



IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING PROGRAM

The Issue

Veterans and service members who have sustained certain severe service-connected disabilities are eligible for grants to assist with the building, remodeling, or purchasing of an adapted home.

The Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant allows modifications to be made to a residence to give a veteran or service member greater independence. One example of a modification is making a home wheelchair accessible to include: wider doorways, a ramp to the front door, and an accessible bathroom.

The current maximum grant is \$85,645, and a service member or veteran may use the grant three times, up to the maximum dollar amount allowed. To be eligible for the grant, the veteran or service member must be entitled to disability compensation due to:

- Loss or loss of use of both legs: unable to move around without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair
- Blindness in both eyes, plus loss or loss of use of one leg
- Loss or loss of use of one leg, and residuals of organic disease or injury, or loss or loss of use of one arm, affecting balance and ability to move without aid
- Loss or loss of use of both arms at or above the elbows
- Severe burn injury



PVA's Position

- PVA supports legislation that would allow VA to prioritize a veteran's SAH claim if the veteran has been diagnosed with a terminal illness, including Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Due to the aggressive nature of ALS, it is imperative that these veterans are afforded the opportunity for an increased quality of life while they still have the ability to enjoy it.
- PVA supports legislation that increases the amount of the SAH grant to better match the current construction cost.
- PVA supports legislation that would establish a supplementary grant to allow a veteran to modify a different residence if a veteran needs to relocate or if his or her disability worsens. Veterans should not be forced to forfeit opportunities or remain in residences that limit their independence because they are unable to afford to make necessary modifications.