

## VA'S HOUSING ADAPTATION PROGRAMS

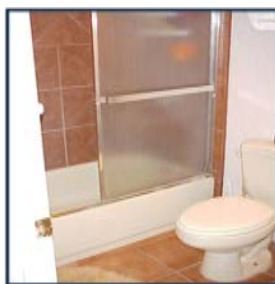
VA may provide adaptations to a Veteran's/ Servicemember's residence by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) under the Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant or the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) under the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH), Special Housing Adaptation (SHA), Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA); or Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E) Independent Living (IL) program.

The mission of VA's Housing Adaptation programs is to adapt and/or modify a Veteran's/ Servicemember's residence to accommodate their disability or disabilities. Adaptations and/or modifications are individually determined based on the medical feasibility for the Veteran/ Servicemember to reside in their home; continuation with medical treatment and rehabilitation; and capability to live independently in a barrier-free environment. VBA's SAH program may assist with the purchase of a home to accommodate a Veterans/ Servicemembers disability or disabilities.

### HISA

This grant provides for medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to a Veteran/ Servicemember's primary residence for the following purposes:

- Allowing entrance to or exit from their primary residence
- Use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities
- Allowing accessibility to kitchen or bathroom sinks or counters
- Improving entrance paths or driveways in immediate area of the home to facilitate access to the home
- Improving plumbing or electrical systems made necessary due to installation of medical equipment in the home



Bathroom before HISA



Bathroom after HISA

A \$6,800 lifetime benefit may be provided to Veterans and Servicemembers or a service-connected condition or a non-service connected condition rated 50% or more for a service-connected disability.

A \$2,000 lifetime benefit may be provided for a non-service connected condition.

**HISA Includes:** Roll In Showers or walk in bathtubs; Construction of wooden or concrete permanent ramping to provide access to home; Widening doorways to bedroom, bathrooms; Lowering of kitchen or bathroom counters/sinks; Improvement to plumbing or electrical systems made necessary due to installation of dialysis or other sanitary equipment in the home.

**HISA Excludes:** Exterior decking; Purchase or installation of spa, hot tubs, or Jacuzzi type tubs; home security systems; removable equipment or appliances such as portable ramps, porch lifts, and stair glides; routine repairs.

To apply, please contact your local Prosthetic Service at the nearest VA medical center or visit [www.prosthetics.va.gov](http://www.prosthetics.va.gov) for more information about Prosthetics.



A Veteran or Servicemember with a permanent and total service-connected disability may be entitled to a Specially Adapted (SAH) grant, Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant, or Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA) grant:

**SAH.** The maximum amount of this grant for FY 2018 is \$81,080.

Eligibility:

- Loss or loss of use of both legs
- Loss or loss of use of both arms above the elbow
- Blindness in both eyes having only light perception, plus loss or loss of use of one leg
- The loss or loss of use of one lower leg together with residuals of organic disease or injury
- The loss or loss of use of one leg together with the loss of or loss of use of one arm
- Certain severe burns
- The loss or loss of use of one or more lower extremities due to service on or after September 11, 2001, which so affects the functions or balance or propulsion as to preclude ambulating without the aid of braces, crutches, canes or a wheelchair

If eligible SAH can be used to construct, build, remodel, or acquire an adapted home. The property has to be owned by the Veteran/Servicemember.

**SHA\***. The maximum amount of this grant for FY 2018 is \$16,217.

Eligibility:

- Blindness in both eyes with 20/200 visual acuity or less
- Loss or loss of use of both hands
- Certain severe burn injuries
- Certain severe respiratory injuries

**TRA\***. The maximum that can be used is up to \$35,593 for SAH; and up to \$6,355 for SHA.

*\*Home has to be owned by an eligible individual or family member in which the Veteran/Servicemember intends to temporarily reside.*

To apply for SAH, SHA, or TRA complete VA Form 26-4555 and submit to your nearest Regional Loan Center or online via [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)

**VR&E IL.** VA's comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program. The program provides services leading to employment or assists with independent living needs (includes housing adaptations/modifications).

Eligibility to an evaluation for entitlement to VR&E-IL services:

Veteran must have:

- A service-connected disability rating of 10% or more (20 % or more for IL) or a VA Memorandum rating
- An honorable or other than dishonorable discharge

Servicemember must have:

- A VA Memorandum disability rating of 20% or more; or awaiting discharge from the military (due to medical condition or serious illness/injury that was incurred in the line of duty)

Not able to return to work? A comprehensive IL assessment will be completed to determine if services are needed to assist with living more independently.

To apply for VR&E-IL Services, complete VA Form 28-1900 and submit to the nearest VBA Regional Office or apply online at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

**For more information on other benefits and eligibility requirements, contact VBA at: 1-800-827-1000**

