

**Automobile Adaptive Equipment** is used to permit physically challenged persons to enter, exit, and/or operate a motor vehicle

Equipment includes:

1. Power steering, brakes, windows, seats, automatic transmission and other special equipment necessary to assist in operating a vehicle (driver only)
2. Air-conditioning when necessary for health and safety
3. Modification of the size of the interior space of the vehicle due to physical condition or when deemed essential
4. Van lift, raised door, raised roof, air-conditioning and wheelchair tie downs for passenger use when medically necessary
5. Raised door or van lift for wheelchair dependent as required for entry and exit
6. Adaptive equipment for which standards have not been developed (must meet industry standards for safety and quality)

Eligibility:

1. Service connected for loss or loss of use of one or both feet or hands
2. Service connected ankylosis (immobility and fusion of a joint) of one or both knees or hips
3. Service connection for permanent impairment of vision of both eyes who are licensed and capable of operating a motor vehicle
4. VA Regional Office approved VA Form 21-4502 "Application for Automobile or Other Conveyances and Adaptive Equipment" or VA Form 21-6796 "Rating Decision"
5. Certification of service connected disability from VA Regional Officer Adjudication Officer (service connected ankylosis only)
6. A severe burn injury (as determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary) (38 U.S.C. § 3901)

Reimbursement is authorized:

1. No more than two times within a 4-year period
2. No more than 2 vehicles at any one time
3. Repairs to adaptive equipment (purchased or leased vehicle)
4. Non-reimbursable items – refrigerators, intermittent windshield wipers, power trunk locks, tires, remote control starting device, garage door opener, or any item of comfort or convenience
5. Current AAE reimbursable amounts: See VHA Directive 2011-046

Before payment can be processed by the Veteran's Benefit Administration for the purchase of a vehicle under the one-time VA auto grant:

1. If not service-connected under the eligibility requirements, the veteran can submit a claim to the VA Regional Officer (Veterans Service Center) for eligibility for one-time VA auto grant/auto adaptive equipment.
2. After the VA Regional Office obtains all the evidence and determines a grant is in order, the Regional Office will send the veteran a copy of the rating decision and notification letter
3. The veteran completes Part 1 of VA Form 21-4502 and submits to the VA Regional Office.
4. The VA Regional Office will review VA Form 21-4502 and return it to the veteran.
5. The veteran is authorized to purchase a vehicle using VA Form 21-4502.

6. The vendor (car dealership) must complete Part III of VA Form 21-4502 and submit the form to the VA Regional Office (Support Services Division-Finance) to process the payment. The vendor must provide a copy of the sales contract.

Before payment can be processed by the Prosthetic Treatment Center for the automobile adaptive equipment portion of the one-time VA auto grant:

1. The veteran must contact their healthcare provider to request an automobile adaptive equipment driver assessment through the Prosthetic Treatment Center.
2. The Prosthetic Treatment Center will confirm eligibility and request a copy of the approved VA Form 21-4502.
3. Upon receipt of a copy of VA Form 21-4502, the Prosthetic Treatment Center will coordinate a driver evaluation.
4. The regional point of contact for driver evaluation will coordinate with the veteran and complete the driver evaluation and determine the appropriate automobile adaptive equipment.
5. A vendor will be determined to complete the installation of the adaptive equipment and is responsible for submitting VA Form 10-1394 and required documentation to the Prosthetic Treatment Center for payment.

Repair to automobile and adaptive equipment:

1. All repairs to the automobile and adaptive equipment provided under this program are to be submitted to the Prosthetic Treatment Center for prior approval. The veteran is responsible for providing VA Form 10-1394 with a quote and/or final invoice before reimbursement can be provided.

Key Notes:

1. The vehicle reimbursement portion of the grant is paid directly to the seller of the automobile for the total price of the automobile up to \$18,900.00 and is authorized only once per lifetime (PL 111-275, Section 804).
2. If the veteran already has two vehicles of record, a proof of disposition is required for at least one vehicle to be eligible for reimbursement for another adapted vehicle.
3. Vehicles may not be sold or given to a spouse, family member, any party residing in the veteran's household, or transferred to a business owned by the veteran

References:

1. Title 38 United States Code Chapter 39
2. Title 38 Code of Federal Regulation 17.155-17.159
3. Public Law 111-275, the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010
4. VHA Directive 2011-046 Reimbursable Amounts for Automobile Adaptive Equipment
5. VHA Handbook 1173.4 Automobile Adaptive Equipment Program