

Warren County Veterans Service Officer's Report for September 2017

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GI Bill Improvements Become Law: President Trump for signed into law Wednesday the *Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017*. The new Forever GI Bill will have an unparalleled impact on America's service members, veterans and their families because it protects the benefits they have earned, expands access and eligibility, and properly recognizes the long service and sacrifice of the one percent of Americans who have voluntarily put their personal lives on hold to fight an unimaginable multi-front war for almost 16 years.

The Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program offers grants to certain Servicemembers and Veterans with severe service-connected disabilities to assist them in building, remodeling, or purchasing an adapted home.

WHAT IS A SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING (SAH) GRANT?

The SAH grant is designed to help disabled Veterans by providing a barrier-free living environment, such as a wheelchair accessible home, that affords Veterans a level of independent living they may not otherwise enjoy. Veterans and Servicemembers with specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to a grant for the purpose of constructing or modifying a home to meet their adaptive needs, up to the current maximum of \$ 77,307.

The SAH grant is available to certain Veterans and Servicemembers who are entitled to disability compensation due to:

- Loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, such as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair, or
- Blindness in both eyes, plus loss or loss of use of one lower extremity, or
- Loss or loss of use of one lower extremity together with (1) residuals of organic disease or injury, or (2) the loss or loss of use of one upper extremity, affecting balance or propulsion as to preclude locomotion without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair or,
- Loss or loss of use of both upper extremities at or above the elbows, or
- A severe burn injury.

WHAT IS A SPECIAL HOUSING ADAPTATION (SHA) GRANT?

The SHA grant can be used to increase the mobility of eligible Veteran and Servicemembers throughout their residences. Veterans and Servicemembers with specific service-connected disabilities may be entitled to this type of grant, up to the current maximum of \$ 15,462.

The SHA grant is available to certain Veterans and Servicemembers who are entitled to disability compensation due to:

- Blindness in both eyes with 20/200 visual acuity or less in the better eye with the use of a standard correcting lens or,
- The anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands or extremities below the elbow, or
- A severe burn injury.

WHAT IS A TEMPORARY RESIDENCE ASSISTANCE (TRA) GRANT?

A temporary grant may be available to SAH/SHA eligible Veterans and Servicemembers who are or will be temporarily residing in a home owned by a family member. The maximum amount available to adapt a family member's home for the SAH grant is \$ 33,937 and for the SHA grant is \$ 6,059.