

## Learn More

VA also offers a hardship plan allowing access to health care for Veterans who may have been recently discharged from service or suffered a recent job loss and who may not qualify otherwise. Veterans wishing to enroll in the VA health care system can use projected calendar year income when their current year income is less than their prior year's income due to a job loss or some other financial setback.

Veterans determined eligible due to hardship will also avoid medical care copayments applied to higher-income Veterans. In addition, some Veterans may qualify for recently increased travel mileage reimbursement benefits.

For more information on hardship plans, enrollment, and eligibility, Veterans are encouraged to contact VA's Health Resource Center at 1-877-222 VETS (8387) or visit the VA health eligibility website at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility). Also, each VA Medical Center has Enrollment Coordinators available to provide Veterans information about their eligibility under the new provision.



# You May Be Eligible

## *VA's Expanded Enrollment for Priority 8 Veterans*



[www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility)

## About the New Regulation

VA eligibility rules will change on June 15, 2009, making it easier for more Veterans to enroll in VA's health care system.

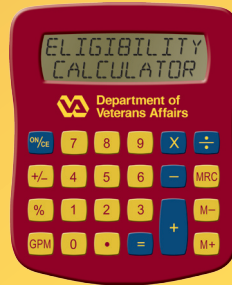
The new regulation enables the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to relax income restrictions on enrollment for health care to certain Veterans. This regulation applies to Veterans in Priority Group 8 who were previously denied health care eligibility because of incomes exceeding geographic means tests.



## What to Do

Expanding eligibility to more Veterans will allow VA to do so without compromising either the quality of an award-winning health care system or the ability of already-enrolled Veterans to access that care. Any Veteran who applied for enrollment in 2009 and was previously denied will automatically have their application reconsidered. Veterans who applied before 2009 will need to reapply to take advantage of the relaxed income restrictions.

A web-based calculator is available to help Veterans without service-connected disabilities determine if they are eligible for VA health care. The calculator, available at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility), is a tool



where Veterans can enter their income information, dependents, and zip code to assess if their income would fall within the proposed income threshold adjustments.

## What Are Priority Groups?

Since funds for health care benefits are limited, VA set up a system to prioritize enrollees. Veterans are assigned to a "Priority Group" numbered 1-8.



Priority Group 8 Veterans generally have income and/or net worth above the VA national income threshold and a geographic income threshold. The new regulation allows a Veteran's income to be up to 10% above these thresholds.

Eligible Veterans in Priority Group 8 are responsible for copays. For detailed information on the national and geographic income thresholds, go to:

[www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).