Fact Sheet 04-03

Use of the Home Improvement and Structural Alterations (HISA) Program with the Foreign Medical Program

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What is the Home Improvement and Structural Alterations Program (HISA)?
The HISA program provides funding for disabled Veterans to make home improvements necessary for the continuation of treatment or for disability access to the home, essential lavatory and sanitary facilities.

Who is eligible for the HISA Program through FMP?
Disabled Veterans may be eligible for HISA when it has been determined to be medically necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of the service-connected disability.

Is there a cost limitation?
Yes. Lifetime home improvement benefits may not exceed $6,800 (U.S.). Any costs that exceed $6,800 (U.S.) will be the Veteran’s responsibility.

How do I apply for these home improvements?
Submit the following documentation to the FMP Office:
(Note: FMP HISA requests will be forwarded through the FMP Program to the Denver VA Medical Center for review and determination.)

- Letter from you describing your physical disability and a description of the home improvement and/or structural alteration you are requesting.
- Statement from your attending physician or therapist. This statement should describe your physical condition/disability, and why the home modification(s) are medically necessary or appropriate for the effective and economical treatment of your service-connected disabling condition.
- Copy of a completed and signed VA Form 10-0103, Veterans Application for Assistance In Acquiring Home Improvement and Structural Alterations
- A completed, signed home ownership or rental lease form with a letter from your landlord agreeing with the modifications, if required.
- Drawing of the work to be undertaken. This drawing can be hand sketched. It should include the height, width and length dimensions. It does not have to be a formal blueprint or architectural drawing.
- Documentation verifying that the provider/contractor is licensed/bonded.
- Itemized cost estimate of the proposed improvement and/or structural alteration from your provider/contractor.

Do I have to contact the FMP Office prior to starting the alterations in my home?
Yes. Preauthorization must be obtained before beginning any alterations to your home; otherwise, HISA benefits will be denied.

Will the VA be responsible for the maintenance of the altered or installed items?
No. The VA will not assume any responsibility for the maintenance or upkeep of the altered or installed items.

How do I get more information?
- Mail: VHA Office of Community Care
  Foreign Medical Program
  PO Box 469061
  Denver, CO 80246-9061
- Phone: 303-331-7590, Monday-Friday
  8:05 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. Eastern Standard Time
- Email: Follow the directions for submitting email via IRIS at https://iris.custhelp.com/app/ask
- Website: http://www.va.gov/purchasedcare/