



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

The PACT Act

Second Anniversary Partner Toolkit

August 10, 2024



Introduction

August 10, 2024 marks the second anniversary of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, which ushered in a new era of VA benefits and health care for Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards during their service. VA has prepared this toolkit for you to help spread the word about the PACT act and encourage Veterans and survivors to apply today.

The PACT Act, named after Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson, who died from diseases resulting from prolonged exposure to toxic burn pits, is one of the largest VA health and benefit expansions in American history. It addresses the full range of issues impacting toxic-exposed Veterans, ensuring generations of Veterans get the benefits and care they've earned.

Thanks to your unwavering commitment, VA is delivering more care and benefits to more Veterans than ever before under PACT Act. This wouldn't be possible without members of Congress, Veteran Service Organizations, and other invaluable partners who support our joint mission "to fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors."

Our work is not done. We are reaching out to Veterans and survivors to encourage them to apply under the PACT act, and we will continue our outreach efforts to share PACT Act eligibility information with as many Veterans as possible to encourage enrollment in VA services. But we can't reach these Veterans and survivors alone -- you are a crucial ally in this effort.

We value your assistance and thank you for sharing vital VA health care and benefits information to assist Veterans, their families, and survivors in receiving the benefits they deserve. If a Veteran asks you about the PACT Act, please direct them to [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MyVA411.

Key Messages

Topline:

- The PACT Act is the most significant expansion of Veteran health care and benefits in generations, making it so the millions of Veterans who fought our wars – who breathed in debris from sandstorms, fumes from burning trash, chemicals like Agent Orange, and more while overseas – are taken care of for the conditions that followed them home from war.
- Millions of Veterans and survivors have already begun receiving benefits as a result of this historic law – and you can too.
- So, if you're a Veteran who served this country during Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq, or Afghanistan – or you're a survivor of one of those heroes – don't wait, apply for the VA health care and benefits you deserve today.
- Visit VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more and apply today.

Health Care:

- Beginning March 5, 2024, VA made millions of Veterans eligible for VA health care years earlier than called for by the PACT Act.
- Specifically, *all* Veterans who meet the basic service and discharge requirements and were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving our country – at home *or* abroad – are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits.
- This means that you don't need a service-connected disability to enroll in VA health care.
 - This includes all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11.
 - It includes all Veterans who deployed in support of the Global War on Terror.
 - And it includes Veterans who *never* deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty here at home – by working with chemicals, pesticides, lead, asbestos, certain paints, nuclear weapons, x-rays, and more.
- To be eligible to enroll in VA health care, Veterans must meet the minimum active-duty service requirements, have a qualifying discharge, and meet one or more eligibility requirements specific to VA health care. VA encourages all Veterans to apply to determine their enrollment eligibility.
- Even if you don't think you need this care today, you might need it tomorrow, or the next day, or 30 years from now. All you have to do is enroll, then you have access for life.

Benefits

- If you believe you have a health condition related to toxic exposures while serving our country, we want you to apply for monthly disability compensation today.
- Thanks to the PACT Act, VA is now able to “presumptively” provide benefits to Veterans who live with *hundreds* of toxic-exposure related conditions – including many cancers and illnesses.
 - This means that when [eligible](#) Veterans are diagnosed with these conditions and apply for benefits, they do not need to prove that their service caused their condition; instead, VA automatically assumes service-connection for these Veterans and provides benefits accordingly.
- More than 1.1 million Veterans and survivors are now receiving benefits under the PACT Act, and VA is processing these claims at the fastest rate in our nation's history.
- So don't wait. Visit VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more and apply today.

Toxic Exposure Screenings

- All Veterans enrolled in VA care can now get a quick, easy toxic exposure screening at VA.
- The screening takes 5-10 minutes and begins by asking Veterans if they believe they experienced any toxic exposures while serving in the armed forces. Veterans who answer “yes” are then asked about specific exposures, including open burn pits, Agent Orange, radiation, contaminated water, and other exposures.
- Veterans who report concerns about toxic exposures will then be connected to information about clinical resources and benefits.
- Enrolled Veterans will be offered an initial toxic exposure screening, then follow-up screenings at least once every five years.

Sample Social Media

Social Media Post Options

General Eligibility

Were you exposed to burn pits or other harmful toxins during your service? You may be eligible for expanded VA benefits through the PACT Act. Learn more and apply today. Visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)

Millions of Veterans and survivors are now getting VA health care and benefits as a result of the PACT – and you may be eligible too. Learn more and apply today at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)

If you are a Vietnam, Gulf War, or Post-9/11 era Veteran, you may be entitled to expanded VA benefits under the PACT Act. Learn more and apply today. Visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)

Learn why more Veterans are trusting VA for their care. Visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT) to get the health care and benefits you earned and deserve.

Veterans affected by toxic exposure may be eligible for expanded VA benefits through the PACT Act. Apply today at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)

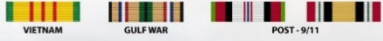
It's been two years since the passage of the PACT Act expanded access to care and benefits for millions of Veterans. Don't miss out on the best possible care and benefits for you and your family. Apply today at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)

Why Apply for VA Care

VA is proven to be the best, most affordable care in the country for Veterans. VA clinicians know how to treat Veterans – they often are Veterans themselves – which is why Veterans who come to VA do better. Learn more at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)

Social Media Graphic Options

General Eligibility



**WERE YOU EXPOSED TO BURN PITS,
NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CHEMICALS,
AGENT ORANGE, OR OTHER TOXINS
WHILE SERVING IN THE MILITARY?**



**Apply for VA
health care today
at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).**



Have questions?
Call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 0
to speak with someone right away.



**WERE YOU
EXPOSED TO
TOXINS AND
OTHER HAZARDS
WHILE SERVING
OUR COUNTRY?**



**Visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) to learn more
and apply for VA health care today.**



Social Media Graphic Options

Why Apply for VA Care



DID YOU KNOW?

VA is the most affordable health care in America for Veterans.

With copays as low as \$0 for prescriptions, urgent care, outpatient care, and more.

AFFORDABLE VA HEALTH CARE

Apply for VA health care today at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT).

  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



DID YOU KNOW? VETERANS WHO COME TO VA HAVE BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES.

EXPANDED HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

Apply for VA health care today at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT).

  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Collateral and Resources

- [VA.gov/PACT](#) – the best place for Veterans and their families to learn about all things PACT Act and apply today
- [VA's Health Care Application Website](#)
- [VA Health Care Eligibility Website](#)
- [Benefits Claim Form](#)
- [Video: How VA health care and benefits can help you save](#)
- [Downloadable General PACT Act PSA 1](#)
- [Downloadable General PACT Act PSA 2](#)
- [Blog: How to Spread the Word about the PACT Act](#) – includes nearly 20 fact sheets in 10+ languages
- [PACT Act Performance Dashboard \(va.gov\)](#) – provides PACT Act performance data
- [Outreach & Events | Outreach Events | Veterans Affairs \(va.gov\)](#) – find PACT Act outreach events in your area
- [Accessing PACT Act Benefits and Services Journey Map](#)

Sample Letter to Veterans

Two years ago, new historic legislation called the PACT Act was signed into law. It is biggest expansion of health care and benefits in generations, making it so the millions of Veterans who fought our wars or who were exposed to toxins and other hazards during their military service are taken care of for the conditions that followed them home.

Here's what this could mean for you and your family:

- **Health care:** All Veterans exposed to toxins while serving our country – at home or abroad – are now eligible to enroll in VA health care, as long as they meet the basic service and discharge requirements. This includes all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11. It includes all Veterans who deployed in support of the Global War on Terror, and it includes Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins and other hazards while training or on active duty here at home – by working with chemicals, pesticides, lead, asbestos, paints, nuclear weapons, x-rays, and more.
- **Possible monthly compensation benefits:** If you believe you have a health condition related to toxic exposures while serving our country, we want you to apply for monthly disability compensation today. Thanks to the PACT Act, VA is now able to “presumptively” provide benefits to Veterans who live with *hundreds* of toxic-exposure related conditions – including many cancers and illnesses. This means that when [eligible](#) Veterans are diagnosed with these conditions and apply for benefits, they do not need to prove that their service caused their condition; instead, VA automatically assumes service-connection for these Veterans and provides benefits accordingly.

Millions of Veterans and survivors are now receiving health care and benefits under this expansive law, and you may be eligible, too.

VA is proven to be the best, most affordable health care in America for Veterans. Those who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than those who get their care elsewhere. That's because VA clinicians know Veterans – and are often Veterans themselves – and they know exactly how to help.

So, if you're a Veteran who served our country during the Vietnam or Gulf Wars or in Iraq or Afghanistan – or you're a survivor of one of those heroes – don't wait, apply for the VA health care and benefits you deserve today at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).

Even if you don't think you need this care today, you might need it tomorrow, or the next day, or 30 years from now. All you have to do is enroll. Then, you have access for life.

Thank you for your service and sacrifice for our great country.

Sample Speech/Video Messaging

August 10, 2024 marks the second anniversary of the PACT Act, which expanded access to care for millions of Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards during their service.

This may mean that you are now eligible for VA health care and monthly compensation benefits for your service to our country.

Here's what that means for you:

From a health care perspective, if you meet the basic service and discharge requirements and were exposed to toxins and other hazards – at home or abroad – you are now eligible to enroll in VA care.

- So, if you served in Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or deployed to any combat zone after 9/11, you can enroll today.
- And even if you never deployed but were exposed to toxins and other hazards while training or serving on active duty here at home – by working with chemicals, pesticides, lead, asbestos, paints, nuclear weapons, x-rays, and more – you can enroll, too.

From a benefits perspective, if you believe you have a health condition related to toxic exposures while serving our country, we want you to apply for monthly disability compensation today.

- Thanks to the PACT Act, VA is now able to “presumptively” provide benefits to Veterans who live with *hundreds* of toxic-exposure related conditions – including many cancers and illnesses.
- This lowers the burden of proof on Veterans to receive monthly compensation for these conditions.

Applying is quick, free, and easy. Veterans who come to VA are proven to have better health outcomes, and even if you don't think you need this care or these benefits today, you might need it tomorrow, or the next day, or 30 years from now.

So don't miss this opportunity. Go to [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT) and apply today.

PACT Act Achievements

More than 1 million Veterans and their survivors have received disability compensation benefits under the PACT Act: VA has delivered more than \$6.8 billion in earned PACT Act benefits to Veterans and their survivors. VA is delivering these benefits to Veterans at the [fastest rate in the nation's history](#), on pace to break last year's record of claims processed by more than 27%.

Nearly 740,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care: Since August 10, 2022, 739,421 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care – a 33% increase over the previous two-year period. This includes more than 333,767 enrollees from the PACT Act population (Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 Veterans).

More than 5.6 million Veterans have been screened for toxic exposures: 5,690,117 Veterans have received free, 10-minute screenings for toxic exposures from VA under the PACT Act – a critical step to catching and treating potentially life-threatening health conditions as early as possible.

Record numbers of Veterans are applying for earned benefits: Thanks to the [largest outreach campaign in VA history](#), Veterans and survivors are applying for their earned benefits at record rates. Over the past two fiscal years, VA has received 4,414,334 claims for disability compensation benefits (including 1,774,158 claims with PACT Act conditions) – 29.8% more than the two fiscal years prior. There was a record number of applications in 2023, and Veterans and survivors are on pace to break that record in 2024.

Trust in VA has reached record highs: [Veteran trust in VA has never been higher](#), increasing 25% to an all-time high of 80.4% since VA began administering the “VSignals” survey in 2016. Additionally, Veterans’ trust in outpatient health care has increased to 91.8%, also an all-time high.