

Warren County Veterans Service Officer's Report for June 2018

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OVERVIEW: BENEFICIARY TRAVEL

The Beneficiary Travel program provides eligible veterans and other beneficiaries mileage reimbursement, common carrier (plane, train, bus, taxi, light rail etc.), or when medically indicated, "special mode" (ambulance, wheel-chair van) transport for travel to and from VA health care, or VA authorized non-VA health care for which the veteran is eligible.

- A veteran may qualify for beneficiary travel services if they have a service-connected rating of 30 percent or more, or
- The veteran is traveling for treatment of a service-connected condition, or
- The veteran receives a pension of their income doesn't exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate, or
- The veterans income doesn't exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate, or
- The veteran is traveling for a scheduled compensation or pension exam.

A veteran may qualify for special mode transportation if they meet one of the above eligibility criteria, and their medical condition requires an ambulance or a specially equipped van as determined by a VA clinician, and the travel is preauthorized.

Fee-Based Claims System~

VA is implementing a centralized Fee Based Claims System (FBCS) to improve handling of Beneficiary Travel (BT) ambulance claims. By using the FBCS, BT claims processors receive the initial reimbursement request and complete the transaction quicker and with more accuracy. The new system centralizes the process, which increases the visibility for all claims and improves data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Veterans can apply for travel reimbursement by completing VA Form 10-3542 (Veteran/Beneficiary Claim for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses). This form replaces older versions and local forms and improves the process for veterans applying for mileage reimbursement at more than one VA facility.

Requesting travel pay can be done in several different ways. A veteran can visit the Beneficiary Travel Office after completing an appointment. Another option is to call the Beneficiary Travel Office, or a veteran can send the travel reimbursement for via secure fax or by mail to the local Beneficiary Travel Office.

Applications for payment must be submitted within 30 calendar days from the date the travel is completed or the date the applicant is notified he or she is eligible for travel payments if the request is based on a change in eligibility. The current mileage reimbursement rate is \$0.415 (41.5 cents) per mile for general travel. Scheduled appointments qualify for round-trip mileage. Unscheduled visits may be limited to return mileage only. The reimbursement will be paid for travel to the closest VA facility unless a different location was determined by VA.

Farmers Market

- FreshConnects (\$20 in coupons) should become available to you in June! As soon as I receive this notification I will forward it on to you through our website/FB page/email blast.

VA Pension

If you know of a Wartime Veteran/Spouse who is below income or has a significant amount of medical expenses due to:

- at home care, or
- assisted living, or
- skilled nursing,

Please have them contact us **IMMEDIATELY** to submit a claim for VA Pension.