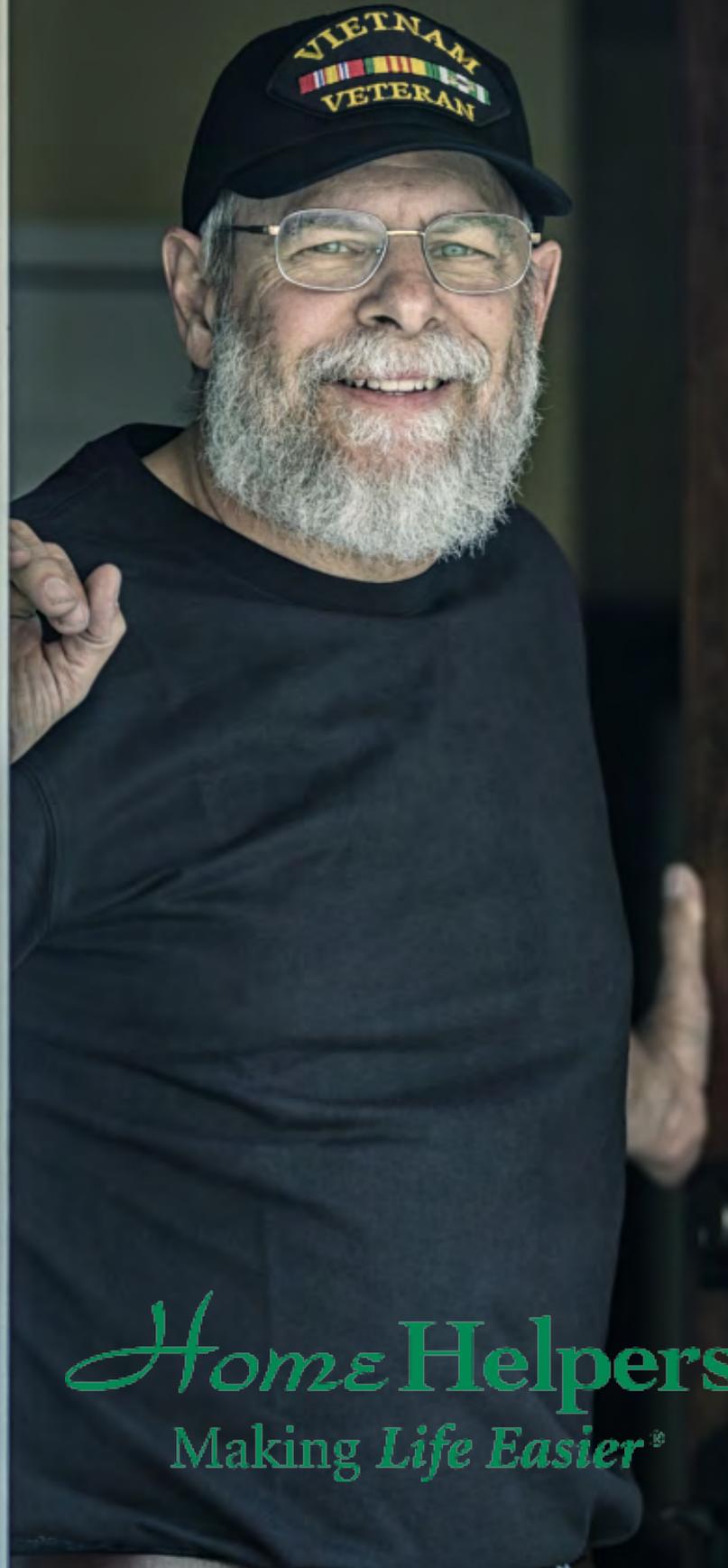


# VA RESOURCE GUIDE



*Home Helpers*<sup>®</sup>  
Making Life Easier<sup>®</sup>

# CHOOSING HOME HELPERS HOME CARE OF CLEARWATER (PINELLAS/PASCO) AS YOUR PROVIDER

At Home Helpers Home Care of Clearwater, we are committed to serving Veterans in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. If you are a veteran in need of a homemaker, home health aide and respite services, we would be honored to serve you as your in-home care provider. We have been serving Veterans since 2017.



**VACCN (Veterans Affairs Community Care Network) and VA Aid and Attendance are two programs administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that serve veterans with different needs, although they can sometimes overlap in their support.**

## **VACCN** (Veterans Affairs Community Care Network)

- VACCN is a program that provides eligible veterans with access to healthcare services outside of traditional VA medical facilities.
- It allows veterans to receive care from community providers when VA facilities are not able to provide the necessary services in a timely manner or when it's more convenient for the veteran.
- Services covered by VACCN may include home health care, skilled nursing care, hospice care, and other medical services deemed necessary for the veteran's well-being.
- VACCN aims to enhance access to healthcare for veterans by leveraging partnerships with community healthcare providers.

# OVERVIEW OF THE VA COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM

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- 1. Eligibility:** Veterans may be eligible for community care if they meet specific criteria established by the VA. Eligibility is determined based on factors such as distance from VA facilities, wait times for appointments, medical needs, and availability of VA services.
- 2. Referral Process:** Veterans typically need a referral from their VA provider to access community care services. This referral process involves assessing the veteran's healthcare needs and determining if community care is the appropriate course of action.
- 3. Authorization:** Once a referral is made, the VA authorizes the veteran to receive care from a community provider. This authorization ensures that the veteran's healthcare expenses are covered by the VA.
- 4. Types of Services:** Community care services cover a wide range of healthcare needs, including primary care, specialty care, mental health services, preventive care, and diagnostic testing.
- 5. Community Providers:** The VA partners with a network of community healthcare providers to deliver services to eligible veterans. These providers must meet certain standards and qualifications established by the VA to ensure the quality of care. Veterans have the freedom to choose the agency that provides in-home care as long as the agency is credentialed.
- 6. Billing and Payment:** The VA is responsible for paying community providers for the care they deliver to eligible veterans. Billing and payment processes are managed by the VA, and veterans typically do not have to pay out-of-pocket expenses for authorized community care services.
- 7. Coordination of Care:** The VA emphasizes coordination of care between VA facilities and community providers to ensure seamless delivery of healthcare services. This coordination may involve sharing medical records, communicating treatment plans, and collaborating on patient care.
- 8. Patient Experience:** The goal of the VA Community Care Program is to improve the overall patient experience for veterans by providing them with greater choice, flexibility, and access to healthcare services that meet their needs.



**Overall, the VA Community Care Program plays a crucial role in enhancing access to healthcare for eligible veterans and ensuring that they receive timely, high-quality care both within the VA system and through community providers.**

# ENROLLING IN THE VETERAN COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM

Enrolling in the Veteran Community Care Program typically involves several steps. This program allows eligible veterans to receive healthcare services from community providers if they are unable to receive timely or convenient care from a VA medical facility.

## HOW TO ENROLL:

- 1. Check Eligibility:** Ensure that you meet the eligibility criteria for the program. Eligibility requirements may include being enrolled in VA healthcare and meeting specific criteria based on your health needs and distance from VA facilities.
- 2. Discuss with Your VA Provider:** Talk to your VA healthcare provider about your healthcare needs and whether you qualify for the Community Care Program. Your VA provider can help determine if you meet the criteria and can benefit from care outside the VA system.
- 3. Authorization:** If your VA provider determines that you're eligible for community care, they will submit a request for authorization to receive care from a community provider. This request will typically include information about the type of care needed and the reasons why it's necessary to seek care outside the VA system.
- 4. Provider Selection:** Once authorization is approved, you have the option to choose a community healthcare provider from a list of approved providers. You can discuss your options with your VA provider or the VA's Community Care staff.
- 5. Schedule Appointment with Credentialed Provider:** After selecting a community provider, you can schedule an appointment with Home Helpers for the in-home care assessment and set up the service you need.
- 6. Billing and Payment:** The VA will handle payment to the community provider for the authorized healthcare services you receive. You should not be responsible for paying out-of-pocket expenses related to authorized care under the Community Care Program.



It's important to note that the enrollment process and specific procedures may vary depending on individual circumstances and VA healthcare facilities. Therefore, it's recommended to consult with your VA healthcare provider or the VA Community Care staff for personalized guidance and assistance with enrollment.



# OVERVIEW OF VA AID & ATTENDANCE

- VA Aid and Attendance is a benefit program that provides financial assistance to eligible wartime veterans and their surviving spouses who require the aid of another person to perform activities of daily living or who are housebound.
- This benefit is intended to help veterans cover the costs of home care, assisted living, or nursing home care.
- To qualify for Aid and Attendance, veterans must meet certain service, income, and medical requirements, including demonstrating a need for assistance with activities such as bathing, dressing, eating, and mobility.
- Aid and Attendance is designed to supplement other VA pensions or benefits that veterans may receive.

## 1. Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a veteran who served at least 90 days of active duty, with at least one day during a wartime period.
- Must have a medical condition that requires the aid of another person for activities of daily living or be housebound due to disability.
- Income and asset limitations apply.

## 2. Activities of Daily Living (ADLs):

ADLs include tasks such as bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, and transferring (moving from bed to chair, etc.).

## 3. Housebound Criteria:

To qualify as housebound, the individual must have a disability that prevents them from leaving their home without assistance.

## 4. Financial Criteria:

- Income and asset limitations are determined by the VA.
- The benefit amount varies based on the applicant's income and assets.

## 5. Application Process:

- Applicants must complete and submit VA Form 21-2680 (Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance) along with supporting documentation.
- The application process can be complex, and it's often beneficial to seek assistance from a Veterans Service Officer or other accredited representative.

## 6. Medical Evaluation:

The VA may require a medical examination to determine the extent of the applicant's disabilities and need for aid and attendance or housebound status.

## 7. Benefit Amount:

- The Aid and Attendance benefit is paid in addition to the VA pension.
- The amount varies depending on the applicant's marital status, level of need, and other factors.

## 8. Use of Funds:

The funds can be used to pay for home care services, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, or other medical expenses.

## 9. Renewal Process:

Recipients must undergo periodic reassessments to continue receiving the benefit.

## 10. Appeals Process:

If an application is denied or if the benefit amount is less than expected, applicants have the right to appeal the decision.

## 11. Tax Implications:

Aid and Attendance benefits are considered tax-free income.



It's essential for veterans and their families to thoroughly understand the eligibility criteria, application process, and other aspects of the Aid and Attendance benefit to ensure they receive the assistance they need. Consulting with a VA-accredited representative or Veterans Service Officer can help navigate the complexities of the program.

# THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VACCN AND VA AID & ATTENDANCE

While both programs aim to support veterans, they serve different purposes. VACCN focuses on providing access to healthcare services, including home care, while VA Aid and Attendance provides financial assistance specifically for veterans who need help with daily activities and may require additional care in their homes or in long-term care facilities. In some cases, veterans may be eligible for both programs and can utilize them in conjunction to meet their healthcare and financial needs.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- VACCN Form 10-10EZ - <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-10-10ez/>
- VACCN Eligibility information - [www.va.gov/communitycare/docs/pubfiles/factsheets/VA-FS\\_CC-Eligibility.pdf](http://www.va.gov/communitycare/docs/pubfiles/factsheets/VA-FS_CC-Eligibility.pdf)
- <https://www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-21-2680/>
- Aid and Attendance – How to apply – [www.aidandattendance.com](http://www.aidandattendance.com)

## YOUR LOCAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

### **PINELLAS COUNTY – CLEARWATER**

2189 Cleveland St.  
Suite 263  
Clearwater, FL 33765

Phone: (727) 464-8460  
TDD (727) 464-4388

Mon-Fri  
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
(Call for appointment)

### **PINELLAS COUNTY – ST. PETERSBURG**

501 First Avenue North  
Suite #514  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Phone: (727) 582-7828

Mon-Fri  
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
(Call for appointment)

### **PASCO COUNTY**

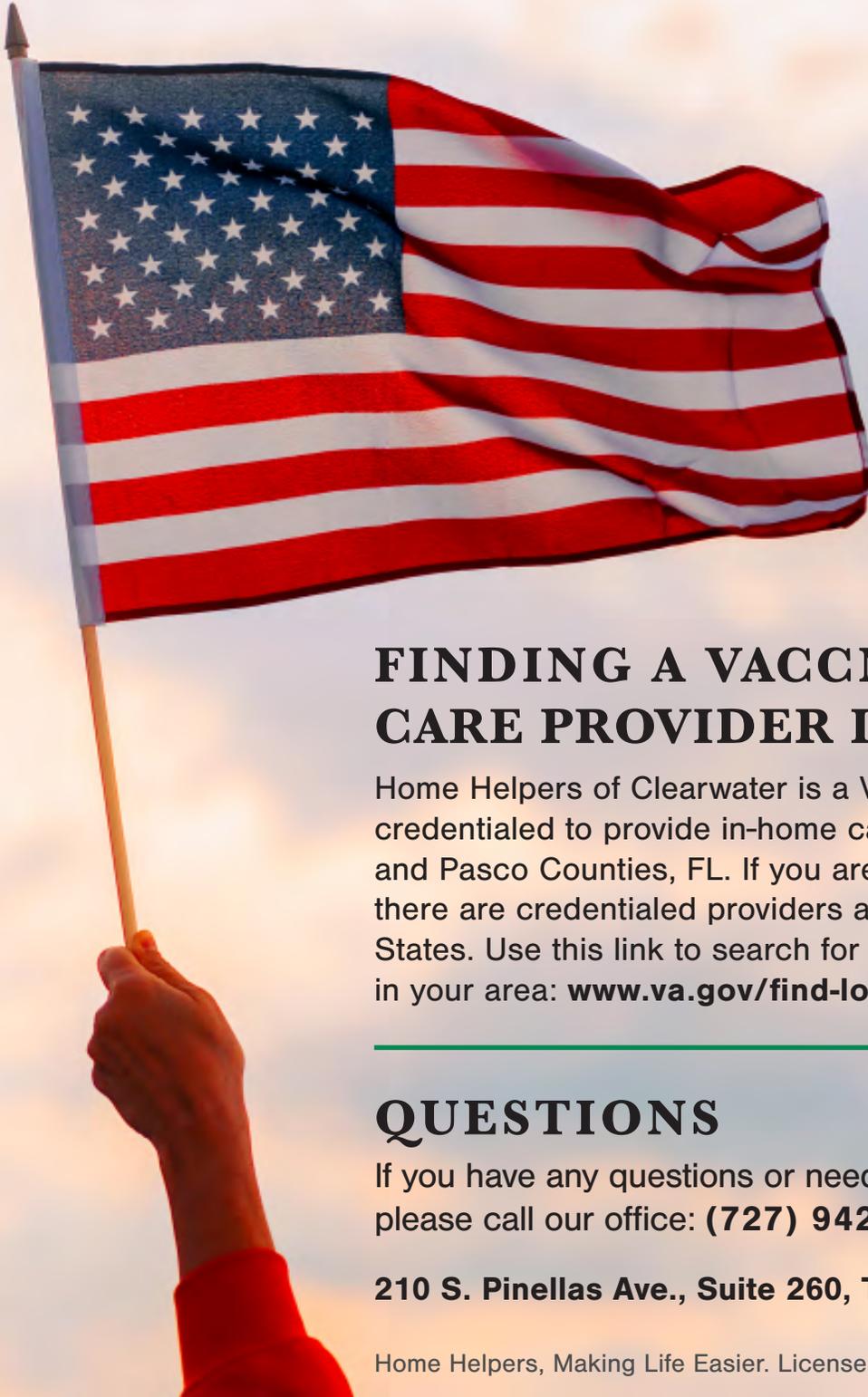
8620 Galen Wilson Blvd  
Port Richey, FL 34668

Mon-Fri  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Phone: (727) 834-3282

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

This guide is dedicated to all Veterans, recognizing and honoring your commitment to our country. We believe every Veteran deserves the best care possible, and this guide is here to help you navigate the VACCN program.



## FINDING A VACCN IN HOME CARE PROVIDER IN YOUR AREA

Home Helpers of Clearwater is a VACCN provider that is credentialed to provide in-home care services in Pinellas and Pasco Counties, FL. If you are not in Pinellas/Pasco, there are credentialed providers all across the United States. Use this link to search for a credentialed provider in your area: [www.va.gov/find-loactions/](http://www.va.gov/find-loactions/)

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## QUESTIONS

If you have any questions or need additional assistance, please call our office: **(727) 942-2539**

**210 S. Pinellas Ave., Suite 260, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689**

Home Helpers, Making Life Easier. License #299994375.