

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Hershel “Woody” Williams VA Medical Center
1540 Spring Valley Dr.
Huntington, WV 25704



The HISA grant is a lifetime benefit and cannot exceed \$6,800 for service-connected veterans and \$2,000 for non-service-connected veterans. This program is available to veterans to assist in structural alterations or home improvements necessary to provide access to the home or essential bathroom facilities. Items which may be considered, but are not limited to, would be:

- a. Permanent ramps that allow entrance to or exit from the residence
- b. Roll-in, barrier free showers, or conversions from bathtub to seated shower
- c. Access to kitchen or bathroom sinks or counters
- d. Allow accessibility to kitchen or bathroom sinks or counters
- e. Improve entrance paths or driveways in immediate area of the home to facilitate access to the home
- f. Updates to electrical systems and whole house generators to support Life Sustaining Equipment. *There must be accompanying documentation provided with the application, confirming the equipment is life sustaining*

You must first have a referral from your VA provider to start the application process. Once the referral has been placed you will be mailed or issued a HISA application packet that has all the necessary forms to be completed.

Once a complete application is received the application is reviewed by our HISA Committee within 30 days and you will be notified of the decision.

Work is not to be performed prior to approval by the VA.

If you have any questions, please call me at (304) 429-6755, ext. 2702 or 800-827-8244 ext. 2702 or e-mail at Courtney.Kerns@va.gov or fax (304) 429-7544.

Sincerely,

COURTNEY KERNS
Prosthetic Representative

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

I. **HISA Benefit for Service-Connected Veterans** –

Veterans may be eligible for HISA (Home Improvement and Structural Alterations) not to exceed \$6,800.00 when medically determined to be necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of:

- a. A service-connected disability
- b. Non-service connected condition of a veteran rated 50 percent or more service-connected.
- c. Non-service-connected disability of a veteran in receipt of 38 USC Section 1151 benefits.

II. **HISA Benefit for Non-service-Connected Veterans** –

Veterans may be eligible for HISA (Home Improvements and Structural Alterations) not to exceed \$2,000.00 when required for non-service-connected disabilities that are determined to be necessary to assure the continuation of treatment, provide access to the home or to provide essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. The following criteria also applies:

- a. Rated less than 50 percent service-connected.
- b. Discharged or released from active duty for a compensable disability.
- c. Former prisoners of war, veterans of the Mexican Border period or World War I.
- d. Unable to defray the expenses of necessary care as determined under 38 USC Section 1722(a).
- e. Eligible for benefits under 38 USC Section 1710(a)(2) (F) and (e), due to exposure to a toxic substance, radiation, or an environmental hazard.
- f. Veterans who are required to pay a co-payment for their care are eligible for the \$2,000.00 HISA benefit due to the enactment of Public Law 105-114, Section 402 (b)(2).

IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE

- Prior approval is NECESSARY before starting the project
- Veteran is responsible for any costs above approved HISA Grant amount
- Veteran is responsible for payment to the vendor
- Veteran may request an Advanced Payment up to 50% of approved HISA funds

Bathroom Modification

Walk in Shower (SHOWER DOORS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED)

Must include handheld shower

Must include grab bar(s)

ADA Toilet

ADA sink (pedestal only)

***Bathroom Remodels and certain items may NOT be authorized**

Entry/Exit Modification

Wheelchair ramp

Must have 1:12 ratio on incline

Must be 42in wide

Must have 36in handrail

Handrails

Sidewalk

Driveway revisions to accommodate a wheelchair

Widening of Doorways

Interior

Exterior

Other

Flooring

Central Air (for severe cardiac and pulmonary issues)

Kitchen (lowering of countertops)

Plumbing (to support dialysis equipment)

Generator (to support life sustaining equipment)

