

the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of technology; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services required to provide information.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*

Spencer W. Clark,

Treasury PRA Clearance Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Notice of Availability of Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Build-To-Suit Lease Program

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the availability of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the Build-to-Suit Lease Program. The Draft PEA analyzes lease actions which include construction, renovation, repair, and operation of outpatient clinics, community living centers, and other similar leased medical facilities identified under the VA Office of Real Property build-to-suit program. VA is requesting comments on the Draft PEA.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 29, 2025.

ADDRESSES: The Draft PEA is available for review via the VA website: <https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/>. Comments must be submitted through www.regulations.gov. Except as provided below, comments received before the close of the comment period will be available at www.regulations.gov for public viewing, inspection, or copying, including any personally identifiable or confidential business information that is included in a comment. We post the comments received before the close of the comment period on www.regulations.gov as soon as possible after they have been received. VA will not post on [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) public comments that make threats to individuals or institutions or suggest

that the commenter will take actions to harm an individual. VA encourages individuals not to submit duplicative comments; however, we will post comments from multiple unique commenters even if the content is identical or nearly identical to other comments. Any public comment received after the comment period's closing date is considered late and will not be considered.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The VA Office of Construction and Facilities Management, Office of Real Property supports VA's mission by, among other functions, leasing space for the construction of medical and medically related facilities to care for our nation's Veterans.

VA has prepared the Draft PEA in accordance with the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S. Code 4321-4370), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and VA's NEPA Implementing Regulations (38 CFR part 26). The purpose of the proposed action is to provide eligible Veterans common medical services, assisted living care, and related services. The proposed action is needed to address current and future projected health care gaps and operational inefficiencies, especially in rural areas where access to common medical services offered by Veterans Affairs Medical Centers is not an easily accessible option.

The PEA aims to provide a streamlined NEPA compliance process for those recurring, predictable, and low-impact construction, renovation, or repair projects that would result in less than significant impacts. Use of the PEA would expedite the NEPA analysis and documentation process for those build-to-suit lease projects that meet the conditions identified within the PEA. VA will complete additional NEPA compliance as required on projects outside the parameters of the PEA. The geographic scope of the PEA is all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Tribal Lands.

Signing Authority

Douglas A. Collins, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, approved and signed this document on March 11, 2025, and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication

electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Jeffrey M. Martin,

Assistant Director, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustments

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2024, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice of Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) in certain benefit rates. These COLAs affect the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program. The amount of the adjustment is tied to the increase in Social Security benefits effective December 1, 2024, as announced by the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSA has announced an increase of 2.5%.

DATES: The increases in amounts became effective December 1, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Holovacs, Management and Program Analyst, Pension and Fiduciary Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, Telephone (202) 632-8863. (This is not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the provisions of the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2024 (Pub. L. 118-130), VA is required to increase, effective December 1, 2024, the benefit rates of DIC programs by the same percentage as increases in the benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act. VA is required to publish notice of the increased rates in the **Federal Register**.

SSA has announced a 2.5% COLA increase in Social Security benefits effective December 1, 2024. Therefore, applying the same percentage, the following increased rates for the DIC program became effective December 1, 2024: