

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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California Action Plan for Reintegration Fact Sheet College Tuition Fee Waiver for Veterans' Dependents

The College Tuition Fee Waiver waives mandatory system-wide tuition and fees at any State of California Community College, California State University, or University of California campus for dependents of veterans who are rated at 0% for a service-connected disability or higher. This program does not cover the expense of books and parking. There are four plans that dependents of veterans may fall in to:

Plan A

- The child of a veteran who is totally disabled due to service-connected disabilities, or whose death was officially rated as service-connected is eligible. The child must be over 14 years old and under 27 years old. If the child is a veteran, then the age limit is extended to age 30.
- The spouse or Registered Domestic Partner (RDP) of a wartime veteran who has been rated as service-connected totally disabled (Note that there are no age limit restrictions).
- The unmarried surviving spouse or RDP of a wartime veteran whose death has been rated as service-connected (Note that there are no age limit restrictions).
- Any dependent of any veteran who has been declared missing in action, captured in the line of duty by hostile forces, or forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power.

The veteran must have served at least one day of active duty during a period of war as declared by the U.S. Congress, or during any time in which the veteran was awarded a campaign or expeditionary medal. Concurrent receipt of benefits under "Plan A" and VA Chapter 35 benefits is prohibited. In order to receive benefits under Plan A, a dependent must sign an "election" statement acknowledging this fact. Unlike "Plan B," there are no income restrictions under this plan. To be eligible, the event which caused basic entitlement to benefits, (i.e., the date the veterans died of service-connected causes or the date the VA rated the veteran as totally disabled as a result of service-connected disabilities), must have occurred prior to the child's 21st birthday.

Plan B

A child of a veteran who has a service-connected disability, or had a service-connected disability at the time of death, or died of service-related causes is eligible. The child's "annual income," which includes the child's adjusted gross income, plus the value of support provided by a parent, may not exceed the "annual income limit." The current academic year entitlement is based upon the previous calendar year's "annual income." To view this year's poverty level, please visit: <http://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Education.aspx>.

Under "Plan B," wartime service is not required and there are no specific age requirements. Additionally, children are the only dependents eligible under this plan and there is no prohibition

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against concurrent receipt of fee waiver benefits and VA Chapter 35 benefits.

Plan C

Any dependent of any member of the California National Guard, who in the line of duty while on active service to the state, was killed, died of a disability resulting from an event that occurred while in active service to the state, or is permanently disabled as a result of an event that occurred while in the service to the state is eligible. Surviving spouses or RDPs who have not remarried are also eligible.

“Active service to the state,” for the purpose of this benefit, means a member of the California National Guard activated pursuant to Section 146 of the Military and Veterans Code. A copy of those orders pursuant to Section 146, not Section 143 must be furnished to establish eligibility.

Plan D

Medal of Honor recipients and children of Medal of Honor recipients under the age of 27 may qualify. Benefits under “Plan D” are limited to undergraduate studies only, and must meet both income and age restrictions. There are no prohibitions against receiving concurrent VA Chapter 35 benefits.

Note: All students must meet California residency requirements.

How Do I Apply?

To apply for the College Fee Waiver for Veterans’ Dependents, please contact your local [County Veterans Service Office](#).