



## PROSTHETIC AND SENSORY AIDS SERVICE

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) is the largest and most comprehensive provider of prosthetic devices and sensory aids in the world. The term “prosthetic” includes artificial limbs and any devices that support or replace a body part or function. VA provides all clinically appropriate and commercially available, state-of-the-art prosthetic equipment, sensory aids and devices to Veterans that cross the full range of patient care. Such items include: artificial limbs and bracing, wheeled mobility and seating systems, sensory-neural aids (e.g., hearing aids, eyeglasses), cognitive prosthetic devices, items specific to women’s health, surgical implants and devices surgically placed in the Veteran (e.g., hips and pacemakers), home respiratory care, recreational and sports equipment. In addition to providing devices, PSAS also administers the following three unique benefits to assist Veterans and Servicemembers with disabilities.

### CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

VA must pay an Annual Clothing Allowance to Veterans who have:

- A service connected disability or condition that requires them to wear or use a prosthetic or orthopedic device that wears or tears clothing
- A service connected skin condition and skin medication is prescribed, which causes irreparable damage to the Veteran’s outer garments

Clothing Allowance(s) may be authorized for Veterans who wear and use rigid spinal and cervical braces; wheelchairs; crutches; rigid orthotics; and ankle and/or foot orthosis (AFO).

Beginning December 16, 2011, multiple clothing allowance payments are payable for Veterans who have one or more appliances / devices / skin medications that causes wear, tear, or irreparable damage to one or more articles of clothing.

#### What articles of clothing are approved?

- Shirts, Pants, Blouses, and Skirts

#### What articles of clothing are disapproved?

- Hats, Caps, Underwear, Shoes, Scarves, Ties, Socks, Gloves, Stockings, and Pantyhose

To apply for one or more allowances, complete VA Form 10-8678 and submit to the nearest local Prosthetic Representative no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

\* As of December 1, 2014, \$777.29 is payable for each Clothing Allowance.

### AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT (AAE)

This program provides the necessary AAE and training to

disabled Veterans or Servicemembers to enable operation of a motor vehicle safely, and permit access to and from the vehicle.

To be eligible for AAE, Veterans must be in receipt of an approved VA Form 21-4502 or a disability rating sheet provided by Veterans Benefits Administration.

VA Form 10-1394 is used to determine medically necessary AAE. Contact your local Prosthetic Representative to determine your eligibility.

Veterans/Servicemembers eligible for AAE are:

- Service connected for the loss or loss of use of one or both feet or hands
- Service connected for immobility (ankylosis) of one or both knees or one or both hips
- Undergoing Vocational Rehabilitation-Chapter 31





- Service connected for burn injuries after October 1, 2011
- Service connected for permanent impairment of vision of both eyes with a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less, and are licensed and capable of operating a motor vehicle



(Photo Courtesy of VA)

Example of AAE items:

- Power windows
- Air conditioning
- Vehicle modifications
- Vehicle lifts
- Wheelchair tie downs

Repairs, reinstallation and reimbursement for AAE may be authorized.

### HOME IMPROVEMENT & STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS (HISA)

This grant provides medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to Veterans/ Servicemembers' primary residence for the following purposes:

- Allowing entrance to or exit from their homes
- Use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities (e.g. roll in showers or walk in tubs)
- Allowing accessibility to kitchen or bathroom sinks or counters (e.g. lowering counters/sinks)
- Improving entrance paths or driveways in immediate area of the home to facilitate access to the home through construction of permanent ramping
- Improving plumbing or electrical systems made necessary due to installation of home medical equipment



Bathroom before HISA



Bathroom after HISA

Lifetime HISA benefit up to \$6,800 may be provided for:

- Veterans and Servicemembers who have a service connected condition
- Veterans who have a non-service connected condition rated 50% or more

Lifetime benefit up to \$2,000 may be provided for Veterans who have a non-service connected condition

#### What does HISA exclude?

Some excluded HISA structural alterations are exterior decking; purchase or installation of spa/ hot tubs/ Jacuzzi type tubs; home security systems; removable equipment or appliances such as portable ramps; porch lifts, and stair glides; and routine repairs.

To apply, please contact your local Prosthetic Service at the nearest VA medical center or visit [www.prosthetics.va.gov](http://www.prosthetics.va.gov) for more information about Prosthetics.

### Contact VBA at 1-800-827-1000 for Other VA Housing Benefits and Eligibility Requirements:

- Specially Adapted Housing (SAH)
- Special Housing Adaptations (SHA)
- Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA)
- Independent Living (IL)

