

Appendix E. Temporary Residence Adaptations (TRA) Grant

Overview

In this Chapter This chapter contains the following topics.

Topic	Topic name	See Page
1	TRA Grant	E-2

1. TRA Grant

Change Date February 12, 2014, Change 1
• This entire section has been updated.

a. Description The TRA grant is designed to assist eligible Veterans who are temporarily residing in a housing unit owned by a family member. Grant funds may be used to adapt the family member's housing unit to meet the current needs of the Veteran.

b. Limitations In order to receive the TRA grant, the Veteran must be rated eligible for either the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) or Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) grant. Veterans rated eligible for an SAH grant and receiving the TRA grant must adhere to SAH minimum property requirements (MPRs) when adapting a particular feature. Veterans rated eligible for an SHA grant and receiving the TRA grant must adhere to the list of SHA recommended adaptations. Effective August 6, 2013, the TRA grant was excluded from the aggregate limitations on assistance furnished pursuant to section 2102 of Title 38 U.S.C. Therefore, a TRA grant used prior to August 6, 2013, would require that funds be deducted from the maximum grant assistance available under either the SAH or SHA program. A TRA grant used subsequent to August 6, 2013, would not be deducted from the maximum grant assistance available under SAH/SHA.

Important: Intent is key with the TRA grant. The Veteran must not intend to permanently reside with his/her family member in order to use the program.

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1. TRA Grant, continued

c. Statutory Maximum Grant Amount

The statutory maximum grant amount for the TRA grant varies based on eligibility:

- TRA grant assistance for SAH cases is currently \$29,657.00.
- TRA grant assistance for SHA cases is currently \$5,295.00.

It is important to remember the following:

- Potential increases in the maximum TRA grant amounts are based on fluctuations in the designated construction cost index and are determined annually by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Grant amounts will not decrease from year to year, even if the index indicates a decrease in construction costs.
 - Use of the TRA grant counts as one of the Veteran's, or Service-member's three authorized uses.
 - TRA grants approved on, or after, August 6, 2013, will no longer be deducted from the maximum grant assistance available under each grant program. It will still count as one of three authorized uses.
 - VA's authority to make TRA grants runs through December 31, 2022.
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d. Definition of a Family Member

For TRA purposes, a *family member* is defined as a person related by:

- blood,
 - marriage, or
 - adoption.
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e. Formula

The formula used when calculating the grant amount for TRA is:

The Sum of the Cost of Each Adaptive Feature

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1. TRA Grant, continued

f. Calculating the grant amount

Follow the steps in the table below to calculate the grant amount for TRA:

Step	Action
<i>Using the Formula</i>	
1	Determine the cost of each adaptive feature.
2	Add these values together.
<i>Determining the Grant Amount</i>	
3	Is the calculated amount greater than the maximum grant amount? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If <i>yes</i>, use the maximum amount allowed as the grant amount.• If <i>no</i>, use the amount calculated in Step 1 as the grant amount.

g. Direct Reimbursement

In some cases, direct reimbursement to the Veteran, or the Veteran's family member, for work completed prior to grant approval is acceptable. However, all of the regulatory requirements must be met for final approval:

- The plans and specifications of the proposed adaptations must demonstrate compliance with minimum property and design requirements of the SAH program.
- The family member must have an ownership interest in the housing unit, which must be determined by Regional Counsel, and the Veteran and the Veteran's family member must sign a certification as to the likelihood of the Veteran's temporary occupancy of such residence.

Because this is the Veteran's benefit, the Veteran must provide written authorization if the grant check is to be made payable to the Veteran's family member.

Important: Detailed information regarding the cost of the adaptations (e.g. receipts, cancelled checks, invoices, and/or contracts) must be provided in order to accurately determine the grant amount.

Note: The SAH Agent should encourage Veterans and their families to involve VA in the construction process on the front end, even with TRA grants, to ensure that MPRs are met. Direct reimbursements for TRA grants should be the exception rather than the norm.
