



Veterans Assistance Grants (VAG) – Fact Sheet

The Veterans Assistance Grants (VAG) program provides limited health care and subsistence aid to eligible veterans and dependents. Veterans and dependents should contact their county or tribal veteran’s service office for assistance in establishing eligibility. Applications for benefits may also be made through the *County Veterans Service Office* or through the *MyWisVets* portal.

Eligible Applicants:

- Veterans as defined under Wisconsin Statutes §§ 45.01(12) & 45.02.
- Unremarried widows and dependents of service members who died on active duty in the line of duty and whose household income does not exceed 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Families of deployed/activated service members who have lost income due to the deployment/activation and have suffered an economic emergency.

Benefits and Limits: \$7,500 combined lifetime limit for health care and subsistence aid

<u>Type of Aid</u>	<u>Maximum Benefit</u>
Dental Care	\$800 in any consecutive 12-month period
Extended Dental Care	\$4,000 in any consecutive 24-month period
Vision Care	\$400 in any consecutive 12-month period ¹
Hearing Care-Qualifying Care	\$200 in any consecutive 12-month period
Hearing Aid-Left Ear	\$1,875 in any consecutive 24-month period
Hearing Aid-Right Ear	\$1,875 in any consecutive 24-month period
Subsistence Aid	\$3,000 in a consecutive 12-month period

Health Care Aid (HCG):

- Future care for vision, dental, or hearing care authorized for 90 days.
- An additional 90 days can be authorized if justified in writing by the provider and the request for the extension is received by the department no later than 14 calendar days before the expiration of the first 90-day authorization.
- Upon approval of an application for health care aid, a Description of Benefits (DOB) is issued identifying eligible care and dates of care to be covered. This document is used by the provider agreeing to the grant and for billing purposes.
- Veterans must obtain care through the VA Health Care System if available during the 90-day DOB effective dates.

Subsistence Aid (SAG):

- Provides aid when a veteran or an eligible family member (see above) that has suffered a loss of income due to illness, disability, or a natural disaster.
- Aid is limited to the amount of income lost up to the statutory limitation of \$3,000 per consecutive 12-month period, or the remainder of \$7,500 combined lifetime VAG benefit, whichever is less.

¹ An applicant may obtain a grant for replacement glasses before 12 consecutive months have elapsed if the eyewear is necessary because of a change in refractive error.



- Income lost due to illness, injury, or natural disaster must be verified with proof of monthly income lost and evidence of an illness, injury (medical statement), or natural disaster (newspaper clipping, police/fire report, etc.)

Requirements:

- Household income must not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines at the time of application.²
- WDVA must be the Payer of Last Resort. Applicants must have applied for all aid offered through or administered by the county, including aid from the state or federal government before applying for the VAG. Aid applied for and available must be verified by the county on a Declaration of Aid.
- The requirement to use Medicaid/Badger Care benefits can be waived if the applicant submits evidence that no providers within their county will accept new patients using Medicaid or Badger Care.

Liquid Assets cannot exceed \$1,000 at the time of application for the HCG. An applicant applying for the SAG cannot have other assets or income to meet basic subsistence needs.

Disclaimer: All information, content, and material contained in this Fact Sheet is for general informational purposes only. This information does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice, and may not constitute the most up-to-date legal or other information. WDVA does not use the information contained in this Fact Sheet to make any determination with respect to an applicant's eligibility for a Veterans Assistance Grant. Readers should contact their attorney with respect to any legal matter.

² In certain circumstances, the 200% of the federal poverty guideline requirement does not apply to a spouse and dependent of a member of the U.S. armed forces or of the Wisconsin national guard.