Participants need to be reassessed to ensure new eligibility criteria are met for continued enrollment.

Q2. Do I need to complete a new application?

A2. No. As a Legacy Participant, you do not need to complete a new application.

Q3. How will I be notified about my reassessment?

A3. The Caregiver Support Coordinator will contact you to participate in the required reassessment. **No immediate action is required if you want to stay in the Caregiver Program.** You maintain your automatic eligibility for one year – through September 30, 2021, no matter when your reassessment occurs.

Q4. Do I have to come to the medical center during COVID-19 pandemic to be reassessed?

A4. No. Veteran safety is our utmost priority. During the COVID-19 pandemic, assessments will be conducted by local staff either at VA medical centers or by virtual telehealth visits while the Veteran and caregiver are at home.

Q5. Who will decide if I meet the criteria?

A5. Once your reassessment is completed, a Centralized Eligibility and Appeals Team will review and make a determination regarding your eligibility beyond September 30, 2021.

Q6. How long after my reassessment will it take for a determination to be made?

A6. The determination will be made within 45 days of the reassessment.

Q7. How will I find out about my reassessment determination?

A7. You will receive a phone call from your Caregiver Support Coordinator, followed by a letter.

Q8. What will happen if I'm discharged from the program?

A8. VA will provide advanced notice of its decision by October 1, 2021. Legacy Participants will stop receiving payments no earlier than December 1, 2021. In addition, the Family Caregiver will receive 90 days of extended benefits following the date of discharge.

Q9. If I disagree with the decision, can I make an appeal?

A9. Yes. If you disagree with a decision under PCAFC, you have the right to appeal. Please contact the Patient Advocate at your local VA medical center to discuss the appeal process. Your Caregiver Support Coordinator is also available if you have additional questions.

Q10. Are there any other programs to help me?

A10. Additional services are available through our Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS), as well as access to a Caregiver Support Coordinator at every VA medical center. Information on available resources is located on the caregiver website at www.caregiver.va.gov.

How to Contact a Caregivers Support Coordinator:

Veterans and caregivers can find their local Caregiver Support Coordinator by...



Calling the Caregiver Support Line at **1-855-260-3274** - Toll free - Expanded Hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET; Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm ET)



Using the Caregiver Support Coordinator locator tool at www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New_CSC_Page.asp

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

