

# Veterans Independence Program



The Veterans Independence Program (VIP) helps you remain independent and self-sufficient at home or in your community. Depending on your circumstances and health needs, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) can offer financial assistance to obtain a wide range of services, including: housekeeping; grounds maintenance, such as snow removal or lawn mowing; personal care; care and support from a health professional; home adaptations; access to nutrition; and ambulatory health care.

## Who qualifies for the Veterans Independence Program?

You may qualify if you have a health need for any of the VIP services and you:

- have a VAC disability benefit; or
- are a low-income Veteran; or
- are in receipt of the Prisoner of War Compensation; or
- are eligible for VAC's Long Term Care program, but are on a wait list; or
- have been the **primary caregiver** for an eligible Veteran or **civilian**; or
- are the low-income or disabled survivor of an eligible Veteran or civilian.

## How to apply

The staff at any VAC office, Integrated Personnel Support Centre (IPSC) or Service Canada centre can assist you. To find one of these offices, request an application or to learn more about this and other benefits, visit us online at [veterans.gc.ca](http://veterans.gc.ca) or call us at **1-866-522-2122**.

## Important information

- VIP services can include funding for care in a facility when remaining at home is no longer practical and a greater level of nursing and personal assistance is required.
- VIP services for survivors and primary caregivers are limited to housekeeping and/or grounds maintenance.
- VIP can only be provided for services within Canada.

## Key terms

**Primary caregiver** is any adult who lived with the Veteran; and was the primary provider of care to the Veteran; and was not receiving a wage from the Veteran for this care; and was maintained by or maintained the Veteran for a continuous period of at least one year when the Veteran passed away or was admitted to a long term care facility.

**Civilian** refers to individuals who served in support of the military during wartime, such as civilian air crew members, fire fighters, overseas welfare workers, etc.

For more information:

[veterans.gc.ca](http://veterans.gc.ca)

**1 866 522-2122**

