

UPDATE, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2009

Secretary Shinseki Announces Ability to Sign Up for Emergency Education Benefit Payments on VA Web-Site this Friday

Vans to Help Veteran-Students

“Please check mail boxes and banking accounts before leaving home, since some Veterans will find their checks have already arrived.”

Houston’s Regional Office will be open on Friday, October 2nd, during normal business hours (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM) and on Saturday, October 3rd (8:00 AM to 12:00 PM) providing on-the-spot emergency payments up to \$3,000 to students who have applied for their education benefits but who have not yet received a government payment.

Veterans can apply online at www.va.gov, starting Oct. 2. Online applicants will receive their emergency payments through the mail after processing.

Students without their own transportation can also request free van service, provided by volunteers, to carry them to the nearest benefits office. To obtain this service, Veterans would have to call their nearest VA medical center and ask for the “Volunteer Transportation Coordinator.” Transportation will be on a first-come, first-served, space-available basis. Veterans can find a map and list of medical centers at http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/division_flash.asp?dnum=1.

The emergency checks are an advance on each student’s education benefits, and the amount will be deducted from future benefits payments. Checks will be written at the regional offices for Veterans who bring a photo ID and evidence of their enrollment. VA officials emphasize that \$3,000 is the maximum payment, with many Veterans receiving smaller payments based upon their likely monthly education benefits.

A map and list of the participating VA regional benefits offices is available on the Internet at http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/division_flash.asp?dnum=3. At this time, the San Antonio Office will NOT be issuing checks, nor will it be open on Saturday. The most updated information regarding VA issuing emergency checks will be available at VA’s web site www.va.gov starting today, Oct. 1st.