

AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT

The Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE) program prescribes and pays for adaptive equipment to allow an eligible person to safely operate and enter/exit from their personal vehicle (38 USC 3901-3903; 38 CFR 17.155-159). All AAE must be prescribed by a VHA physician, Drivers Rehabilitation Specialist (DRS), Certified DRS (external to VA). AAE is individually prescribed based on the Veterans need to safely operate and/or enter and exit their personal vehicles.

Effective July 17, 2024, there has been significant changes due to regulatory requirements (38 CFR 17.155-159):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All AAE must be prescribed. Limitations on assistance for payments (registered providers) and reimbursements (unregistered providers). 2 vehicles in a 4-year period-AAE must remain on the record for at least 4 years unless extenuating circumstances exist. *Prior to any trade ins/disposition, please contact your local PSAS for approval. Repairs, Reinstallation and Reimbursement may be appropriate. Providers seeking payments must be registered with NHTSA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All quotes, invoices, receipts, bill of sale MUST be <u>itemized</u> including conversion packages and kits. Documentation for payment(s)/reimbursement(s) must be itemized. Used equipment will be depreciated by 20% per year. No reimbursements or payments for AAE older than 5 years from the date of manufacturer. Labor costs cannot be paid or reimbursed to unregistered providers. Payments and reimbursements will not exceed the maximum reimbursement rates listed in the AAE Payment Schedule.
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[Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service \(PSAS\) - Rehabilitation and Prosthetic Services \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/psas/)



VBA Determines Eligibility:

You may be eligible for VA automobile allowance or adaptive equipment benefits if you have a disability that's related to your service (called a service-connected disability) and includes at least one of these conditions.

At least one of these must be true for you:

- You have loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both feet, or
- You have loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both hands, or
- You have 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
- You have a severe burn injury, or
- You have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or
- You have ankylosis in one or both knees or hips (this qualifies you only for an adaptive-equipment grant)

A VBA compensation rating decision will annotate eligibility to the automobile allowance and AAE program. To apply for the automobile allowance or eligibility for AAE please submit VA Form 21-4502 to your nearest VBA Regional Office.

VHA Determines Entitlement:

- Prescribes type(s) of AAE to operate and/or enter/exit the vehicle.
- Discuss and recommend types of automobiles for appropriateness.
- Certifies whether Veteran is a driver or non-driver.
- Approves 2 vehicles within 4-year period. No disposition or trade-ins can be approved unless there are extenuating circumstances present (e.g., disability changes; new or replacement of AAE is needed; court orders) (38 USC 3903; 38 CFR 17.158(a)). Eligible persons are entitled to adaptive equipment on 2 vehicles in a 4 year period. Each vehicle with prescribed adaptive equipment must remain on the Veteran's record for at least 4 years unless there are extenuating circumstances. In cases where the Veteran has 1 vehicle on record, the prescribed adaptive equipment must remain on the Veteran's record for at least 4 years unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- Apply the VA AAE Schedule to determine maximum payments and/or reimbursements.