

## 2025 Rates for Burial, Special Benefits, Grants and Special Allowances

### Burial and Plot Rate Table 2025 – Effective October 1, 2024

SERVICE-CONNECTED DEATH – Burial Allowance	\$2,000
NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DEATH – Burial Allowance (If Veteran died on/after 10/1/2024)	\$978
NSC DEATH PLOT ALLOWANCE (If Veteran died on/after 10/1/2024)	\$978
NSC HEADSTONE OR MARKER ALLOWANCE (If not provided by the Department)	\$231

A service-connected death is one where the veteran was receiving monthly payments for Disability Compensation and the death was due to the disability or condition for which the veteran was receiving pay. It is also possible to receive a service-connected death if the disability or condition was not the direct cause but the disability or condition contributed substantially to the death.

A non-service-connected death is one where the veteran was receiving monthly payments for Disability Compensation or Veterans Pension but the death was due to some other cause not related to the disabilities or conditions for which the veteran was receiving pay.

#### Burial Benefits for Service-Related Death

An annual increase in burial and plot allowances for deaths occurring after October 1, 2011 began in 2013 based on the Consumer Price Index for the preceding 12-month period.

#### Eligibility Requirements

- You paid for a Veteran's burial or funeral, AND
- You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased Veteran's employer, AND
- The Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, AND
- The Veteran died because of a service-related disability, OR
- The Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, OR
- The Veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay, OR
- The Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, OR
- The Veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, OR
- The Veteran had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death, OR
- The Veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home.

NOTE: VA does not pay burial benefits if the deceased:

Died during active military service, OR

Was a member of Congress who died while holding office, OR

Was a Federal prisoner

## Evidence Requirements:

- Acceptable proof of death as specified in 38 CFR 3.211., AND
- Receipted bills that show that you made payment in whole or part, OR
- A statement of account, preferably on the printed billhead of the funeral director or cemetery owner. The statement of account must show:
  - The name of the deceased Veteran for whom the services and merchandise were furnished, AND
  - The nature and cost of the services and merchandise, AND
  - All credits, AND
  - The amount of the unpaid balance, if any

## How to Apply

- Complete and submit a VA Form 21p-530ez, Application for Burial Allowance. You can find an office on our Facility Locator page, OR
- Apply online using ChooseVA (choose.va.gov), OR
- Work with an accredited representative or agent, OR
- Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our Facility Locator page.

For more information on how to apply and for tips on making sure your claim is ready to be processed by VA, visit our How to Apply page.

## **Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)**

CRSC provides tax-free monthly payments to eligible retired veterans with combat-related injuries. With CRSC, veterans can receive both their full military retirement pay and their VA Disability Compensation if the injury is combat-related. Of course, it should be noted that if the veteran is 50% or higher rated he or she is automatically entitled to full retirement pay.

Retired veterans with combat-related injuries must meet all of the following criteria to apply for CRSC:

1. Active or Reserve component with 20 years of creditable service or medically retired.
2. Receiving military retired pay.
3. Have a 10 percent or greater VA-rated injury.
4. Military retired pay is being reduced by VA disability payments (VA Waiver).

In addition, veterans must be able to provide documentary evidence that their injuries were a result of one of the following:

- Training that simulates war (e.g., exercises, field training)
- Hazardous duty (e.g., flight, diving, parachute duty)
- An instrumentality of war (e.g. combat vehicles, weapons, Agent Orange)
- Armed conflict (e.g. gunshot wounds, Purple Heart)

## Housing Adaptability Grants

### **SAH Grant, Eligibility for up to \$117,014 for 2024-25**

VA may approve a grant for the cost of building, buying, or adapting existing homes or paying to reduce indebtedness on a currently owned home that is being adapted, up to a maximum of \$117,014. In certain instances, the full grant amount may be applied toward remodeling costs. Veterans and service members must be determined eligible to receive Compensation for permanent and total service-connected disability due to one of the following:

- Loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes or a wheelchair.
- Loss or loss of use of both upper extremities at or above the elbow.
- Blindness in both eyes, having only light perception, plus loss or loss of use of one lower extremity
- Loss or loss of use of one lower extremity together with (a) residuals of organic disease or injury, or (b) the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity which so affects the functions of balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion without the use of braces, canes, crutches or a wheelchair.
- Severe burn injuries

### **SHA Grant, Eligibility for up to \$23,444 for 2024-25**

VA may approve a grant for the cost, up to a maximum of \$23,444, for necessary adaptations to a veteran's or service member's residence or to help them acquire a residence already adapted with special features for their disability, to purchase and adapt a home, or for adaptations to a family member's home in which they will reside.

To be eligible for this grant, veterans and servicemembers must be entitled to Compensation for permanent and total service-connected disability due to one of the following:

- Blindness in both eyes with 5/200 visual acuity or less.
- Anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands.
- Severe burn injuries.

### **Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA)**

A temporary grant may be available to SAH/SHA eligible Veterans and Servicemembers who are or will be temporarily residing in a home owned by a family member. **The maximum amount available to adapt a family member's home for the SAH grant is \$47,130 and for the SHA grant is \$8,415 for 2024-25.**

The first adjustment occurred on Oct. 1, 2009, with future adjustments each Oct. 1 thereafter. These adjustments will increase the grant amounts or leave them unchanged; they will not decrease the grant amounts. The maximum amount for a TRA grant is not indexed and remains unchanged.

The property may be located outside the United States, in a country or political subdivision which allows individuals to have or acquire a beneficial property interest, and in which the

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in his or her discretion, has determined that it is reasonably practicable for the Secretary to provide assistance in acquiring specially adapted housing.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) – Housing Adaptation Assistance**

VR&E may provide home adaptations to individuals who are not currently able to work because of the effects of their service-connected disabilities, or who require adaptations to achieve a vocational goal. The benefits are limited to those required to improve independence at home and/or in the community. If for

### **Supplemental Financing**

Veterans and service members with available loan guaranty entitlement may also obtain a guaranteed loan or a direct loan from VA to supplement the grant to acquire a specially adapted home.

### **HISA Grants**

A Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant provides assistance for any home improvement necessary for treatment or disability access. Eligible Veterans and Service members can receive a HISA grant, as well as either a SAH or SHA grant. This program is available for both Veterans with service-connected disabilities and non-service-connected disabilities:

- Service-connected disabilities: home improvement benefits up to \$6,800
- Non-service-connected disabilities: home improvement benefits up to \$2,000

The veteran must be registered with VA health care. In order to receive a HISA grant, the Veteran must first have a prescription from a VA physician in the VA health care system. This must include:

- The diagnosis with medical justification
- The Veteran's name, address, SSN, and phone number(s)

To apply, the Veteran must first provide:

- A completed VA Form 10-0103, VETERANS APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE In Acquiring Home Improvement and Structural Alterations
- If a leased or rented property, written permission from the owner
- Quotes from licensed contractors (if required by state law), to include:
  - The contractors name, address, telephone, and Federal tax ID number or social security number
  - The Veteran's name, address, and telephone number
  - Plans and drawings
  - An itemized list of estimated materials, cost, and labor cost
  - All permits required (it is the contractors responsibility to obtain these)
  - A picture of the work site prior to construction

Following are the types of projects that HISA grants will pay for. This is not all inclusive and other appropriate projects may be approved.

- Roll-in showers
- Construction of wooden or concrete, permanent ramping to provide access to the home
- Widening doorways to bedroom, bathroom, etc., to achieve wheelchair access
- Lowering of kitchen or bathroom counters and sinks
- Improving entrance paths and driveways in immediate area of home to facilitate access to the home
- Construction of concrete pads and installation of exterior types of wheelchair lift mechanisms if the installation cost exceeds \$500.00
- Interior and exterior railing deemed necessary for patients with ambulatory capability or for veterans rated legally blind if the installation cost is over \$500.00
- Improvements to plumbing or electrical systems made necessary due to the installation of dialysis equipment in the home
- Any cost associated with permits, inspection fees, etc., that are required by local ordinances.

HISA will not pay for:

- Walkways to exterior buildings
- Widening of driveways (in excess of a 7ft x 6ft area)
- Spa, hot tub, or Jacuzzi
- Exterior decking (in excess of 8ft x 8ft)

### Special Benefit Allowances

Other benefits may be available after an award for Compensation has been received. Here is a list of these special benefits.

<b>2025 Special Benefits</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Date Changed</b>
<b>Automobile Allowance</b>	\$26,417.20 Once	10-01-2024
<b>Clothing Allowance</b>	\$1,024.50	12-01-2024
<b>Medal of Honor Pension</b>	\$1,712.94/mth	12-01-2024

### Automobile Allowance

This one-time allowance can be used toward the purchase of an automobile or other conveyance if the veteran has service-connected loss or permanent loss of use of

- one or both hands or feet or
- permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a certain degree, or
- ankylosis (immobility) of one or both knees or one or both hips.

The veteran may also be eligible for adaptive equipment, and for repair, replacement, or reinstallation required because of disability or for the safe operation of a vehicle purchased with VA assistance.

**Clothing Allowance**

Any veteran who is service-connected for a disability for which he or she uses prosthetic or orthopedic appliances may receive an annual clothing allowance. This allowance also is available to any veteran whose service-connected skin condition requires prescribed medication that irreparably damages outer garments. To apply, contact the prosthetic representative at the nearest VA medical center.

**Medal of Honor Pension**

This income is available to any Medal of Honor recipient.