

[The Next PACT Act Deadline: September 30 Special Enrollment Period Toolkit](#)

Overview

Between now and September 30, 2023, Veterans who deployed to a combat zone, never enrolled in VA health care, and left active duty between September 11, 2001 and October 1, 2013 are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care –without first applying for VA benefits. Veterans can [apply online](#) or in person at their [local VA facility](#) until 11:59pm local time on September 30, 2023.

Right now, we at VA are conducting a full-scale nationwide outreach campaign to connect with these Veterans and encourage them to enroll in VA health care before this deadline – including earned media, paid media, social media, events, and more. VA is the best, most affordable care in America for Veterans, and we want every Veteran to get the access they deserve.

But we need your help to raise awareness about this deadline! This social media toolkit includes key messages, draft posts, key resources, and FAQs – please use it to help you spread the word about this Special Enrollment Period. Thank you, as always, for your partnership and all your support.

Key message:

- Are you a Veteran who deployed to a combat zone but never signed up for VA health care? If you left active duty between 9/11/01 and 10/1/13, you should apply today.
- There's a special enrollment period *right now* that gives you a chance to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits.
- VA is the best, most affordable health care in America for Veterans – and *this* is your chance to sign up.
- Even if you don't need this care today, you might need it tomorrow, or the next day, or 30 years from now. And once you're in, you have access for life.
- Don't miss this opportunity — the deadline is September 30. Get the care you deserve today at [VA.gov/PACT](#).

Draft Social Media Copy

General options:

1. Are you a Veteran who deployed to a combat zone but never signed up for VA health care?

If you left active duty between 9/11/01 and 10/1/13, you should sign up now!

But act fast—the deadline is September 30. Apply now at [VA.gov/PACT](#).

2. Are you a Veteran who deployed to a combat zone but never signed up for VA health care? This is your chance.

VA is the best, most affordable health care in America for Vets – and once you're in, you have access for life.

Don't wait. Apply by now at [VA.gov/PACT](#).

3. VA health care includes yearly physicals, prescriptions, care for issues related to military service, and much more.

If you deployed to a combat zone but never enrolled in VA care, you may be eligible to sign up today.

Don't wait. Apply by now at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT).

Post-9/11 Specific:

Attention post-9/11 Veterans! If you've deployed to a combat zone but never enrolled in VA health care, sign up TODAY.

But don't wait — time is running out! Apply today at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT).

Iraq and Afghanistan option:

Did you serve in Iraq or Afghanistan after 9/11?

If you've never signed up for VA health care, you should enroll TODAY.

But don't wait — time is running out! Apply today at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT).

Key Resources and Fact Sheets:

- [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT) – the best place for Veterans and their families to learn about all things PACT Act and apply today.
- [VA's Health Care Application Website](#)
- [VA Health Care Eligibility Website](#)
- [SECVA twitter thread](#)
- [Blog: How to Spread the Word about the PACT Act](#) (includes nearly 20 fact sheets in 10+ languages)
- [Video PSA for the special enrollment period \(Downloadable versions in English and Spanish\)](#)
- [Downloadable General PACT Act PSA 1](#)
- [Downloadable General PACT Act PSA 2](#)
- [PACT Act VA Health Care Eligibility fact sheet](#)

Infographic

PACT ACT SPECIAL HEALTH CARE ENROLLMENT PERIOD

Visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) to learn more!



Did you serve in a theater of combat operations during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War?

—OR—



Did you serve in combat against hostile forces after November 11, 1998?

—AND—



Were you discharged or released between 09/11/2001 and 10/01/2013?

It's free, no annual costs, and your health care may be free as well!



Additional FAQ:

Why should a Veteran apply for VA care?

- VA is the best and most affordable health care in America for Veterans – and *this* is your chance to sign up.
- Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than those who get their care elsewhere. And this year alone, VA has beaten non-VA hospitals in quality ratings *and* patient satisfaction ratings.
- That's because our clinicians know Veterans – they often *are* Veterans – and they know exactly how to help.
- And VA health care isn't only the best option for Veterans – it's often the most affordable – with copays as low as \$0 for prescriptions, urgent care, outpatient care, and more for some Veterans at VA.
- So don't wait – get the world-class care you've earned before it's too late. Apply today at [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).

Are these the only Veterans who can apply for VA care without first filing a claim for disability compensation benefits?

- Many Veterans are able to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits – including many Vietnam Veterans, Gulf War Veterans, Veterans who deployed to a combat zone and transitioned out of the service less than 10 years ago, and [more](#).
- Veterans who do not meet any of these eligibility criteria may still be able to access VA health care based on their income.
- Veterans who apply for and are granted service connection for any health condition can also become eligible for VA care.

What happens if a Veteran misses the deadline?

- If a Veteran misses this deadline, there are still many ways for them to access VA care.
- For example, if they apply for benefits and are granted service connection for any health condition, they can become eligible for VA care.
- Veterans can also become eligible to enroll in VA health care based on their income.

- For more information, visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/>.

Why doesn't VA just extend this deadline?

- This deadline is written into law for this specific group for Veterans. But if a Veteran misses this deadline, there are still many ways for them to access VA health care.
- For example, if you apply for benefits and are granted service connection for any health condition, you can become eligible for VA care.
- Veterans can also become eligible to enroll in VA health care based on their income.
- For more information, visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/>.

How many people have enrolled to date? How many people are eligible to enroll?

- We don't yet have numbers for this specific group of Veterans, but since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law, more than 344,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care and more than 4.2 million Veterans have been screened for toxic exposures.

What do I get when I enroll in VA health care?

- VA offers world-class, comprehensive health care – including yearly physicals, health assessments, free screenings, specialized care for issues related to military service, and more. This is true regardless of whether or not you have a service-connected condition.
- VA health care can serve as your sole source of healthcare, or as a complement to other plans, and the care is portable, so the coverage follows you if they travel or relocate.

What happens to my current health care if I sign up for VA?

- Many Veterans who get their care from VA also have other forms of health insurance, and signing up for VA will not impact your ability to continue seeing your current providers using your current insurance if you'd like.
- Enrolling in VA health care could impact your Medicare, Medicaid, or Affordable Care Act stipend eligibility. To learn more, visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/about-va-health-benefits/va-health-care-and-other-insurance/>.

For the purposes of this deadline, what does it mean to have “deployed to a combat zone”?

- This special enrollment period applies to Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force after November 11, 1998.
- If you fit that description, never signed up for VA health care, and left active duty between 9/11/01 and 10/1/13, you should sign up today.

Can Veterans still apply for benefits under the PACT Act?

- The PACT Act is the largest expansion of VA benefits in generations, and Veterans and survivors can apply *anytime* for the PACT Act benefits they deserve.
- Since the PACT Act was signed into law, VA has delivered more than \$1.85 billion in PACT Act benefits to Veterans and their survivors nationwide – and that's just the beginning.
- Visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) to learn more and apply today.

How the PACT Act is helping Veterans:

- The PACT Act has expanded VA health care and benefits for *millions* of Veterans and their survivors.
- Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law on August 10, VA has delivered more than \$1.85 billion in PACT Act-related benefits to Veterans. Additionally:
 - More than 900,000 Veterans have applied for PACT Act-related benefits;
 - More than 4.2 million enrolled Veterans have received the new [toxic exposure screenings](#);
 - More than 344,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care
- We at VA want all eligible Veterans and survivors to get the care and benefits they've earned. So don't wait, visit VA.gov/PACT to learn more and apply today.