

What is a Primary Family Caregiver stipend?

A Primary Family Caregiver stipend is monetary compensation paid to a Primary Family Caregiver for providing personal care services to an eligible Veteran enrolled in the Caregiver Program. The stipend is not intended to replace career earnings, and receipt of the stipend payments does not create an employment relationship between VA and the Primary Family Caregiver.

Can all Caregivers receive the stipend?

Only the designated Primary Family Caregiver of an eligible Veteran is entitled to receive a stipend. There can be only one Primary Family Caregiver designated at a time.

Will my Primary Family Caregiver stipend be taxable income?

No. The stipend is a VA enhanced service and is not considered taxable income.

How does VA determine the stipend amount?

The amount of the stipend a Primary Family Caregiver will receive is based on the weekly number of hours of personal care services that a Veteran requires during the month.

Who determines the number of hours of personal care services a Veteran requires?

The Veteran's Patient Aligned Primary Care Team (PACT) will make this determination after evaluating the Veteran.

Why is the PACT involved in determining the stipend amount?

The PACT will provide a clinical evaluation of the Veteran's level of dependency, based on the degree to which the eligible Veteran is unable to perform one or more activities of daily living, or the degree to which the Veteran is in need of supervision or protection, based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury. Based on the clinical evaluation and score, the eligible Veteran will be rated as follows:

- **High Tier:** Will equate to a maximum of 40 hours of care per week.
- **Medium Tier:** Will equate to a maximum of 25 hours of care per week.
- **Low Tier:** Will equate to a maximum of 10 hours of care per week.

What is the role of the Health Administration Center (HAC) in the stipend process?

The HAC will perform the administrative processing for the stipend, using the PACT's tier-level determination to calculate the stipend, and make recurring monthly payments.

How will my stipend amount be determined?

The amount of the stipend a Primary Family Caregiver will receive is based on the weekly number of hours of personal care services that an eligible Veteran requires during the month. VA will use the Bureau of Labor Statistics' hourly wage for a home health aide in the geographic region in which the eligible Veteran resides (using the 75th percentile of the wage index) times the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) Cost of Living adjustment, multiplied by 4.35, which is equal to the number of weeks in the month the Primary Family Caregiver provided care to the eligible Veteran.

How often will I receive a stipend payment when I am a Primary Family Caregiver?

The stipend is paid monthly for the personal care services that the Primary Family Caregiver provided in the prior month. Once an application is approved, the stipend will be retroactive to the date the application was received at the VAMC.

How do I get more information?

You may contact the VA Health Administration Center for information on the processing activities for the stipend benefit by:

- Phone: 1-877-733-7927
- Website: www.va.gov/hac

The Caregiver support line will provide information on the Caregiver program along with eligibility information:

- Phone: 1-855-260-3274
- Caregiver website: www.caregiver.va.gov