



**VA**  
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in the 21st Century

## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### VA Caregiver Support

VA recognizes the crucial role that Caregivers play in helping Veterans recover from injury and illness and in the daily care of Veterans in the community. VA values the sacrifices Caregivers make to help Veterans remain at home. Caregivers are our partners and we are dedicated to providing them with the support and services that they need.

VA's Caregiver Support Program develops programs and support services for family members and others who ensure that Veterans have emotional and physical support, access to health care, and the opportunity to remain in their homes when they can no longer completely care for themselves. The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, signed into law by President Obama on May 5, 2010, allows VA to provide unprecedented benefits to Family Caregivers of Veterans. The new Caregiver Law (P.L. 111-163, Title 1) directly benefits Family Caregivers by establishing a comprehensive National Caregiver Support Program with a prevention and wellness focus that includes the use of evidence-based training and support services for Family Caregivers. VA has Caregiver Support Coordinators at each VA medical center who serve as the clinical experts on Caregiver issues and are knowledgeable of both VA and non-VA support services and benefits available for Veterans and their Family Caregivers. Caregiver Support Coordinators can also assist eligible Post 9/11 Veterans and their Caregivers in applying for additional services. Providing ongoing support for Caregivers of critically injured Veterans will be a challenge in the coming years, and the VA is working with the Department of Defense to ensure that the Caregiver Support Program will provide support and assistance to those at home who help care for our Nation's Veterans.

For more information about the Caregiver Support Program, please visit [www.caregiver.va.gov](http://www.caregiver.va.gov), which provides a wealth of information and resources for Veterans, families and the general public. Additional information can also be obtained by calling the toll free National Caregiver Support Line (855-260-3274) which opened February 1, 2011 at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center campus. This support line is available to respond to inquiries about the new Caregiver services associated with Public Law 111-163, Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, as well as serve as a resource and referral center for Caregivers, Veterans and others seeking Caregiver information; provide referrals to local VA Medical Center Caregiver Support Coordinators and VA/community resources; and provide emotional support.

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