



Veterans Affairs
Canada

Anciens Combattants
Canada

VETERANS INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM



Canada

The Veterans Independence Program (VIP) is a national home care program provided by Veterans Affairs Canada. The program was put in place in 1981 to help clients remain healthy and independent in their own homes or communities.

VIP does not replace other federal, provincial or municipal programs. Instead, it complements these programs to best meet the needs of our clients.

VIP is only available in Canada. It cannot be offered to clients who live outside Canada.



VIP Services

If you are a veteran and qualify for VIP, the services you receive will depend on your circumstances and health needs. These services may include:

- **grounds maintenance**, including grass cutting and snow removal;
- **housekeeping**, including help with routine tasks such as doing the laundry, cleaning your home, or preparing meals;
- **personal care services** to assist you with personal needs, such as bathing, dressing, and eating;
- **access to nutrition services**, like Meals on Wheels and Wheels to Meals; and
- **health and support services** provided by health professionals.



Other services that may be available to veterans under VIP include:

- **ambulatory health care** for certain health and social services provided outside the home, such as adult day care, and travel costs to get to these services;
- **transportation costs** for other activities such as shopping, banking, attending senior citizen centres and churches, and visiting friends when transportation is not otherwise available;
- **home adaptations** to modify things like bathrooms, kitchens and doorways so that it is easier for you to do basic everyday activities such as prepare a meal, keep yourself clean, and sleep. Home adaptations **do not** include general renovations or repairs; and
- **nursing home care** when living at home is no longer practical and you need a greater level of nursing and personal help.



Who is eligible for VIP?

Veterans

Most clients who receive VIP are **veterans**. You may qualify for VIP if you are:

- a disability pensioner who needs VIP for your pensioned condition(s);

- a wartime (First World War, Second World War and Korean War) pensioner with a disability that is pensioned at 48% or higher. VIP services will be based solely on need;
- a disability pensioner with a number of health conditions that, together with your pensioned condition, places you at risk. In this case, VIP services will be based on need;
- a wartime veteran who qualifies because of low income (based on the *War Veterans Allowance Act*); a totally disabled former prisoner of war; an overseas service veteran; or a disability pensioner who is at home on a waitlist for a Priority Access Bed; and
- a civilian, such as an overseas service civilian, who qualifies for support from our Department.

Primary Caregivers

You may qualify for VIP housekeeping and/or grounds maintenance services if you were the primary caregiver of a veteran who:

- qualified for these VIP services anytime after the program began in April, 1981; and
- was receiving these services at the time he/she passed away or was admitted to a long-term care facility.


Most primary caregivers are spouses or common-law partners, but adult children or other individuals also may qualify.

To qualify for VIP as a primary caregiver:

- you must need the services to remain independent in your home but your health prevents you from doing these tasks; and
- at the time a veteran passed away or was admitted to a long-term care facility, you:
 - were primarily responsible for making sure that care was provided to the veteran;
 - did not receive a wage to provide this care;
 - lived in the principal residence of the veteran and maintained the veteran, or was maintained by the veteran, for a continuous period of at least one year; and
 - meet other eligibility criteria.

If the veteran you cared for received both housekeeping and grounds maintenance services, then you will qualify for both. However, if the veteran only received one of these services (such as grounds maintenance services), then this is the only service that will be available to you.

Once you qualify for VIP, you will receive the services for as long as you need them. Payments are not retroactive.



What if I am not eligible for VIP?

Our staff will be pleased to counsel you about other programs and services in your province or community that may be able to help you. Every effort will be made to put you touch with these programs.



Who to contact:

For more information on the Veterans Independence Program and how to apply, please call:

1-866-522-2122 (English) or

1-866-522-2022 (French)

or visit our Web site at www.vac-acc.gc.ca.

