



REHABILITATION AND PROSTHETIC SERVICES (AUTOMOBILE ALLOWANCE AND ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT)

The Issue

Veterans and service members with certain service-connected disabilities are eligible for a one-time only payment of not more than \$21,058.69 to be used towards the purchase of a specially equipped vehicle. Eligibility requirements include:

- Loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both feet, or
- Loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both hands, or
- Permanent decreased vision in both eyes: 20/200 vision or less in your better eye with glasses, or greater than 20/200 vision but with a visual field defect that has reduced your peripheral vision to 20 degrees or less in your better eye, or
- A severe burn injury, or
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), or
- Ankylosis in one or both knees or hips (**Note:** This qualifies you for an adaptive-equipment grant only)

VA also provides assistance to service-connected veterans with certain disabilities in adapting no more than two vehicles every four years through the Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE) grant. Adapted equipment available to these veterans includes power steering, power windows, power seats, and other equipment needed to operate a vehicle or for ingress or egress. Veterans are required to submit receipts for this equipment to be reimbursed.

Veterans with non-service-connected disabilities are not eligible for AAE. They may be reimbursed, however, for ingress or egress modifications to a vehicle they have purchased. The modifications are paid for out of medical services funding because the purpose of the modifications are to provide the veteran with transportation to medical care.



PVA's Position

- PVA supports legislation allowing veterans to utilize the automobile grant more than once for the purchase, not lease, of an adapted vehicle. Considering vehicles do not last a person's lifetime, veterans should have the ability to purchase a vehicle, with the assistance of the automobile grant, once every ten years, without having to shoulder the burden of the full cost of a vehicle.
- PVA opposes VA requiring veterans to provide an itemized list of "options" included in the price of the vehicle in order to receive the AAE grant. With vehicles being so advanced, many features that were previously categorized as being added equipment, for example, power steering, air conditioning, power windows, and power brakes, are now categorized as standard equipment. Veterans and service members should not have to submit an itemized list of this equipment to qualify for the benefit.
- PVA supports legislation to allow veterans who have non-service-connected spinal cord injuries or disorders to receive the same type of adaptive automobile equipment as veterans whose injuries are service connected.