



WOUNDED WARRIOR

# SPECIAL COMPENSATION FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING

**Special Compensation for Assistance with Activities of Daily Living, or SCAADL, was authorized by the Fiscal 2010 National Defense Authorization Act. The special monthly compensation is for service members who incur a permanent catastrophic injury or illness. SCAADL helps offset the loss of income by a primary caregiver who provides nonmedical care, support and assistance for the service member.**

## Who qualifies?

All Airmen who:

- ◆ Have a catastrophic injury or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

**Catastrophic** is defined as a permanent severely disabling injury, disorder or illness incurred or aggravated in the line of duty that the secretary of the Air Force determines compromises the ability of the afflicted person to carry out activities of daily living to such a degree that the person requires personal or mechanical assistance to leave home or bed, or constant supervision to avoid physical harm to self and others.

- ◆ Have been certified by a Department of Defense or Veterans Affairs physician to be in need of assistance for another person to perform the personal functions required in daily living or require constant supervision.
  - ◆ Would, in the absence of this provision, require some form of residential institutional care (i.e., hospitalization or nursing home care); and
  - ◆ Are not currently in inpatient status in a medical facility.

## What steps should I take to apply?

Contact a member of your recovery team (to include the primary care manager, nurse care manager, recovery care coordinator, Air Force Wounded Warrior program nonmedical

care manager, or unit leadership) for the SCAADL application and guidance.

Your Department of Defense or Veterans Affairs physician will complete a DD Form 2948 application. If your attending physician is not affiliated with the DOD or VA, arrangements can be made to have a DOD or VA physician review your case and complete the certification. Your application will be forwarded, via your recovery team, to the Air Force Wounded Warrior program for processing.

## How are amounts determined?

SCAADL payment amounts are based upon the Bureau of Labor Statistics wage rate for home health aides and are adjusted by:

- ◆ The geographic area of residence/recovery
  - ◆ A three-tier system based on the complexity of care, as determined by a Department of Defense or Veterans Affairs physician, and uses a clinical evaluation and score. The Airman is rated as follows:
    - High Tier** An Airman who scores 21 or higher will be presumed to need a full-time caregiver who provides 40 hours of personal care services per week
    - Medium Tier** An Airman who scores 13-20 will be presumed to require 25 hours per week of caregiver assistance
    - Low Tier** An Airman who scores 1-12 will be presumed to require 10 hours of caregiver assistance per week

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### Is SCAADL automatic?

No, the Airman or guardian must apply, and a Department of Defense or Veterans Affairs physician certifies eligibility.

An Airman should contact a member of his or her recovery team (to include the primary care manager, nurse care manager, recovery care coordinator, Air Force Wounded Warrior program nonmedical care manager, or unit leadership) for the SCAADL application form and guidance.

### Who receives the SCAADL payment?

SCAADL is paid directly to the Airman, not the Airman's designated caregiver. It is up to the Airman to ensure the compensation is provided accordingly.

### Is SCAADL tax exempt?

No, SCAADL is a taxable compensation.

### How long can an Airman receive SCAADL?

SCAADL is paid to an Airman until he or she is separated from the Air Force or until he or she no longer requires assistance with the activities of daily living. SCAADL will end the earliest of:

- ◆ 90 days after separation from the Air Force
- ◆ Receipt of compensation under the Veterans Affairs program
- ◆ Airman's recovery
- ◆ Last day of the month during which the Airman dies

If the Airman is transitioning out of the Air Force, notify VA of the impending transition to ensure application procedures for the VA's monthly caregiver stipend are initiated before separation from the Air Force.

### Are there any instances where an Airman's SCAADL could change?

Yes, SCAADL amounts are based on

geographic location and care needs. Payment amounts may change if the Airman moves or his or her care needs change.

### What if an Airman's status changes from outpatient to inpatient?

As long as the Airman is in an outpatient status for the majority of the month (more than 15 days), he or she will still be eligible for SCAADL.

### Can an Airman designate another service member as a primary caregiver?

No, a service member cannot be designated as a primary caregiver for the purposes of SCAADL.

### Will an Airman receive SCAADL after transitioning out of the Air Force?

While SCAADL is intended for active-duty Airmen, an Airman may receive it up to 90 days after separation from the Air Force.

While out-processing, an Airman needs to complete the application for the Veterans Affairs caregiver stipend.

Airmen should work with their recovery team to begin the transition process, and may realize a change in compensation when transitioning to the VA's caregiver program.

### Do Airmen authorized a nonmedical attendant automatically qualify for SCAADL?

No, Airmen who have been authorized a nonmedical attendant, or NMA, should not assume entitlements to SCAADL. NMAs are authorized by physicians and designated by Airmen; however, there is no stringent clinical review applied to this designation as there is with SCAADL.