

CERTIFIED CAREGIVER POLICY

Certified Caregiver Stipend

Eligible **Life Members** may receive up to **\$500**, and eligible **Associate Members** may receive up to **\$200**, for medically necessary assistance from a certified caregiver at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, National Veterans Golden Age Games, Winter/Summer Sports Clinic, or another PVA-WI-approved multi-day Adaptive Sports event.

The stipend will be included in the member's reimbursement payment.

*** 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, we will keep documentation of your need for caregiver assistance 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

Continued on next page

- 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.