



## AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT (AAE) PROGRAM

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 (see back page).

### Eligibility for AAE:

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

### Examples of AAE provided:

- 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

### How often can AAE be provided?

No more than 2 vehicles in a 4 year period may be provided.



*(Photo Courtesy of VA)*

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.





### 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.

### 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.



(Photo Courtesy of VA)

### 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.

### Eligibility for vehicle modifications:

- 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.

### 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).

