

**Military Veterans**



**Timber Pines**



*To honor, educate, and assist all US Military veterans, men and women by providing social opportunities, information on veterans' entitlements, and outreach activities that address needs beyond the scope of other support groups*

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## **VA Health Care Benefits Eligibility**

This is a general guide relating to Veteran eligibility for VA health care benefits. More detailed information can be provided by your local VA health care facility, Veterans Service Officers, Veterans Organizations or Hernando Veterans Services.

### **Can I get VA health care benefits?**

You may be able to get VA health care benefits if you served in an active military service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge.

- **If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981,** you must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which you were called to active duty, unless any of the descriptions below are true for you.

**This minimum duty requirement may not apply if any of these are true. You:**

- Were discharged for a disability that was caused—or made worse—by your active-duty service, **or**
  - Were discharged for a hardship or “early out,” **or**
  - Served prior to September 7, 1980
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- **If you're a current or former member of the Reserves or National Guard,** you must have been called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which you were called or ordered to active duty. If you had or have active-duty status for training purposes only, you don't qualify for VA health care.

### **Is there anything that will make me more likely to get these benefits?**

Yes. You may qualify for enhanced eligibility status (meaning you'll be placed in a higher priority group, which makes you more likely to get benefits) if you meet at least one of the requirements listed below.

**At least one of these must be true. You:**

- Receive financial compensation (payments) from VA for a service-connected disability
- Were discharged for a disability resulting from something that happened to you in the line of duty
- Were discharged for a disability that got worse in the line of duty
- Are a recently discharged Combat Veteran
- Get a VA pension

- Are a former Prisoner of War (POW)
- Have received a Purple Heart
- Get (or qualify for) Medicaid benefits
- Served in Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975
- Served in Southwest Asia during the Gulf War between August 2, 1990, and November 11, 1998
- Served at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987

**If none of the above apply to you**, you may still qualify for care based on your income. The table and has annual income table listed below show the minimum income level for Hernando County. If the Veteran does not meet any of the specific conditions listed above and has an annual household income level higher than the amount listed in the Table, then the Veteran will not be eligible for VA health care enrollment.

Medium Family Income of 4	Veteran Only	1 Dependent	2 Dependents	3 Dependents	4 Dependents
\$59,800	\$36,850	\$42,130	\$47,410	\$52,635	\$56,870

**What are priority groups and how do they affect the Veteran?**

When you apply for VA health care, you’ll be assigned 1 of 8 priority groups. This system helps to make sure that Veterans who need immediate care can get signed up quickly.

Your priority group may affect how soon you become eligible for VA health care benefits. It may also affect how much (if anything) you’ll have to pay toward the cost of your care, which is referred to as Co-Pay.

**Your priority group will be based on:**

- Your military service history, **and**
- Your disability rating, **and**
- Your income level, **and**
- Whether or not you qualify for Medicaid, **and**
- Other benefits you may be receiving (like pension benefits)

We assign Veterans with service-connected disabilities the highest priority. We assign the lowest priority to Veterans who earn a higher income and who don’t have any service-connected disabilities qualifying them for disability compensation (monthly payments). This type of Veteran is referred to as Non-Service Connected. The specific Priority Groups are as follows:

**Priority Group 1**

- Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 50% or more, or

- Veterans determined by VA to be unemployable due to service-connected conditions

### **Priority Group 2**

- Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 30% or 40%.

### **Priority Group 3**

- Veterans who are Former Prisoners of War (POWs)
- Veterans awarded a Purple Heart medal
- Veterans whose discharge was for a disability that was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty
- Veterans with VA-rated service-connected disabilities 10% or 20%
- Veterans awarded special eligibility classification under Title 38, U.S.C., § 1151, “benefits for individuals disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation”
- Veterans awarded the Medal Of Honor (MOH)

### **Priority Group 4**

- Veterans who are receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits
- Veterans who have been determined by VA to be catastrophically disabled

### **Priority Group 5**

- Non-Service connected Veterans and non-compensatable service-connected Veterans rated 0% disabled by VA with annual income below the VA's and geographically (based on your resident zip code) adjusted income limits.
- Veterans receiving VA pension benefits
- Veterans eligible for Medicaid programs

### **Priority Group 6**

- Compensatable 0% service-connected Veterans
- Veterans exposed to Ionizing Radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Project 112/SHAD participants
- Veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975
- Veterans of the Persian Gulf War who served between August 2, 1990 and November 11, 1998
- \*Veterans who served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for not fewer than 30 days beginning August 1, 1953 and ending December 31, 1987
- Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998 as follows:

- Currently enrolled Veterans and new enrollees who were discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003, are eligible for the enhanced benefits for 5 years post discharge.
- Combat Veterans who were discharged between January 2009 and January 2011, and did not enroll in the VA health care during their 5 year period of eligibility have an additional one year to enroll and receive care. The additional one-year eligibility period began February 12, 2015 with the signing of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for America Veterans Act.

### **Priority Group 7**

- Veterans with gross household income below the geographically-adjusted income limits (GMT) for their resident location and who agree to pay copays

### **Priority Group 8**

- Veterans with gross household income above the VA and the geographically-adjusted income limits for their resident location and who agrees to pay copays

### **Veterans eligible for enrollment:**

Noncompensable 0% service-connected:

- Subpriority a: Enrolled as of January 16, 2003, and who have remained enrolled since that date and/or placed in this sub priority due to changed eligibility status
- Subpriority b: Enrolled on or after June 15, 2009 whose income exceeds the current VA or geographic income limits by 10% or less

Nonservice-connected and:

- Subpriority c: Enrolled as of January 16, 2003, and who have remained enrolled since that date and/or placed in this sub priority due to changed eligibility status
- Subpriority d: Enrolled on or after June 15, 2009 whose income exceeds the current VA or geographic income limits by 10% or less

### **Veterans not eligible for enrollment:**

Veterans not meeting the criteria above:

- Subpriority e: Noncompensable 0% service-connected (eligible for care of their SC condition only)
- Subpriority g: Nonservice-connected