

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

St. Petersburg Regional Office
9500 Bay Pines Blvd
St. Petersburg FL 33744

Supplemental Benefits Information

Please be aware of a number of additional benefits and services available to you:

Veterans Service Center (VSC): Located at the VA Regional Office, the Veterans Service Center is a one-stop service that covers information on the total range of benefits available to veterans. To contact VSC nationwide, call the toll free number, 1-800-827-1000.

Veteran Readiness and Employment: Chapter 31: The VR&E division determines the need for rehabilitation and assistance in selecting an employment objective and training program. Consideration is given to homebound training and/or employment out of the home, as appropriate to your needs. To contact VR&E, call the toll free number, 1-800-827-1000.

Independent Living Services (ILS): The goal of the ILS program is to help seriously disabled veterans increase their quality of life, and independence. The program incorporates Self Care, Equipment, Socialization/Recreation, Mobility, Education and Vocation to accomplish the goal. Often, the ILS program can be used in conjunction with your Specially Adapted Housing grant. The ILS program is administered by the VR&E office (see above). To apply for the ILS program, please complete and return the enclosed VA Form 28-1900, *Application for Vocational Rehabilitation*.

Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service (P&SA): The P&SA office furnishes eligible veterans with therapeutic or rehabilitative devices which are reasonable, necessary, and medically prescribed for treatment. These devices may include grab bars, exercise mats, stair transporters, porch lifters, temporary ramps, window air conditioners, wheelchairs, and prosthetic appliances. Contact the VA Medical Center where you obtain services for additional information.

Home Improvement and Structural Alterations (HISA): HISA is used to make improvements and structural alterations determined to be medically necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of a veteran's disability to homes rented or purchased by or for eligible veterans. The maximum benefit cannot exceed \$6,800 for a veteran rated with 50-100% service-connected disabilities, or \$2,000 for non-service-connected disabilities. Veterans who receive the SAH grant are eligible for HISA when it is medically determined to be necessary to ensure the continuation of treatment or provide access to the home or to essential lavatory and sanitary facilities. You may apply for the HISA program by completing VA Form 10-0103 and submitting it to the Chief, P&SA at your local VA Medical Center.

Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI): VMLI is designed to provide financial protection to cover an eligible veteran's outstanding home mortgage in the event of his/her death. This insurance covers an existing loan, as well as a new loan, provided either the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) or Special Housing Adaptations (SHA) Grant is used. The VMLI coverage amounts for all SAH and SHA plans is limited to the amount of the existing mortgage balance up to a maximum of \$200,000.00. A veteran is immediately eligible for VMLI when he/she is 69 years of age or younger at the time of grant approval, has an existing mortgage and is approved for the SAH or SHA grant (**your grant must be approved**). Current enrollees may continue VMLI coverage beyond the age of 70. When your grant is approved, you will receive the VMLI Application Form 29-8636. At that time, you will accept or decline the insurance and return the form to your SAH Agent. For more information or to obtain an estimate of your monthly premium, you may contact VMLI at 1-800-669-8477.

You may also access the VMLI website to obtain additional information or to calculate your premium at: <https://insurance.va.gov/inForceGliSite/VMLICalc/VMLICalc.asp>

Traumatic Insurance Protection Under SGLI Coverage (TSGLI): TSGLI provides traumatic injury coverage for members of the uniformed services who are covered under Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI). TSGLI pays a predetermined monetary benefit for losses that are incurred by the member as a result of a traumatic injury, such as a loss of a leg or an arm. The benefit is paid to the member, or the members' SGLI beneficiary if the member is deceased. TSGLI coverage was added to SGLI policies effective December 1, 2005. Contact your SAH Agent for additional information.

Florida State Property Tax Benefit: Current Florida State Law (196.081) allows for total property tax exemption for 100% permanently and totally disabled veterans. This applies to your primary permanent residence only. If you are eligible for the SAH or SHA grant, you will be eligible for this exemption. You must provide a letter from the VA to your local tax office to obtain the exemption. To receive your VA Tax Exemption letter, call 1-800-827-1000.