

Stakeholder Newsletter

Togus Regional Office Veterans Benefits Administration



TOGUS REGIONAL BENEFITS OFFICE

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THE TOGUS RO ADMINISTERS A VARIETY OF SERVICES AND BENEFITS INCLUDING DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND VETERANS READINESS AND EMPLOYMENT (VR&E). THE REGIONAL OFFICE PROVIDES OUTREACH SERVICES FOR ALL VETERANS.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS TO SIGN-UP TO RECEIVE INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM VBA TOGUS RO ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES.

TO SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR BULLETINS, CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW, OR SCAN THE QR CODE.

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION
(GOVDELIVERY.COM)



Dependents Education Assistance (DEA) – Chapter 35

Website: [Applications can be submitted online](#)

Form: [VA Form 22-5490, Dependents' Application for VA Education Benefits](#)

Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA), also called Chapter 35, is an education benefit that is available to certain dependents to help pay for school or job training. Eligibility is based off if:

- The Veteran or Service member is permanently and totally disabled due to a service-connected disability and DEA eligibility has been established by the VA rating decision, **or**
- The Veteran or Service member died in the line of duty, **or**
- The Veteran or Service member died because of a service-connected disability, **or**
- The Veteran or Service member is missing in action or was captured in the line of duty by a hostile force for more than 90 days, **or**
- The Veteran or Service member was forcibly detained (held) or interned in the line of duty by a foreign entity for more than 90 days, **or**
- The Service member is in the hospital or getting outpatient treatment for a service-connected permanent and total disability and is likely to be discharged for that disability

And one the following must be true for the dependent:

- 18 years old or older, **or**
- Completed high school or secondary education

Note: DEA benefit eligibility for the child of a Veteran or Service member is not affected by their marital status. However, children over the age of 18 cannot be in receipt of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and receive DEA.

Time limits for dependents to use their DEA benefits

Children and spouses who can use DEA benefits at any time

DEA benefits can be used without age or time limits if the beneficiary is eligible, and one of these is true:

- The qualifying event for DEA benefits happened to the Veteran or Service member on or after August 1, 2023, **or**

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- The dependent completed high school or secondary education on or after August 1, 2023
- The dependent turned 18 years old on or after August 1, 2023, **or**

Children and spouses who have age and time limits for using DEA benefits

Dependents have age and time limits for using their DEA benefits if all of these are true:

- The event that made the dependent eligible for DEA benefits happened to the Veteran or Service member before August 1, 2023, and
- The dependent turned 18 before August 1, 2023, and
- The dependent completed high school before August 1, 2023
- If VA rated the Veteran as **permanently and totally disabled**, with an effective date that's three (3) years after discharge from active duty, availability of the benefit ends 20 years from that effective date in most cases.

Eligible dependents

If you're the child of a Veteran or Service member:

- Benefits start at age 18.
- Benefits may be available for up to eight (8) years (there may be exceptions).

Note: If the child joins the military, the benefit cannot be used while on active duty. If the child wants to use this benefit after they leave the Service, they can't have a dishonorable discharge. Military Service can extend your eligibility, but this extension usually ends when the child turns 31 years old.

If you're the spouse of a Veteran or Service member:

- Benefits start on the date we determine eligibility or on the date of the Veteran or Service member's death. In most cases, availability of the benefit end after 10 years.
- **If the Service member died on active duty**, availability of the benefit ends after 20 years.

Note: If the spouse joins the military, the benefit cannot be used while on active duty. If the spouse wants to use this benefit after they leave the Service, they can't have a dishonorable discharge.

In Your Neighborhood



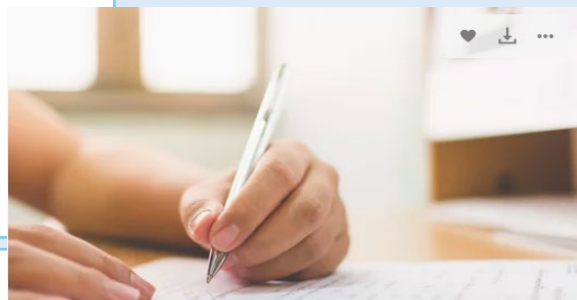
Look for a Togus Representative at one of the following locations:

- **May 5, 2026**- US Border Patrol Claims Clinic, 255 Main St., Calais, ME., Time: 12:00PM to 4:00PM. Open to US Border Patrol employees and their families.
- **May 6, 2026**- US Border Patrol Claims Clinic, Houlton Masonic Lodge, 28 Market Square, Houlton, ME., Time: 11:00AM to 3:00PM. Open to US Border Patrol employees and their families.
- **May 7, 2026**- US Border Patrol Claims Clinic, 108 Four Corners Crossing, Madawaska Port of Entry, ME., Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Open to US Border Patrol employees and their families.
- **May 13, 2026**- Portland Homeless Outreach, 335 Lincoln St., Saco, ME., Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Open to Veterans, Service members, and their families
- **May 14, 2026**- Portland Homeless Outreach, 55 Portland St., Portland, ME., Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Open to Veterans, Service members, and their families
- **May 20, 2026**- House in the Woods, Coffee with Veterans and Resource Fair, 217 Skunk Hill Ln., Lee, ME. Time: 8:00am to 11:00AM. Open to Veterans, Service members, and their families.
- **May 20, 2026**- VA2K, 1 VA Center, Augusta, ME., Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Open to the public.
- **May 21, 2026**- Portland Homeless Outreach, 55 Portland St., Portland, ME., Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM. Open to Veterans, Service members, and their families
- **May 27, 2026**- 2026 Homeless Stand Down in Presque Isle, Aroostook County Action Program Hope & Prosperity Resource Center, 1 Edgemont Dr., Presque Isle, ME., Time: 9:00AM to 2:00PM. Open to Veterans, Service members, and their families.

Claims Clinics

To schedule an appointment at one of the Claims Clinics near you:

- Call 800-827-1000; or
- Go to: [VERA - Home \(site.com\)](https://vera.va.gov) ; or
- Scan the QR code



- **May 5, 2026**– Lewiston VA Clinic, ME, Time: 9:30AM to 2:30PM
- **May 7, 2026**– Rumford VA Clinic, Rumford, ME, Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM
- **May 8, 2026**- Presque Isle VA Clinic, Presque Isle, Time: 8:00AM to 11:30AM
- **May 12, 2026**- Portland VA Clinic, Portland, ME, Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM
- **May 12, 2026**– Bangor VA Clinic, Bangor, ME, Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM
- **May 21, 2026**– Bangor Vet Center, 615 Oldin Rd. Ste. 3, Bangor, ME, Time:10:00AM to 2:00PM
- **May 22, 2026**– MCVV Brunswick, 62 Pegasus St. Brunswick, ME, Time: 9:30AM to 2:30PM
- **May 26, 2026**- Portland VA Clinic, Portland, ME, Time: 10:00AM to 2:00PM

In 2026, the United States will celebrate the 250th anniversary of its independence.

While this will be the Department of Veterans Affairs' first national centennial since becoming a cabinet-level department in 1989, its predecessor organizations, including the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, the Pension Bureau, the Veterans Bureau, and the Veterans Administration, routinely participated in national centennial commemorations.

Each served to honor the contributions of American Veterans in preserving freedom.



Contact the Regional Office

Togus Regional Office

1 VA Center
Augusta, ME 04330
207-626-4788
DIR.VBATOG@VA.GOV

Michael J. Brawn, Acting Director
Thomas C. Whitney, Acting Veterans Service Center Manager (VSCM)
Philip S. Black, Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager (AVSCM)
Daniel Pelletier, Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager (AVSCM)
Allison D. Bubier, Veteran Readiness and Employment Officer
Paige Savage, Acting Support Service Division Chief
Christina M. Smith, Public Affairs Officer

Contact Your Congressional Liaison

Email: CIC.VBATOG@va.gov

Helpful Websites

- Refer Veterans to www.va.gov or the [VA: Health and Benefits App](#) for self-service options
- Access the Togus Regional Office website: www.benefits.va.gov/togus
- Access the latest information on the PACT Act: www.va.gov/PACT