

VA MISSION Act

Key Elements



What is the MISSION Act?

The MISSION Act puts Veterans at the center of care to coordinate their care whether it's at a VA facility or in partnership through a community provider.

The VA MISSION Act:

1. Improves community care
2. Expands eligibility for Caregiver Support
3. Enhances VA's ability to recruit and retain top notch employees
4. Strengthens VA's building infrastructure

VA's High Quality of Care:

- A 2018 RAND study found VA health care performed similarly or better than the private sector. The study was issued by an American nonprofit organization that analyzes national inpatient and outpatient quality of care measures.
- A 2019 Dartmouth College study found the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) may provide better care than the private sector in every local area. It also found VA health care was significantly better than non-VA care in 14 out of 15 quality and patient safety indicators.



Key Elements

Access to Care – VA offers same day services for Mental Health and Primary Care at all sites across the country.

Improves Community Care – The MISSION Act streamlines VA community care programs making it easier to navigate, for Veterans, their families, community providers, and VA employees.

Expand Eligibility for Caregiver Support - The MISSION Act expands eligibility for VA's Caregiver program. It will now include eligible Veterans from all eras of service. The expansion will occur in two phases. The first starts with those who were injured on or before May 7, 1975. Further expansion will occur two years later. The expansion timeline is still under development.

Strengthen VA's Infrastructure - The Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) process in the MISSION Act will provide VA the necessary flexibility to improve older buildings, bringing them in line with modern standards to help us support news and high tech equipment.

Strengthen VA's Ability to Recruit and Retain - VA is focused on recruiting top notch health care experts to ensure Veterans are receiving the care they have earned. This Act will allow for a new scholarship program, greater access to VA's education debt-reduction program and improved flexibility for providing bonuses for recruitment, relocation and retention.

Caring for Veterans

Community Care Programs

- New and improved Veterans Community Care Program
- Access to walk-in care
- Veterans Care Agreements between VA and non-VA providers
- Agreements with state Veterans' homes
- Market assessments and strategic plans

Other Matters – Non-VA Providers

- Safe opioid prescribing practices by non-VA providers
- Information sharing with community providers
- Competency standards for non-VA providers
- Access to state prescription drug monitoring programs

Paying Providers & Improving Collections

- Prompt payment to providers for authorized care
- Collections ability for non-service connected disabilities

Education & Training Programs

- Education program for Veterans on health care options
- VA and contract staff training program on non VA-health care
- Medical education for non VA medical professionals

Telehealth, Care and Payment, Live Organ Donors

- Licenses for VA health care professionals providing treatment via telemedicine
- VA Center of Innovation for Care and Payment
- Providing live donor transplant procedures for Veteran

Non-VA Health Related Matters

- Planned requests for new funding
- Veterans Choice funding assistance for non-Choice community care
- Ending of the Veterans Choice Program

Caregivers

- Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers
- IT system to assess and improve the family caregivers program

Other Matters

- Report on staffing levels (Hiring)
- Role of podiatrists in VA
- Outline of major medical facility projects
- Major medical facility projects in Livermore, California
- Peer specialists in Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) settings
- VA medical scribe pilot program

Care in Underserved areas

- Rules to classify a facility as underserved
- Pilot program for mobile deployment teams to underserved facilities
- Pilot program on graduate medical education and residency

Strengthening VA's Workforce

- Scholarships for VA physicians and dentists
- Student loan repayment increases
- VA Specialty Education Loan Repayment program
- Veterans Healing Veterans Scholarship Program
- Recruitment, relocation and retention incentives

Strengthening VA's Infrastructure

- Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission to align VHA facilities
- Improve training of construction personnel
- Review of enhanced use leases
- Assess health care in Pacific territories

