

Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance For Family Caregivers

Legacy Participants and Legacy Applicants Fact Sheet



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) offers enhanced clinical support for Family Caregivers of eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty (including a serious illness), along with other eligibility criteria. Changes to the program result from the new "Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Improvements and Amendments Under the VA MISSION Act of 2018" Final Rule, RIN 2900- AQ48, effective October 1, 2020. These changes include:



Expanding eligibility for PCAFC



Working towards a contract solution in the near future for finance and legal services for eligible Primary Family Caregivers.



Making other changes affecting program eligibility and VA's evaluation of PCAFC applications



October, 2021

Who May Qualify for PCAFC?

Family Caregivers of eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury (including a serious illness) in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service on or after September 11, 2001, or on or before May 7, 1975 and meet other eligibility criteria.

Note: PCAFC eligibility for all remaining eras will expand on October 1, 2022.

What is a Legacy Participant or Legacy Applicant?

A Legacy Participant is an eligible Veteran whose Family Caregiver(s) was approved and designated by VA before October 1, 2020.

A Legacy Applicant is a Veteran or Service member who submits a joint application to VA prior to October 1, 2020 and the Family Caregiver(s) is designated and approved on or after October 1, 2020.

What Do I Need to Do?

No immediate action is required to continue participation in PCAFC.

A member of your local Caregiver Support Program team will contact you to make arrangements to begin the reassessment process.

Online application is available at

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

Once I am reassessed, what happens?

When the reassessment of a Legacy Applicant, Legacy Participant, and their Family Caregiver(s) results in:

- The Family Caregiver being eligible to receive a stipend equal to or higher than what was being received, the increase will take effect immediately with retroactive payment to October 1, 2020.
- A Family Caregiver being eligible to receive a stipend less than what was being received, the decrease will not take effect until the conclusion of the transitional period.
- A determination of no longer being eligible for PCAFC (and who are not discharged or revoked on another basis), PCAFC eligibility and the monthly stipend will continue through the duration of the transition period.

Legacy Participants: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q1. Why do I need to be reassessed?

A1. VA has made changes to improve and expand the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), including changes to eligibility criteria. All Legacy Applicants, Legacy Participants and their Family Caregivers will need to be reassessed to ensure new eligibility criteria are met for continued PCAFC participation.

Q2. Do I need to complete a new application?

A2. No. Legacy Applicants, Legacy Participants and Family Caregivers do not need to complete a new application.

Q3. How will I be notified about my reassessment?

A3. A member of your local Caregiver Support Program team will contact you to make arrangements to begin the reassessment process.

Q4. Do I have to come to the medical center during COVID-19 pandemic to be reassessed?

A4. Veteran safety is our utmost priority. During the COVID-19 pandemic, assessments will be conducted by local staff either at VA medical centers or by virtual telehealth visits while the Veteran and caregiver are at home.

Q5. Who will decide if I meet the criteria?

A5. Once your reassessment is completed, an interdisciplinary team of clinical providers will review and make a determination regarding your eligibility beyond September 30, 2022.

Q6. How long after my reassessment will it take for a determination to be made?

A6. The determination will be made within 45 days of the reassessment.

Q7. How will I find out about my reassessment determination?

A7. Facility CSP Staff will notify you of the determination, both verbally and in writing.

Q8. What are my options if I disagree with a PCAFC decision?

A8. Individuals who disagree with a PCAFC decision have the right to request Veterans Health Administration (VHA) review, or appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board). Please contact the Patient Advocate at your local VA medical center to discuss the VHA clinical review process. Your local Caregiver Support Program staff are also available if you have additional questions or would like to learn about the other PCAFC review and appeal options.

Q9. Are there any other programs to help me?

A9. Additional services are available through our Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS), as well as access to local Caregiver Support Program staff at every VA medical center. Information on available resources is located on the caregiver website at www.caregiver.va.gov.

Q10. Can I be revoked or discharged from PCAFC during the transition period?

A10. As a Legacy Applicant, Legacy Participant or Family Caregiver, you will remain clinically eligible for PCAFC through September 30, 2022, however your eligibility may still be revoked or you may be discharged from PCAFC during this transition period under certain circumstances. For more information on revocations and discharges, please contact a Caregiver Support Coordinator at the points of contact listed below.



How to Contact your Caregiver Support Program Team

Veterans and caregivers can find their local Caregiver Support Coordinator by...



Calling the Caregiver Support Line at **1-855-260-3274** - Toll free - Expanded Hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET; Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET)



Using the Caregiver Support Program Team locator tool at : www.caregiver.va.gov/support/New_CSC_Page.asp

Online application is available at

<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers>