



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

VA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP)

VA extends temporary hardship suspension for benefit debts

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs is extending its financial hardship suspension on benefit debts through Dec. 31.

This relief option, established to help Veterans through the COVID-19 pandemic, was set to expire Sept. 30.

Beginning in September, debt notification letters will be mailed to affected Veterans advising them of the extended hardship suspension option, as well as extended debt repayment plans, waivers and compromises. Benefit debts include debts related to disability compensation, non-service-connected pension and education benefits.

“Helping Veterans manage, pay off, and — in some cases — eliminate their debt is one of our top priorities,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “Extending this hardship suspension is a key part of that critical effort, and it will help ease the burden for Veterans who are living with debt.”

In recent years, VA has made real progress toward helping Veterans manage their debts. These efforts include:

- Canceling copayments for medical care and pharmacy services from April 6, 2020 to Sept. 30, 2021, which saved more than 1.5 million Veterans about \$1 billion dollars.
- [Publishing a final rule](#) that reduced the number of Veterans referred to credit agencies by 99%, meaning medical debt will no longer affect those Veterans’ credit scores.
- Transitioning from a complex paper application to enhanced online tools where Veterans can [learn about what they owe](#) and apply for relief.
- Improving the review process for debt forgiveness by implementing a simpler income threshold to qualify for relief.
- Streamlining the Veterans Health Administration debt waiver process for medical debts, requiring less paperwork for Veterans, while expediting processing times and expanding relief eligibility.

- Establishing a phone hotline in October 2021 for Veterans Health Administration clinicians to call on behalf of Veterans who appear to be experiencing significant anxiety related to their benefit debt.
- Temporarily eliminating the requirement for a [Financial Status Report](#) to receive a hardship determination.

Veterans and beneficiaries can [manage their debt online](#) or call 800-827-0648 with questions regarding benefit overpayments.

For information about medical care and pharmacy copayment debt, Veterans and beneficiaries can contact the Health Resource Center at 866-400-1238.

###

[Click here to Subscribe to VA CFBNP Updates](#)

VA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships (CFBNP)
810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420

Email: VACFBNP@va.gov

Website: www.va.gov/cfbnp

Check us out on [Facebook](#)



Housing Assistance



Disability



Housing Assistance



Education and Training



Pension



Life Insurance



Records



Burials and Memorials



Careers and Employment

Keep updated and let us know how we're doing.

You have received this message because you are subscribed to Veterans Affairs. Access your [Subscriber Preferences](#) to make changes to your subscription or [Unsubscribe](#). Get this as a forward? [Sign Up](#) to receive updates from Veterans Affairs. Having questions or problems? Please visit subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com for assistance.

If you are in crisis and need immediate help, please call 1-800-273-8255 and (PRESS 1) or visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>.

Please remember the only secure way to ask personal questions is at <https://iris.custhelp.com>. Explore VA benefits at explore.va.gov



Choose VA