

INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

If you have questions about this form, how to fill it out, or about benefits, contact us online at <https://ask.va.gov/> or call us VA toll-free at 1-800-827-1000 (TTY: 711.)

A. What are automobile and adaptive equipment benefits and how does VA decide what I will or will not receive?

1. Allowance towards purchase of a vehicle - Veterans who are receiving compensation under 38 U.S.C. 1151 for any of the following disabilities are also eligible. Effective January 5, 2023, claimants may receive an additional vehicle or conveyance if more than 30 years have elapsed since the eligible person most recently received an automobile or other conveyance. The amount paid is limited by law. Contact <https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/special-benefit-allowance-rates/> for the current rate.

Additionally, VA may provide or assist in providing an eligible person with a second automobile or other conveyance if: VA receives satisfactory evidence that the automobile or other conveyance previously purchased with this assistance was destroyed as a result of a natural or other disaster, as determined by VA; and

- through no fault of the eligible person; and
- the eligible person does not otherwise receive from a property insurer compensation for the loss.

A veteran or service member must possess one of the following disabilities as a result of injury or disease incurred or aggravated during active military service:

- loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet, or
- loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands, or
- permanent impairment of vision in both eyes with a
 - central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with corrective glasses, or
 - central visual acuity of more than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field has an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye, or
- Severe burn injury: Deep partial thickness or full thickness burns resulting in scar formation that cause contractures and limit motion of one or more extremities or the trunk and preclude effective operation of an automobile, or
- amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Important: VA is required by law to pay the benefit to the seller of the vehicle. Payment cannot be made to the veteran or service member. Do not purchase a vehicle until authorized by VA.

2. Adaptive equipment

A veteran or service member who qualifies for the automobile allowance also qualifies for adaptive equipment. VA must approve all adaptive equipment as prescribed by a VHA provider. Contact <https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/psas/index.asp> for more information on how to receive adaptive equipment. Note:

Note: Adaptive equipment may be provided for no more than two vehicles in a four-year period. See Page 4 for more information about adaptive equipment.

Important: VA will not pay for the purchase of add-on adaptive equipment (equipment furnished by someone other than the automobile manufacturer) that is not approved by VA. Contact the nearest VA health care facility for more information on add-on equipment. The adaptive equipment benefit may be paid to either the seller or the veteran or service member.

3. Special drivers training is available for disabled veterans or service members, who should contact the nearest VA health care facility to request this training at https://www.rehab.va.gov/pmrs/Drivers_Rehabilitation_Program.asp.

B. What conveyance may be purchased?

You may purchase a new or used automobile, or other conveyance, if approved by VA.

VA recommends that you consult with a VA healthcare provider prior to selecting a vehicle or other conveyance to ensure your adaptive equipment is compatible with a specific vehicle make/model.

C. When should VA Form 21-4502 be submitted?

There is no time limit for filing a claim; however, the claim must be authorized by VA before you purchase the automobile or conveyance.

D. Instructions to veteran or service member

1. Complete all items of Section I and II and submit to VA. Send the form to your nearest VA regional office.
2. VA will determine your eligibility and, if eligibility exists, VA will complete Section III and return the form to you.
3. Purchase a vehicle. When you receive the vehicle and the adaptive equipment from the seller, complete Section IV. If you need adaptive equipment, contact the Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service at: <https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/psas/index.asp>, for more information on how to receive adaptive equipment.
4. Give the original VA Form 21-4502 to the seller.

5. Submit any invoices for adaptive equipment and/or installation not included on the seller's invoice to the nearest VA health care facility. These invoices, identified with your full name and VA file number, must show the itemized net cost of any adaptive equipment and installation charges, any unpaid balance, and the make, year and model of the vehicle to which the equipment is added.

Reminder: VA must approve all adaptive equipment as prescribed by a VHA provider prior to purchase.

E. Instructions to seller

1. Make sure that Section III of VA Form 21-4502 is completed and signed by VA.
2. For initial automobile allowance grants, deliver the vehicle, including VA-approved adaptive equipment provided and/or installed by the seller.
3. Obtain the original copy of VA Form 21-4502 from the veteran or service member after he or she has completed Section IV.
4. Submit the original copy of VA Form 21-4502 and itemized invoice to the VA regional office shown in Item 23, Section III, Attention: Financial Division. The itemized invoice should include the following:
 - The net cost of any approved adaptive equipment and installation charges. If certain items of approved adaptive equipment (automatic transmission, power seats, etc.) are included in the purchase price, also submit a copy of the window sticker.
 - A list of which adaptive equipment is standard on the vehicle or other conveyance.
 - The unpaid balance due on the vehicle which is to be paid by VA.
 - A certification that the amounts billed do not exceed the usual and customary cost for the purchase and installation of the adaptive equipment.

ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR AUTOMOBILES AND SIMILAR VEHICLES

IMPORTANT

Adaptive equipment for the operation of the vehicle cannot be provided if the veteran or service member is blind, requires a driver because of physical disability, or does not have a valid State driver's license or learner's permit. The list below shows the equipment that is authorized for the qualifying disabilities shown in Section II of VA Form 21-4502. Request approval from the nearest VA health care facility for any equipment not shown below, or if adaptive equipment is required for driver training and testing.

A. BASIC EQUIPMENT

DISABILITY

- Loss of a foot (including loss of use).....
- Loss of both feet (including loss of use).....
- Loss of a hand (including loss of use).....
- Loss of a hand and a foot (including loss of use).....

ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

- Basic automatic transmission and power brakes
- Basic automatic transmission, power steering and power brakes.
- Basic automatic transmission and power steering.
- Basic automatic transmission, power steering and power brakes.

B. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT - SINGLE DISABILITIES

LOSS OF LEFT FOOT (INCLUDING LOSS OF USE)

1. Hand-operated dimmer switch
2. Hand-operated parking brake
3. If standard transmission selected, bar welded to clutch pedal to prevent foot slipping down or off to side.
4. Relocation of control switched, as needed.

LOSS OF RIGHT FOOT (INCLUDING LOSS OF USE)

1. Left foot-operated gas pedal.
2. Hand-operated dimmer switch.
3. Hand-operated parking brake.
4. Extension on brake pedal from left foot operation if not part of car.
5. If standard transmission selected, bar welded to clutch pedal so both clutch and brake pedals may be operated with the left foot.

C. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT - MULTIPLE DISABILITIES

LOSS OF BOTH FEET (INCLUDING LOSS OF USE)

1. Hand-operated brake and gas pedal in combination.
2. Hand-operated parking brake.
3. Hand-operated dimmer switch.
4. Steering wheel knob or ring.
5. Two-way power seat.

LOSS OF BOTH HANDS, TRIPLE OR QUADRUPLE EXTREMITY LOSS (INCLUDING LOSS OF USE)

Any combination of hand/foot control which does not involve steering, and relocation of control switches or levers as required.