

VA MISSION Act

An Overview of Key Elements

July | 2018



FAQs

What is the 2018 VA MISSION Act?

The VA MISSION Act of 2018 was signed into law by the President on June 6, 2018. The Act will fundamentally transform elements of VA's healthcare system, fulfill the President's commitment to provide Veterans with more choice in their healthcare providers, and prevent a funding shortfall in the current Veterans Choice Program.

What are the immediate impacts to Veterans for community care due to the VA MISSION Act?

In the near term, the VA MISSION Act of 2018 appropriates \$5.2 billion in mandatory funding for the Veterans Choice Program to continue to provide care to Veterans until the new, consolidated Veterans Community Care Program is operational—approximately one year after the enactment of this Act.

What are the changes in caregiver eligibility as a result of the VA MISSION Act of 2018?

The VA MISSION Act of 2018 will expand eligibility for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. Post-9/11 Veterans have benefited greatly from this program. The Act will end a disparity in Veterans' benefits by expanding the program to include eligible Veterans from all eras of service.



Talking Points

- The Act appropriates \$5.2 billion in mandatory funding for the Veterans Choice Program to continue to provide care to Veterans until the new, consolidated Veterans Community Care Program is operational—approximately one year after the enactment of this Act.
- VA anticipates well over 150,000 Veterans of all eras may be eligible for the Caregivers program when the changes made by the VA MISSION Act of 2018 are fully implemented.
- The Asset and Infrastructure Review process in the Act will provide VA the necessary flexibility to align its infrastructure footprint with the needs of the Nation's Veterans.



Top Line Messages

- The VA MISSION Act of 2018 includes four main pillars: (1) consolidating VA's community care programs; (2) expanding the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to eligible Veterans of all eras; (3) providing VA the necessary flexibility to align its infrastructure footprint with the needs of our Nation's Veterans; and (4) strengthening VA's ability to recruit and retain quality healthcare professionals
- The Act will expand eligibility for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to post-9/11 Veterans.
- The Act will strengthen VA's ability to recruit and retain quality healthcare professionals

Caring for Veterans

Sub-section A – Community Care

Chapter 1: Community Care Programs

(Sections 101-109)

- Establishment of a new Veterans Community Care Program with authorization of agreements between VA and Non-VA providers
- Conforming amendments for State Veterans homes
- Access to walk-in care and remediation of Medical Service Lines

Chapter 2: Paying Providers & Improving Collections

(Sections 111-114)

- Electronic processing of claims and prompt payment to providers
- Authority to pay for authorized care not subject to an agreement and improved cost recovery for non-service connected disabilities

Chapter 3: Education & Training Programs

(Sections 121-123)

- Education program on health care option
- Training program for administration of non-VA health care
- Continuing medical education for non-VA medical professionals

Sub-section B – Telehealth, Care and Payment, Live Organ Donors

(Sections 151-153)

- Licensure of VA health care professionals providing treatment via telemedicine
- Authority of VA Center for Innovation for Care and Payment
- Authorization to provide for operations on live donors for purposes of conducting transplant procedures for veterans

Chapter 4: Other Matters – Non-VA Providers

(Sections 131-134)

- Safe opioid prescribing practices by non-VA providers and prescription drug monitoring programs
- Improved communication and engagement with community providers
- Competency standards for non-VA providers

Chapter 5: Other Non-VA Health Related Matters

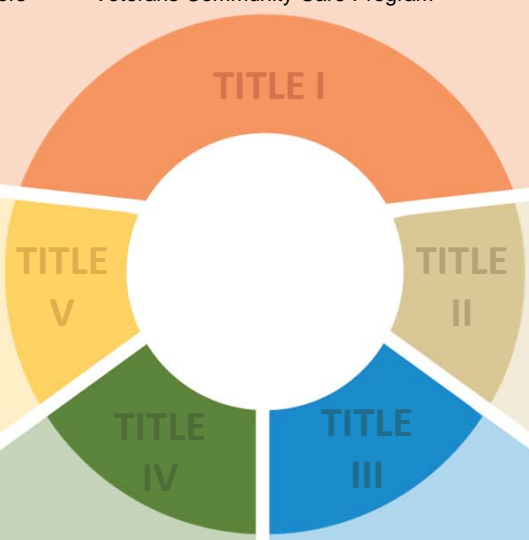
(Sections 141-144)

- Veterans Choice Fund flexibility to pay at non-department facilities
- Sunset of Veterans Choice Program to consolidate and create a Veterans Community Care Program

Sub-section C – Caregivers

(Sections 161-163)

- Expansion of VA family caregiver program
- IT system to assess and improve the family caregiver program
- Modifications to annual evaluation report on VA caregiver program



Other Matters

(Sections 501-512)

- Authorization of major medical facility projects in Livermore, CA
- Extension of reduced VA pension for certain veterans covered by Medicaid plans for services furnished by nursing facilities
- Peer specialists in Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) settings, VA medical scribe pilot program, technical corrections, and budgetary effects

Asset and Infrastructure Review Act

(Sections 201-213)

- Establish the Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission to modernize and realign VHA facilities
- Review of enhanced use leases
- Assess health care in Pacific territories

Health Care in Underserved Areas

(Sections 401-403)

- Development of criteria for designation of underserved VA facilities
- Pilot program for medical deployment teams to underserved facilities
- Pilot program on graduate medical education and residency

Improvements to Recruitment of Health Care Professionals

(Sections 301-306)

- Veterans healing Veterans medical access and scholarship program
- VA Health Professional Scholarship program for physicians and dentists
- Establish VA Specialty Education Loan Repayment program

* This is a high-level overview. Subsections to the provision, sub-owners and cooperating offices are not listed. For detailed information, please see the MISSION crosswalk on Share Point at https://vawww.vashare.vha.va.gov/sites/LIT/MISSION_Act/_layouts/15/start.aspx