

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Numbers

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance program number for this rule is 64.109.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 3

Administrative practice and procedures, Claims, Disability benefits, Health care, Pensions, Veterans, Vietnam.

Approved: July 9, 2003.

Anthony J. Principi,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

■ For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 38 CFR Part 3 is amended as follows:

PART 3—ADJUDICATION

Subpart A—Pension, Compensation, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

■ 1. The authority citation for part 3, subpart A continues to read as follows:

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), unless otherwise noted.

■ 2. Section 3.27 is amended by:

■ a. Redesignating paragraph (d) as paragraph (e), and adding a new paragraph (d).

■ b. In newly designated paragraph (e), removing “and the monthly” and adding in its place “the monthly”; and removing “chapter 18” and adding in its place “chapter 18 and the Medal of Honor pension”.

■ The added text reads as follows:

§ 3.27 Automatic adjustment of benefit rates.

* * * * *

(d) *Medal of Honor pension.*
Beginning in the year 2004, VA shall, effective December 1 of each year, increase the monthly Medal of Honor pension by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under section 215(i) of Title II of the Social Security Act are increased effective December 1 of such year.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1562(e))

* * * * *

§ 3.350 [Amended]

■ 3. Section 3.350 is amended by:

■ a. In paragraph (a) introductory text, removing “the anatomical loss of one or both breasts (including loss by mastectomy).” and adding, in its place, “loss of 25% or more of tissue from a single breast or both breasts in combination (including loss by mastectomy or partial mastectomy), or following receipt of radiation treatment of breast tissue.”

■ b. Removing paragraph (a)(7) and the authority citation at the end of the section.

■ 4. Section 3.802 is amended by adding paragraph (c) immediately following the authority citation at the end of the section:

§ 3.802 Medal of Honor.

* * * * *

(c) VA will pay to each person who is receiving or who in the future receives Medal of Honor pension a retroactive lump sum payment equal to the total amount of Medal of Honor pension that person would have received during the period beginning the first day of the month after the date of the event for which the veteran earned the Medal of Honor and ending on the last day of the month preceding the month in which pension was awarded under paragraph (b) of this section. VA will calculate the lump sum payment using the monthly Medal of Honor pension rates in effect from the first day of the month after the date of the event for which the veteran earned the Medal of Honor, to the last day of the month preceding the month in which the individual was initially awarded the Medal of Honor pension. VA will not make a retroactive lump sum payment under this section before October 1, 2003.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1562(f))

[FR Doc. 03–24304 Filed 9–25–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Parts 17 and 61

RIN 2900–AL30

VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document affirms without any changes except for adding OMB information collection citations in part 61, to the provisions of an interim final rule that revised the regulations concerning the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program.

In large part the interim final rule implemented the provisions of the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act of 2001.

The interim final rule also established provisions in the form of funding priorities to meet a statutory mandate. In addition, to help ensure that program objectives are met by those receiving

assistance, the interim final rule added provisions to state that to receive assistance, an entity must not be in default by failing to meet requirements under any previously awarded grant.

Further, the interim final rule made changes to provide that each resident of supportive housing may be required to pay rent in an amount determined by the recipient, except that such rent may not exceed 30 percent of the resident's monthly income not including amounts equal to medical expenses, child care expenses, or court-ordered payments. This was intended to provide a system that is administratively feasible, that allows for significant help for covering operating expenses, and that would allow veterans to retain sufficient funds to help prepare for a successful transition to independent living.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This final rule is effective on October 27, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Guy A. Liedke, VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program, Mental Health Strategic Health Care Group (116E), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420; (877) 332–0334. (This is a toll-free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a document published in the **Federal Register** on March 19, 2003 at 68 FR 13590, we promulgated an interim final rule that revised the regulations concerning the VA Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program as explained in the **SUMMARY** portion of this document.

We provided a 60-day comment period that ended May 19, 2003. We did not receive any comments. Based on the rationale set forth in the interim final rule, we are adopting the provisions of the interim final rule as a final rule without any changes, except for the addition of OMB's information collection requirements approval number for the affected sections.

This final rule is issued under authority of 38 U.S.C. 501, 2002, 2011, 2012, 2061, 2064, and 7721 note.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This final rule contains new collections of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act at §§ 61.11, 61.15, 61.17, 61.20, 61.31, 61.41, 61.51, 61.55 and 61.80. We described the new information collections in the preamble of the interim final rule and provided comment periods on both emergency and non-emergency bases. We did not receive any comments concerning the new information collections. The Office of Management and Budget has assigned control number 2900–0554 to the new