Veterans Affairs
Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

Monthly Stipend for Primary Family Caregivers 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. These changes are based on the new "Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) Improvements and Amendments Under the VA MISSION Act of 2018" **Final Rule**, RIN 2900-AQ48, effective October 2020. These changes include:

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

Who will potentially qualify: Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury (now includes 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.

PCAFC Monthly Stipend

Caregivers play an important role in the health and well-being of Veterans.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers a number of services to support family caregivers including a monthly stipend to Primary Family Caregivers of Veterans with moderate and severe needs.

A stipend is defined as a monthly financial payment provided to a Primary Family Caregiver of an eligible Veteran.

Monthly Stipend Rate

VA bases stipend payments on the definition of "monthly stipend rate," which means the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) General Schedule (GS) Annual Rate for Grade 4, Step 1, based on the locality pay area in which the eligible Veteran resides, divided by 12.

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, 7:30 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 applications will soon be a reality, as well.

Stipend Payment: Two Levels

- VA will apply a specific percentage of the monthly stipend rate based on the amount and degree of personal care services provided to the eligible Veteran by the Primary Family Caregiver.
- The amount and degree of personal care services is divided into two levels. The distinction between the two levels is based on if the Veteran is determined to be unable to self-sustain in the community.

  Level 1: For an eligible Veteran who is not determined to be unable to self-sustain in the community, the Primary Family Caregiver's stipend amount will be ***62.5% of the monthly stipend rate***.

  - For example the GS rate at grade 4, step 1, in Dallas, Texas, for 2020 is $33,638 annually.
  - Thus, the monthly stipend amount for a Primary Family Caregiver of an eligible Veteran in Dallas, Texas, at this rate (62.5%) will be approximately $1,751.98.

  Level 2: For an eligible Veteran who is determined to be unable to self-sustain in the community, the Primary Family Caregiver's stipend amount will be ***100% of the monthly stipend rate***.

  - For example the GS rate at grade 4, step 1, in Dallas, Texas, for 2020 is $33,638 annually.
  - The 2020 monthly stipend amount for a Primary Family Caregiver of an eligible Veteran in Dallas, Texas, at this rate (100%) will be approximately $2,803.17.

The VHA Office of Community Care (VHA OCC) issues the recurring monthly payments and processes all updates related to the stipend. You may contact VHA OCC for information on the processing activities for the stipend benefit via:

- **Mail:** VHA Office of Community Care
  Caregiver Support Program
  PO Box 460637, Denver CO 80246-0637

- **Phone:** 1-877-733-7927, Monday-Friday
  8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Eastern Standard Time

- **Email:** Follow the directions for submitting email via IRIS at https://iris.custhelp.com/app/ask

- **Web:** https://www.va.gov/communitycare/

For Legacy Participants: If you were participating in PCAFC prior to October 1, 2020, please see the Legacy Reassessment Fact Sheet.