

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act:

Bringing VA Benefits Home in your hometown



What is a PACT Act: Bringing VA Benefits Home Event?

The PACT Act: Bringing VA Benefits Home Event gives Veterans and their families the opportunity to talk with a VA representative about the VA disability claim process and any other VA- related questions. The event allows you to speak directly with a VA representative in person.

Here's what you can expect during the event:

- " When you arrive, you will be asked to sign in and complete a form with your information and what VA benefits or services you are seeking.
- " A staff member will assign you a waiting number.
- " As soon as a VA staff member is available to help you, they will call your number for an interview"
- " The staff member can answer your benefits-related questions and assist you with:
 - Filing a claim
 - Adding any evidence you bring with you to your VA claims file
 - Enrolling on VA.GOV
 - Filing an Intent to File
 - ...and more!
- " You'll be provided a list of next steps and any follow-up actions you may need to complete

NOTE



Keep in mind that wait times may be long depending on how many fellow Veterans and family members are attending the event. We encourage you to bring snacks and medications, if needed.

Important Information you Should Know

This packet includes web links to important information and materials that will help you to prepare for the event.



Fact Sheets on the following topics:

- ✓ [Intent to File](#)
- ✓ [VA Pension](#)
- ✓ [Special Monthly Compensation](#)
- ✓ [Camp Lejeune Health and Disability Benefits](#)
- ✓ [Individual Unemployability \(IU\)](#)
- ✓ [Presumptive Disability Benefits](#)
- ✓ [Specially Adapted Housing Program](#)
- ✓ [PACT Act Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- ✓ [C-123 Aircraft Agent Orange Exposure](#)
- ✓ [Assistance for Homeless Veterans](#)
- ✓ [Disability Benefit Questionnaires \(DBQs\)](#)
- ✓ [Native American Direct Home Loan](#)
- ✓ [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation \(DIC\)](#)
- ✓ [Survivors Pension Benefit](#)
- ✓ [VA Appeals Modernizations](#)
- ✓ [VA Survivor Benefits & The PACT Act](#)



DOWNLOAD FACT SHEETS

Fact sheets can also be found at <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>.

Before You Arrive: Preparing for PACT Act: Bringing VA Benefits Home Event

Review the following checklist before the event and gather any important information you'd like to bring with you to help make sure you get the most out of the Bringing VA Benefits Home Event.

Review:

- Fact Sheets for the benefits you'd like to claim. Refer to the fact sheets to learn about benefits such as Disability Compensation, Fully Developed Claims, Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs), and more, or find more information online at <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>.

Complete:

Depending on the benefits you're filing for, you may need to complete one or more of the following VA application forms. If you'd like to complete the forms before attending the event, you can find them online at www.va.gov/vaforms. Otherwise, a VA staff member will provide them and help you complete them during the event.

- [VA Form 21-0966](#), *Intent to file*
- [VA Form 21-526EZ](#), *Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits*
- [VA Form 21-686c](#), *Declaration of Status of Dependents*
- [VA Form 21P-527EZ](#), *Application for Pension*
- [VA Form 21-8940](#), *Veterans Application for Increased Compensation Based on Unemployability*
- [VA Form 21-4138](#), *Statement in Support of Claim*
- [VA Form 21P-534EZ](#), *Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits*
- [VA Form 10-10EZ](#), *Application for Health Benefits*

Enroll In:

- VA.GOV at www.va.gov. You can sign into VA.gov with one of these four accounts [LOGIN.GOV](#), [ID.me](#), [DS Logon](#), or [MyHealththeVet](#) to access an online portal that lets them submit an electronic claim, check the status of your claim, access important documents like your DD 214, and more. If you do not have an account, you can create one with LOGIN.GOV or ID.me. If you're having trouble signing/creating an account, you can call 1-800-698-2411, and select 0. This should be done prior to the event.
- VA Health Care at www.myhealthvet.va.gov. MyHealththeVet lets you access and manage your VA health records, track test results, refill prescriptions, and more.

Bring with You:

- DD Form 214 (if available, not mandatory to have)
- Medical evidence to support your claim, including:
 - Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) completed by your primary care provider (www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq_disabilityexams.asp)
 - [VA Form 21-4142](#), *Authorization to Disclose Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)*
 - [VA Form 21-2680](#), *Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance*
 - Any additional medical evidence with a diagnosis

What's Next?

Here's what to do after you leave the Bringing Benefits Home Event:

" If you submitted a claim at the event, check the status of your claim by logging into VA.GOV at www.va.gov.

" If required, send VA any follow-up evidence to support your claim, by either:

- Uploading the evidence into your VA.GOVaccount,
- Fax copies toll free to: 844-531-7818, or
- Mail copies to:

Department of Veterans Affairs Claims
Intake Center
PO Box 4444
Janesville, WI 53547-4444

" Contact VA if you have additional questions at 1-800-827-1000.

Follow-up Requirements Needed:

Condition/Claim

Evidence of Event in Service

Evidence of Disability/Continuity

Evidence of Nexus

Other

What is Next?

The PACT Act and your VA benefits

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

What's the PACT Act and how will it affect my VA benefits and care?

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure?

To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition.

But for some conditions, we automatically assume (or "presume") that your service caused your condition. We call these "presumptive conditions."

We consider a condition presumptive when it's established by law or regulation.

If you have a presumptive condition, you don't need to prove that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.



PACT ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



VIETNAM



GULF WAR



POST-9/11

The **PACT Act** is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

The Act **(1)** expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and **(2)** expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

What new or expanded presumptions will the Act create and when will they be in effect?

Veterans and survivors can file claims for all conditions outlined in the pact act immediately.

- Brain cancer
- Glioblastoma
- Respiratory (*breathing-related*)
- Cancer of any type
- Gastrointestinal cancer of any type
- Head cancer of any type
- Lymphoma of any type
- Lymphatic cancer of any type
- Neck cancer
- Pancreatic cancer
- Reproductive cancer of any type
- Kidney cancer
- Melanoma
- Asthma (*diagnosed after service*)
- Chronic rhinitis
- Chronic sinusitis
- Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (*MGUS*)
- Emphysema
- Granulomatous disease
- Interstitial lung disease (*ILD*)
- Pleuritis
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Sarcoidosis
- Chronic bronchitis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (*COPD*)
- High blood pressure (hypertension)

How can Veterans apply for VA health care?

Apply **online** at [VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction](https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction).

Call our toll-free hotline at 877-222-8387, M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET.

Mail a completed, signed Application for Health Benefits ([VA Form 10-10EZ](#)).

Bring a **completed, signed VA Form 10-10EZ** with you to your nearest medical center or clinic or get help through your state’s Department of Veterans Affairs Service Officer.

Get help filing your claim by working with an accredited representative.

What are the PACT Act key components?



The Act **expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures** and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era.



VA **will improve the decision-making process** for determining what medical conditions will be considered for presumptive status.



Every enrolled Veteran will **receive an initial toxic exposure screening** and a follow-up screening every five years. Veterans who are not enrolled, but who are eligible to enroll, will have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.



VA health care staff and claims processors will receive **toxic exposure-related education and training**.



The Act requires **research studies** on mortality of Veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War, Post-9/11 Veteran health trends, and Veteran cancer rates.



The Act will help VA **build a stronger, more skilled workforce** to meet the growing demand for benefits and services.



The Act authorizes **31 new medical facilities** across the country, providing greater access to VA health care.

How can a Veteran file a claim?



Veterans who would like to file a claim must complete [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) to apply for benefits and submit any supportive evidence.



To learn about standard VA disability claims, supplemental claims, secondary claims, and more visit: [VA.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file](https://www.va.gov/disability/how-to-file-claim/when-to-file).

If a Veteran was previously denied a claim, what can they do?

VA will contact Veterans when a presumption of service connection is established or changed. However, **Veterans previously denied a toxic-exposure related claim** are encouraged to file a supplemental claim. Once a supplemental claim is received, VA will review the claim under the new law.



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Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT)
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://www.va.gov/find-locations/)



VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.



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Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)