

Upcoming Deadlines and new criteria for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care eligibility: Until 11:59pm local time on September 30th 2023, Veterans who deployed to a combat zone, never enrolled in VA health care, and left active duty between September 11, 2001 and October 1, 2013 are eligible to enroll directly in VA health care. This special enrollment period gives Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat zones an opportunity to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Veterans are encouraged to visit [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) or call 1800-MYVA411 to learn more and sign up for VA health care before the deadline. Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, and VA hospitals have dramatically outperformed non-VA hospitals in overall quality ratings and patient satisfaction ratings. Additionally, VA health care is often more affordable than non-VA health care for Veterans. This special enrollment period is a part of the PACT Act, the largest expansion of VA health care and benefits in generations. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law on August 10, 2022, more than 344,000 Veterans have enrolled in VA health care and more than 4.2 million enrolled Veterans have been screened for toxic exposures. If you, or a veteran you know, need help establishing eligibility and working with the VA, my office's constituent services team stands ready to help and can be reached at [https:// www.king.senate.gov/services/help-with-federal-agency](https://www.king.senate.gov/services/help-with-federal-agency).