



What does the new Specially Adapted Housing benefit mean for veterans?

Learn more about how the program's expansion helps more families

The Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act (SAH) went into effect on October 1, 2020. The act expands the current Department of Veterans Affairs program that provides grants to eligible veterans for renovating their homes or buying a home to accommodate their injuries. These important changes will help more veterans and families live independently and safely.

Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant vs. Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) Grant



This bill is dedicated to improving the existing SAH grant program, designed for seriously ill veterans as defined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The SHA grant program is a separate grant that provides up to \$18,074 for veterans to adapt their homes.

What is the maximum benefit that can be received under the new policy?



The maximum benefit for buying or constructing a house with special features is

\$98,492



an increase from the previous amount of \$85,645.



The maximum benefit for making adaptations to veterans' residences is

\$19,733



an increase from the previous amount of \$12,756.

What is H.R. 3504, the Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing (SAH) Improvement Act of 2019?

The Ryan Kules and Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing (SAH) Improvement Act of 2019 expands eligibility for the existing SAH benefit program overseen by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The act increases funding and expands timing limitations to better suit the needs of wounded veterans to ensure that their homes can be adapted as their needs change throughout their lifetime. H.R. 3504 allows the usage of SAH every ten years. SAH grants provide funds for wounded veterans to purchase a home with special features or make adaptations to their current residences to meet their needs.

Who is eligible to use the SAH benefit?

Wounded veterans with certain permanent and total service-connected disabilities are eligible. Eligible veterans include those who: lost, or lost the use of, more than one limb; are blind in both eyes; have certain severe respiratory injuries or certain severe burns; or have lost, or lost the use of, one extremity related to service after Sept. 11, 2001.

How often can a veteran use this benefit under the new policy?

The act allows a veteran to access benefits every ten years instead of only once. The veteran may use funding from the grant six times within that decade, whereas previously they could only access the funding three times. The new policy provides for additional SAH benefits 10 years after the veteran initially received their SAH grant. The additional funds may equal up to half of the total SAH grant, which will increase every year with the rate of inflation.

There is no limit on the number of qualified applicants per year for the SAH grant. However, the new policy expands the number of veterans who may receive a grant due to loss of one extremity during service after Sept. 11, 2001 from 30 to 120 per year.

How can veterans learn more about SAH funding?

- ➔ [Veterans Benefits – Specially Adapted Housing Fact Sheet](#)
- ➔ [Wounded Warrior Project – Specially Adaptive Housing](#)
- ➔ [How to apply for a Specially Adapted Housing Grant](#)