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Veterans' Program Terms and Definitions

(All terms in **bold print** are defined in this document)

Active Duty: Full-time duty in the United States **armed forces** other than **active duty for training**.

Active Duty for Training: Full-time duty in the **armed forces** performed by a **reserve component** (i.e., basic training for reservists, military job training, drill weekends, annual two-week drill, etc.).

Armed Forces: U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force, including their **reserve component**.

Covered person(s): any of the following individuals:

- a) a **veteran**
- b) the spouse of any of the following individuals:
 - Any **veteran** who died of a service-connected disability.
 - Any member of the **Armed Forces** serving on active duty who, at the time of application for assistance under this section, is listed, pursuant to section 556 of title 37 and regulations issued thereunder, by the Secretary concerned in one or more of the following categories and has been so listed for a total of more than 90 days: (I) missing in action, (II) captured in line of duty by a hostile force, or (III) forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power.
 - Any **veteran** who has a total disability resulting from a service-connected disability.
 - Any **veteran** who died while a disability so evaluated was in existence.

Disabled Veteran: A person who meets one or both of the following:

- a) entitled to compensation (or who, but for the receipt of military retired pay, would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs for a disability rated at 10% or more; **or**
- b) was separated from **active duty**, because of a service-connected disability.

Economically Disadvantaged: any of the following:

Low-income: A covered person who:

- a) receives, or in the past 6 months has received, or is a member of a family that is receiving or in the past 6 months has received:
 - assistance through the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP);
 - assistance through the needy families program;
 - assistance through the supplemental security income program; **or**
 - state or local income-based public assistance
- b) is in a family with a total family income that does not exceed the higher of (*refer to Income Guidelines Chart*):
 - the poverty line; **or**
 - 70% of the lower living standard income level;

- c) is an individual with a disability whose own income meets the income requirement of clause (b), but whose family income does not meet this requirement.

Unemployed: A covered person who:

- a) Is not employed
- b) Is available for work
- c) Is actively job searching

Head of Single-Parent Household: Any **Veteran** or **Eligible Person** who self attests to belonging to this category.

Eligible Person: any of the following:

- a) The spouse of any person who died of a service-connected disability;
- b) The spouse of any member of the **Armed Forces** serving on active duty who, at the time of application for assistance under this chapter, is listed, pursuant to section 556 of title 37 and regulations issued thereunder, by the Secretary concerned in one or more of the following categories and has been so listed for a total of more than ninety days:
 - missing in action,
 - captured in line of duty by a hostile force, **or**
 - forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power, **or**
- c) The spouse of any person who has a total disability permanent in nature resulting from a service-connected disability, or the spouse of a veteran who died while a disability so evaluated was in existence.

Note: A widow or widower who is eligible for one of the reasons described above remains eligible even if they later remarry.

Eligible Veteran: A person who meets *any* of the following:

- a) served **active duty** for a period of more than 180 days (consecutive) and was separated with any discharge type except dishonorable;
- b) was separated from **active duty** because of a service-connected disability; **or**
- c) was a member of a **reserve component** under a Federal order to **active duty**, served during a period of war *or* in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge is authorized **and** was separated with any discharge type except dishonorable.
- d) was discharged or released from **active duty** by reason of a **sole survivorship discharge** (as that term is defined in Section 1174(i) of Title 10).

Note: An eligible veteran with more than one period of service may have different characters of discharge. Even if their most recent discharge is dishonorable, having at least one other discharge type qualifies the person as an eligible veteran, as long as they meet at least one of the four eligible veteran criteria listed above.

Family Caregiver: An individual who provides personal care services to the **wounded, ill, or injured** receiving treatment in a military treatment facility or warrior transition unit, and is *one* of the following:

- a) a parent;
- b) a child;
- c) an extended family member;
- d) an individual who lives with the veteran but is not a member of their family
- e) a spouse; **or**
- f) a step-family member

Homeless: A covered person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, this includes:

- a) sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- b) living in a motel, hotel, or campground;
- c) living in an emergency or transitional shelter;
- d) abandoned in a hospital;
- e) having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place such as a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground; **or**
- f) an individual or family who is fleeing or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in their family or their current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized, and who has no other residence and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Ill or injured: is defined as an injury or illness incurred by the member in the line of duty in the Armed Forces that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating.

Recently Separated Veteran: Any veteran separated from **active duty** within the past 3 years.

Reserve Component: Generally perform a minimum of 39 days of **active duty for training** annually and are also referred to as the Guard or Reserves:

- a) The Army Reserve;
- b) The Navy Reserve;
- c) The Marine Corps Reserve;
- d) The Air Force Reserve;
- e) The Coast Guard Reserve;
- f) The Army National Guard of the United States; **and**
- g) The Air National Guard of the United States.

Service Connected Disability (SCD): An injury or disease that was caused by or made worse by active military service.

Special Disabled Veteran: A person who meets one or both of the following:

- a) entitled to compensation (or who, but for the receipt of military retired pay, would be entitled to compensation) under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs for a disability; (i) rated at 30% or more; **or** (ii) rated at 10% or 20% in the case of a veteran who has been determined under Section 3106, of Title 38, to have a serious employment handicap; **or**
- b) was separated from **active duty**, because of a service-connected disability.

Sole Survivorship Discharge: The separation of a member from the **armed forces**, at the request of the member, who is the only surviving child in a family in which:

- a) the father or mother *or* one or more siblings:
 - served in the armed forces; **and**
 - was killed, died because of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently 100% disabled or hospitalized on a continuing basis (and is not employed gainfully, because of the disability or hospitalization); **and**

- b) The death, status, or disability did not result from the intentional misconduct or willful neglect of the parent or sibling and was not incurred during a period of unauthorized absence.

Transitioning Service Member: A person on **active duty** (including separation leave) who is within 24 months of retirement or 12 months of separation.

Veteran: a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions *other than* dishonorable.

Important things to note about this definition include:

- a) There are no minimum days of service.
- b) They can have any character of discharge **except** dishonorable.
- c) The inclusion of the word “active” in this definition means any of the following, according to 38 U.S.C. § 101(24):
 - active duty;
 - any period of active duty for training during which the individual concerned was disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty;
 - any period of inactive duty training during which the individual concerned was disabled or died: (i) from an injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty; or (ii) from an acute myocardial infarction, a cardiac arrest, or a cerebrovascular accident occurring during such training.

Vietnam-Era Veteran: Is an **eligible veteran** any part of whose active military, naval, or air service was during the Vietnam era.

Wounded: A service member or veteran who has incurred an injury as a result of an attack or other use of force against the U.S., U.S. forces, or other designated persons or property.