

Auto Adaptive Equipment Program (AAE)

- ▶ The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides AAE to meet individual driving / passenger needs to Veterans and Servicemembers. The program is jointly administered by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). VHA's Rehabilitation and Prosthetics Services provide Veterans/Servicemembers a full range of services: driver's evaluations and training; adaptive equipment to enable safe operation of a motor vehicle; and equipment which permits access to enter and exit their vehicle.
- ▶ VBA and VHA determines eligibility and entitlement on what type of equipment is needed based on an individual's disability(ies); selection of vehicle; Federal and State motor vehicle standards; functional limitations, etc.
- ▶ The AAE program is for Veterans/Servicemembers with eligible service-connected disabilities. Vehicle modifications may be provided to Veterans with non-service connected disabilities

Auto Adaptive Equipment Eligibility

- ▶ Veterans/Servicemembers eligible for AAE are service-connected for:
 - ▶ • The loss or loss of use of one or both feet or hands
 - ▶ • Ankylosis (immobility of the joint) of one or both knees or one or both hips
 - ▶ • Severe burn injuries after October 1, 2011
 - ▶ • Permanent impairment of vision of both eyes with a central visual acuity of 20/200 or less
 - ▶ • Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
 - ▶ • Undergoing Vocational Rehabilitation-Chapter 31 and are licensed and capable of operating a motor vehicle

Auto Adaptive Equipment Examples

- ▶ Low Effort or sensitized steering
 - ▶ • Electronic gas and/or brakes
 - ▶ • Mechanical hand controls for gas / brakes
- ▶ • Wheelchair tie downs
- ▶ • Vehicle lifts
- ▶ • Tilted steering wheels
- ▶ • Voice command systems
- ▶ • Raised roofs / doors
- ▶ • Tinted windows for burn injuries
- ▶ • Repairs, reinstallation and reimbursement of AAE

Auto Adaptive Equipment - Additional Information

- ▶ How often can AAE be provided?
 - ▶ No more than 2 vehicles in a 4 year period may be provided.
- ▶ To be eligible for AAE, Veterans / Servicemembers must be in receipt of an approved VA Form 21-4502 provided by VBA.
- ▶ For eligibility questions, please contact VBA at: 1-800-827-1000
- ▶ To be entitled to AAE an approved VA Form 10-1394 is provided by VHA.
- ▶ For questions on driver's evaluations/ training and what type of equipment is medically necessary, please contact your local Prosthetics Service at the nearest VA medical center.

Vehicle Modification - Driver's Training

- ▶ What is VA driver's training program?
- ▶ VA has 48 facilities that offer this programming.
- ▶ These programs have over 100 specially adapted vehicles (cars, mini-vans and full sized vans) available to train Veterans / Servicemembers with various disabilities (e.g., Spinal Cord Injury, Amputation, Brain Injury, Stroke, Orthopedic conditions).
- ▶ • Veterans / Servicemembers may be provided a clinical program of primary services that include:
- ▶ • Pre-Driving Assessment; Behind-the Wheel Assessment; and equipment evaluation.

Vehicle Modification - Eligibility

- ▶ Veterans who are enrolled in VHA's healthcare system (Note: Vehicle modifications can be provided as medical services).
- ▶ •Veterans with a non-service connected disability and not eligible for the AAE program.

Vehicle Modification - Inclusions & Exclusions

- ▶ **What does vehicle modifications include?**
 - ▶ Non-operational equipment (e.g., wheelchair tie downs; vehicle lifts; items to assist with entering / exiting the vehicle).
 - ▶ Modifications on the drivers or passenger side.
- ▶ **What does vehicle modifications exclude?**
 - ▶ Operational equipment (e.g., low effort power brakes; low effort power steering column; hand controls).
 - ▶ Benefits greater than those eligible for VBA's AAE program. (Note: No 2 vehicles modified in a 4 year period).

Vehicle Modification - Additional Information

- ▶ Is pre-authorization required?
 - ▶ Yes. Before any vehicle modifications or equipment for the vehicle is installed, repaired, or replaced, authorization by the VA is required.
- ▶ Veterans / Servicemembers should consult with VHA when making decisions regarding vehicle selection, modifications, or adaptations specifically required to meet individual needs. Evaluation for proper driving equipment is critical BEFORE purchasing a new vehicle in order to avoid unnecessary personal costs.
- ▶ To apply for vehicle modifications, please contact your local Prosthetic Service at the nearest VA medical center or visit www.prosthetics.va.gov for more information about Prosthetics.