

# Navigating the Changes to VA's Caregiver Program

The Top 10 things to know about  
the new Program of  
Comprehensive Assistance for  
Family Caregivers

Presented by:  
Wounded Warrior Project  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag. The stars and stripes are visible, with a focus on the texture of the fabric. Overlaid on this image are various words in a light blue, sans-serif font, including 'DUTY', 'HONOR', 'COURAGE', 'INTEGRITY', 'SERVICE', 'COMMITMENT', and 'DUTY'. The words are arranged in a way that they appear to be part of a larger, repeating pattern.

## **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**



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## VA's PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS IS EXPANDING

- PCAFC was launched in 2011
- Presently, only available to post-9/11 era

Expansion in 2 phases:

1. PCAFC will begin 1st phase to WWII, Korean and Vietnam Veterans expected October 2020
2. 2nd phase – all other Veterans, 2 years later



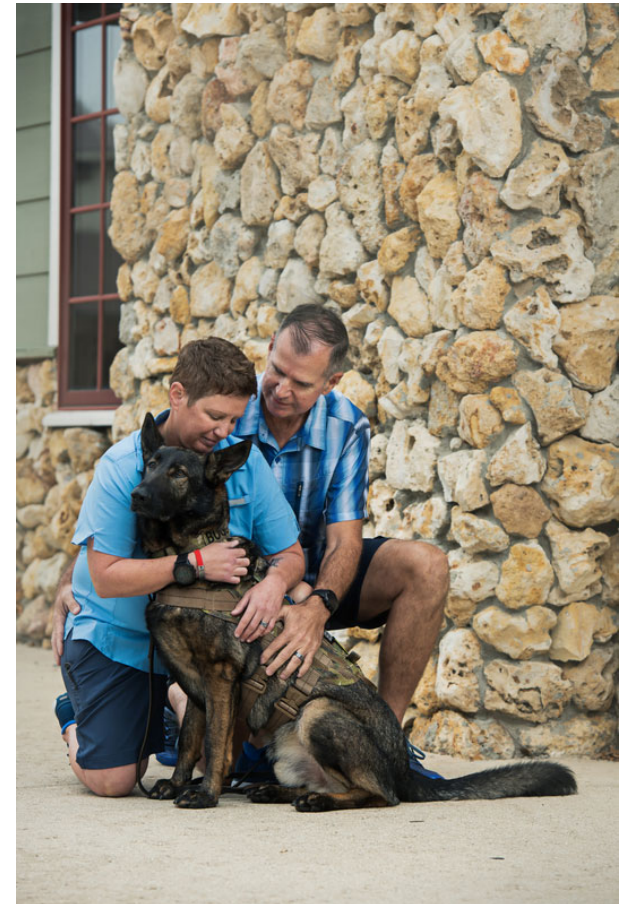
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2

## VA'S PCAFC IS NOT THE ONLY VA RESOURCE FOR CAREGIVERS

- PCAFC has been known for stipend payments & health care (CHAMPVA)
- Program of General Caregiver Support Services
  - Training
  - Education
  - Coaching
  - Respite Care
  - Self-care Courses
  - Peer Mentoring Program
- Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274
  - Trained Social Workers available for telephone support and coordination; education and support meetings





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## PCAFV WILL HAVE NEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### VETERAN MUST DEMONSTRATE:

Serious injury

**AND**

Require personal (in-person) care services due to inability to complete an activity of daily living (ADL) or the need for supervision, protection, or instruction



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## ★ 4 “SERIOUS INJURY” HAS A DEFINITION

### “SERIOUS INJURY”

is defined as

Having a single or combined service-connected disability rating of 70% or more.

“Serious injury” now also means serious illness and diseases.

A WWP national service officer can help





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## **“IN NEED OF PERSONAL CARE SERVICES” HAS A DEFINITION**

### **“IN NEED OF PERSONAL CARE SERVICES”**

is defined as

Inability to perform an activity of daily living (ADL)

**OR**

Need for supervision, protection, or instruction

**Must be provided in person**

**Must have been provided for at least 6 consecutive months**



## ★ 6 APPLYING HAS BEEN MADE EASIER



### APPLICATION OPTIONS



**Online at** [va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers](https://va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers)



**Download application and mail**



**Download application and deliver**

### NEED HELP?



**VA:** 1-855-260-3274

**WWP:** 1-888-997-2586





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## NEW RULES REQUIRE ASSESSMENT FOR ELIGIBILITY

- Initial assessments for new applicants
- Both veteran and caregiver assessments
- Includes a Veteran Functional Assessment
- Reassessments for current participants/Legacy participants
- Requires home visit from VA
- Must be completed to remain eligible



## ★ 8 STIPEND LEVELS ARE CHANGING

- Current/old system
  - 3 tiers
  - Based on hours of care provided
- New system
  - 2 levels of care
  - Based on amount and degree of care
- New pay scale





## 9

## CAREGIVERS HAVE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Eligibility evaluations
- Education and training
- Initial home assessment and demonstration of training
- Must be done within 90 days of PCAFC application



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# ★ 10

## RESOURCES WILL CONTINUE FOR LEGACY PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE NO LONGER ELIGIBLE

- PCAFC will continue for 12 months, until September 30, 2021
- Those who are no longer eligible will get 60 days advanced notice of discharge and 90 days extended benefits
- Program of General Caregiver Support Services still available
- Other VHA Services



### NEED HELP?



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The background features large, abstract geometric shapes. On the left, there are several overlapping, slanted rectangular blocks in various shades of blue. On the right, there is a large, downward-pointing triangle in a dark red color.

THANK YOU!



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