



# VA HEALTH CARE

Fact Sheet 16-10

January 2009

## Relaxation of Priority Group 8 Enrollment Restrictions

### Description

Public Law 110-329 provides VA additional funding to allow expanded enrollment opportunity for certain Priority 8 veterans who may have been previously denied enrollment in VA's health care system because their income exceeded VA's means tests thresholds.

The new provision allows veterans whose incomes do not exceed these thresholds by more than 10 percent to enroll in VA's health care system. The new provision is expected to take effect this June and will be applied retroactively to all enrollment applications received on or after January 1, 2009. These changes do not open enrollment to all Priority 8 veterans.

### Impact

A veteran who applies for enrollment after the effective date of the new provision (expected in June 2009), does not qualify for a higher priority group and whose income exceeds the means test threshold (MTT) or geographic means test threshold (GMTT) by 10% or less will be placed in priority group 8b (if the veteran is 0% service-connected, non-compensable) or 8d (if the veteran is non service-connected) and enrolled in the VA health care system.

A veteran who applies for enrollment on or after January 1, 2009 but **before the effective date of the new rule**, does not qualify for a higher priority group and whose income exceeds the MTT or GMTT by 10% or less will be placed in priority group 8e or 8g and will not be enrolled in the VA health care system. However, the VA Health Eligibility Center will re-determine enrollment using the relaxed income restriction **on the effective date of the new provision** for those veterans who applied on or after January 1, 2009 and who have been placed in enrollment category 8e or 8g. This approach will relieve veterans from having to submit multiple enrollment applications for the same year. For those veterans who apply on or after January 1, 2009 and are placed into a rejected priority group due to income, VA enrollment correspondence will indicate that VA will re-determine enrollment after the effective date of the new rule.

A veteran who applied for enrollment prior to January 1, 2009, did not qualify for a higher priority group and whose income exceeded the MTT or GMTT by 10% or less will not be placed in priority group 8b or 8d, rather the veteran will continue to be

placed in priority group 8e or 8g. Veterans whose application for enrollment was rejected due to exceeding the MTT or GMTT and whose application was submitted and determined prior to January 1, 2009 will need to submit a new application for enrollment in 2009 to take advantage of the relaxed income restrictions.

## Additional Information

- Veterans are encouraged to contact VA's Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222 VETS (8387); or
- Visit the VA health eligibility website at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).