

# Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

## Expansion 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.



## Who should consider applying?

- 1** A Veteran who has a single or combined service-connected disability rating of 70% or more, **and**
- 2** Who is in need of in-person personal care services for a minimum of six (6) continuous months based on either:
  - An inability to perform an activity of daily living (ADL) each time the activity is performed,
  - or**
  - A need for supervision, protection, or instruction, which means a functional impairment that directly impacts his/her ability to maintain his/her personal safety, **on a daily basis.**

Your Caregiver Support Coordinator can provide you with more information. They will help you every step of the way! There are seven eligibility requirements. Please see the Eligibility Fact Sheet for details.



## PCAFC Application

Veterans and caregivers may apply for PCAFC in two ways:

- 1** Visit [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov) and download VA Form 10-10CG. Mail the completed form to:  
**Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Health Eligibility Center**  
2957 Clairmont Road, NE, Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30329-1647
- 2** Apply in person through a local Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) Caregiver Support Coordinator.

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



## Major Expansion Changes – Big Wins for Veterans!

**Previously:** VA required a connection between the need for personal care services and the qualifying serious injury.

**Expansion Changes:** In addition to expanding to pre-1975 era Veterans, the enhanced PCAFC eliminates the need for a connection between personal care services and the qualifying serious injury. It also redefines serious injury to now include any service-connected disability — regardless of whether it resulted from an injury, illness or disease. Both these changes greatly expand program eligibility.

**Why This is Important:** In most cases, the eligible Veteran has multiple conditions that may warrant a need for personal care services. A Veteran's needs may be so complex that it can be difficult to determine what specific condition, out of many, causes the need for personal care services.



## Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Benefits

Benefits for eligible caregivers include:



Education and training



Respite care



Access to healthcare insurance  
*(If caregiver is otherwise uninsured)*



Wellness contact



Mental health counseling



Travel and per diem compensation  
*(when traveling for a Veteran's VA healthcare appointment)*



Financial stipend

### How to Contact a Caregiver 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 p.m. ET)



Using the Caregiver Support Coordinator locator tool at [www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New\\_CSC\\_Page.asp](http://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New_CSC_Page.asp)

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