



Assistance and Support Services for Family Caregivers

National Association of State Departments of Veterans Affairs
Mid-Winter Conference
March 21, 2011

Caregivers of Veterans





Current VA Services

In-Home Care

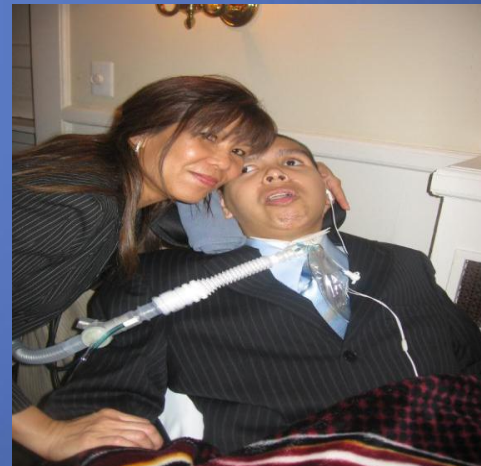
- Homemaker Home Health Services
- Skilled Home Care
- Home Based Primary Care
- Veteran Directed Home & Community Based Care
- Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders Bowel & Bladder Care

Respite Care

- In Home
- Adult Day Health Care
- Institutional Placement

Additional Benefits

- Equipment
- Home Adaptation
- Automobile Grant
- Transportation Assistance
- Increased Veteran Pension and Compensation – Aid & Attendance





Education, Training and Support

Caregiver Education and Training

Pre-Discharge Care Instruction

Spinal Cord Injury/Disorders

Polytrauma Rehabilitation

Blind Rehabilitation

Family Psycho-education

Caregiver Information on VA Health Website

Brochures and written materials

Family Support Services

Support Groups

Family Counseling

Spiritual and Pastoral Care

Family Leisure and Recreation Activities

Temporary Lodging – Fisher Houses

Caregiver Support Coordinators

- At all VA medical centers
- Clinical experts on caregiver issues including VA and non-VA resources
- Assist with application for new benefits
- Organize caregiver focused activities and services
- Ensure caregiver sensitivity is integrated into all programs



Eligibility for P.L. 111-163 Sections 101-104



P.L. 111-163 Section 101 Veteran Eligibility Criteria:

- Veteran who suffered a serious injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty on or after 9/11/01 including traumatic brain injury and psychological trauma or other mental disorder
and
- Is in need of personal care services because of
 - an inability to perform one or more activities of daily living;
 - a need for supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury; or
 - such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate
- General Caregiver benefits include all era Veterans



Current vs. New Caregiver Benefits

Current Benefits

Available to Veterans of All Eras

World War II
Korean
Vietnam
Gulf War

Post-9/11-----

- Education and Training
- Family Support Services
- In-Home Care
- 30 Days of Respite Care
- Aid and Attendance
- Additional Benefits

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Additional Benefits under P.L. 111-163

Available to subset of post-9/11 Veterans and Servicemembers

Primary Caregivers Receive:

- Stipend
- Health care (if not otherwise available)
- Mental health services
- Family Caregiver Benefits

Family Caregivers Receive:

- Travel, lodging and per diem for training
- Respite care during training
- Lodging and subsistence for Veteran's VA appointments
- Appropriate instruction and training
- Counseling



All General Caregivers Receive:

- In person education
- Interactive website
- Telehealth training
- Teaching techniques, strategies, and skills for caring
- Counseling and other services under § 1782
 - Respite care under §1720B
- Information on all available services

Family Caregivers Additionally Receive:

Post 9-11 Only

- Appropriate instruction and training
- Travel, lodging, and per diem for training
- Lodging and subsistence for appointments
 - Respite care during training
 - Ongoing technical support
 - Counseling

**Primary Family Caregiver Additionally
Receive:**

Post 9-11 Only

- Monthly caregiver stipend
- Appropriate Mental health services
- Respite care not less than 30 days/yr
 - Health care coverage



Eligibility Criteria

- **Administrative:**
 - Post 9-11/Line of Duty Injury
- **Clinical:**
 - Need clear clinical criteria consistently applied
 - Based on functional limitations - need for assistance
 - Focus on safety and need for supervision as well as assistance with personal care services

Development of Plan for Implementation



- **Steering Committee and Work Groups**
 - 50 subject matter experts from across VA
- **Consultation with Stakeholders**
 - Veterans, family members and caregivers
 - Veteran Service Organizations
 - Non-Governmental Organizations



Snapshot of the New Program

- Joint application for Veteran – family caregiver
- Standardized core curriculum as well as individualized training on Veteran's condition and care needs
- Home visits to ensure caregiver is comfortable with role and able to provide needed care
- Home visits to check on Veteran and caregiver physical and emotional well-being
- On-going support services both technical and psychosocial



Primary Family Caregiver Benefits

- **Stipend**
 - Direct payment to primary family caregiver
 - Centrally funded and managed
 - Based on wages of a home health aide in the geographic area where the Veteran resides
 - Tiered based on amount and degree of personal care services provided
- **Health Insurance**
 - CHAMPVA
- **Travel and Lodging**
 - Integrate into existing programs
- **Mental Health Services**
 - Individual/Group psychotherapy and counseling
 - VA or by contract



Moving Forward

- Interim Final Regulations submitted February 28, 2011
- Caregiver Training Curriculum under development
- Business practices being established
- Outreach to notify stakeholders
- Begin taking applications – early summer 2011
- Program operational summer 2011



Development in Progress

- Caregiver Support Line
 - February 1, 2011
- Caregiver Support Coordinators at each Medical Center
 - April, 2011
- Caregiver Website with Social Media Capabilities
 - May, 2011
- Additional Evidence-Based Support Programs
 - Roll out over next 12 months



Caring for a Veteran?

Call VA's Caregiver Support Line for help toll-free:

1-855-260-3274

Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 11:00 pm ET
Saturday, 10:30 am - 6:00 pm ET

VA Caregiver Support PROGRAM

 Department of Veterans Affairs

The advertisement features a woman in the foreground looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a man in a suit. The text is centered and right-aligned, providing contact information and the VA logo.



www.caregiver.va.gov

