







Please join the EDD Veteran Service Team for the Veteran Resource Information Webinar. Use the provided zoom link and associated information to attend this event held every Thursday at 0900 PDT:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87198294457?pwd=QUo4LzR3U25PTzNETnVuM0g4dkxHUT09

Telephone: USA 8664345269 (US Toll Free) Conference code: 506817 Hire**VetsFirst** Meeting ID: 871 9829 4457 Password/ Passcode: 517546

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DE 6197A Rev. 4 (2-08) (INTRANET)
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Kings County Veteran's Support Group It's our turn to serve those who serve on our behalf!



Veteran's Support Group

Meets the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month via Zoom & in person

Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

For Zoom link/meeting info call (559) 852-2444

Seating is limited.so please call to reserve your seat.

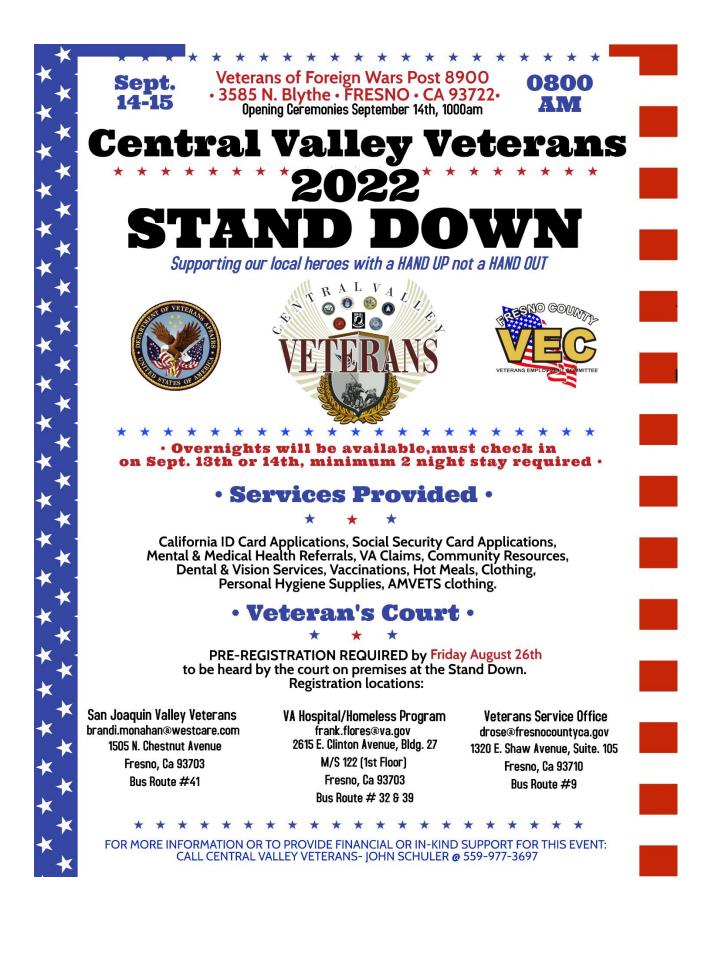


460 Kings County Drive Suite 101 Hanford, CA 93230 Due to the nature of the group, we can only allow adults to participate.



kcbh.org





VETERANS, ACTIVE DUTY, NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVISTS

CENTRAL VALLEY WOMEN'S STAND UP

M O N D A Y, +O C T O B E R- 1 O, .2 O 2 2 * 8 : O O A M. - 2 : O O P M Pardini's - 2257 West shaw ave:, fresno ca 93711 * +

FEATURING KEY NOTE SPEAKER

Cheri Provancha

COLONEL, US ARMY RETIRED VP SECURITY, SUPPLY CHAIN, & CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY WITH COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEM

FREE EVENT TRANSPORTATION, BREAKFAST, +LUNCH, & SPA SERVICES PROVIDED

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER, VISIT CENTRALVALLEYVETERANS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ANNETTE AT ANNETTE.WHOLAVER@CALVET.CA.GOV



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7600 www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Sep. 2, 2022

VA will offer abortion counseling and — in certain cases abortions to pregnant Veterans and VA beneficiaries

WASHINGTON - Last night, the Department of Veterans Affairs submitted to the Federal Register an interim final rule that will allow VA to provide access to abortion counseling and — in certain cases — abortions to pregnant Veterans and VA beneficiaries. Specifically, VA will provide access to abortions when the life or health of the pregnant Veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term, or when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. VA beneficiaries enrolled in CHAMPVA will also have access to this care.

These services will be authorized immediately after the interim final rule is published, and the rule will be available for public comment for 30 days thereafter. Once the rule is published, VA will immediately prepare to provide these services in as many locations as possible. For more information about abortion services at VA, visit <u>VA.gov/ReproductiveHealth</u> and click on "Abortion Services."

This is a patient safety decision," said Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "Pregnant Veterans and VA beneficiaries deserve to have access to world-class reproductive care when they need it most. That's what our nation owes them, and that's what we at VA will deliver."

'VA will be able to offer abortion counseling and abortions to pregnant Veterans and VA beneficiaries in cases of rape, incest, or when the life or health of the Veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term — in accordance with generally accepted standards of medical practice," said **Dr. Shereef Elnahal, VA's Under Secretary for Health.** "We came to this decision after listening to VA health care providers and Veterans across the country, who sounded the alarm that abortion restrictions are creating a medical emergency for those we serve. Offering this care will save Veterans' health and lives, and there is nothing more important than that.3

Access to medically necessary abortions is essential for preserving the life and health of Veterans and VA beneficiaries. Restricting access to abortion care has well-documented adverse health consequences, including increased risk of loss of future fertility, significant morbidity, or death. Veterans are also at greater risk of experiencing pregnancy-related complications due to increased rates of chronic health conditions. Therefore, to protect the life and health of pregnant Veterans and eligible beneficiaries, VA determined that it was necessary to provide access to abortion counseling and — in some cases abortions.

The determination of whether the "life and health of the pregnant Veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term" will be made on a case-by-case basis and will be the result of careful consultation between VA health care providers and the Veterans they serve. In cases of rape or incest, self-reporting from a Veteran or VA beneficiary will constitute sufficient evidence that an act of rape or incest occurred.

VA is taking steps to guarantee Veterans and other VA beneficiaries abortion-related care anywhere in the country. VA employees, when working within the scope of their federal employment, may provide authorized services regardless of state restrictions.

VA will also continue to provide access to a full range of reproductive health services, including fertility services, contraceptives including emergency contraceptives, life-saving treatment related to pregnancy, and much more. For information about all reproductive health services at VA, visit VA.gov/ReproductiveHealth

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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs News Release

Office of Public Affairs Media Relations Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7600 www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Aug. 29, 2022

VA extends temporary hardship suspension for benefit debts

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs is extending its financial hardship suspension on benefit debts through Dec. 31.

This relief option, established to help Veterans through the COVID-19 pandemic, was set to expire Sept. 30.

Beginning in September, debt notification letters will be mailed to affected Veterans advising them of the extended hardship suspension option, as well as extended debt repayment plans, waivers and compromises. Benefit debts include debts related to disability compensation, non-service-connected pension and education benefits.

"Helping Veterans manage, pay off, and — in some cases — eliminate their debt is one of our top priorities," said VA Secretary **Denis McDonough**. "Extending this hardship suspension is a key part of that critical effort, and it will help ease the burden for Veterans who are living with debt."

In recent years, VA has made real progress toward helping Veterans manage their debts. These efforts include:

• Canceling copayments for medical care and pharmacy services from April 6, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021, which saved more than 1.5 million Veterans about \$1 billion dollars.

• <u>Publishing a final rule</u> that reduced the number of Veterans referred to credit agencies by 99%, meaning medical debt will no longer affect those Veterans' credit scores.

• Transitioning from a complex paper application to enhanced online tools where Veterans can <u>learn about what they owe</u> and apply for relief.

• Improving the review process for debt forgiveness by implementing a simpler income threshold to qualify for relief.

• Streamlining the Veterans Health Administration debt waiver process for medical debts, requiring less paperwork for Veterans, while expediting processing times and expanding relief eligibility.

• Establishing a phone hotline in October 2021 for Veterans Health Administration clinicians to call on behalf of Veterans who appear to be experiencing significant anxiety related to their benefit debt.

• Temporarily eliminating the requirement for a Financial Status Report to receive a hardship determination.

Veterans and beneficiaries can manage their debt online or call 800-827-0648 with questions regarding benefit overpayments.

For information about medical care and pharmacy copayment debt, Veterans and beneficiaries can contact the Health Resource Center at 866-400-1238.

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2022 Naval Air Station Lemoore Retiree Appreciation Day

Saturday, September 24, 2022 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

RSVP TODAY BY CALLING 559.998.0113 TO SIGN UP

Call the Retired Activities Office at: 559.998.0113

MASLFFSC



All Service Retirees & Their Guests Welcome!