

## PROSTHETIC AND SENSORY AIDS SERVICE

## BENEFIT PROGRAMS

### PROSTHETIC AND SENSORY AIDS SERVICE

Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) is the largest and most comprehensive provider of prosthetic devices and sensory aids in the world. The term "prosthetic" includes artificial limbs and any devices that support or replace a body part or function. VA provides all clinically appropriate and commercially available, state-of-the-art prosthetic equipment, sensory aids and devices to Veterans that cross the full range of patient care. Such items include artificial limbs and bracing, wheeled mobility and seating systems, sensory-neural aids (e.g., hearing aids, eyeglasses), cognitive prosthetic devices, items specific to women's health, surgical implants and devices surgically placed in the Veteran (e.g., hips and pacemakers), home respiratory care, recreational and sports equipment. In addition to providing devices, PSAS also administers the following three unique benefits to assist Veterans and Servicemembers with disabilities.

#### CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

VA must pay an Annual Clothing Allowance to Veterans who have:

- A service-connected disability or condition that requires them to wear or use a prosthetic or orthopedic device that wears or tears clothing
- A service-connected skin condition and skin medication prescribed which causes irreparable damage to the Veteran's outer garments

Clothing Allowance(s) may be authorized for Veterans who wear and use rigid spinal and cervical braces; wheelchairs; crutches; rigid orthotics; and ankle and/or foot orthosis (AFO).

Beginning December 16, 2011, multiple clothing allowance payments are payable for Veterans who have one or more appliances/devices/skin medications that causes wear, tear, or irreparable damage to one or more articles of clothing.

What articles of clothing are approved?

- Shirts, Pants, Blouses, and Skirts

What articles of clothing are disapproved?

- Hats, Caps, Underwear, Shoes, Scarves, Ties, Socks, Gloves, Stockings, and Pantyhose

To apply for one or more allowances, complete VA form 10-8078 and submit to the nearest local Prosthetic Representative no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year

Benefit 2023  
\$968.52 is payable for each  
Clothing Allowance

#### AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT (AAE)

This program provides the necessary AAE and training to disabled

Veterans or Service members to enable operation of a motor vehicle safely and permit access to and from vehicle.

To be eligible for AAE, Veterans must be in receipt of an approved VA Form 21-4502, or a disability rating sheet provided by Veterans Benefits Administration.

VA Form 10-1894 is used to determine medically necessary AAE. Contact your local Prosthetic Representative to determine your eligibility.

Veterans/Servicemembers eligible for AAE are:

- Service-connected for the loss of use of one or both feet or hands
- Service-connected for immobility (ankylosis) of one or both knees or one or both hips
- Undergoing Vocational Rehabilitation-Chapter 31
- Service-connected for burn injuries after October 1, 2011

- Service-connected for permanent impairment of vision of both eyes with a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less, and are licensed and capable of operating a motor vehicle



Examples of AAE items:

- Power windows
- Air Conditioning
- Vehicle modifications
- Vehicle lifts
- Wheelchair tie downs

Repairs, reinstallation, and reimbursement for AAE may be authorized.

Benefit 2023  
Auto Allowance (paid once)  
\$24,115.12

## HOME IMPROVEMENT & STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS (HISA)

The grant provides medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to Veterans/Servicemembers primary residence for the following purposes:

- Allowing entrance to or exit from their homes
- Use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities (e.g., Roll in showers or walk in showers)
- Allowing accessibility to kitchen or bathroom sinks or counters (e.g., lowering counters/sinks)

- Improving entrance paths or driveways in immediate area of the home to facilitate access to the home through construction of permanent ramping
- Improving plumbing or electrical systems made necessary due to installation of home medical equipment



Before HISA



After HISA

Lifetime HISA benefit up to \$6,800 may be provided for:

- Veterans and Servicemembers who have a service-connected condition
- Veterans who have a non-service connection rated 50% or more

No combining or combination of disability percentages is allowed

Lifetime benefit up to \$2000 may be provided for Veterans who have a non-service-connected condition

### What does HISA exclude?

Some excluded HISA structural alterations are exterior decking; purchase or installation of spa/hot tubs/ Jacuzzi type tubs; home security systems; removable equipment or appliances such as portable ramps; porch lifts, and stair glides; and routine repairs

To apply, please contact your local Prosthetic Service at the nearest VA medical center or visit [www.prosthetics.va.gov](http://www.prosthetics.va.gov) for more information about Prosthetics

Contact VBA at 1-800-827-1000 for other VA Housing Benefits and Eligibility Requirements:

- Specially Adapted Housing (SAH)
- Special Housing Adaptations (SHA)
- Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA)
- Independent Living (IL)