

Department of Veterans Affairs
Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) Final
Rule Frequently Asked Questions
Legacy Participants and Legacy Applicants

1. Who is considered a legacy participant in the PCAFC?

Under the final rule, a legacy participant in the PCAFC is defined an eligible Veteran whose Family Caregiver(s) was approved and designated by VA before the effective date of the final rule (i.e., October 1, 2020). The eligible Veteran continues 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) 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 will no longer be considered a legacy participant.

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

Under the final rule, a legacy applicant is a Veteran or service member who submits a joint application for the PCAFC that is received by VA before the effective date of the final rule (i.e., October 1, 2020) and for whom a Family Caregiver(s) is approved and designated on or after the effective date. The Veteran or service member will 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 service member will no longer be considered a legacy applicant.

3. How does the regulation affect PCAFC eligibility for legacy participants and legacy applicants and the stipend for their Primary Family Caregivers?

Legacy participants and legacy applicants generally remain eligible for the PCAFC for 12 months following the final rule's effective date (i.e., until October 1, 2021). During this one-year period, a Family Caregiver of a legacy participant or legacy applicant will 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 final rule. Additionally, the stipend amount for the Primary Family Caregiver of a legacy participant or legacy applicant will not decrease in the 12 months following the final rule's effective date – it will either remain the same or increase – except in cases where the reduction is the result of the eligible Veteran relocating to a new address.

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

Under the final rule, legacy applicants and legacy participants will be reassessed under the new eligibility criteria within 12 months of the effective date of the final rule (i.e., by October 1, 2021).

5. *What will happen after the reassessment?*

Legacy participants and legacy applicants will be notified of reassessment results at the conclusion of the reassessment process.

- a) For legacy participants and legacy applicants who meet the new eligibility criteria, VA will determine the applicable stipend amount under the new stipend payment methodology. If the reassessment results in an increase in the stipend amount, the increase will go into effect as of the date of the reassessment and the Primary Family Caregiver will 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 will provide advanced notice of the decrease one year after the effective date of the final rule. The decrease will go into effect no earlier than 60 days after such notice.
- b) For legacy participants and legacy applicants who do not meet the new PCAFC eligibility criteria (and who are not discharged or revoked on another basis), VA will provide formal advanced notice of discharge one year after the effective date of the final rule. The discharge will be effective no earlier than 60 days after such notice, and benefits will 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 final regulation?*

The final regulation can be found at [Federal Register](#).