

# **The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008**

## **Preparation and Implementation**



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# Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility Criteria

Individuals who served on active duty after 09/10/01 will be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill if the individual:

- Served for an aggregate period of at least 90 days.
- Served at least 30 continuous days and received a disability discharge.



# Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility Period

In general, individuals will remain eligible for benefits for 15 years from:

- Date of last discharge; or
- Release from active duty of at least 90 continuous days.



# Post-9/11 GI Bill Effective Date

*August 1, 2009*

Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) benefits can be paid for training pursued on or after August 1, 2009.

No payments may be made for training pursued before that date.



# Post-9/11 GI Bill Entitlement

- Individuals will generally receive 36 months of benefits.
- Individuals are limited to 48 months of combined benefits under educational assistance programs administered by VA.

NOTE: Individuals transferring to the Post-9/11 GI Bill from the Montgomery GI Bill (chapter 30) will be limited to the amount of remaining chapter 30 entitlement.



# Approved Programs

- All programs approved under chapter 30 and offered at an IHL
- Individuals who were previously eligible for chapter 30, 1606, or 1607 may continue to receive benefits for approved programs not offered by IHLs (i.e. flight, correspondence, APP/OJT, preparatory courses, and national tests)



# Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefit Payments

- Tuition and Fees Charged
- Monthly Housing Allowance
- Stipend for Books and Supplies



# Post-9/11 GI Bill Eligibility Criteria

<b>Service Requirements (after 9/10/01 serve an aggregate of)</b>	<b>% of Maximum Benefit Payable</b>
<b>36 months</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>30 continuous days (Must be discharged with a disability)</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>30 months, but less than 36 months</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>24 months, but less than 30 months</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>18 months, but less than 24 months</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>12 months, but less than 18 months</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>06 months, but less than 12 months</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>90 days, but less than 06 months</b>	<b>40</b>



# Tuition and Fees Charged

- Individuals are eligible for the applicable percentage (based on aggregate active duty service) of the lesser of—
  - Tuition and fees charged; or
  - Highest amount of tuition and fees charged for full-time, undergraduate training at a public IHL in the State the student is attending. (Determined by the State Approving Agency)



# Monthly Housing Allowance

- Equivalent to DoD's Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents
  - Amount determined by zip code of the IHL where the student is enrolled.
  - Prorated based on the percentage of the maximum benefit payable.
  - Active duty and anyone training at  $\frac{1}{2}$  time or less, and those pursuing exclusively distance learning are not eligible for the monthly housing allowance.



# Books and Supplies Stipend

- Up to \$1,000 per year
  - Prorated based on the percentage of the maximum benefit payable.
- Paid proportionally for each quarter, semester or term attended.
- Active duty members are not eligible.



# Transfer of Entitlement

(Department of Defense Benefit)

- On or after August 1, 2009, DoD may allow an individual to elect to transfer entitlement to one or more dependents if he/she —
  - Has served at least 6 years in the Armed Forces; and
  - Agrees to serve at least another 4 years in the Armed Forces.
- Spouses may use transferred benefits after 6 years of service; dependent children after 10 years.



# Transfer of Entitlement

(Department of Defense Benefit)

- DoD determines eligibility for transferability and may, by regulation, impose additional eligibility requirements and limit the number of months transferable.

*February 20,  
2009*



# Yellow Ribbon Program

- IHLs may voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to pay tuition and fees charged that are not covered under chapter 33.
- VA will match each additional dollar funded by the school.
- The combined amounts may not exceed the full cost of the school's tuition and fees charged.
- Only individuals entitled to the 100 percent benefit rate (based on service requirements) may receive this funding.



## Tent. Yellow Ribbon Program Impl. Timeline

- **12/01/08** – Send YR Program info letter to IHLs.
- **January 2009** – Send YR inquiry letter to IHLs.
- **Feb-March 2009** – Finalize regs, establish T&F caps, & solicit YR agreements
- **April 2009** – Publicize YR participating institutions.
- **08/01/09** – Begin processing YR payments.

*February 20,  
2009*



# Yellow Ribbon Program Administrative Process

- Participating institutions will offer Yellow Ribbon to eligible students.
- VA-Once modifications will allow school to certify students for Yellow Ribbon.
- VA will verify student's eligibility for Yellow Ribbon and process payments.
- VA will provide notification to student, including info regarding Yellow Ribbon payment.

*February 20,  
2009*



# Overpayment of Benefits

The veteran is responsible for any overpayment incurred as a result of not completing courses.

In the event a veteran does not complete a course, schools should follow their established student refund policy. VA will work with student to resolve overpayment.

**Bottom Line:** Tuition and Fee payments are paid to the school on behalf of the veteran, overpayments for Tuition and Fees will be charged to the veteran.



# Claims Processing Strategies

- Applying for benefits will remain essentially the same
  - On-line application
- The application and payment process will be supported two ways:
  - Short term (8-1-09 to 12-1-10)
    - Minimal modification to existing IT Infrastructure
    - Hire significant additional term staff
  - 12-1-10 Onward
    - Automated processing using “rules-based” technology



# References

- GI Bill Website ([www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov))
  - Sign up for FAQ updates!
- GI Bill Hotline: 1-888-GIBILL-1
- Yellow Ribbon mailbox ([yellow.ribbon@va.gov](mailto:yellow.ribbon@va.gov))