

# VVA CHAPTER 1069 BENEFITS PRESENTATION 4/8/2015

## HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS (HISA)

The HISA program provides funding for disabled veterans to make home improvements necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home, essential lavatory and sanitary facilities.

Disabled veterans may be eligible for HISA when it is determined medically necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of the service-connected disability.

Veterans who are rated 50% or higher are not required to prove that their service-connected disability is the reason for their HISA request, although veterans rated less than 50% must demonstrate that their disability is the cause of the HISA improvements.

Lifetime home improvement benefits may not exceed \$6,800 (U.S.). Any costs that exceed \$6,800 (U.S.) will be the veteran's responsibility. This amount is provided to veterans with a service-connected condition of a veteran rated 50 percent or more service-connected. Home improvement benefits of up to \$2,000 may be provided to all other veterans registered in the VA healthcare system.

To apply, veterans must submit the following documentation:

- A letter from describing the physical disability and a description of the request home improvement and/or structural alteration;
- A statement from the attending physician or therapist. This statement should describe the physical condition/disability, why the home modifications are medically necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of the service-connected disabling condition;
- A drawing of the work to be undertaken. This drawing can be hand sketched. It should include the height, width and length dimensions. It does not have to be a formal blueprint or architectural drawing;
- A completed, signed home ownership or a rental lease form with a letter from the landlord agreeing with the modifications if required;
- A completed and signed "VA Form 10-0103", Veterans Application for Assistance.
- Documentation verifying that the provider/contractor is licensed/bonded;
- An itemized cost estimate of the proposed improvement and/or structural alteration from the provider/contractor.

Preauthorization must be obtained before beginning any alterations, otherwise, HISA benefits will be denied.

## AUTOMOBILE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The VA offers an automobile assistance program for eligible veterans, or eligible members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who are suffering from a disability as described below, is such disability is the result of an injury incurred or disease contracted in or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval or air service. Following are highlight of the VA program:

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Qualified veterans may receive a one-time payment from the VA of up to ~~\$19,847~~ \$20,114.34 (2015) to be used toward the purchase of an automobile or other conveyance. The law requires that this amount be adjusted annually by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.

- The loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet; OR
- The loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands; OR
- The permanent impairment of vision of both eyes of the following status:
- Central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with corrective glasses, or central visual acuity of more than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than twenty degrees in the better eye.