



Eligibility for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) is a clinical program administered by the Veterans Health Administration. It is not a VA benefit program. Eligibility is reassessed annually or as needed. When appropriate, the long term goal is for the Veteran to be able to safely meet his/her own care needs and discharge from PCAFC. Participation in the program must support the Veteran's progress in rehabilitation to the extent possible.

Eligibility Criteria:

- 1) Veteran or Servicemember has a serious injury that happened in the line of duty on or after 9/11/2001.
 - a. Line of duty is established by VA rating or Department of Defense (DoD) Medical Evaluation Board (MEB).
 - b. Includes psychological trauma.
 - c. Does not include illness.
- 2) Due to the serious injury(ies) sustained by the Veteran or Servicemember, is another person (Caregiver) REQUIRED to assist with the daily management of personal care functions required in everyday living due to one or more of the following?
 - a. Inability to perform an Activity of Daily Living (bathing, dressing, grooming, mobility, being fed, help with Prosthetic).
 - b. Need for supervision or protection (concentration, memory, planning, organizing, safety).
- 3) Care from a Caregiver must be required regularly for a minimum of 6 months.
- 4) Is it clinically in the best interest of the Veteran or Servicemember to participate in the PCAFC?
 - a. Participation significantly enhances the Veteran's ability to live safely in the home setting.
 - b. Participation supports the Veteran's progress in rehabilitation.
 - c. Participation creates an environment that supports the Veteran's health and well-being.
- 5) Veteran will receive care at home from the Caregiver upon admission into the PCAFC.
- 6) Veteran must receive ongoing care from a Patient Aligned Care Team or other VA Health Care Team.
- 7) Care provided by Caregiver will not be duplicated by another individual or agency.

Other Considerations:

- Help with shopping, cleaning, yard work, lifting, transportation, childcare and general emotional support cannot be considered for eligibility. Additionally, the care and support being provided must exceed what would generally be expected from a spouse, parent, close friend, etc.
- Veteran must attend appointments scheduled to provide feedback as part of the Clinical Eligibility process, including a home visit.
- The Clinical Eligibility Team (Not the Caregiver Support Coordinator) makes the final determination regarding initial and continued eligibility. The Team considers input from the Veteran's providers, reviews the Caregiver interview, and reviews all related VA, DOD, and community provider medical records.