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Prosthetic &  
Sensory Aids  
Service

*Maximizing Veteran Independence*

 *Veterans Health Administration  
Employee Education System*

[www.prosthetics.va.gov](http://www.prosthetics.va.gov)

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Prosthetic and Sensory  
Aids Service

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## Guide Dogs & Service Dogs

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# Guide Dogs & Service Dogs

## Overview

To promote an active and independent lifestyle VA supports guide and service dogs for eligible Veterans. A guide dog assists someone who is blind. A service dog assists someone with a hearing impairment or someone with a physical impairment that substantially limits mobility.

## General Information

To be eligible for a guide or service dog, a Veteran must register at the Health Administration/enrollment section of a VA Medical Center or online at:

[www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/).

Once registered, a referral to a specialist may be requested through the assigned VA primary care provider. The Veteran's VA medical team will perform a complete clinical evaluation to determine how best to assist the Veteran.

Each guide and service dog request is reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Although VA does not provide the guide or service dog, the Veteran will be referred to an accredited guide or service dog organization. Many of these organizations do not charge for the dog or the dog's training.

A Veteran who already owns a guide or service dog may also be eligible for VA guide/service dog support. The Veteran must complete the same steps to determine eligibility outlined above.

Many guide and service dog organizations recommend large breed dogs for use as a guide dog or for use as a service dog for someone with a physical impairment.

Often, smaller breed dogs are recommended for someone with a hearing impairment. While no breed is specifically excluded, a calm temperament and willingness to learn and serve are important characteristics for a well-trained guide or service dog.

## Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service Programs

The Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) ensures Veterans receive the device(s) and/or service(s) required to help them overcome their disability, regain an independent lifestyle and enhance their quality of life. To fulfill our mission PSAS manages several programs that may be of interest to you:

- Home Improvements and Structural Alteration (HISA) Grant:  
[www.prosthetics.va.gov/HISA2.asp](http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/HISA2.asp)
- Automobile Adaptive Equipment (AAE):  
[www.prosthetics.va.gov/AAE.asp](http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/AAE.asp)
- Clothing Allowance:  
[www.prosthetics.va.gov/clothing\\_allowance.asp](http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/clothing_allowance.asp)
- Orthotic & Prosthetic Services:  
[www.prosthetics.va.gov/OandP.asp](http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/OandP.asp)  
[www.prosthetics.va.gov/GUIDE\\_AND\\_SERVICE\\_DOGS\\_FREQUENTLY\\_ASKED\\_QUESTIONS\\_FAQs.ASP?](http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/GUIDE_AND_SERVICE_DOGS_FREQUENTLY_ASKED_QUESTIONS_FAQs.ASP?)  
[www.prosthetics.va.gov/PSAS\\_Videos.asp](http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/PSAS_Videos.asp)