VA HEALTH CARE

Fact Sheet 16-10

June 2010

Relaxation of Priority Group 8 Enrollment Restrictions

Description

Public Law 110-329 provides VA additional funding to allow expanded enrollment opportunity for certain Priority 8 Veterans who may have been previously denied enrollment in VA's health care system because their income exceeded VA's National and Geographic PG 8 Relaxation Income Thresholds.

The new regulations took effect on June 15, 2009 and enable the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to relax income restrictions on enrollment for health benefits. While this new provision does not remove consideration of income, it does increase income thresholds. You may be eligible for enrollment under this new provision.

Impact

A Veteran applying for enrollment on or after June 15, 2009, who does not qualify for a higher priority group and whose income exceeds VA's National and Geographic Income Thresholds by 10% or less will be placed in Priority Group 8b (if the Veteran is noncompensable 0% service-connected) or 8d (if the Veteran is nonservice-connected) and enrolled in the VA health care system.

Veterans who applied on or after January 1, 2009 and denied enrollment have been notified that VA will re-determine their enrollment after the new provisions become effective on June 15, 2009.

Because VA uses previous year's income in its enrollment determination, Veterans who applied but were rejected for enrollment prior to January 1, 2009 may complete a VA Form 10-10EZR, Health Benefits Renewal form to have their eligibility for enrollment reassessed against the new VA National and Geographic PG 8 Relaxation Income Thresholds.

Veterans may also self-determine their eligibility for enrollment under this new provision by entering their information into VA's on-line calculator at www.va.gov/healtheligibility/apps/enrollmentcalculator/.

Additional Information

- Veterans are encouraged to contact VA at 1-877-222 VETS (8387); or
- Visit the VA health eligibility website at www.va.gov/healtheligibility/, or
- Contact their local VA facility's Enrollment Coordinator.