

# Caregiver Resources

## Palliative Care, Hospice Care, and Bereavement Counseling

*Caregiving throughout the cycle of life can be supported.*

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides comprehensive services to assist spouses, children, and family caregivers of Veterans throughout every stage of life. Whether aiding with advance care planning, need assessments, or support for serious or life-threatening illnesses, VA stands ready to assist you as a caregiver, your family, and the Veterans you care for. VA's range of services, including palliative care, hospice care, and bereavement counseling, offer vital resources and relief during transitional periods.

### VA Palliative Care

VA's [palliative care](#) offers support during Veteran treatments of serious illness, whether the goal is to cure or control their diseases. Palliative care is delivered by an interdisciplinary team that includes a medical provider, social worker, nurse, chaplain, mental health provider, and others. The program prioritizes identifying, respecting, and providing the necessary help to Veterans to achieve their care goals. Related services may address physical symptoms, family coping, emotional or spiritual challenges, or access to urgent resources. Caregivers of all Veterans enrolled in VA health care are eligible if they meet the clinical need for services, and copays may be charged.

### VA Hospice Care

VA's [hospice care](#) focuses on comfort (not cures) and maximizing quality of life for Veterans with terminal conditions (i.e., an expected lifespan of six months or less). The program offers relief from suffering and symptom management. You and the Veteran you care for will meet with a dedicated care team to develop a comprehensive plan of care together that meets medical, social, spiritual, and psychological needs. Services can be provided at home or in an inpatient setting, including respite care at home hospice agencies. Caregivers of Veterans enrolled in Veteran Health Administration Standard Medical Benefits Packages are eligible for hospice care if they meet the clinical need for the service. Hospice care requires no copays.





## VA Bereavement Counseling

VA's [bereavement counseling](#) offers no-cost support for the spouse, children, or family caregivers of a deceased Veteran or Service member. VA aims to provide compassionate and high-quality resources to those in need. Serving 300 sites across the country, counseling is provided at community-based Veteran Centers located near the families. Bereavement counselors are able to connect with other resources and programs so families can get the help they need help close to where they reside. Eligibility varies depending on the Veteran's service, site of care, and cause of death.

## Benefits of VA Palliative Care, Hospice Care, and Bereavement Counseling:

- Access to resources that meet your current and future needs
- Disease-related specialty support for ill Veterans and their families
- Comprehensive and customized care wherever it is needed
- Help with short- and long-term decision making
- Free outreach and referrals to process grief
- Available bereavement counseling services from all Medicare-certified hospice agencies to Veterans' survivors

## More Information

Learn about VA's palliative care by taking a look at this [one-pager](#)

Find out more about VA's hospice care by reviewing this [one-pager](#)

Discover how VA's bereavement counseling can help you by reading this [one-pager](#)

Find your local CSP team for more information by using the locator [tool](#)

