

cuts over the years. While MOAA regularly engages on this larger set of topics and would oppose CBO options pertaining to our uniformed services and veterans, we focus on items being discussed by committee leadership, backed by the administration, or included in draft legislation. Other materials may receive publicity online or within veteran networks, but MOAA stays focused on programs actually at risk or improvements on the cusp of becoming law.

Here are the CBO options of interest to the wider uniformed services community, divided by funding rules:

Mandatory Spending

- Introduce Enrollment Fees for TRICARE For Life
- Introduce Minimum Out-of-Pocket Requirements in TRICARE For Life
- Means-Test VA Disability Compensation for Veterans with Higher Income
- End VA's Individual Unemployability Payments to Disabled Veterans at the Full Retirement Age for Social Security
- Reduce VA's Disability Benefits for Veterans Who Are Older Than the Full Retirement Age for Social Security
- Narrow Eligibility for VA's Disability Compensation by Excluding Veterans with Low Disability Ratings
- Use an Alternative Measure of Inflation to Index Social Security and Other Mandatory Programs

Discretionary Spending

- Cap Increases in Basic Pay for Military Service Members
- Replace Some Military Personnel with Civilian Employees
- Reduce the Basic Allowance for Military Housing to 80 Percent of Average Housing Costs
- Increase Prescription Drug Copayments for All Veterans
- End Enrollment in VA Medical Care for Veterans in Priority Groups 7 and 8

Revenues

- Include VA's Disability Payments in Taxable Income

MOAA's vigilance and dedication on these issues, and any others that may seek to decrease or eliminate service-earned entitlements, are codified in our motto, "Never Stop Serving." MOAA's mission is clear: To preserve and protect earned benefits for our uniformed services, veterans, their families, and surviving spouses through advocacy, leadership, education, and service.

To keep up with the latest on these issues, watch The MOAA Newsletter and MOAA's Advocacy News page for ongoing updates. You can learn how to make a difference on all of MOAA's advocacy issues by visiting our Legislative Action Center.

Your paid membership has a direct impact on our ability to lobby on behalf of those who served, are serving now, and those who will serve in the future.

You Ask, MOAA Answers: VA and the CBO

Here are MOAA's expert-vetted answers to member questions about this issue and the wider CBO process.

Q. What is the CBO, and why did it propose cutting veterans' benefits?

A. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is a nonpartisan agency that provides economic analysis and cost estimates for proposed legislation in Congress. Recently, the CBO released a report outlining options to reduce the federal deficit. These options include potential cuts to military spending, veteran benefits, and TRICARE. CBO compiles this report every two years, and many of its options would be very harmful to our community. However, Congress, not the CBO, must act to make any changes to our care and benefits.

Q. What are the potential impacts of the CBO options on military spending and benefits?

A. The CBO options include potential cuts to military spending, veteran benefits, and TRICARE. These cuts could negatively impact the readiness and well-being of our military community, including reducing the quality of health care and limiting resources for training and equipment. Additionally, any cuts to veterans' benefits would break faith with our servicemembers past and present who have earned these benefits through their service and sacrifice.

Q. Why isn't protecting VA benefits from income means-testing one of MOAA's top legislative priorities?

A. Ensuring those who serve and have served receive the benefits they've earned is a long-standing MOAA priority. MOAA regularly engages lawmakers and their staffs on this wider topic, but when it comes to specific interactions, we focus on items being discussed by committee leadership, backed by the administration, or included in draft legislation. Other materials may receive publicity online or within veteran networks, but MOAA cannot engage on all such topics without risking a loss of focus on programs at true risk, or much-needed program improvements on the cusp of becoming law.

Q. What is MOAA doing to oppose these CBO options?

A. MOAA is closely monitoring the situation and will take swift action to oppose any of the CBO options that would negatively impact our uniformed services community. We will work with Congress and other stakeholders to advocate for the best interests of our servicemembers and veterans and ensure that any changes to military spending, veteran benefits, and TRICARE are made with the utmost care and consideration.

Q. Why didn't MOAA address this in December?

A. MOAA covered the CBO report's release in December, but it is common for individual options from the report to resurface months or years later. Nobody has made even a notional suggestion that these changes are on the table. While we are monitoring the situation, we've seen no push, even from the most budget-conscious lawmakers, to make such a deep cut to earned benefits.

Q. How does MOAA choose CBO items to address?

A. Some CBO items come as related spending debates are moving through Congress, making them more pressing threats. For example:

- Multiple reports and legislation beyond the CBO have outlined plans that would reduce the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retirees.
- Threats to TRICARE For Life and the wider TRICARE benefit have gone well beyond CBO inclusion.
- Congress already has lowered the Basic Housing Allowance from 100% of all housing costs to 95%, making the CBO's proposal of a reduction to 80% more disconcerting.

These CBO items are closer to seeing the light of day, and thus are of more immediate concern to MOAA as we advocate on behalf of the wider uniformed services community.

Q. What can MOAA members do to help protect military spending and benefits?

A. Members can stay informed about the issue and contact their elected officials to express their concerns. MOAA also encourages members to join our advocacy efforts and help us advocate for the best interests of our military community. Together, we can make a difference and ensure that our servicemembers and veterans receive the care and benefits they were promised. Make sure you are signed up as an advocate in our Legislative Action Center. Finally, we need MOAA members to consider themselves as recruiters — the more members we have in MOAA, the louder our voice.

[Prescription refill is now available via VA Health and Benefits mobile app](#)

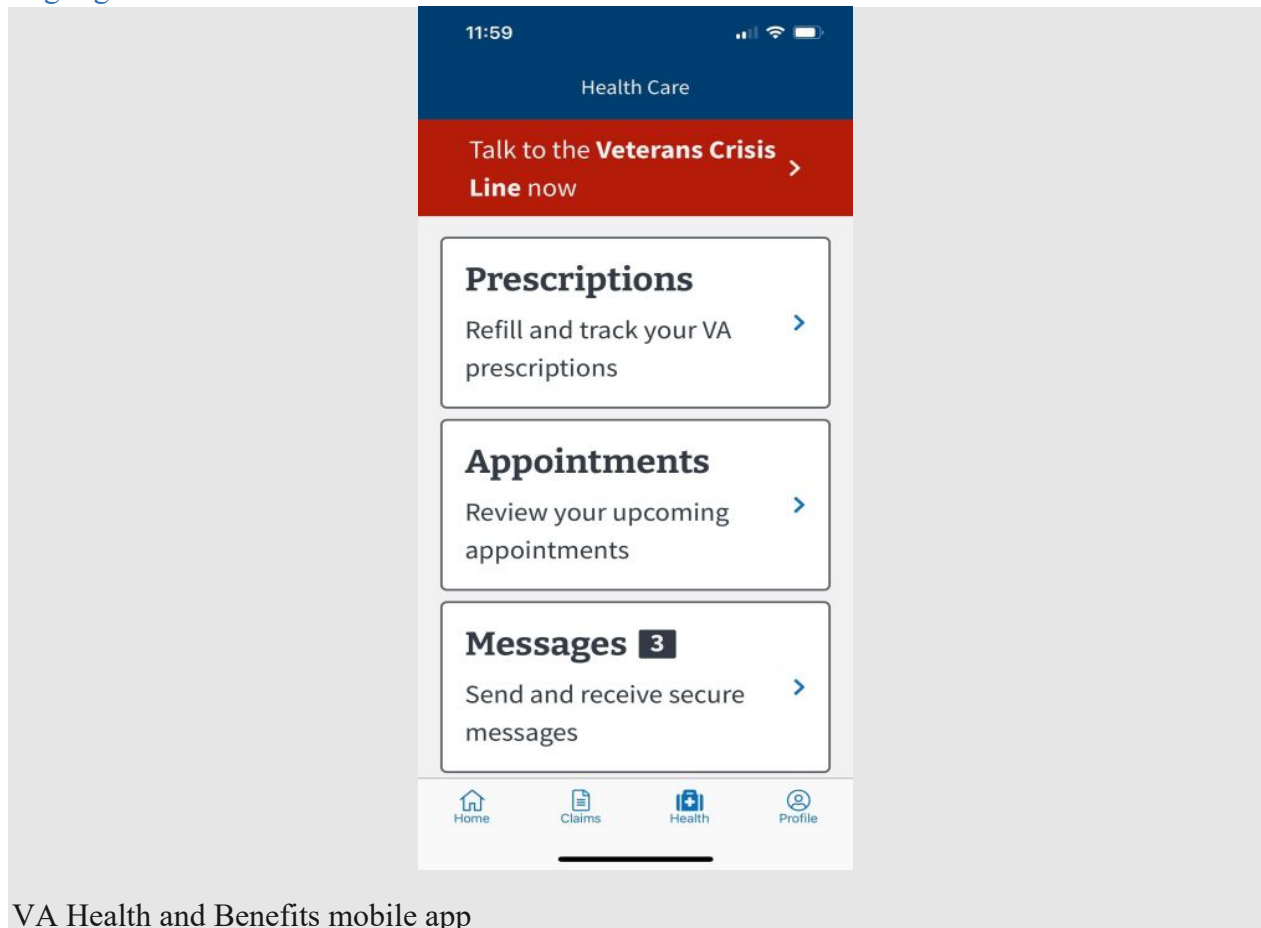
Veterans can now refill their prescriptions (Rx) using the VA Health and Benefits mobile app. Existing users will need to download the latest version of the app to gain access to new features. If you don't see the Prescriptions feature in the "Health Care" tab after you download the latest version, completely quit the app and open it again.

The [Health and Benefits mobile app](#) is VA's official, all-in-one, on-the-go, easy-to-use, accessible, on-demand app enabling Veterans to manage both their VA health care and benefits services at their fingertips.

Adding Rx refill makes the VA Health and Benefits mobile app more useful and multi-functional for the over 1 million Veterans who have downloaded and are using the mobile app, plus those who will do so.

VA designed and developed the app with Veterans' feedback, so it's an easy, streamlined and secure digital platform that allows you to complete everyday VA tasks from an IOS or Android smartphone. It offers a more personalized experience, allowing you to quickly and easily connect with VA to manage your health care and benefits needs.

Highlights of the new Rx refill feature



VA Health and Benefits mobile app

The new Rx refill feature allows Veterans to:

- View your VA active and non-active Rx history (up to 180 days);
 - Filter and sort Rxs
 - View Rx details
- Request refills of your refillable VA-dispensed Rxs;
- View pending (recently submitted or refill in-process) refills; and
- View tracking information, through delivery, for trackable refills.

The app provides a native mobile interface, like the “Rx refill” feature of My HealtheVet. You can easily track refill requests submitted through the app or the My HealtheVet website and dispensed by a VA Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy using the app’s “Track Delivery” feature.

This new feature means you can easily (with your phone’s biometric face recognition or thumb login capability) and securely log into the VA Health and Benefits mobile app to quickly and safely manage your VA prescriptions from anywhere. If you don’t have a compatible mobile device, don’t worry! You can still access web-based Rx refills at [VA.gov](https://www.va.gov) or [My HealtheVet](https://myhealthevet.com).

Note: VA is undergoing an Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) effort, which may impact whether the My HealtheVet and Rx refill feature on the VA Health and Benefits mobile app are operational in your area. To learn more, visit the [EHRM website](#).

Consolidated, fast, and intuitive access

The VA Health and Benefits mobile app offers a single-entry point for Veterans to access their most common VA health care and benefits transactions. You no longer need to figure out which website to visit or remember which password to use. VA's Health and Benefits mobile app acts as the digital front door for Veterans, families and caregivers, streamlining access to information and services and eliminating the frustration associated with siloed technologies of the past.

"VA hit the nail on the head with this app. I can't stress enough how useful it is. It used to be that I had to go to the computer and navigate different areas of the VA site, which at the time were unintuitive. It's so much easier now," shared a VA Health and Benefits mobile app user.

Haven't downloaded the app yet? Here's how

Accessing the VA Health and Benefits mobile app is free, fast and easy! Simply search "VA" and download the VA: Health and Benefits app from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) located on your mobile device.

To learn more about the mobile app and its other features—such as managing appointments; secure messaging; viewing claims and appeals, and submitting related evidence; downloading VA letters; and locating VA facility locations—check out the [VA Health and Benefits](#) mobile app website.

VA will continue to roll out more new features to the app in the future.

"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, being men of courage, be strong." 1Cor 16:13

Sincerely,

William A. Harris, Jr.

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Need to contact VA?

[Veterans Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255](#) and press 1, [Chat](#), or Text 838255
[Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838](#) or [Chat](#)
[White House VA Hotline: 1-855-948-2311](#)

[1-800-MyVA411 \(800-698-2411\)](#) is never the wrong number