

# What is HISA?

Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA)

This grant provides medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to Veterans/ Servicemembers' primary residence for the following purposes:

- Allowing entrance to or exit from their homes
- Use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities (e.g. roll in showers)
- Allowing accessibility to kitchen or bathroom sinks or counters (e.g. lowering counters/sinks)
- Improving entrance paths or driveways in immediate area of the home to facilitate access to the home through construction of permanent ramping
- Improving plumbing or electrical systems made necessary due to installation of home medical equipment

# What can HISA be used for?

- ▶ Build a wooden or concrete ramp to gain access to the home.
- ▶ Widen doorways for wheelchair access to bedroom or bathroom.
- ▶ Lower kitchen or bathroom counters or sinks.
- ▶ Improve the sidewalk width up to 36”.
- ▶ Concrete or asphalt driveway landing pad, up to 8’x 8’, to enable wheelchair access
- ▶ Install railings deemed necessary to help walk safely inside and outside of home.
- ▶ Install a roll-in shower or a walk-in shower.

# What can HISA be used for Cont.

## **Alterations Considered For Blind Veterans:**

- ▶ Hand rails on outside/inside steps and non-skid surface for steps.
- ▶ Improved lighting.
- ▶ Repair of broken or worn stairs.
- ▶ Sliding doors for cabinets.
- ▶ Smoke alarm/fire detection system.
- ▶ Grab bars for bathroom.
- ▶ Other- as the HISA Committee approves

# What HISA can NOT be used for:

- ▶ Build a path to a barn or workshop.
- ▶ Widen driveways in excess of 8' by 8' to accommodate wheelchair and van lifts.
- ▶ Install a spa, hot tub, or Jacuzzi.
- ▶ Install a home security system.
- ▶ Replace a roof; repair a furnace or any other routine home maintenance.
- ▶ Remodel existing bathroom (unless as stated above).
- ▶ New construction.

# How do you apply for a HISA Grant?

- ▶ Speak to your VA Primary Care Provider to request an Occupational Therapy referral for a HISA evaluation.
- ▶ Occupational Therapy will call to schedule you for a HISA evaluation.
- ▶ If the Occupational Therapist determines that you medically qualify for the HISA grant, they will enter a Prosthetics consult into the VA system.
- ▶ Prosthetics will mail you a HISA application packet with a Pre-Approval letter and instructions on how to proceed.
- ▶ Once the completed packet is returned to your local VA Prosthetics Department, it will be reviewed.
- ▶ If your application has been approved, you will receive an Approval letter at which time you can start your HISA project.
- ▶ Once your project has been completed, you return all required documentation to the VA prosthetics Department. It will be reviewed and processed for payment.
- ▶ **\*\* NOTE: You must follow these steps in order to qualify for the HISA grant.**

# Quick Facts About The HISA Grant

- ▶ Service connected Veterans of 50% or more will receive a grant amount up to \$6800.00. Veterans with a Service Connected rating of 49% or less or are Non Service Connected received a grant amount up to \$2000.00
- ▶ This is a once per lifetime grant. If you do not use the full awarded amount, you may use the remaining amount on another HISA approved project in the future. \*note: you will have to re-apply for all future projects\*
- ▶ You must have a Licensed contractor complete the modifications.