

From: "Office of Rep. Luttrell"

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Resources Date: Thu, 11 Jul 2024 17:50:08 +0000 Hello, Veterans and their families should be aware of assistance available to them because of a natural disaster. Health Care Michael E. DeBakey Department Of Veterans Affairs Medical Center 2002 Holcombe Boulevard Houston, TX 77030-4211 Get directions on Google Maps Main phone: 713-791-1414 Mortgage Loans Disaster Modification allows servicers to provide permanent payment relief to disaster impacted borrowers experiencing a mortgage delinquency when the borrower has not submitted a complete loss mitigation application. This option allows for the loan maturity date to be extended by the number of months the loan is delinquent, not to exceed 12 months without prior approval from VA. School Attendance If your school is temporarily closed, VA will consider your attendance as continuous, and your benefits will not be affected. Students using Chapter 33 (Post-9/11 GI Bill) or Chapter 35 (Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program): As long as the enrollment was submitted prior to the recent disaster, no further action is necessary to continue to receive benefits. Students Using Chapter 30 or 1606 (Montgomery GI Bill) should continue to verify their attendance until further notice as if the school did not close. Doing so will ensure that benefits are not affected. Students may verify their attendance, using the WAVE website or by calling 1-877-VACERT. Students using Chapter 33 who are currently required to verify enrollment (students attend Non-College Degrees (NCD) programs in receipt of Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) or kickers should likewise continue to verify their attendance until further notice as if the school did not close to ensure that benefits are not affected. Please contact our Education Call Center at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST) for any questions about your GI Bill benefits. If you're unable to contact us by phone, you can send us a secure inquiry through Ask VA. If your school remains open, but you are unable to attend (i.e., if you had to relocate as a result of the natural disaster), VA is unable to continue GI Bill benefit payments. When you are no longer pursuing classes, your school must report the termination to VA as soon as possible. Benefit Payments If a Veteran or beneficiary does not/cannot receive a benefits payment due to the effects of the natural disaster and indicates financial hardship, the contact center agents must request a one-time special payment address where a replacement payment can be sent. This can be a Direct Deposit account (into which VA can issue an electronic funds transfer (EFT) / direct deposit payment) or a mailing address out of the area impacted by the disaster (to ensure the check can be delivered). Affected ZIP codes where post offices are closed can be found at this link, the USPS updates this information routinely. If a bank account is provided, include the routing number, account number, type of account (checking or savings), name of bank and name of individual on the account (the beneficiary or otherwise). VBA can issue a same-day EFT payment to affected Veterans. To do this, the Veteran needs to enroll in Direct Deposit. If a Veteran does not have a bank account into which they can receive direct deposit, VA has established the Veterans Benefits Banking Program (VBBP) to give Veterans and beneficiaries access to military-friendly banks and credit unions they might not otherwise be able to access due to lack of awareness, individual credit history, and / or legal history. Veterans can find more information about VBBP here. If Veterans call us, they can change their address

or switch to direct deposit over the phone. Insurance VA provides assistance to help ease the hardships of those affected. VA offers Instant Loan Approval online and expedited same day processing for policy loans when Veterans contact the Call Center. In addition, we expedite same day processing and approval of the following policy actions: Withdrawals from dividend credit and deposit accounts Extension of premium payment grace period Extension of reinstatement deadlines Processing of death claims The Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (OSGLI) is following disaster alerts that are issued by each state department of insurance in the event of natural disaster. These alerts generally provide a moratorium on lapsing or extension of premium payments. OSGLI follows these procedures for all-natural disasters. Veterans may call the Insurance Center at 1-800-669-8477 or OSGLI at 1-800-419-1473. For more information on benefits, visit the VA's website [here](#). Additionally, you may also access this link for disaster-related information. National Resources: Veterans | DisasterAssistance.gov VA Disaster Assistance for Veterans Brochure. Sincerely, Rep. Morgan Luttrell Member of Congress Sign up for my newsletter to get updates on this issue and others! Sign Up Contact Me Washington DC Office 1320 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-4901 Magnolia District Office 18230 FM 1488 Magnolia, TX 77354 Unsubscribe from future messages.