

## **Special Benefits Allowances**

A wide range of Special Services and Benefits are available for disabled veterans. These may include prosthetic devices, medical accessories and similar appliances, or monetary grants for alteration and/or adaptation of a home or automobile" to accommodate the particular disability. The qualifying disability does not necessarily need to be service-connected, although eligibility requirements may be different for service-connected disabilities than for non-service-connected ones.

**Appliances and devices** available include, but are not limited to, artificial limbs, braces, canes, crutches, wheelchairs, orthopedic shoes, eyeglasses, and hearing aids. These may all be furnished as a necessary part of any medical care, whether inpatient or outpatient, which the veteran is eligible to receive and is receiving. Once issued, such appliances or devices may be repaired or replaced by the VA as necessary.

**Clothing Allowance** - The Veterans Administration provides certain monetary benefits to qualified disabled veterans if a veteran has a service-connected condition which requires the wearing or use of an orthopedic or prosthetic appliance (including a wheelchair) that tends to tear or wear out clothing, or has a service-connected skin condition and uses medication for it that tends to stain or otherwise damage the clothing, the an annual clothing allowance is payable upon application to the Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service at the VA Medical Center of jurisdiction.

**Automotive and Special Adaptive Equipment** - If a veteran is entitled to compensation because of anatomical loss or loss of use of one or both hands, or one or both feet, or because of defective vision in both eyes, with best vision in the better eye no better than 20/200, VA will pay up to \$11,000 towards the purchase of an automobile or other conveyance plus any necessary special adaptive equipment which will allow the veteran to safely and effectively operate the automobile or other conveyance. "This is a one time" allowance only. The prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service at the VA Medical Center nearest the veteran may also authorize special adaptive equipment for veterans who are entitled to compensation for complete ankylosis of on or both hips or one or both knees, as well as authorizing adaptive equipment for subsequent vehicles for any veteran who has any of the above disabilities. The special adaptive equipment may be repaired, reinstalled, or replaced as necessary; however, a veteran may not be authorized adaptive equipment for more than two vehicles at a time or during any four-year period except for unusual circumstances beyond the veteran's control.

**Special Adaptive Assistance** - Beginning 15 June 2006 a veteran may qualify for up to three (3) special adapted housing grants not to exceed \$50,000 in aggregate, under Public Law 109-233, if he/she is entitled to compensation and rated permanently totally disabled based on any of the following disabilities or combinations:

Anatomical loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, canes, crutches, or a wheelchair.

Blindness of both eyes, having only light perception, plus anatomical loss or loss of use of one lower extremity.

Anatomical loss of use of one lower extremity plus residuals of organic disease or injury which so affect the functions of balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, canes, crutches, or a wheelchair.

Anatomical loss or loss of use of one lower extremity plus anatomical loss or loss of use of one upper extremity which so affects the functions of balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, canes, crutches, or a wheelchair.

Anatomical loss or loss of use of both upper extremities such as to preclude use of the arms at or above the elbows.

The grants may be used to buy, build, or alter and adapt a home for the purpose of making it wheelchair-accessible under applicable guidelines. If the veteran has Loan Guaranty entitlement available and meets creditworthiness and other criteria, VA may also authorize an additional direct loan of up to \$33,000 to help defray the cost of buying, building, or modifying the home.

For further information click on the following link: [38Code of Federal Regulations](#)