



Department of
Veterans Affairs

Salem VA
Medical Center

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News Release

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VA to Take Applications for New Caregiver Program *New Program enhances VA services for Family Caregivers*

Salem – Today, staff at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published the interim final rule for implementing the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act 2010. This new rule will provide additional support to eligible post-9/11 Veterans who elect to receive their care in a home setting from a primary Family Caregiver.

"The Veterans and caregivers who have paid the greatest price for securing our freedom have earned and certainly deserve this enhanced service. This will give them the opportunity to receive some much needed help by making application to the Family Caregiver program and I encourage them do to so," said Dr. Miguel H. LaPuz, Director at the Salem VA Medical Center. "The new program builds on the foundation of Caregiver support now provided at VA and reflects what families and clinicians have long known; that Family Caregivers in a home environment can enhance the health and well-being of Veterans under VA care."

Additional services for primary Family Caregivers of eligible post-9/11 Veterans and Service members include a stipend, mental health services, and access to health care insurance, if they are not already entitled to care or services under a health care plan. Comprehensive Caregiver training and medical support are other key components of this program.

Veterans and their Family Caregivers can apply for the new services starting May 9 at www.caregiver.va.gov. Ms. Rhonda Fletcher, LCSW, the Salem VA Medical Center Caregiver Support Coordinator is also available to assist with the application process and direct Veterans and their Family Caregivers to more than two dozen other programs VA offers Family Caregivers for support.

“This program will enhance the supportive services for Veterans and Family Caregivers. I look forward to assisting Veterans and their Caregivers in exploring services which will meet their individual needs and encourage them to contact me with questions about application and services available at the Salem VA Medical Center,” stated Ms. Fletcher.

Assistance and information on additional resources are also available to Family Caregivers through VA’s National Caregiver Support Line, 1-877-222-VETS (8387). Veterans and Caregivers with questions about the new program can contact Ms. Rhonda Fletcher, LCSW at (540) 982-2463, Ext. 1372 or toll free 1-888-982-2463, Ext. 1372.

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