



AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT (AAE) PROGRAM

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides AAE to meet individual driving / passenger needs to Veterans and Servicemembers. The program is jointly administered by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). VHA's Rehabilitation and Prosthetics Services provide Veterans/Servicemembers a full range of services: driver's evaluations and training; adaptive equipment to enable safe operation of a motor vehicle; and equipment which permits access to enter and exit their vehicle.

VBA and VHA determines eligibility and entitlement on what type of equipment is needed based on an individual's disability(ies); selection of vehicle; Federal and State motor vehicle standards; functional limitations, etc.

The AAE program is for Veterans/Servicemembers with eligible service-connected disabilities. Vehicle modifications may be provided to Veterans with non-service connected disabilities (see back page).

Eligibility for AAE:

Veterans/Servicemembers eligible for AAE are service-connected for:

- The loss or loss of use of one or both feet or hands
- Ankylosis (immobility of the joint) of one or both knees or one or both hips
- Severe burn injuries after October 1, 2011
- Permanent impairment of vision of both eyes with a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- Undergoing Vocational Rehabilitation-Chapter 31 and are licensed and capable of operating a motor vehicle

Examples of AAE provided:

- Low Effort or sensitized steering
- Electronic gas and/or brakes
- Mechanical hand controls for gas / brakes
- Wheelchair tie downs
- Vehicle lifts
- Tilted steering wheels
- Voice command systems
- Raised roofs / doors
- Tinted windows for burn injuries
- Repairs, reinstallation and reimbursement of AAE

How often can AAE be provided?

No more than 2 vehicles in a 4 year period may be provided.



(Photo Courtesy of VA)

To be eligible for AAE, Veterans / Servicemembers must be in receipt of an approved VA Form 21-4502 provided by VBA.

- For eligibility questions, please contact VBA at: 1-800-827-1000

To be entitled to AAE an approved VA Form 10-1394 is provided by VHA.

- For questions on driver's evaluations/ training and what type of equipment is medically necessary, please contact your local Prosthetics Service at the nearest VA medical center.





What is VA driver's training program?

VA has 48 facilities that offer this programming.

These programs have over 100 specially adapted vehicles (cars, mini-vans and full sized vans) available to train Veterans / Servicemembers with various disabilities (e.g., Spinal Cord Injury, Amputation, Brain Injury, Stroke, Orthopedic conditions).

- Veterans / Servicemembers may be provided a clinical program of primary services that include:
- Pre-Driving Assessment; Behind-the Wheel Assessment; and equipment evaluation.

Eligibility for vehicle modifications:

- Veterans who are enrolled in VHA's healthcare system *(Note: Vehicle modifications can be provided as medical services).*
- Veterans with a non-service connected disability and not eligible for the AAE program.

What does vehicle modifications include?

- Non-operational equipment (e.g., wheelchair tie downs; vehicle lifts; items to assist with entering / exiting the vehicle.
- Modifications on the drivers or passenger side.



(Photo Courtesy of VA)

What does vehicle modifications exclude?

- Operational equipment (e.g., low effort power brakes; low effort power steering column; hand controls).
- Benefits greater than those eligible for VBA's AAE program. *(Note: No 2 vehicles modified in a 4 year period).*

Is pre-authorization required?

Yes. Before any vehicle modifications or equipment for the vehicle is installed, repaired, or replaced, authorization by the VA is required.

Veterans / Servicemembers should consult with VHA when making decisions regarding vehicle selection, modifications, or adaptations specifically required to meet individual needs. Evaluation for proper driving equipment is critical **BEFORE** purchasing a new vehicle in order to avoid unnecessary personal costs.

To apply for vehicle modifications, please contact your local Prosthetic Service at the nearest VA medical center or visit

www.prosthetics.va.gov for more information about Prosthetics.

