



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



STEVEN L. FIXLER
SUPERINTENDENT

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF
DUPAGE COUNTY

STEVEN.FIXLER@DUPAGECO.ORG

630-407-5655





VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



WHAT IS A VETERAN?

FEDERAL LAW –

THE LEGAL DEFINITION. WHAT IS A VETERAN? TITLE 38 OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS DEFINES A VETERAN AS “A PERSON WHO SERVED IN THE **ACTIVE** MILITARY, NAVAL, OR AIR SERVICE AND WHO WAS DISCHARGED OR RELEASED UNDER CONDITIONS OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE.”

ACTIVE FEDERAL DUTY DOES **NOT** INCLUDE ACTIVE DUTY FOR TRAINING

NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVISTS ARE NOT CONSIDERED VETERANS UNDER THIS DEFINITION, IF THEY NEVER SERVED ON ACTIVE FEDERAL DUTY

FEDERAL ACTIVE DUTY – CALLED UP BY THE PRESIDENT

STATE ACTIVE DUTY – CALLED UP BY THE GOVERNOR

A NG/RES WHO SPENDS 20 YEARS IN THE NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVES, PERFORMS ALL WEEKEND DRILLS AND SUMMER ANNUAL TRAININGS, BUT IS NEVER CALLED UP BY THE PRESIDENT IS NOT A VETERAN BY THE FEDERAL DEFINITION



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



VAC

- PROVIDE TEMPORARY EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- CREATED UNDER THE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS RELIEF ACT – 1895 – BOGARGUS ACT
- RENAMED - THE ILLINOIS MILITARY VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT (330 ILCS 45)
- CREATED WHEN TWO OR MORE VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN A COUNTY GET TOGETHER TO FORM A COMMISSION
- THE COMMISSION HAS A PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER AND OTHER BOARD MEMBERS



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



- THE COMMISSION HIRES THE SUPERINTENDENT AND SUPERINTENDENT HIRES OFFICE EMPLOYEES – EMPLOYEES ARE VAC EMPLOYEES NOT COUNTY EMPLOYEES
- EACH COMMISSION ESTABLISHES THEIR OWN OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR THEIR VAC OFFICE AND THE COUNTY DOESN'T CONTROL IT

FUNDING

- COUNTY FUNDS THE COMMISSION - EMPLOYEE SALARIES, VETERANS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, PROVIDES AN OFFICE AND ITEMS NEEDED TO OPERATE THE OFFICE
- VACS GET THEIR FUNDING THROUGH THE COUNTY GENERAL FUND OR TAX LEVY



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



VAC DUPAGE COUNTY

- FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

RENT/MORTGAGE UTILITIES CAR PAYMENTS CAR REPAIRS

WORK/HOME RELATED EXPENSES FOOD/FAMILY ESSENTIALS BURIAL

- NON-FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

VA CLAIMS BUS PASSES TRANSPORTATION TO VA HOSPITALS/CLINICS

REQUEST FOR DISCHARGE PAPERS



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- VETERAN MUST HAVE SERVED ON FEDERAL ACTIVE DUTY – MINIMUM 6 MONTHS
- LAST DISCHARGE MUST BE HONORABLE
- MUST BE A RESIDENT OF DUPAGE COUNTY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
- VETERAN MUST BE UNDER THE FINANCIAL POVERTY LEVEL - 250%
- MUST HAVE HAD A FINANCIAL EVENT – WE COMPENSATE FOR A FINANCIAL LOSS
- FAMILIES, WIDOWS, WIDOWERS, CHILDREN 17 AND UNDER QUALIFY IF THE VETERAN QUALIFIES



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



VA BENEFITS FOR ELDERLY VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



VA - VETERANS/SPOUSES BENEFITS

- **SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY** – DISABILITY OR ILLNESS OCCURRED WHILE ON MILITARY SERVICE - RATING - 0% - 100%
- **PENSION** – NON-SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY - LOW OR NO INCOME AND/OR DISABILITY NOT RELATED TO MILITARY SERVICE
 - AID AND ATTENDANCE AND HOMEBOUND
- **DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY (DIC)** – SPOUSE CAN GET A MONTHLY PAYMENT FROM THE VA IF THE VETERAN SPOUSE DIED DUE TO A SERVICE CONNECTED INJURY OR DISEASE

\$1254/MONTH

- **SURVIVORS PENSION** – FOR WIDOWS OF VETERANS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY FROM A NON-SERVICE CONNECTED DEATH – LOW INCOME – VET MUST MEET ELIGIBILITY

\$719/MONTH



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



VA PENSION ELIGIBILITY

- DISCHARGED UNDER OTHER THAN DISHONORABLE CONDITIONS
- SERVED AT LEAST 90 DAYS ACTIVE DUTY, AT LEAST ONE DAY DURING WARTIME AFTER SEP 7, 1980, SERVED AT LEAST 2 YEARS OR IF UNDER 2 YEARS, COMPLETION OF ACTIVE DUTY OBLIGATION
- UNDER 65 – PERMANENT OR TOTALLY DISABLED PLUS LOW INCOME
- OVER 65 – THE VA ONLY LOOKS AT HIS INCOME LEVEL
- * - VA PENSION AND SOCIAL SECURITY OFF-SET EACH OTHER

VA PENSION SINGLE - \$1072/MONTH MARRIED - \$1404/MONTH



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



AID AND ATTENDANCE - HAVE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DISABILITY CONDITIONS

- ASSISTED BY ANOTHER PERSON TO PERFORM PERSONAL FUNCTIONS WITH AT LEAST TWO OR MORE ITEMS SUCH AS:

BATHING FEEDING DRESSING USING THE BATHROOM

- BEDRIDDEN
- PATIENT IN A NURSING HOME DUE TO MENTAL OR PHYSICAL INCAPACITY WHO RECEIVES INTERMEDIATE CARE OR SKILLED NURSING CARE

- LEGALLY BLIND

A&A SINGLE - \$1788/MONTH MARRIED - \$2120/MONTH
--

HOUSEBOUND

- VETERAN PRIMARILY CONFINED TO HOME, BUT NEEDS SOMEONE TO TAKE HIM SHOPPING OR TO THE DOCTOR OR ANYWHERE (CAN'T LEAVE HOUSE ON HIS OWN)

HB SINGLE - \$1310/MONTH MARRIED - \$1642/MONTH



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



AID AND ATTENDANCE/HOUSEBOUND FINANCE INCOME AND ASSET ELIGIBILITY

- INCOME & NET WORTH – THRESHOLD AROUND \$80,000 – MEDICAL EXPENSES CAN BE DEDUCTED
- PRIMARY HOME AND CAR NOT COUNTED TOWARDS THE \$80,000
- SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY INSURANCE AND SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME WILL BE LOOKED AT, BUT IS NOT A DISQUALIFIER
- WIDOWS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A&A, BUT STILL MUST MEET REQUIREMENTS OF THE VETERAN SPOUSE
- THERE IS NO LOOK BACK
- FINANCIAL PLANNERS/ATTORNEYS



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



VA HEALTH CARE FOR ELDERLY VETERANS

GERIATRICS IS HEALTH CARE FOR ELDERLY VETERANS WITH COMPLEX NEEDS. EXTENDED CARE – ALSO KNOWN AS LONG TERM CARE – IS A PROGRAM FOR VETERANS OF ALL AGES WHO NEED THE DAILY SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE OF ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL. ELDERLY VETERANS CAN RECEIVE GERIATRIC AND LONG TERM CARE PROGRAMS AT HOME, AT VA MEDICAL CENTERS, OR IN THE COMMUNITY.

- GERIATRICS PROGRAM
- LONG TERM CARE
- HOME BASED AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
- NURSING HOME AND RESIDENTIAL CARE
- GERIATRICS RESEARCH



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



VA HEARING AIDS

- VETERAN MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE HEARING AIDS, BUT MAY HAVE TO PAY FOR THE HEARING AID VISIT (\$50)

VA FIDUCIARY PROGRAM

- SPOUSE/FAMILY MEMBER, COURT APPOINTED, PROFESSIONAL FIDUCIARY
- RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING THE VETERANS FINANCES

VA CEMETERIES

- ABRAHAM LINCOLN CEMETERY – ELWOOD
- VETERAN AND SPOUSE



VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION OF DUPAGE COUNTY



VAC DUPAGE COUNTY

630-407-5655

STEVEN.FIXLER@DUPAGECO.ORG