

Veterans Corner
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By: Robert G. Mitchell

Veterans with service connected disabilities

This information is of critical importance to those military veterans who have a service connected disability rating from 0% to 100%.

Under the policy the VA now specifies that they will provide Hearing Aids and Eyeglasses at no charge to the following veterans:

- Those with a 10% or greater service connected disability of any kind.
- Former POW's.
- Those receiving 38 USC 1151 benefits (individuals disabled by treatment in a VA facility or VOC).
- Those receiving VA pension with Aid and Attendance or Housebound benefits.
- Those with hearing loss which resulted from the existence of another medical condition for which the veteran is receiving VA care, or which resulted from treatment of that medical condition
- Those who are service connected for hearing loss, tinnitus, even if the service connection is 0%.
- Those with a service connected disability for an eye condition, 0% or greater.
- Those with vision loss resulting in legal blindness
- Those with vision change or loss resulting from a medical condition for which the veteran is receiving VA care or resulting from treatment for the medical condition by VA care, e.g. diabetes, stroke, multiple sclerosis, vascular disease, glaucoma, macular degeneration, cataracts, cataract surgery, or other eye surgeries etc. Eyeglasses are not provided to these veterans for normally occurring myopia, hyperopia, or presbyopia, but only in those cases where the medical condition results in vision change or loss.
- Those who are severely visually impaired to the degree that the provision of specialized corrective devices is necessary to permit active participation in their won medical treatment/care, e.g. hearing loss veteran who needs eyeglasses to read lips; stroke victim who needs vision correction to use communication board, etc.

The above eligibility criteria for eyeglasses shall in no way affect a veteran's access to VA for evaluation of an eye condition/vision change. Veterans will be encouraged to seek VA care for their eye care needs. Veterans not eligible for eyeglasses will receive a copy of their eyeglass prescription which may be used to purchase eyeglasses from a private source at the veteran's own expense.

For complete information, access the VA website at <http://www.va.gov/elig/> or contact the eligibility department at the VA Medical Center Albany at 518-626-5000.

VA Health Care Frequently Asked Questions

Q – How do I enroll for VA health care?

A – Veterans can get an application by visiting, calling or writing the nearest VA healthcare facility or benefits office. They can submit the completed application in person or by mail with a copy of the veterans discharge papers or DD214. Veterans can also enroll electronically using the new online 10-10EZ. Veterans can apply for enrollment at any facility, at any time, during any year.

The initial enrollment will be confirmed in writing. After the initial application, the enrollment system requires that most veterans provide the VA with a means test annually detailing their gross income. For more information, contact your nearest VA facility.