VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

VA Caregiver Support Program

Presentation for the
National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization
(NHPCO)

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Caregiver Support Program Mission Statement:

To promote the health and well-being of family caregivers who care for our nation's Veterans, through education, resources, support, and services.

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)

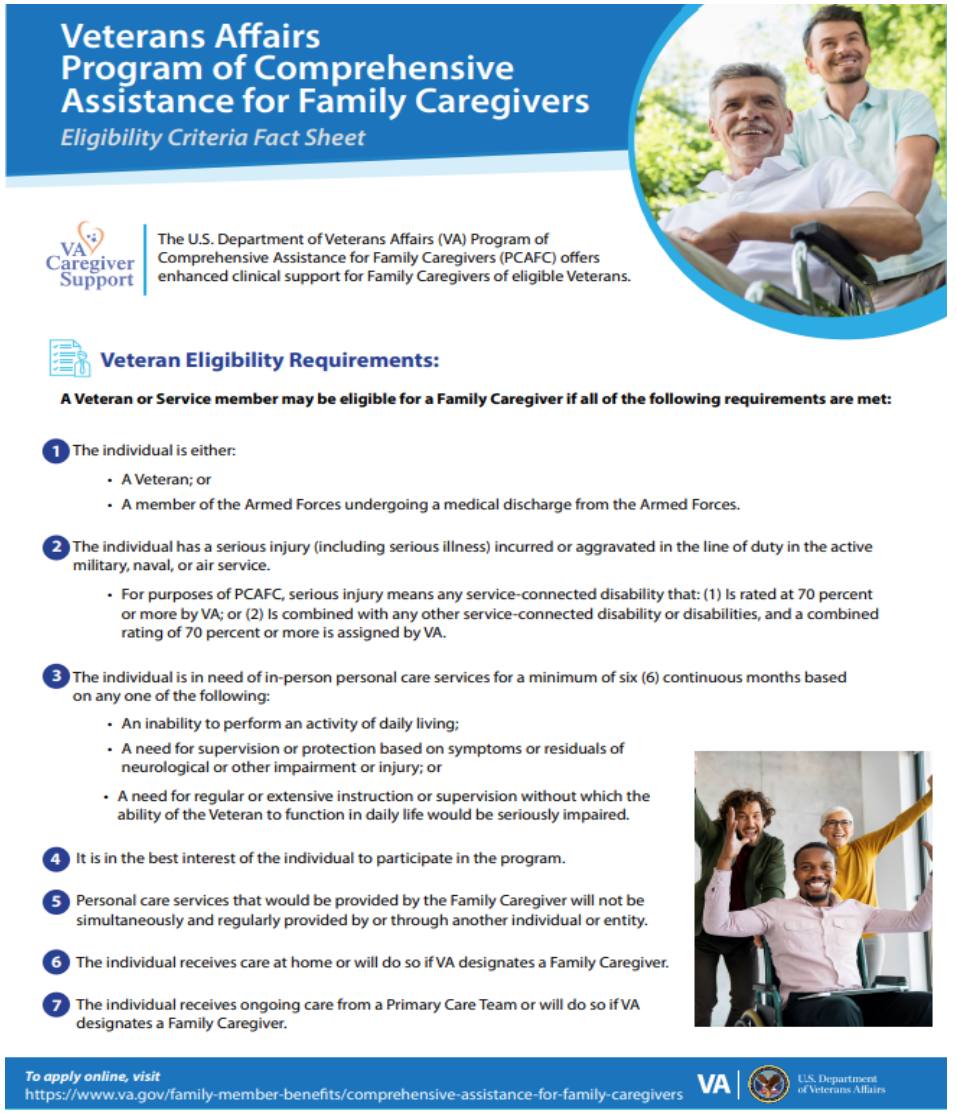
MISSION Act Phased Expansion

- Prior to October 1, 2020: the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) was only available to eligible Veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001.
- Phase One, October 1, 2020: PCAFC expanded to eligible Veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975.
- Phase Two, October 1, 2022: PCAFC expanded to eligible Veterans who were seriously injured in the line of duty of all eras.

PCAFC Eligibility Requirements

There are a total of 7 Veteran eligibility requirements, including:

- The Veteran must have a serious injury incurred or aggravated within the specified phased expansion date. *Serious injury* means any service-connected disability that (1) is rated at 70 percent or more by VA, or (2) combined with any other service-connected disability or disabilities, is rated at 70 percent or more by VA.



Veterans Affairs
Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

Eligibility Criteria Fact Sheet

VA Caregiver Support

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) offers enhanced clinical support for Family Caregivers of eligible Veterans.

Veteran Eligibility Requirements:

A Veteran or Service member may be eligible for a Family Caregiver if all of the following requirements are met:

1. The individual is either:
   - A Veteran; or
   - A member of the Armed Forces undergoing a medical discharge from the Armed Forces.
2. The individual has a serious injury (including serious illness) incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service.
   - For purposes of PCAFC, serious injury means any service-connected disability that: (1) Is rated at 70 percent or more by VA; or (2) Is combined with any other service-connected disability or disabilities, and a combined rating of 70 percent or more is assigned by VA.
3. The individual is in need of in-person personal care services for a minimum of six (6) continuous months based on any one of the following:
   - An inability to perform an activity of daily living;
   - A need for supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury; or
   - A need for regular or extensive instruction or supervision without which the ability of the Veteran to function in daily life would be seriously impaired.
4. It is in the best interest of the individual to participate in the program.
5. Personal care services that would be provided by the Family Caregiver will not be simultaneously and regularly provided by or through another individual or entity.
6. The individual receives care at home or will do so if VA designates a Family Caregiver.
7. The individual receives ongoing care from a Primary Care Team or will do so if VA designates a Family Caregiver.

To apply online, visit
https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

PCAFC Eligibility Requirements cont.

The Veteran **must need in-person personal care services** for a minimum of six (6) continuous months based on either:

– An inability to perform an activity of daily living (ADL), *or*

- Need for supervision, protection, or instruction.

(ii) a need for supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury;

(iii) a need for regular or extensive instruction or supervision without which the ability of the Veteran to function in daily life would be seriously impaired.

PCAFC Services

- Education and Training
- Enhanced Respite Care
- Counseling
- Beneficiary Travel
- Monthly Stipend
- Access to health care through Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA), if eligible
- Financial planning and legal resources for Primary Family Caregivers

How to Apply to PCAFC

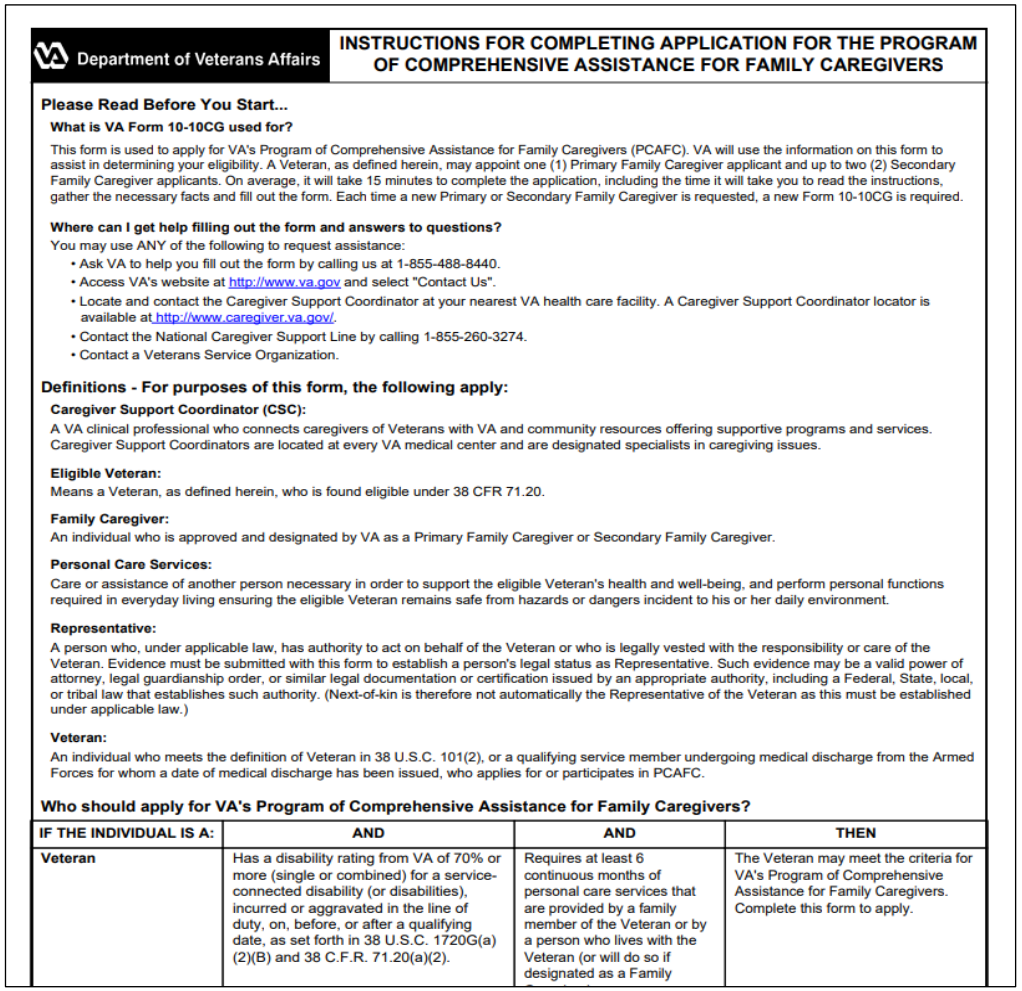
Apply Online:

https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/apply-for-caregiver-assistance-form-10-10cg/introduction

VA Form 10-10 CG:

https://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/10-10CG.pdf

PCAFC Application Process Fact Sheet



Department of Veterans Affairs

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPLICATION FOR THE PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Please Read Before You Start...

What is VA Form 10-10CG used for?

This form is used to apply for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). VA will use the information on this form to assist in determining your eligibility. A Veteran, as defined herein, may appoint one (1) Primary Family Caregiver applicant and up to two (2) Secondary Family Caregiver applicants. On average, it will take 15 minutes to complete the application, including the time it will take you to read the instructions, gather the necessary facts and fill out the form. Each time a new Primary or Secondary Family Caregiver is requested, a new Form 10-10CG is required.

Where can I get help filling out the form and answers to questions?

You may use ANY of the following to request assistance:

- Ask VA to help you fill out the form by calling us at 1-855-488-8440.
- Access VA's website at http://www.va.gov and select "Contact Us".
- Locate and contact the Caregiver Support Coordinator at your nearest VA health care facility. A Caregiver Support Coordinator locator is available at http://www.caregiver.va.gov/.
- Contact the National Caregiver Support Line by calling 1-855-260-3274.
- Contact a Veterans Service Organization.

Definitions - For purposes of this form, the following apply:

Caregiver Support Coordinator (CSC):
A VA clinical professional who connects caregivers of Veterans with VA and community resources offering supportive programs and services. Caregiver Support Coordinators are located at every VA medical center and are designated specialists in caregiving issues.

Eligible Veteran:
Means a Veteran, as defined herein, who is found eligible under 38 CFR 71.20.

Family Caregiver:
An individual who is approved and designated by VA as a Primary Family Caregiver or Secondary Family Caregiver.

Personal Care Services:
Care or assistance of another person necessary in order to support the eligible Veteran's health and well-being, and perform personal functions required in everyday living ensuring the eligible Veteran remains safe from hazards or dangers incident to his or her daily environment.

Representative:
A person who, under applicable law, has authority to act on behalf of the Veteran or who is legally vested with the responsibility or care of the Veteran. Evidence must be submitted with this form to establish a person's legal status as Representative. Such evidence may be a valid power of attorney, legal guardianship order, or similar legal documentation or certification issued by an appropriate authority, including a Federal, State, local, or tribal law that establishes such authority. (Next-of-kin is therefore not automatically the Representative of the Veteran as this must be established under applicable law.)

Veteran:
An individual who meets the definition of Veteran in 38 U.S.C. 101(2), or a qualifying service member undergoing medical discharge from the Armed Forces for whom a date of medical discharge has been issued, who applies for or participates in PCAFC.

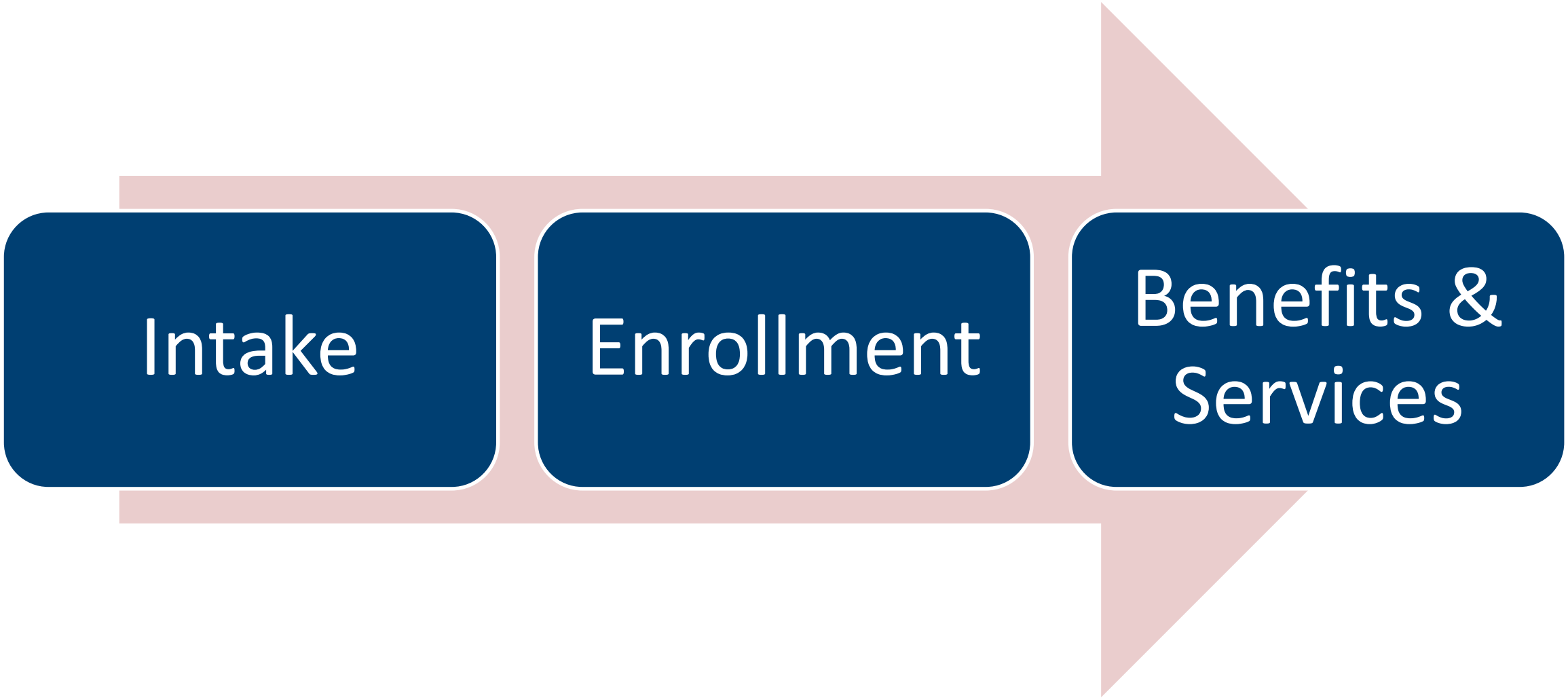
Who should apply for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers?

IF THE INDIVIDUAL IS A:	AND	AND	THEN
Veteran	Has a disability rating from VA of 70% or more (single or combined) for a service-connected disability (or disabilities), incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, on, before, or after a qualifying date, as set forth in 38 U.S.C. 1720G(a)(2)(B) and 38 C.F.R. 71.20(a)(2).	Requires at least 6 continuous months of personal care services that are provided by a family member of the Veteran or by a person who lives with the Veteran (or will do so if designated as a Family	The Veteran may meet the criteria for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. Complete this form to apply.

Program of General Caregiver Support Services

- The Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS) provides one-on-one coaching and support, group support, skills training, peer support, mobile support, and connection to resources to caregivers of all era Veterans.
- The Veteran must be enrolled in VA health care and need assistance with activities of daily living or require supervision or protection.
- No formal application is required.

PGCSS Enrollment Process



PGCSS Benefits

- Training and support through in-person, online and telehealth sessions.
- Skills training focused on caregiving for a Veteran's unique needs.
- Individual counseling related to the care of the Veteran.
- Respite care, which offers medically and age-appropriate short-term services to eligible Veterans, allows caregivers to take time for themselves while the Veteran is cared for in a safe and caring environment.

VA Caregiver Support

Department of Veterans Affairs Program of General Caregiver Support Services

Factsheet

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) understands that the caregiver community is vital to the recovery and care of many Veterans. These caregivers may need support, which is why the VA Caregiver Support Program (CSP) offers clinical, educational, and wrap-around services to individuals who care for Veterans enrolled in VA health care.

The Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS) is one of two programs under CSP. PGCSS offers many services, including skills training, coaching, telephone support, and online programs to caregivers of Veterans of all eras enrolled in VA.

PGCSS General Caregivers

Caregivers within PGCSS are recognized as **General Caregivers**. A General Caregiver is a person who provides personal care services to a Veteran enrolled in VA health care who:

- Needs assistance with one or more activities of daily living **or**
- Needs supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological impairment or other impairment or injury.

PGCSS General Caregivers may have access to:

- Training and support through in-person, online, and telehealth sessions.
- Skills training focused on caregiving for a Veteran's unique needs.
- Individual counseling related to the care of the Veteran.
- Respite care, a resource that offers medically and age-appropriate short-term services to eligible Veterans and allows caregivers to take time for themselves. In contrast, the Veteran is cared for in a safe and caring environment.
- Peer Support Mentoring.

More information about the services listed above can be found on pages 3-5.

Every VA Facility has a CSP team who assists with information and referrals. To learn more about PGCSS and caregiver services offered, visit us online:
www.caregiver.va.gov

VA Caregiver Support Line
1-855-260-3274 toll-free

VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Clinical Support

Skills Training

Mobile Support

One on One Coaching

Group Support & Coaching

Peer Support Mentoring

Caregiver & Family Resource Fair

Local Caregiver Support Program Offices offer a Caregiver & Family Resource Fair annually with a focus on resources for caregivers and families to include:

VHA resources
VBA resources
Local organizations
Community agencies

VA Caregiver Support Program (CSP) - Events - VA Caregiver Support Program

VA Caregiver Support

VA Caregiver Support Line
1-855-260-3274

- VA's National Caregiver Support Line is a toll-free number for caregivers, family members, friends, Veterans, and community partners to contact for information related to caregiving and available supports and services

- Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. ET, and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET

- To find your local Caregiver Support Program, or for more information: http://www.caregiver.va.gov