



Pierce County

## Senior Information & Assistance

### EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS UNDER THE DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CHAPTER 35 OF TITLE 38 U. S. CODE

- **Eligibility depends on individual circumstances.**
- **Eligibility for most VA benefits programs depends on discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions.**

The Dependents' Educational Assistance program (chapter 35 of title 38, U. S. Code) was enacted by Congress to provide education and training opportunities to eligible dependents and survivors of certain veterans.

The program provides financial aid for the education of a dependent or surviving son, daughter, or spouse of a:

- Veteran who dies of, or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability. The disability must arise out of active service in the Armed Forces.
- Veteran with a permanent and total service-connected disability who dies from any cause.
- Serviceperson who is missing in action or is captured in line of duty and is currently being held by a hostile force.
- Serviceperson who is currently being forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.

You may be entitled to receive up to 45 months of education benefits.

You may receive a maximum of 48 months of benefits under more than one VA education program. For example, if you used 30 months of your own benefits as a veteran under the Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty Educational Assistance Program (chapter 30 of title 38, U. S. Code), and are eligible as a dependent, you could have 18 months of entitlement remaining.

#### **SON OR DAUGHTER**

To receive benefits for attending school or job training under the program, you must be between the ages of 18 and 26. In certain instances, it is possible to begin before age 18 and to continue after age 26. Marriage of a child is not a bar to this benefit. But, an eligible child may not receive benefits while on active duty in the Armed Forces. To pursue training after military service, your discharge

**Call (253) 798-4600 or 800-562-0332**  
**E-mail – [pcseniors@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:pcseniors@co.pierce.wa.us)**  
**[www.PierceSeniorInfo.org](http://www.PierceSeniorInfo.org)**



Pierce County

## Senior Information & Assistance

must not be under dishonorable conditions. VA can extend your period of eligibility by the number of months and days equal to the time spent on active duty. This extension cannot go beyond your 31st birthday.

### **SPOUSES**

If you are a surviving spouse and are eligible because the veteran has a permanent and total service-connected disability, benefits end 10 years from one of the following dates:

- The effective date of the veteran's permanent and total disability evaluation;
- The date VA notifies you of the veteran's permanent and total disability evaluation; or
- The beginning date you choose, between the date you become eligible and the date VA notifies you of your eligibility.

If you are a surviving spouse and are eligible because the veteran died of a service-connected disability, benefits end 10 years from one of the following dates:

- The date of death;
- The date VA determines that death was due to a service-connected disability; or
- The beginning date you choose, between the date of death and the date VA determines that death was due to a service-connected disability.

If you are a surviving spouse and are eligible because the veteran had a permanent and total service-connected disability at time of death, the beginning date of the 10-year period is the date of death.

If you are eligible because the veteran or serviceperson is being held as a prisoner of war, is missing in action, or is being forcibly held by a foreign government or power, your period of eligibility ends 10 years from the 90th day after the veteran or serviceperson is listed as a captive or missing. If the veteran or serviceperson is released from captivity, or is determined to be alive and no longer missing, your period of eligibility ends on that date.

### **WHAT YOU MUST DO TO QUALIFY**

Once you find a school with a program you want or a company or union offering an apprenticeship or job training in your field, there are two important steps.

**Call (253) 798-4600 or 800-562-0332**  
**E-mail – [pcseniors@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:pcseniors@co.pierce.wa.us)**  
**[www.PierceSeniorInfo.org](http://www.PierceSeniorInfo.org)**



Pierce County

## Senior Information & Assistance

- FIRST, make sure the program you choose is approved for VA training. If you are not clear on this point, VA will inform you and the school or company about the requirements.
- SECOND, complete VA Form 22-5490, Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance. Send it to the VA regional office with jurisdiction over the State where you will train. If you are a son or daughter, under legal age, a parent or guardian must sign the application. If of age, a son or daughter can apply alone.

VA will review your application and let you know if anything else is needed. If you have started training, take your application to your school, or to your employer or union if you are in a job training program. Ask the certifying official to complete VA Form 22-1999, Enrollment Certification, and send both forms to VA.

The following VA regional office has jurisdiction over claims for Washington State:

VA Regional Office  
PO Box 8888  
Muskogee, OK 74402-8888

For forms and information, one or more of the following offices or representatives can assist you:

- Any VA regional office.
- Any VA office or Vet Center.
- Local representatives of veterans organizations
- American Embassies or Consulates, if you reside in a foreign country (except the Republic of the Philippines).

Consult a telephone directory under United States Government, Department of Veterans Affairs or Veterans Administration, for the telephone number of the office nearest you. Toll-free telephone service is available in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U. S. Virgin Islands. Call 1-888-GI-BILL-1 (1-888-442-4551). If you are hearing impaired call 1-800-829-4833.

This document is summarized from <http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/C35pam.htm> (04/01)

1/03

**Call (253) 798-4600 or 800-562-0332**  
**E-mail – [pcseniors@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:pcseniors@co.pierce.wa.us)**  
**[www.PierceSeniorInfo.org](http://www.PierceSeniorInfo.org)**