

**Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)
Proposed Regulation
Frequently Asked Questions - Legacy Participants**

1. Who would be considered a legacy participant in the PCAFC?

A legacy participant in the PCAFC would be an eligible Veteran whose family caregiver(s) was approved and designated by VA before the effective date of the final rule. The eligible Veteran would continue to be considered a legacy participant so long as his or her primary family caregiver (approved and designated before the effective date) continues to be approved and designated as such.

If a new joint application is received by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) after the effective date that results in approval and designation of the same or a new primary family caregiver, the Veteran would no longer be considered a legacy participant.

2. When would a Veteran applying to the PCAFC be considered a legacy applicant?

A legacy applicant would be a Veteran or Servicemember who submits a joint application for the PCAFC that is received by VA before the effective date of the final rule and for whom a family caregiver(s) is approved and designated on or after the effective date. The Veteran or Servicemember would continue to be considered a legacy applicant so long as his or her primary family caregiver (approved and designated after the effective date pursuant to the joint application) continues to be approved and designated as such.

If a new joint application is received by VA on or after the effective date of the final rule that results in approval and designation of the same or a new primary family caregiver, the Veteran or Servicemember would no longer be considered a legacy applicant.

3. How would the proposed regulation affect PCAFC eligibility for legacy participants and legacy applicants and the stipend for their primary family caregivers?

Legacy participants and legacy applicants would generally remain eligible for the PCAFC for 12 months following the final rule's effective date. During this period, a family caregiver of a legacy participant or legacy applicant would not be discharged or have his or her designation revoked based on the legacy participant or legacy applicant not meeting the new eligibility criteria in the proposed rule. The stipend amount for the primary family caregiver of a legacy participant or legacy applicant would not decrease in the 12 months following the final rule's effective date – it would either remain the same or increase.

4. When would VA reassess eligibility of legacy applicants and legacy participants for the PCAFC?

Under proposed regulation, legacy applicants and legacy participants would be reassessed under the new eligibility criteria within 12 months of the effective date of the final rule.

5. What happens after the reassessment?

Participants would be notified of reassessment results at the time of the reassessment.

5a. For participants who meet the new eligibility requirements, VA would determine the applicable stipend amount under the new stipend payment methodology. If the reassessment results in an increase in the stipend amount, the increase would go into effect as of the date of the reassessment and the primary family caregiver would receive a retroactive payment to account for the increase back to the effective date of the final rule. If the reassessment results in a decrease in the stipend amount, VA would provide advanced notice of the decrease one year after the effective date of the final rule. The decrease would go into effect no earlier than 60 days after such notice.

5b. For participants who do not meet the new PCAFC eligibility criteria (and who are not discharged or revoked on another basis), VA would provide advanced notice discharge one year after the effective date of the final rule. The discharge would be effective no earlier than 60 days after such notice, and benefits would continue for 90 days after discharge from the program.

6. What services are available to me if VA determines I am no longer eligible for the PCAFC?

The Caregiver Support Program offers numerous resources for caregivers under the Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS). The PGCSS offers training, education, respite care, self-care courses, the Peer Support Mentoring program, and the Caregiver Support Line available at 1(855) 260-3274 (Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST). These services are available to support all caregivers of Veterans who are enrolled for VA health care.

7. How do I get more information on the proposed regulation?

You can read the proposed regulation on the Federal Register web site at [Federal Register](#).