

Secretary Shinseki Orders Emergency Checks to Students Awaiting Education Benefits

Thousands of Checks to Alleviate Student Financial Burden

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has authorized checks for up to \$3,000 to be given to students who have applied for educational benefits and who have not yet received their government payment. The checks will be distributed to eligible students at VA regional benefits offices across the country starting Oct. 2, 2009.

Starting Friday, Oct. 2, 2009, students can go to one of VA's 57 regional benefit offices with a photo ID and a course schedule to request advance payment of their education benefits. Because not all these offices are located near students, VA expects to send representatives to schools with large Veteran-student bodies and work with Veteran Service Organizations to help students with transportation needs.

A list of those VA regional offices is available at www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/offices.asp.

Houston Regional Office:

6900 Almeda Road -- Houston, Texas 77030

We are located on Almeda Road between Old Spanish Trail (OST) and Holcombe behind the VA Hospital.

Hours of Operation:

We are open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding Federal Holidays).

Benefits Information Number: 1-800-827-1000

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) Number: 1-800-829-4833

Loan Guaranty Information Number: 1-888-232-2571

Houston Satellite Locations:

San Antonio Office

5788 Eckhert Road

San Antonio, TX 78240

Corpus Christi Office

Corona South 4646 Corona Drive Suite 150

Corpus Christi, TX 78411

McAllen Office

109 East Toranto Avenue, Suite 400

McAllen, TX 78503