



Certified Caregiver Policy

Please read the policy below.

DISCLAIMERS / WAIVERS / CONSENT

To be eligible for any Paralyzed Veterans of America – Wisconsin Chapter (PVA-WI) program/benefit, an individual must be in good standing with the organization, must not be under suspension or subject to disciplinary action, and must conduct themselves in a manner that does not disparage PVA-WI's reputation or mission.

Eligibility Requirements for PVA-WI Programs/Benefits

To participate in PVA-WI programs/benefits, individuals must:

- Meet the eligibility requirements for the applicable program/benefit as outlined in this Manual.
- Comply with all obligations described in the PVA-WI Chapter bylaws, this manual, and any required registration forms. Noncompliance will result in suspension of eligibility until the requirements are met and approved.
- Agree to complete a brief survey, if requested, to aid in research or donor development efforts.

Additional Program Information

- Programs/benefits, policies, and procedures may change at any time and are contingent upon the availability of chapter funds.
- Applications and forms are available at: <https://wisconsinpva.org/forms>.
- For questions or additional information, email info@wisconsinpva.org or call (414) 328-8910.
- All application materials will be kept confidential.

Liability Waiver

By participating in PVA-WI events or programs, participants release and discharge PVA-WI, event organizers, sponsors, volunteers, staff, property owners, affiliated organizations, and their representatives from any liability, claims, or actions arising from injury, loss, or damage experienced while participating in, observing, or traveling to or from an event.

Media Consent

By participating in PVA-WI programs or events, participants grant permission to PVA-WI to use their verbal or written statements, photographs, digital images, and audio or video recordings. These materials may be used for publicity, promotional, educational, or informational purposes, including but not limited to newsletters, websites, social media, marketing materials, and other PVA/PVA-WI communications, in any medium now known or developed in the future.

CERTIFIED CAREGIVER POLICY

Stipend

Eligible life/associate members may receive reimbursement of up to \$300 per event for medically necessary certified caregiver assistance for certain Adaptive Sports events (National Veteran Wheelchair, Golden Age Games, Winter Sports Clinic or other PVA-WI approved multi day events). The caregiver stipend will be paid to/included in the PVA-WI member's reimbursement payment.

Exceptions to the standard stipend amount (additional funding) may be approved by the PVA-WI Board of Directors for select events, including the National Veterans Wheelchair Games (NVWG). Any approved increase will be communicated to participants prior to the event.

*** For participants who require a caregiver due to a chronic (non-acute) medical condition, caregiver documentation will not be required for every event reimbursement. Once approved, documentation of your need for caregiver assistance will be retained on file to streamline the review and processing of future program applications. Updated documentation may be requested if your circumstances change or if additional verification is needed.

*** Ensure you submit your expense report in the required timeframe, requesting the caregiver stipend. If you do not have the appropriate caregiver documentation, the caregiver stipend portion of the reimbursement will be withheld until acceptable documentation has been received and approved by PVA-WI. If the required caregiver documentation is not received within ninety (90) days following the conclusion of the event, the caregiver stipend request will be denied.

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for the caregiver stipend, the member must currently require medically necessary assistance during the event. Only caregivers enrolled in the Veterans Hospital Administration (VHA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), Veterans Hospital Administration (VHA) Veteran Directed Care (formerly the Veteran Self-Directed Caregiver Program) or another state/federal-approved caregiver program recognized by PVA-WI are eligible for the caregiver stipend.

Documentation verifying caregiver status should be submitted with the participant's financial request and or expense report.

Acceptable Documentation

Acceptable proof of current caregiver status may include:

- Current Award Letter or Summary of Benefits Letter from the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) that shows the Award of Aide and Attendance
- Current Veterans Hospital Administration (VHA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) - Patronage Letter

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- Current Veterans Hospital Administration (VHA) Veteran Directed Caregiver letter/e-mail - Documentation from your Care Consultant (case worker) or your GWAAR Care Consultant (case worker that timecards get sent to) verifying enrollment in the program and that the caregiver that attended the event is on their spending care plan.
- Current Veterans Hospital Administration (VHA) Explanation of Benefits Letter (caregiver stipend program for the primary family caregiver) with the caretaker's name and showing recent receipt of program funds.
- Current documentation verifying enrollment in a state/federal-approved caregiver program.
- Other acceptable documentation confirming current enrollment (as PVA-WI determines acceptable proof).

Obtaining Proof of VA Caregiver Status

If a veteran/caregiver does not have a copy of their VA caregiver documentation, they may obtain it by:

Aide and Attendance:

Contact your local VA Regional Office, Veterans Service Officer, County Veterans Service Officer or use your VA.gov web or mobile app to acquire your VA Award Letter or Benefits Summary Letter showing the Award of Aide and Attendance.

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC):

Caregiver contacts the local VA Caregiver Support Coordinator to request a duplicate "Patronage Letter."

Caregiver contacts the VA National Caregiver Support Line at 1-855-260-3274 and requesting a duplicate copy of their "Patronage Letter."

Veteran Self-Directed Caregiver Program:

Contact your local GWAAR (case worker that timecards get sent to) and ask for a letter/e-mail documenting your current participation in the program and that the caregiver that attended the event is on their spending care plan.

Additional Information

If you require a caregiver and are requesting funding for caregiver expenses, it is expected that your caregiver will accompany you to the event and remain present for its duration. Funding for caregiver expenses will not be approved if the caregiver does not attend as required. Additionally, your caregiver may be asked to check in with PVA-WI or VA staff during the event to verify their attendance and participation.

PVA-WI reserves the right to request additional documentation to verify eligibility and determine reimbursement approval. All stipend reimbursements are subject to program guidelines, available funding, and Board-approved policies.