



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

8320-01

Loan Guaranty: Assistance to Eligible Individuals in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing; Cost-of-Construction Index

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces that the aggregate amounts of assistance available under the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant program will increase by 4.88 percent for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Trevayne, Assistant Director, Loan Guaranty (26), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 632-8795. (This is not a toll-free number.)

DATES: Effective Date: This notice is applicable [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

Applicability Date: The provisions of this notice shall apply on October 1, 2017.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 38 U.S.C. 2102(e) and 38 U.S.C. 2102A(b)(2) and 38 CFR 36.4411, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs announces for FY 2018 the aggregate amounts of assistance available to veterans and servicemembers eligible for SAH program grants.

The Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 authorized the Secretary to increase the aggregate amounts of SAH assistance annually based on a residential home cost-of-construction index. Public Law 110-289, § 2605, 122 Stat. 2654, 2861. Per 38 CFR 36.4411(a), the Secretary uses the Turner Building Cost Index for this purpose.

In the most recent quarter for which the Turner Building Cost Index is available, 2nd Quarter 2017, the index showed an increase of 4.88 percent over the index value listed by 2nd Quarter 2016. Pursuant to 38 CFR 36.4411(a), therefore, the aggregate amounts of assistance for SAH grants made pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 2101(a) and 2101(b) will increase by 4.88 percent for FY 2018.

The Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, requires that the same percentage of increase apply to grants authorized pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 2102A. Public Law 112-154, § 205, 126 Stat. 1165, 1178. As such, the maximum amount of assistance available under these grants, which are called grants for Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA grants), will also increase by 4.88 percent for FY 2018.

The increases are effective as of October 1, 2017. See 38 U.S.C. 2102(e) and 2102A(b)(2).

SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING: AGGREGATE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE

AVAILABLE DURING FISCAL YEAR 2018

2101(a) Grants and TRA Grants

Effective October 1, 2017, the aggregate amount of assistance available for SAH grants made pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 2101(a) will be \$81,080 during FY 2018. The maximum TRA grant made to an individual who satisfies the eligibility criteria under 38 U.S.C. 2101(a) and 2102A will be \$35,593 during FY 2018.

2101(b) Grants and TRA Grants

Effective as of October 1, 2017, the aggregate amount of assistance available for SAH grants made pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 2101(b) will be \$16,217 during FY 2018. The maximum TRA grant made to an individual who satisfies the eligibility criteria under 38 U.S.C. 2101(b) and 2102A will be \$6,355 during FY 2018.

Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Gina S. Farrisee, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on December 6, 2017, for publication.

Dated: December 6, 2017.

Jeffrey Martin,
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Office of Regulation Policy & Management,
Office of the Secretary,
Department of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 2017-27162 Filed: 12/15/2017 8:45 am; Publication Date: 12/18/2017]