

New Legislation Provides Choice Card for Eligible Veterans

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald wrote an open letter to all veterans apprising them of the roll-out process and priority groups that will receive the new [Choice Cards](#), a temporary health benefit that allows some veterans to receive healthcare in their communities.

The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA) provides funding to better serve veterans' healthcare needs in the short term. This card does not replace the identification card used to access other VA benefits so veterans are cautioned to keep their current VA identification card. The Choice Card is being issued in three phases: (1) to veterans who may live more than 40 miles from a VA facility; (2) to veterans who are currently waiting for an appointment longer than 30 days from their preferred date or the date determined to be medically necessary by their physician; and (3) to the remainder of all veterans enrolled for VA health care who may be eligible for the Choice Program in the future.