

What factors will VA use to assign me to a priority group?

We'll base your priority group on:

- Your military service history, and
- Your disability rating, and
- Your income level, and
- Whether or not you qualify for Medicaid, and
- Other benefits you may be receiving (like VA pension benefits)

We assign Veterans with service-connected disabilities the highest priority. We assign the lowest priority to Veterans who earn a higher income and who don't have any service-connected disabilities qualifying them for disability compensation (monthly payments).

If you qualify for more than one priority group, we'll assign you to the highest one.

Priority group 1

We may assign you to priority group 1 if any of these descriptions are true:

- You have a service-connected disability that we've rated as 50% or more disabling, or
- You have a service-connected disability that we've concluded makes you unable to work (also called unemployable), or
- You received the Medal of Honor (MOH)

Priority group 2

We may assign you to priority group 2 if you have a service-connected disability that we've rated as 30% or 40% disabling.

Priority group 3

We may assign you to priority group 3 if any of these descriptions are true:

- **You're a former prisoner of war (POW), or**
- **You received the Purple Heart medal, or**
- **You were discharged for a disability that was caused by—or got worse because of—your active-duty service, or**
- **You have a service-connected disability that we've rated as 10% or 20% disabling, or**
- **You were awarded special eligibility classification under Title 38, U.S.C § 1151, "benefits for individuals disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation"**

Priority group 4

We may assign you to priority group 4 if either of these descriptions is true:

- You're receiving VA aid and attendance or housebound benefits, or
- You have received a VA determination of being catastrophically disabled

Priority group 5

We may assign you to priority group 5 if any of these descriptions are true:

- You don't have a service-connected disability, or you have a non-compensable service-connected disability that we've rated as 0% disabling, and you have an annual income level that's below our adjusted income limits (based on your resident zip code), or
- You're receiving VA pension benefits, or
- You're eligible for Medicaid programs

Priority group 6

We may assign you to priority group 6 if any of these descriptions are true:

- You have a compensable service-connected disability that we've rated as 0% disabling, or
- You were exposed to ionizing radiation during atmospheric testing or during the occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or
- You participated in Project 112/SHAD, or
- You served in World War II between December 7, 1941, and December 31, 1946, or
- You served in the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, or
- You served in the Persian Gulf War between August 2, 1990, and November 11, 1998, or
- You served on active duty at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987

We may also assign you to priority group 6 if you meet all of these requirements:

- You're currently or newly enrolled in VA health care, and
- You served in a theater of combat operations after November 11, 1998, and
- You were discharged less than 10 years ago

Note: As a returning combat Veteran, you're eligible for these enhanced benefits for 10 years after discharge. At the end of this enhanced enrollment period, we'll assign you to the highest priority group you qualify for at that time.

Priority group 7

We may assign you to priority group 7 if both of these descriptions are true for you:

- Your gross household income is below the geographically adjusted income limits (GMT) for where you live, and
- You agree to pay copays

Priority group 8

We may assign you to priority group 8 if both of these descriptions are true for you:

- Your gross household income is above VA income limits and geographically adjusted income limits for where you live, and
- You agree to pay copays

If you're assigned to priority group 8, your eligibility for VA health care benefits will depend on which subpriority group we place you in