

## Why Enroll, How to Enroll, File a Claim

**VA Health Care** enrollment is easy and free, and health care may be free as well.

Help other Veterans: VA funding is partially based on enrollment numbers. And, health data could impact future legislation.

Veteran trust in VA health care is above 90%.

Also, file a health-related compensation claim, and access other benefits.

Veterans and their survivors could be eligible for previously denied compensation.

Use current plan and VA, dually enrolled means dually insured. Fill gaps in coverage. May lessen co-pays, including prescriptions.

Current VA disability rating and monthly compensation could increase, especially for Veterans with dependents.

Increased access to medical devices and Durable Medical Equipment (DME).

Discharge status may be upgraded.

Receive updates on eligibility & other notices.

Prepare for life changes. Do it for your family.

Visit <u>va.gov/PACT</u> for the latest information.

<u>COMPACT Act:</u> no cost emergent suicide care.

PACT Act: a new law, and the most significant expansion and extension of Veteran benefits, eligibility, and care in 30+ years. Those previously denied for benefits should reapply. **Contact your County VA Office and Veteran Service Officers.** They provide accredited claims services (Health Care <u>and</u> other benefits) for Veterans and their families, at **no charge.** 

Find your County VA Office and Veteran Service Officers at <u>michigan.gov/mvaa</u> and select "Find a Veteran Service Officer", or scan this QR code:



Or dial 1-800-MICH-VET

mcrh.msu.edu/programs/Veterans-Care



Working with Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) VSO's help Veterans understand and apply for VA benefits



- Why Enroll in VA Healthcare
- How to Enroll in VA Healthcare
- File a Claim
- Apply for Other Benefits
- Additional Support
- 15 Things VSOs Want You To Know
- Fraud and Scams

VSOs work on behalf of Veterans, their dependents and survivors, **at no cost.** 



VSOs are trained and certified in the VA claims and appeals processes.

- VSOs can help you understand and apply for VA benefits, like these:
- Financial support (monthly payments)
- Education
- Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)
- Home loans
- Life insurance
- Pension
- Health care
- Burial benefits
- These trained professionals can also help in these ways:
- Help you gather supporting documents (like a doctor's report or medical test results.)
- File a claim or appeal on your behalf.
- Provide added support, like helping with transportation to medical appointments or emergency funds.
- Note: If your claim has a clear factual or legal error, your VSO can request a faster Higher-Level Review decision via a pilot program called Claim Accuracy Request (CAR).

Go to <u>psycharmor.org</u> and check out this 15minute video: *15 Things Veteran Service Officers Want You To Know.* 



## As of March 5, 2024 More Veterans are Eligible for VA Health Care

One way to apply for VA health care is by calling the Health Eligibility Center (HEC) (877) 222-8387.

Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 8:00pm Eastern.

If more than a week passes after applying, with no response, call again.

Less than 50% of Veterans are connected to all their earned military benefits. Connection to benefits <u>saves lives and improves quality of</u> <u>life</u>; help connect those who have served.



Veterans and their families are targeted by scammers at higher rates than non-Veterans.

Veterans are twice as likely to fall victim to fraudsters. Veterans tend to be more trusting of those they believe to be fellow members of the military, making them particularly vulnerable to impostor fraud and other scams.

Veterans, be wary of PACT Act scammers. The VA, American Legion, VFW, FBI, and AARP are warning Veterans that scammers are looking to cash in on their PACT Act benefits. The number of email phishing, scam phone calls and social media scams targeting Veterans has recently increased significantly.

Veterans do NOT need to pay for consultations or any other assistance to secure PACT Act, or any other benefits. Since the historic PACT Act of 2022 was signed into law, an onslaught of phishing, vishing and social media scams have targeted Veterans with the promise of help accessing PACT Act benefits, but for a charge. Veterans and their spouses lost \$102 million to scammers (con artists) in 2020, \$257 million in 2021, and \$414 million in 2022, a dramatic increase. Losses are likely much higher as many victimizations are unreported.

**Prevent Caregiver Fraud.** Hire home care wisely and protect against financial abuse.

Visit the AARP Veterans Fraud Center <u>aarp.org/lp/vets-fraud-center/</u>



